

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

steph@stephforoakland.com

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 *

Steph Dominguez Walton

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland 94618

What is your campaign website address?

www.stephforoakland.com

What is your campaign email address?

steph@stephforoakland.com

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

Regional Council, Bd. of Directors, Area 1

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.

I am a lifelong registered Democrat.

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

The APA Caucus is an important voice in Oakland and it would be an honor to work with them to promote diversity and representation throughout the city.

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

1. President Obama's Former HUD Secretary Julián Castro
2. Buffy Wicks, CA Assemblymember, AD15
3. East Bay Young Democrats
4. Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte, #1 Rank
5. Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County

For a complete list of endorsements, visit <https://www.stephforoakland.com/endorsements>

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?

15 1/2 years

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

BA in Broadcast Journalism with a Spanish minor from Pepperdine University

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

1. Real Estate Agent, Keller Williams, Telegraph Avenue in Oakland. Part time from June 2019 to December 2019.
2. Business Development, CBS Television and Digital, San Francisco. Full time from June 2017 through September 2018.
3. Mortgage Advisor, Commerce Home Mortgage, Berkeley. Full time from August 2014 to June 2017.

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

I have volunteered at Piedmont Avenue Elementary, a Title 1 school in our district for the last two years. I discovered the school had stopped its supper program and that many children were going home hungry. I did not accept this and organized a private supper program. I did this by reaching out to our community, to our local restaurants, and received immediate support.

The school district ultimately stopped my volunteer program even though the principal was a huge advocate. However, OUSD reinstated the supper program at the school three days later. And later in the year they reinstated the program district wide. I did this as a private citizen. Imagine what I can do as a member of the council.

During COVID, I have delivered OUSD-provided meals twice a week to families in need for the last 26 weeks. After the CARES Act was signed into law, I stepped up to personally assist small business owners navigate the process of securing federal relief for loans and unemployment benefits. I am committed to Oakland. There is so much more I can do if I have the honor of serving on the city council.

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

Oakland's District 1 needs bold leadership that matches big problems with big solutions. I'm in this race because the status quo is not working. George Floyd's murder and the pandemic illustrate our social safety net is failing too many of us. Local businesses are struggling to stay open, homelessness has increased by 50% in the last two years, and many Oaklanders are out of work and food insecure. When status quo leadership isn't getting the job done, it is time for a change.

Current leadership in District 1 has not met the moment. I'm running as a leader who listens, collaborates, and will work tirelessly to tackle tough issues like housing for all, equity in education and police reform. I'm in this race because I believe Oakland is worth fighting for.

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

Equity in education and making sure food insecure families in OUSD are fed.

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

Approximately 10%.

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

Chinese, Indian and Filipino.

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

Potentially the Chinese community in today's environment and Trump's characterization of the Coronavirus.

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

1. Lack of APA representation in leadership roles in the workplace.
2. Insufficient support for APA business owners from their local, state and federal government -- only 14% of businesses run by BIPOC received federal aid after the CARES Act was signed into law.
3. Racism directed at Chinese Americans as a result of Trump's characterization of the Coronavirus.

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 have always vehemently condemned racism. Hate has no place in Oakland. I've experienced racism and discrimination my entire life and the only way to combat it is to speak out against it and show zero tolerance for it. In 2012, I witnessed public, overt racism against a Korean American coworker. I called it out the moment it happened and demanded our supervisor take the incident to HR. A public apology was made to my colleague and the culprits were humiliated. I hope they changed their behavior as a result. Racism pervades all of our systems and institutions and must be eradicated.

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

As a Latina, I believe representation in government is critically important. If elected, I will be the first Latina to ever serve on the Oakland City Council. I spoke with a current councilmember, who is Filipina, and we considered how beautifully diverse the Oakland City Council would be if I am elected to serve alongside her, Sheng Thao, three African American councilmembers, a Latino, and a member of the LGBTQ+ community. That would be a true representation of Oakland. I believe we need more Asian and Pacific Americans at all levels of government. As a woman of color, I would mentor other people of color, fill my staff with diverse members of this community and see to it opportunities in government are given to Asian and Pacific Americans.

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 have donated to Sheng Thao, Andrew Yang for President, and Ted Lieu for Congress. I voted for former Oakland Mayor Jean Quan, Fiona Ma for CA State Treasurer, Betty Yee for Controller, Phong La for Alameda County Tax Assessor (he also endorsed me #2). As a private citizen, I have not had an opportunity to make formal endorsements of the candidates listed above.

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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