

2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - City Elections

Email *

voteforcelina@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 *

Celina Reynes

City and zip code of residence.

San Leandro, 94577

What is your campaign website address?

www.celinareynes.com

What is your campaign email address?

voteforcelina@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?

The APA population in San Leandro is the largest of all other demographic groups (36.3%). I admire the APA Dem Caucus' advocacy for the Oakland Chinatown Project/OAAP and I would like to work with the APA Dem Caucus on issues in San Leandro, including but not limited to: providing translation services at all city council meetings by default; working with the APA to come up with public safety solutions to address hate crimes and property crimes in San Leandro that have impacted the APA community; and supporting APA-owned businesses.

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

Alameda County Firefighters Local 55; Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County; San Leandro Democratic Club; Equality California; SEIU-UHW. Please see my website for additional endorsements from organizations and individuals.

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?

My family has lived in District 1 since my grandparents immigrated to San Leandro. I returned to District 1 in 2017 when I began teaching high school.

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

Wellesley College, B.A. English '16; University of San Francisco, M.A. in Teaching, '18; UC Hastings, J.D. '24.

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

Legal-Policy Analyst, ACLU of Northern California 2022
High School English Teacher, Bishop O'Dowd High School 2018-2021
Middle School Teacher, the Quarry Lane School 2017-2018

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

The San Leandro Community Advisory Budget Task Force, Chair of Ad Hoc Committee on Establishing Budgetary Values
Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, Associate
Mount Tamalpais College (formerly Prison University Project), Professor
East Bay Young Democrats, Secretary
San Leandro Democratic Club
Unity in the Community

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.

This summer, I assisted the ACLU of Northern California in filing a class action lawsuit on behalf of Asian Americans in Siskiyou County who have been discriminated against through a series of racially discriminatory water ordinances and illegal search and seizure.

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?

No. We frequently neglect serving the Manor neighborhood (which is predominantly Asian-American), do not offer translation services at City Hall unless specially requested, and APA residents continue to be underrepresented on council.

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. As mentioned above, we need translation services offered at every city council meeting (and not just when requested). We also need police officers who can speak multiple Asian and Pacific Islander languages.

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

The top ethnicities in Alameda County are Chinese, followed by Indian and Filipinx (tied), followed by Vietnamese. Cantonese is spoken more in San Leandro than Mandarin. I was unable to find a specific breakdown for San Leandro, and would love to be pointed in the direction of this information.

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

Our APA elders are most at risk. As elders, they have less access to the internet and consequentially have a harder time obtaining city services. They may have mobility or health issues that leave them vulnerable during a response to heat waves or natural disasters. Additionally, the city currently does not provide sufficient translation services, and APA elders are more likely to not speak English. Moreover, APA elders are more at risk for hate crimes and other acts of violence.

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 legal work on behalf of the Hmong and Asian American community in Siskiyou County taught me about the Hmong diaspora, which I had previously been unaware of. This touched me deeply and strengthened my resolve to use policy and the law to create a more equitable world.

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.

In the past, I have attended #stopasianhate protests and rallies in San Leandro. I will commit to working with community members who are advocating for a plaque to recognize the site of Fred Korematzu's arrest in San Leandro and I will make sure that other public demonstrations of solidarity and support for the APA community in San Leandro occur regularly.

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?

In addition to the APA Caucus: Former San Leandro City Councilmember Benny Lee; Erina Kim-Eubanks (pastor at Bethel Community Presbyterian); Xouhua Bowen (fellow candidate in San Leandro District 1 and nonprofit leader); Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay; Asian Pacific Environmental Network; Lavender Phoenix; Alliance of South Asians Taking Action; Asian Health Services; AYPAL; Chinese for Affirmative Action.

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

Janani Ramachandran.

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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