

2024 Endorsement Questionnaire- Primary Election

Email *

kathryn@kathrynforstatesenate.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 *

Kathryn Lybarger

City and zip code of residence. *

Berkeley, 94703

What is your campaign website address?

kathrynforstatesenate.com

What is your campaign email address? *

kathryn@kathrynforstatesenate.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).

California Federation of Teachers, California Labor Federation, California Nurses Association, Equality California, California Environmental Voters. Please visit my website to see a full list of supporters.

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? *

I have lived in the district for 23 years.

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

I am a gardener by profession, with degrees in biology and art, and training in horticulture.

I earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Art with a focus in field ecology at Earlham College, and a Masters in sculpture from the San Francisco Art Institute.

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

University of California, Lead Gardener, 2001 - Present

AFSCME 3299, President, 2011 - 2023

AFSCME 3299, Vice-president, 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.

I currently serve as Commissioner for Alameda County's Commission on the Status of Women. I contribute to the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Human Rights Campaign Fund, Equality California, and the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club, and several other organizations that support marginalized communities. With my union, AFSCME 3299, I have organized statewide food and toy drives over the last few years to support thousands of working families through hardships.

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?

Over a quarter of the members of my union, AFSCME 3299, are Asian and Pacific Americans (and predominantly women) service and patient care workers at the University of California who earn less than their white counterparts. As a union leader, I understand the forces at work in our society that disempower people and cause them to fall further and further behind and I know personally how important our rights and freedoms are. I have spent my adult life working to close the pay gap among our workforce and am currently working to secure equal pay for women at the University of California.

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 would immediately intervene. I do not tolerate racism, harassment, or discrimination. I would never create an environment where anyone would feel welcomed or encouraged to exhibit this behavior. I would absolutely use my privilege to get the person affected to safety. It's in my character and values to stand up for others and this would not be any different.

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. As President of AFSCME 3299 and of the California Labor Federation, I have moved the endorsement and financial support of many API candidates across the state including Attorney General Rob Bonta, Former State Controller Betty Yee, State Senator and Assemblymembers.

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.

Senator Nancy Skinner currently represents our district and has a solid record of supporting our communities. As Senate Budget Chair, Senator Skinner holds a lot of power to distribute state funds as needed. This year our state budget includes a \$40 million API Equity Budget to support programs benefiting Asian Americans and Pacific Islander community based organizations.

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

We have to fund our county offices to have professional interpretation and translation services so they can access services. All county and state documents should be made available online and in different languages. The Orange County Registrar of Voters is a great example of how information, documents, and services can be provided online (including candidate filings) and in different languages.

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? *

The best way to engage members of our community is to meet them where they are at. We have a strong base of volunteers from all backgrounds who are ready to talk to voters. The endorsement of the APA Dem Caucus would help me recruit more volunteers to talk to our Asian and Pacific Islander voters.

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

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.

My campaign has hosted house parties throughout the district, and I have attended several candidate forums where I've had the opportunity to talk to members of our community and hear directly from them what their priorities are for our district. I have also engaged APEN (Asian Pacific Environmental Network) and the Oakland Chinatown Improvement Council to connect with key community leaders and learn about the needs of their members.

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 will continue my work with community leaders, unions, and workers to ensure that we close the wage gap and provide the services Asian and Pacific Americans need.

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

Attorney General Rob Bonta, State Controller Betty Yee, State Treasurer Fiona Ma, Assemblymembers Alex Lee, Ash Kalra, Evan Low, Phil Ting, Al Muratsuchi, Mike Fong, Jasmeet Bains, Stephanie Nguyen; Senators Aisha Wahab, Dave Min, and many local office candidates.

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

N/A

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.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms