

2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - City Elections

Email *

apriloquenda@gmail.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 note: your questionnaire will be posted on our website for Caucus members to review. Please submit your responses by Tuesday, Sept. 6 by 5 pm.

Personal Information

Candidate Name *

April Oquenda

City and zip code of residence.

Hayward, 94541

What is your campaign website address?

www.apriloquenda.com

What is your campaign email address?

apriloquenda@gmail.com

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- City of Alameda, Mayor
- City of Alameda, City Council
- City of Alameda, School Board
- City of Albany, City Council
- City of Albany, School Board
- City of Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 1
- City of Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 8
- City of Berkeley, School Board
- City of Berkeley, Rent Stabilization Board
- City of Dublin, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Dublin, City Council
- City of Dublin, School Board (short term)
- City of Dublin, School Board, Area 5
- City of Emeryville, City Council
- City of Emeryville, School Board
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 3
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 4
- City of Fremont, School Board, #3
- City of Hayward, City Council
- City of Hayward, School Board (long term)
- City of Hayward, School Board (short term)
- City of Livermore Mayor

- City of Livermore, Mayor
- City of Livermore, City Council, Dist. 1
- City of Livermore, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Livermore, School Board
- City of Newark, Mayor
- City of Newark, City Council
- City of Newark, School Board
- City of Oakland, Mayor
- City of Oakland, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Oakland, City Council, Dist. 4
- City of Oakland, City Council, Dist. 6
- City of Oakland, School Board, Dist. 2
- City of Oakland, School Board, Dist. 4
- City of Oakland, School Board, Dist. 6
- City of Piedmont, City Council
- City of Piedmont, School Board
- City of Pleasanton, City Council, Dist 1
- City of Pleasanton, City Council, Dist. 3
- City of San Leandro, Mayor
- City of San Leandro, City Council, Dist. 1
- City of San Leandro, City Council Dist. 5
- City of San Leandro, School Bd., Area 2
- City of Union City, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Union City, City Council, Dist. 3
- City of Union City, City Council, Dist. 4

New Haven School District, #4

Other:

Are you the incumbent?

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

Because I value being representative of my entire community in how I lead and make decisions, and I value the positions and experiences of our APA community.
.....

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

Hayward Democratic Club, Hayward Education Association, Hayward Mayor Barbara Halliday, Hayward city council members and school board members (please see website for full list)

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

Yes

No

Maybe

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

5 years

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

Point Loma Nazarene University, BA in Creative Writing 2004; CSU San Marcos, MA in Literature and Writing Studies 2010; Claremont Graduate University, PhD in English 2016

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

CSU Stanislaus, Lecturer, 2016 to present. CSU San Marcos, Lecturer, 2009-2016. Castro Valley Yoga, Teacher and Owner, 2016-present. Hayward Unified School District, Board Member, 2018-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.

League of Women Voters, Eden United Church of Christ, Words for Lunch, Kids Breakfast Club

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/or as an individual.

Our district passed a resolution in May 2022 to declare Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, which includes integrating learning in our curriculum and after-school programs. Our district also passed a board policy on Ethnic Studies that intentionally includes Pacific Islander Studies (during a time when there was a push to exclude this from the state's model curriculum). I was the lead author on this policy. Our board has also made collective public statements declaring support for our APA community and renouncing all forms of hate.

2. One out of every 3 Alameda County residents is of Asian ancestry but are underrepresented in elected office and make-up 28% of all eligible voters in the County overall. Do you believe the legislative body you are seeking to represent has adequately served Asian and Pacific Americans? Why or why not?

I think we have taken important steps toward equity and antiracism as a school district; however, there is always a need to do better for our students and community, which is why I am running for re-election--to ensure these new policies are implemented with fidelity to best serve our students and community, which of course includes our APA community.

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?

My father is an immigrant, so I understand personally the importance of this question. As a district, we have done a lot to support our immigrant families through our Community Schools programming, and we are expanding significantly this coming school year by staffing a CS liaison at each school site in addition to our Family Engagement and Equity Specialists. There is also special programming in our World House offerings to support students and families. But again, there is always room to do more, and HUSD is striving to address the needs of our immigrant families.

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

Asian, Filipino, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

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

Our Filipino and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students need attention--39.24% of Filipino students did not meet standards in ELA in 2018-19, and 67.06% Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders. Math looks worse for both groups, as well as our Asian students, where 52.72% did not meet standards.

6. What have you learned about Asian Americans in the past 2 years that you were previously unaware of and how has that impacted you?

My awareness about racism against Asian Americans was heightened during the Stop Asian Hate campaign after the shooting in Atlanta. I was invited to a teacher's classroom to see what she and her students were learning, and though I knew about many of the historical moments they discussed, I was struck by the long history of racism and hatred to our AAPI community over the course of our nation's history.

7. How do you think microaggressions and verbal harassment against Asians and other marginalized community members can be better addressed and what will you commit to doing? If you have intervened in the past, please describe what you did.

Our district, based on our recently passed Antiracism Board Policy, on which I was the lead author, has implemented a mandatory training to help our teachers and staff better understand antiracism and anti-bias work. The professional development is now in its third year, and the district is now working on accountability measures.

8. 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 regularly meet with the Vice President of our School Board, Peter Bufete, to ensure that we are working collaboratively together and that I understand his point of view on the key issues we vote on. I also regularly meet with APA friends who are parents in our district to ensure their needs are also weighted in all of my decisions in my role as a leader. Of course, I continue in my own learning and professional development to do my best to serve my community and make decisions that support and uplift all of our students.

9. Please list any Asian American candidates you have publicly endorsed.

Peter Bufete

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

Please Submit your responses by Sep. 6, 5 pm. We will be holding several zoom endorsement meetings covering all three regions of the County before the end of September, tbd. Only those candidates completing the questionnaire will be on our endorsement ballot. No changes to your responses can be made after it is submitted.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms