

2022 Primary Endorsement Questionnaire

DEADLINE: Submit by 12:00 Noon, Monday, April 18, 2022

Email *

jason@jenniferesteen.com



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 submit your responses by 12 Noon, Monday, Apr. 18. All questionnaire responses will be posted on our website for Caucus members to review.

Personal Information

Candidate Name *

Jennifer Esteen RN

City and zip code of residence.

Ashland, 94578

What is your campaign website address?

www.jenniferesteen.com

What is your campaign email address?

info@jenniferesteen.com

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

Yes

No

Are you an APA Democratic Caucus member? *

Yes

No

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

6 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.

I am a member and supporter of the Working Families Party, and am also a member of DSA East Bay. I have actively engaged in work with many labor partners outside of SEIU 1021 (where I served as VP of Organizing), along with working alongside community groups like the Bay and Oakland Rising, and the organizations that make up their coalitions. I'm also a member of the NAACP, BPOWA, Sierra Club, and Bike East Bay.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

1. What actions have you taken to address anti-Asian discrimination/bullying/harassment?

Please explain in what capacity you have acted and whether any of these actions were prior to 2020. (i.e., as an elected representative, member of commission/board/organization, and as an individual.

I've worked to challenge anti-Asian racism in my role as VP of Organizing at SEIU 1021, defending workers on the job. The anti-Asian violence we've seen increase recently is a massive problem that I will seek to help address as an elected official in Sacramento. When I am serving in the legislature I will pour resources into crisis response so that police can do the job they are trained to do, which is respond to violence, and others, like community members, behavioral health clinicians and even paramedics can be available to serve our communities and respond to our other needs. I support continuing to provide more state wide investments and budgeting towards Anti-Asian Hate as well as more investments into supporting Asian Communities broadly would be something I plan on doing. When my plans are implemented and funded, those best trained to respond to violence have more capacity to do so. The job of our leaders is to keep communities safe, resourced, and empowered, and that's exactly why I decided to run for office. The violence against the AAPI community has been absolutely terrible, and as an elected official it will be a priority of mine to ensure we have community-centered and community driven approaches to public safety. No one should be afraid to walk around in their neighborhood or local community, and I know our current public safety work has not done nearly enough to curb this violence. And this frees up resources for education, including establishing mental health programs within school communities.

2. One out of every 3 Alameda County residents is of Asian ancestry but are underrepresented in elected office. What have you done and will you do to elevate their issues of concern?

First, I am running a open campaign working to connect with all sectors of our diverse AD20 community. I have been working to connect with community groups and leaders from all sectors of AD20, and to take the issues I encounter with me to Sacramento. Secondly, in my conversations with community members there has been a strong degree of commonality in terms of issues of concern: homelessness, cost of living, affordable housing, crime, jobs, are on the top of most everyone's list. Those are also the issues at the core of my campaign.

3. One-third of Alameda County residents were born in another country. Do you believe that the needs of immigrants have been adequately addressed by the office you are seeking to represent? What changes are needed to better center their needs?

The have not. Immigrant issues such and language access, discrimination in jobs and housing, and the particular issues immigrants may face in accessing health care, schools and other government services. In addition, language minority communities face barriers that could be better addressed.

4. What have you learned about Asian Americans in the past year that you were previously unaware of and how has that impacted you?

I have become even more aware of the threat of anti-Asian violence against different sectors of our community. It has impacted me deeply to see the relationship between the racist violence that the Black community has faced over time, and the upsurge in anti-Asian violence in recent years. Reflecting on these commonalities has underscored for me how important it is to build relationships between our too communities and find common cause in taking on the issues we are facing.

5. What is the difference between supporting Asian American/Pacific Islander issues and being an Ally?

To me, supporting AAPI issues is a lower bar than being an ally. Being an ally means showing up for AAPI communities when they are in need or in struggle, even when we don't share issues. It's about having a direct relationship and understanding that allows me to learn from and support the AAPI community. AD20 is an extremely diverse district, with very and diverse AAPI communities that each have there own histories and issues. I am working hard to build those relationships and be an ally to all of these different communities.

6. What resources (people/organizations) will you tap to increase your knowledge and understanding of the on-going needs of the Asian and Pacific Americans living in your district?

I would like to lean on community leaders and institutions, especially those that are active politically. I have been connecting with groups on the ground like the Asian Pacific Environmental Network and Filipino Advocates for Justice, and myriad AAPI labor leaders in AD20 that I've connected with through my work at SEIU. Political and labor leaders like Alfred Twu and Josie Camacho. I was honored to get the endorsement of APALA, which has also allowed me to connect with East Bay AAPI labor leaders.

7. Please identify any Asian Pacific American candidates whom you have publicly endorsed/supported over the past 5 years including this election cycle. If there are none, please explain.

In my organizing work in San Francisco I worked to elect Vilaska Nguyen for Supervisor. I haven't endorsed or worked on other campaigns in this cycle.

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

Only candidates who submit questionnaires by noon Monday, April 18 will be considered for endorsement.

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