

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire South 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 *

Francisco Zermeño

City and zip code of residence.

Hayward, 94545

What is your campaign website address?

<https://www.franciscoforhayward.com>

What is your campaign email address?

machetez@sbcglobal.net

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- City of San Leandro City Council
- City of San Leandro School Board
- City of Hayward City Council
- City of Hayward, Unified School District Trustee
- City of Fremont, Mayor
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 1
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 5
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 6
- City of Fremont, Unified School District, Dist. 1
- City of Fremont, Unified School District, Dist. 4
- City of Fremont, Unified School District, Dist. 5
- City of Union City, Mayor
- City of Union City, City Council
- New Haven School Trustee, Area 1
- New Haven School Trustee, Area 2
- New Haven School Trustee, Area 3
- City of Newark, Mayor
- City of Newark, City Council
- City of Newark, School Board
- City of Newark, School Board, Short term
- Eden Healthcare District
- Washington Hospital Healthcare District
- Oro Loma Sanitarv District

Ohlone Community College

Alameda County Water District

AD 20, State Assembly Representative

AD 25, State Assembly Representative

Ohlone Community College, 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.

35 years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

As an active Democrat, it is important to reach out to all Democratic organizations for their support, especially yours, which mirrors the strong diversity of our City.

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

Hayward Area Democratic Club

Alameda County Building and Construction Trades

Hayward Chamber of Commerce

Northern California Carpenters

Sheetmetal Workers Local 104

Please visit my website to see the many other Endorsements, at <https://www.franciscoforhayward.com>

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 lived in Hayward for over 42 years now since moving to Hayward to teach at Chabot College in 1978.

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

B.A., Spanish and Portuguese, 1975, UC Santa Bárbara

M.A., Spanish and Portuguese, 1978, UC Santa Bárbara

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

Occupation: Professor of Spanish, Chabot College, Hayward, 1978 – to present

Businesses:

- Video Z libros founder and family Owned, Hayward, (1985 - 2010)
- Terlingua Translation Services - Founder and family owned (English, French, Spanish), 1991 to present

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

1. StopWaste.org
2. South Hayward Parish
3. Latino Business Roundtable of the Hayward Chamber of Commerce
4. Hayward Area Democratic Club
5. Hayward Youth Commission
6. Hayward Rotary Club
7. Annual Mariachi Festival
8. Zermeño Annual Scholarship at Chabot College since 2000 to present
9. Tennyson Community Committee
10. Chicano Latino Education Association of Chabot College
11. La Alianza de Hayward
12. St. Rose Hospital Foundation
13. Hayward/Arandas and Hayward/Faro Sister Cities Committees
14. Foreign Language Association of Norther California
15. Association of Professors of Spanish and Portuguese
16. Association of Bay Area Governments

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

My dedication to Hayward and its success encompass policy, organizing, contributing, uplifting one another and the beautification of our city. Before I served as a Councilmember, I am and continue to be a Spanish Professor first at Chabot College to many Hayward students. Through that role and my leadership participation with the Faculty Union, I became more engage with advocating for labor rights and representation. As a business owner, I became more involved with my community in different roles like Rotary and Chamber. I've supported and advocated for diversity efforts like Sanctuary City, the Mariachi Festival, and the creation of the Chamber's Latino Business Roundtable. My commitment has not wavered and I hope to continue to serve Hayward.

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

Restoring our Local Economy while supporting Hayward Residents, Families and Businesses

My passion for Hayward is to have a vibrant economy for all our residents. With the realities of our current economy, with the economic impacts of COVID-19 and the recent recession to hit our small business and labor force. I believe in order to have a strong economy we must also have a strong labor force. In other words, all members of our community should have access to living-wage jobs and opportunities to find those jobs. I believe it's important to give our residents the \$15 dollar minimum wage and move to see it come sooner rather than later.

I am a longtime advocate of shopping Hayward first. In 2014, I founded and now lead the Chamber Commerce's very own Hayward Latino Business Roundtable, and promoted the establishment of the Downtown Hayward Community Benefit District. Now more than ever, our economy requires supporting our small businesses. We should especially support our Mom & Pop shops downtown and throughout our city. These challenging times require creativity and innovative solutions. Our city regulations must accommodate for the times by adapting to different uses that allow for safe social distancing. For example, the use of parklets for outside dining with minimal indoor dining.

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

APA heritage is about %25 of the population in Hayward.

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

1. Filipino 2. East Indian 3. Chinese

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

I would argue the most at risk APA community would be the immigrant community. As a Hayward Council Member, equality and inclusivity are two important principles in my family and in my service roles. I was born in Jalisco, Mexico where I was raised and grew up. At age 12, I migrated with my family to Salinas, California. I later went on to receive both my Bachelors and Masters in Spanish and Portuguese from the University of California, Santa Barbara where I met my wife Elizabeth who is French and also immigrated to America. We raised three trilingual children (two girls and one boy) and are the proud grandparents of four grandkids from diverse backgrounds, who are also trilingual. Our first daughter married a ThaiAmerican, and our second daughter is married to our FilipinoAmerican. These communities need to feel safe and supported especially when the Federal Government is pushing a racist and hateful agenda.

With that stated, we are not done and there is a lot of work left to do with systematic racism, kids in cages, and the constant hate of different groups from the current Presidential Administration. We need leaders that prioritize diversity and inclusivity, but also basic human rights. I am a leader that you can count on that will continue to fight to end discrimination based on age, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, marital status, socioeconomic status, and disability.

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

1. Trump spreading his racist and hateful agenda.
2. Small businesses being hit by the pandemic and little relief from the Federal government.
3. Education – Hayward School District

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 am really saddened to see and hear about this. At every opportunity, with my personal contacts and on Social Media, I stress the values of diversity, and the respect of everyone and all in our USA. My efforts were recognized in 2015 by an Appreciation Award of the Diwali Festival, and by the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Award in 2005.

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

I believe that more representation is needed. An elected official can act on improving this situation by actively encouraging our community to participate. I have been doing this for a while. I endorsed Anna May for Hayward City Council, and she was elected. My Consultants this year include a young man from Vietnam, another from Egypt, and one from the Philippines. Too, I am very proud of My Hayward Youngsters of the Month Program, which I began in July, 2013. Many of the Youngsters have been 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.

Anna May was endorsed by me. She was elected, then chose to not go for reelection. I supported Filipino Julius C. Willis Jr. for our Planning Commission, which in many instances is a step towards a run to City Council.

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 South County Endorsement Meeting is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 20 from 1 to 3 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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