

2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - Special Districts

Email *

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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 *

Saleem Gilmore

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland, 94602

What is your campaign website address?

www.saleemgilmore.nationbuilder.com

What is your campaign email address?

saleem@sekerstrategies.com

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- AC Transit Board of Directors, Ward 3
- AC Transit Board of Directors, Ward 4
- BART Board, Dist. 6
- Dublin San Ramon, Area 5
- EBMUD, Ward 3
- EBMUD, Ward 7
- East Bay Regional Parks District, Ward 3
- Livermore Area Rec and Parks District
- Fairview Fire Protection District
- Oro Lomo Sanitation District
- Eden Area Healthcare District, Area 3
- Eden Area Healthcare District, Area 5
- Peralta Community College District, Area 3
- Peralta Community College District, Area 5
- Peralta Community College District, Area 7
- AC Transit - At-Large
- 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?

Yes.
.....

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

Tony Thurmond, California Superintendent of Instruction, AnaMarie Avila Farias, Contra Costa County Office of Education Trustee, Gay Plair Cobb, Alameda County Board of Education Trustee (ret.), Amber Childress, Alameda County Board of Education Trustee
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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?

14 years.

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

California State University, East Bay, 2021, Doctor of Education
University of San Francisco, 2008, Master Arts, Teaching
Sonoma State University, 1998, Bachelor fo Arts, Sociology

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

California State University, Director, five years (currently employed)
University of San Francisco, Director, three years
W.Haywood Burns Institute, Site Manager, three 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.

100% College Prep

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.

I stand against bullying, harassment, and violence. These actions based on race are endemic in American culture. I have promoted Asian and Pacific Islander culture as a university administrator, supporting the inaugural Pacific Islander Graduation Celebration at California State University, East Bay, in 2019. I advocated for a student support program at CSU East Bay that focused on Asian and Pacific Islander students that the university funding. The Pacific Islander and Asian American (PIAA) Program launched this academic year. Before 2020, CSU East only offered grant-based programs for Asian and Pacific Islander students.

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?

Asia and Pacific Islander students can be better served in the Peralta Community College District. The district can improve facilities, hire a permanent chancellor, and budget oversight to help all students, staff, and faculty. Laney College can be more of a resource based on its proximity to Oakland's Chinatown. The district could better partner with the Asian and Pacific American communities by offering courses and certification programs that prepare students for living wage jobs. The district could better partner by providing added security for students as they move through campus and the local 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?

Based on the way budget dollars are allocated, the needs of immigrant students are prioritized at the level of need suggests. Immigrant students are often the first in their families to go to college in the United States and do not have the financial resources to pay for college. A majority of students in Peralta Colleges have similar backgrounds. The district could prioritize more of the budget for instructional supports and co-curricular programming to address the specific needs of immigrant students including legal support establishing citizenship status.

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

Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino

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

Academically, Filipino students are struggling compared to other student groups. Unfortunately, relying on data to understand the challenges of Asian and Pacific Americans is not sufficient. Often data on Asian students and families are not disaggregated to see the impact on Vietnamese students, for example. The data pool is too small to generalize the outcomes to similar student groups when the information is specific. As a Trustee, I would hold regular talking sessions with student groups to hear their needs and challenges directly from students.

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?

In my personal and professional relationships, I have learned about the migration of Hmong people to the Fresno area, the impact of Kashmir on Pakistani and Indian people, and the Filipino martial art of Escrima. I am reminded that while Asians may be grouped into a few ethnicities, people are uniquely different. I also learned that my family's history in the United States is similar to the experiences of some Asian people.

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.

I am a former classroom teacher and youth leader; I have had many experiences redirecting students and adults when their unconscious bias or discrimination is exposed. I am a scholar-practitioner, and I know that social messaging leads people to question their sense of self and harms academic outcomes. I have stopped Asian students from being teased in the classroom. I have prevented Asian students from using the N-word and took the teachable moment to share the history of African people in the United States, including the original and the goal of the N-word. I am committed to creating and maintaining authentic relationships while advocating for the needs of the students, staff, and faculty in the Peralta Community College District.

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 will work with the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus, the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce, and the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus of the California Democratic Party. In addition, I will consult with union representatives, student organizations, and community groups.

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

I have endorsed Gabriel Quinto, Mayor of El Cerrito, Aimee Eng, Oakland School Board Director, and Aisha Wahab, Hayward City Council Member

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.

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