

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire East County

Email address *

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APA Democratic Caucus of Alameda County



PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT BY SEPT. 9, midnight. Please take time to review the questions before filling in the boxes since you cannot save the responses for later completion. Thank you for your interest in being considered for an endorsement by the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County. Please answer each question in 250 words or less. Be honest and direct. Please note: your questionnaire will be posted on our website for Caucus members and the public to review.

Personal Information

Candidate Name *

Michael Utsumi

City and zip code of residence.

Dublin 94568

What is your campaign website address?

www.michaelutsumi.com

What is your campaign email address?

michael@michaelutsumi.com

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- City of Dublin Mayor
- City of Dublin City Council
- City of Dublin, Unified School District Trustee, Area 1
- City of Dublin, Unified School District Trustee, Area 4
- City of Livermore, Mayor
- City of Livermore, City Council, Dist. 3
- City of Livermore, Unified School District
- City of Pleasanton, Mayor
- City of Pleasanton, City Council
- City of Pleasanton, Unified School District Trustee
- AC Board of Supervisors, District 1
- AD 16, State Assembly Representative
- Other:

Are you the incumbent?

- Yes
- No

Are you a registered Democrat? The APA Democratic Caucus can only endorse registered Democrats

Yes

No

How long have you been a registered Democrat? If less than 5 years, please explain your reason for becoming a Democrat.

Since I was able to register in 1981.

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

Dublin's expansion has been equaled with tremendous diversity. I would regard the Caucus' endorsement to be highly favorable as the lone Asian American candidate campaigning for the DUSD Board of Trustees.

List ONLY the top 5 endorsements that you have received. (Please reference your website if you want to alert us to more).

Shawn Kumagai - City of Dublin, City Councilmember

Jean Josey - City of Dublin, City Councilmember

Joe Washington - City of Dublin Parks & Community Services Commissioner; 2018 Citizen of the Year (Dublin, CA)

James Morehead - Founder & Editor, OneDublin.org

Dr. Stephen Hanke - Former Dublin Unified School District Superintendent

If we endorse you, will you use our name in your campaign materials?

Yes

No

Maybe

How long have you lived in the district which you are seeking to represent?

I've been a Dublin resident for 29 years and elections have been at-large. Trustee by Area was enacted in November 2018 - so almost two years in Area 4.

Educational background: What schools have you attended, date graduated, major and degree(s) earned.

California State University Hayward, 1986, BA Business Administration/Marketing.

Employment: List the last three (3) paid positions, indicating name of employer, job title, and length of employment.

Dublin Partners in Education/Fundraiser Events Coordinator/Two years, Fox Real Estate/Realtor/12 years, Management Solutions/Business Development Manager/Two years.

What are the names of any community or nonprofit organizations with which you have been an active volunteer in the past 3-5 years.

Dublin Partners in Education & Dublin Unified School District

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

1. What differentiates you from your opponents for the elected office that you are seeking?

I have a definable record of 15 years of volunteer service to both the school district and the Dublin community. During this time, I have advocated for all students and at 12 different school sites. This devotion of time that would be published through OneDublin.org further demonstrated that each site has unique needs. I also believe that I would function as an active listener and serve with humility.

2. Describe one issue for the district you want to represent for which you have provided leadership and about which you are passionate.

For a portion of our families, many feel that there is a lack of equity in this school district. Some of the sites are over 50 years old and we have schools that are ten years of age or less. Oftentimes, the facilities and student experiences are not the equal. Combined with the results of the 2020 census and a summer of social injustice, I want to place an emphasis on Diversity & Inclusion training for all staff. The pandemic interrupted the preliminary steps for this program and I want to ensure that it remains a priority and gets off the ground.

3. What percentage of the district you [or intend to] represent are of APA heritage?

Again, the census will reveal what we already know. Area 4 has an extremely high concentration of APA heritage enrollment.

4. Please identify the three largest APA ethnicities in your district.

South Asian, Chinese & Filipino

5. Please identify the most at-risk APA community in your district and explain why.

It is not confined to specific races - rather it is the population of English language learners and those that are socio-economically disadvantaged.

6. List the three top concerns of members of the APAs in your district.

The continued opportunity for students to accelerate in STEM, greater diversity within the classroom teacher population and the lack of a second high school (which has been approved and construction will commence shortly).

7. During the COVID-19 pandemic, reports of anti-Asian verbal and physical attacks have arisen. If you are the incumbent, how have you addressed this? If you are a candidate how will you address this?

If any of these altercations have been occurring on school premises, then reporting procedures/policies should be reviewed and escalated, if necessary. Again, my belief is that Diversity & Inclusion training would only work to the benefit of the entire school site community. If these incidents are occurring outside of school sites, then local police should be consulted immediately with plans for action.

8. Do you believe that Asian and Pacific Americans are adequately represented in local government? What can elected officials do to improve participation?

Up to this point, I have observed a limited level of representation on both the city council and school boards. The last ten years have generated a radically different demographic in Dublin. In reviewing the candidate lists for 2020, there is a great potential change for the makeup of these two bodies. The decision of serve in local government is a personal one - often dictated by career and commute cycles. Elected officials can simply encourage citizens to participate. They can also take a more active role in cultivating future candidates for office.

9. Please identify all Asian Pacific American candidates whom you have personally endorsed over the past 5 years including this election cycle. If there are none, please explain.

Shawn Kumagai

10. If you were faced with a situation that involved an Asian Pacific American community, would you seek consultation with our Caucus as a resource?

Yes

No

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

Please submit your responses by Sept. 9, 2020 midnight. Our East County Endorsement Meeting is scheduled for Thu., Sept. 17 beginning at 6:30 pm on Zoom. Only those candidates submitting the questionnaire on time will be on our endorsement ballot. No changes to your responses can be made after it is submitted.

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