

2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - City Elections

Email *

kponcpa@sprynet.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 *

Kenneth Pon

City and zip code of residence.

San Leandro 94577

What is your campaign website address?

www.VoteKennethPon.com

What is your campaign email address?

Ken@VoteKennethPon.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?

To show our Asian community that Asian Americans who have decided to become actively engaged in our political process support their fellow Asian Americans who share the same values.
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List ONLY the top 5 endorsements that you have received. (Please reference your website if you want to alert us to more).

Alice Lai-Bitker, Phong La, Mayor Pauline Cutter, Vice-Mayor Pete Ballew, CM1 Deborah Cox.

See www.VoteKennethPon.com for 60 more top 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 that you are seeking to represent?

41 years

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

University of California, Berkeley. BS 1971, Business Administration

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

Kenneth Pon CPA (35 years), Wohlfeiler & Beck CPAs (CPA, 7 years), State of California (Auditor, 8 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.

Asian Pacific Caucus, San Leandro Planning Commission, SEED Collaborative Community Equity Committee, City of San Leandro Sesquicentennial Steering Committee, San Leandro Downtown Association, San Leandro Democratic Club, Rotary Club of San Leandro, Bay-O-Vista Improvement Association, Wa Sung Community Service Club, Asian Community Cultural Association, Educate2Envision International, Daily Bowl.

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.

Through my association with and support of all of the previously mentioned organizations and as a Trustee of the San Leandro USD Board of Trustees, I have set an example of perception busting images for Asian Americans. My actions since COVID started has been limited due to at-risk factors limiting my public interaction and involvement.

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?

Absolutely not. San Leandro is 37% Asian, and, there is no Asian representation on our City Council, none. In the history of our City Council, there has only been one Asian elected to City Council. My election would up that to two.

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?

No, the needs of immigrants have not been adequately addressed by the City Council. The number one concern is discrimination and acts of hate during the pandemic, and, our public safety officers is down to only 60% of what it was. Fewer police officers translates to a less safe environment for immigrants to get out. San Leandro needs a much more visible demonstration of support for our public safety officers and a greater presence in our Asian centered areas.

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

Chinese, Filipino, and Vietnamese

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

The most at-risk APA community in San Leandro are our limited and non English speaking population. Without the ability to communicate in a common language, the City does not know what the needs are for this population. The City has focused it's communication efforts more to online and social media and less to in-person and snail mail. The language disconnect is hidden since the limited and non English speaking/reading population is unable to connect in a foreign language.

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?

During the past 2 years, I have been a member of the Community Equity Committee team for our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging task force; and through that discussion, learned that the most underserved part of our City are the limited and non English speaking population since their needs are unknown.

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.

We must say STOP when it occurs. Not "let it go," but address it on the spot. I will commit to doing that.

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?

As part of our Community Equity Committee discussions, we have recommended the City knock on every door to learn the needs of every resident in San Leandro. I will continue to follow Serena Chen's postings via the APCaucus as well.

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

Phong La, Lena Tam, Stewart Chen, Lance Nishihara, Xouhoa Bowen

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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