

2024 Endorsement Questionnaire- Primary Election

Email *

jeromey@jenniferesteen.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 Thurs., Dec. 28, by 5 pm.

Personal Information

Candidate Name *

Jennifer Esteen, RN

City and zip code of residence. *

Ashland, CA 94578

What is your campaign website address?

JenniferEsteen.com

What is your campaign email address? *

Jennifer@JenniferEsteen.com

What is the office that you are seeking? *

Senate District 5

Senate District 7

Senate District 9

AC Supervisor District 4

AC Supervisor District 5

AC Superior Court Office 12

AD 14

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 Dem Caucus member? *

Yes

No

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

APEN Action

Castro Valley Democratic Club

EQCA

CA Democratic Renters Caucus

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club

For a full list, please visit JenniferEsteen.com

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? *

8 years

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

Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Cum Laude, 2009

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, 2001

Samuel Merritt University

Loyola University New Orleans

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

San Francisco Department of Public Health, Behavioral Health Services - Registered Nurse, 14 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.

BWOPA, Black Women's Collective, SEIU 1021, Sierra Club, East Bay DSA, Bike East Bay, APALA. I serve as a member of these organizations and have devoted my time as a leader within the labor movement primarily at SEIU 1021 and in my civic roles at Alameda Health System, on the Eden MAC and the Housing Conservatorship Working Group in San Francisco.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

We appreciate thoughtful responses that demonstrate a willingness to do some research. All questionnaire responses will be posted on the <https://apademcaucus.org> website.

1. Why do you think you are the best candidate to represent the concerns of Asian and Pacific Americans *
in this district?

My career has been devoted to serving the community and members of the public in partnership with my neighbors and friends. I'll maintain a close relationship with Asian and Pacific Americans in this district and they will always be welcome in my office in the district. The first day I moved into this neighborhood my youngest son was 11, he and our neighbor's son, who was 6, became instant friends. They've been inseparable ever since and behave like brothers. My neighbor is Chinese, first generation American and was raised in San Francisco. Our friendship is a perfect example of how I will represent our community, through close connections and as if we are family.

I believe that the only way we can disrupt the status quo is by building public engagement and bringing in community support to counteract business as usual in the county. I absolutely look forward to continuing to engage with my AAPI constituents, and because I have no corporate money coming into our campaign, I will commit to always prioritizing community voices and conversations in my office over corporate lobbying or special interest groups. Seeing as I hope to be a champion for our environment, business development, and other housing and healthcare priorities, I plan to be consistently connecting with the AAPI constituency through various channels.

2. One of the most lasting pains of experiencing harassment is when no one around them intervenes or *
even offers help afterwards. What actions would you take if you witnessed an Asian or Pacific Islander
being discriminated against, harassed, bullied, or made fun of?

I'm a Black, masculine, gay, mixed race Jewish woman who was raised in the deep south. I have experienced all forms of harassment, bullying, teasing and discrimination over the course of my life. I will always stand up to bullies and will never allow anyone in my vicinity to be harassed or made fun of. I would immediately intervene and go to support the person being harmed. As a psych nurse and as a mother it's often my job and responsibility to support people who have less agency than others.

3. Despite being the largest racial grouping in Alameda County at 33%, Asians are only 10% of locally *
elected officials and the most underrepresented of all racial groups. Will you commit to increasing the
number of Asians in the pipeline and what can you do to increase the number of Asian Americans running
for office successfully?

Yes! I have always worked closely with Asians and have several wonderful supporters and interns working with me on the campaign. Their help and support has been invaluable. By having young Asians serve as interns but also peers and elders working to offer me guidance and support, I have been able to take in diverse experiences, perspectives and can elevate these people easily into positions about power. In order to have a pipeline, we have to work together and we have to recruit and bring people in so they can learn and be near the knowledge that will give them skills and experience to carry forward.

4. Do you believe that members of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in the district you are seeking to represent have been seen and heard by the current office holder? *

Please explain your response with examples.

No, I think the current office holder has not demonstrated strong support for the AAPI community in the district. During his tenure there has always been a person on the board that was AAPI. It's been widely regarded that the Asian person on the board would take care of Asian matters and the Asian community. I don't think that's fair. When you take an oath to serve the community, that means you are to serve the entire community. We've seen too many of our communities ignored and underdeveloped. I think we can do more to support AAPI business development, AAPI educational opportunities and AAPI safety. When we make this commitment, we will also be committing to the development of our community as a whole. Rising tides lift all boats, by improving our community, everyone will benefit.

5. How can residents with limited English proficiency better access the services provided by the County/State? *

My service on the Eden MAC has been one of continuous requests for translation and interpreter services. We were told from the very first year that the county could not provide this service because of the cost. Only one month ago we were finally told something different, not that we have a new Supervisor serving the MAC in District 3, her district representative pointed out that we can get interpretation services now. Community members have to request it, using the county's links, which are offered in English. That being said, the onus is not on residents to access services better, it's on the county to provide services better. The county relies on request and has a tendency to offer resources in English and without regard for disability or language access. I plan to establish a countywide office of equity that will embed equity metrics in all programs that receive county funding and employ an equity decision matrix that will be used to inform other decisions as well such as access for non English speakers and those with disabilities. I'll build preferences into the program that account for equity measures including LGBTQ+ and ethnic identity. I'll ensure there are staffing equity levels as a condition of funding all county contracts with have expectations built into them that outline equity standards while adhering to all legal requirements related to the repeal of prop 209.

6. Which Asian languages are most commonly spoken in the district you are running in and what plans do you have to reach -- during your campaign -- these non-English speaking community members? *

Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Farsi, Cambodian, and Tagalog

I was endorsed by APEN Action - the Asian Pacific Environment Network, Oakland Rising Action and Bay Rising Action in addition to multiple AAPI individuals.. All of these organizations have AAPI leadership and membership. They are committed to helping me reach members of the constituency during this race. And will do so by having their AAPI members volunteer with me on the phones and while talking to voters during canvassing.

7. Please explain your position on Measure B - Proposal to amend Alameda County Charter Section 62 (Recall Elections) on the Primary ballot.

I would amend the county charter to match the state recall charter.

8. For the SD 5 & SD 7 candidates: ~23% of your voters are located in Alameda County. Tell us what steps you have taken and/or intend to take to familiarize yourself with the issues of concern in these new (to you) communities, especially those who are of Asian ancestry.

N/A

9. 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 was endorsed by APEN Action - the Asian Pacific Environment Network, Oakland Rising Action and Bay Rising Action in addition to multiple AAPI individuals.. All of these organizations have AAPI leadership and membership. They are committed to helping me reach members of the constituency during this race. I am already engaged in policy discussion with them and formulating plans to address the needs of our AAPI community.

10. Please list any local Asian American candidates you have publicly endorsed in the past 10 years. *

Jane Kim, Fiona Ma, Betty Yee, George Syrop, James Coleman, Amar Shergill, Mano Raju, Alfred Twu, Aziz Akbari, Austin Tam, JP Sahi

11. Did you receive any assistance in responding to this questionnaire? If so, please identify your source(s) of information. *

I answered this questionnaire myself. The form was submitted by Jeromey Shafer, my campaign manager.

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

Please Submit your responses by Dec. 28, 5 pm. We will be holding a zoom endorsement meeting scheduled for January 13, 10 AM -1 PM. We will be interviewing live the candidates for SD 7, AC BOS #4, and AC BOS #5 who complete this questionnaire. 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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