

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

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 *

Ana Vasudeo

City and zip code of residence.

94702

What is your campaign website address?

<https://www.anavasudeo.org/>

What is your campaign email address?

ana@anavasudeo.org

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- Alameda City Council
- Alameda School Board
- Berkeley, Mayor
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 2
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 3
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist.5
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 6
- Berkeley, Unified School District Trustee
- Berkeley, Rent Stabilization Board
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 1
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 3
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 5
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 7
- Oakland, City Council, At-large
- Oakland City Attorney
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 1
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 3
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 5
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 7
- AC Transit, Bd. of Directors, Ward 1
- AC Transit, Bd. of Directors, Ward 2
- AC Transit Bd. of Directors, At-Large
- EB Regional Park Dist. Bd. of Directors. Ward 1

[unclear] [unclear], [unclear], [unclear]

AD 15, State Assembly Representative

AD 18, State Assembly Representative

Peralta Community College District, Bd. of Director, Area 2

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.

20 years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

As a candidate for Berkeley School Board and as the mother of two South Asian & Latinx multiracial boys who are attending Berkeley Public Schools, I am seeking the endorsement of the APA Democratic Caucus because I believe in building bridges to strengthen the recruitment of families of color in the decision-making processes for our schools. For example, as the Vice-President of Equity and Inclusion on the Berkeley PTA Council, I recently implemented an anti-bias training for all new PTA officers in Berkeley so that we could improve our engagement with families of color in our district. Ensuring the proper representation of Asian Pacific American families in the various leadership roles at our schools is very important to me. Latinos and Asian Pacific American families are often "othered" when we speak our native languages. We share a common bond in our fight against racism.

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

I have been endorsed by the Berkeley Federation of Teachers, Senator Nancy Skinner, the Berkeley Democratic Club, Mayor Jesse Arreguin, and the Alameda Labor Council AFL-CIO. A complete list of endorsements may be found at:<https://www.anavasudeo.org/endorseana>

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?

5-6 years

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

Cornell University, Master of Regional Planning (2012). Cornell University, Bachelor of Science with Honors (2004).

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

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, Senior Transportation Planner (2019-Current); Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Community Engagement Specialist (2018-2019); San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, Program Director (2016-2018)

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

Walk Bike Berkeley; Bike East Bay; Latinos Unidos de Berkeley; Berkeley Democratic Club; Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I am the only candidate with the endorsement of the entire current Berkeley School Board as well as the only candidate with professional experience working on COVID-19 recovery efforts for schools. It would be my greatest honor to serve our students and to bring my practical government experience and strong fiscal management skills to the Berkeley School Board.

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

As the daughter of an educator, I feel passionately about advocating for a living wage for education workers. For this reason, I was a big supporter of Measures E, G, and H in Berkeley and worked alongside our teacher's union, the Berkeley Federation of Teachers, to ensure that our education workers received a salary increase of 7%. These salary increase also included classified staff, who are often educators of color in our schools. I canvassed and played an active role in this campaign. Once elected, I will continue to fight to support our education workers so they can afford to live in the city where they work.

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

8% of our children are Asian.

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

District data does not specify ethnic breakdown.

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

I have met various Vietnamese American families who need improved culturally responsive support for their students. We have over 40 languages spoken in BUSD but only translate materials into Spanish occasionally. We need improved translation for APA families who are monolingual.

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

1) lack of authentic community engagement with APA families 2) lack of representation in decision making processes 3) no translation/lack of multilingual materials

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?

I will address this by continuing to host anti-bias trainings for our schools, as I have done in my role as the Vice-President of Equity and Inclusion on the Berkeley PTA Council. I will also build coalition between different communities such as the Latinx Community and APA community to host joint community forums against anti-immigrant rhetoric. Furthermore, in the current culture of anti blackness that has emerged, it's time for all communities of color to stand united against the pandemic of white supremacy that has plagued our country. We are being hit by two pandemics (one of COVID-19 and one of white supremacy) and making sure that we are intersectional and supporting one another during this time is critical. As a Latina who is married to a South Asian immigrant, I feel passionately about building coalition to fight against anti-Asian attacks.

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

No, I do not. I think it's important that we create pathways into politics from a young age with Asian American student leaders. We need to make sure that all our commissions, especially our youth commission, have Asian and Pacific American representation and that we are celebrating APA student leaders at all our schools.

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.

I was supportive of Assemblymember David Chiu when I lived in San Francisco and worked with his former staff, Genesis Garcia, on community events.

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 North County Endorsement Meeting is scheduled for Thu., Sept. 24 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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