

2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - City Elections

Email *

chuck@kennedyforunioncity.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 *

Chuck Kennedy

City and zip code of residence.

Union City 94587

What is your campaign website address?

www.kennedyforunioncity.com

What is your campaign email address?

chuck@kennedyforunioncity.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?

55% of Union City's population and 25% of the voting households in District 2 are Asian and I take representing them very seriously. Your endorsement shows that I'm doing more than just paying lip service.
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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).

Supervisor Richard Valle, Assembly Member Bill Quirk, Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Council Member Pat Gacoscos, and Chabot College Trustee Harris Mojadedi. www.kennedyforunioncity.com/endorsements for more

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?

54 years

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

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (2006 BS Professional Aeronautics) Chabot College (1978 AA Business Data Processing, Business Admin)

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

Hayward Unified School District Substitute Teacher (2018 to present); FedEx Express Material Handler (2021 to present); US Merchant Systems National Director of Sales Training (2009 to 2017). Concurrently self-employed On the Way Travel (2008 to 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 Volunteers serving Fremont, Newark, and Union City; New Haven Schools Foundation. Union City Sister Cities Festival Committee. Volunteer assistant coach for Mt Eden High School basketball program.

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.

As a high school teacher, I set an example for my students with anti-bias anti-racism training, and I don't tolerate any hateful talk or actions in my classroom since I have been teaching 2018 to present.

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?

Union City has had Democratic Asian members of the City Council for over 25 years. I believe Asian and Pacific Americans have been adequately represented on the general level. There is always room for improvement as Union City is one of the most diverse communities in California, and it would be nice to have more cultural events and experiences for people to take part in.

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?

Yes, I believe our City Council does the best it can within the limits of its jurisdiction. However immigration matters need to be escalated to the Federal level, and unfortunately that is a logjam. I hope that continuing to elect Democrats to the Executive Branch and to Congress will help to alleviate the situation where services are deficient.

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

East Indian, Chinese, Filipino in District 2.

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

Chinese people have been the largest target of anti-Asian hate crimes in the bay area. Also Asian children who do not speak English are at a disadvantage in early childhood education.

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?

Anti-Asian hate crimes are a reflection of the racist attitudes of the community at large to an extent I hadn't realized. I learned from my students how deeply wounded they can be, yet they may not show it.

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 think that racist attitudes are formed when people are young. I try to set an example for high school students by respecting people of all races and cultures. In my travels throughout the world, I have learned that people everywhere are different and the same, all at the same time. We learn to recognize the value in every human being and I try to model that behavior.

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 speak with APA, Union City Friends of the Sister Cities, Sikh Gudwara and other elected officials I know personally who can introduce me to other organizations as necessary. About 25% of the clientele at Centro in my district are Asian, and this represents the neediest of the community. I would definitely rely on their counsel.

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

Phong La, Lily Mei, Pat Gacoscos, Jim Navarro, Gary Singh, Raj Salwan

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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