



Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County

www.apacaucus.org

2012 Endorsement Questionnaire

Thank you for your interest in being considered for endorsement by the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County. Please answer each question in 250 words or less. Be honest and direct. Brief answers are satisfactory.

Please note: your questionnaire will be posted on our website for Caucus members to review.

CANDIDATE/CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Benny Lee

Permanent Address: _____

City, State, Zip: San Leandro, CA 94579

Office Sought: City Council District: 4

Are you the incumbent? Yes ___ No X ___

Campaign Website: www.electbennylee.com

Campaign Email: campaignhq@comcast.net

Campaign Phone: 510-813-8303

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Are you a registered Democrat? Yes X ___ No ___
(The APA Democratic Caucus can only endorse registered Democrats)

Are you an APA Caucus member? Yes X ___ No ___

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

Planning to be the first APA elected to City Council seat in San Leandro and would like to increase opportunities for APA through advocacy.

List any endorsements you have received. Former Mayor Tony Santos, Asian Business Council Chair/ACCA Secretary Arlene Lum, Asian Business Council co-Chair/ACCA VP Steven Leung, Macau/Portugal Institute President/ACCA Board Member Eduardo Collaco, Former Mayor/Mission Bay Board Member John Faria, Mission Bay Board member Carl

Basuino, Heron Bay Board member Stephanie L'Archuleta, Heron Bay Board member Fred Simon, Heron Bay Board Member Shudong Zheng, Personnel Relations Board member James Brown, Personnel Relations Board Chair Orval Badger, Board of Zoning Adjustments vice chair Rene Mendieta, Library Historical Commissioner Carole Rinaldi, Incoming School Board member Vince Rosato, Incoming School Board member Corina Lopez

If we endorse you, will you use our name in your campaign materials? Yes No

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please limit your answers to no more than 250 words.

1. What makes you a better candidate for this elected office than your opponents?

My experience and background in policy making, community/environmental advocacy, and process structuring. I have been active with the San Leandro Communities and elected officials for more than 10 years and worked on electing a number of officials who participated and forwarded APA awareness. All of my opponents combined years may total no more than 4 or 5 years.

2. What have you done that demonstrates your commitment to and effectiveness in promoting Asian Pacific American interests in the following areas (and if you have not contributed in these areas, please discuss any area(s) in which you have made a contribution):

Focused on advocacy and matters that had impact to APA families such as opposition to proposed crematorium in center of San Leandro (asian cultural impact), opposition to proposed casino near Oakland airport (impact to families APA and all). This led to the founding of 501c3 non-profit group Asian Community Cultural Association of San Leandro (ACCA) in 2007 which I currently head with many of the co-founders. APA visibility grew more predominantly as awareness increased with elected officials as more APAs were appointed to Boards and Commissions. In fact, the first three members (myself included) of the ACCA were appointed to these Boards and Commissions several years ago.

- Education – advocacy of Asian American culture and focus on remediating language gaps through non-profit work.
- Health Care – would like to focus on sustainable health habits with children and also awareness of diabetes risks for APA.
- Civil Rights – Marched to Vincent Chin murder during my college years. Non-profit recognition and proclamation of Asian Ethnic Heritage week in San Leandro 2008.
- Business – Advocate of Asian ethnic banking for San Leandro.

3. How have you worked with the API community in the past? Yes, during the Vincent

Chin murder trials in mid to late 1980's. As noted in #2, advocacy and activism on matters that have adverse impacts to APA families and the formation of a 501c3 non-profit Asian Community Cultural Association of San Leandro. We've directly partnered with the city to increase APA translation to basic services.

4. Why do you think appointed and elected offices continue to be under-represented in terms of ethnic communities? Lack of prioritization or lack of recognizable community leaders. To increase participation in San Leandro, we need must increase more visibility with an elected office as one of many channels. Increased visibility in APA retail and service businesses would provide momentum to advance this.
5. What can we count on you to do to address this on an institutional basis? Advocacy of APA business, community and culture. Ensure that policy does not exclude APA diversity.
6. What will you personally do to get input from under-represented communities in your jurisdiction? Listen, inspire and motivate. Promote and educate on APA culture. Focus on policy that do include hiring on APA bilingual skills as pluses.
7. What API policy issues and/or legislation have you championed in the past? Friendship and Sister City ties between San Leandro and cities in China. Received proclamation of Asian Ethnic Heritage Week in May 2008 from Mayor Tony Santos.
8. How have you promoted APIs into leadership positions? Encourage more participation from APAs to run for board positions and participating in San Leandro Board/Commission opportunities.
9. If elected to office, would you agree to seek and accept input from the APA Democratic Caucus of Alameda County on relevant policy matters? Yes.

Deadline for responses: 5 p.m. Saturday, September 8, 2012

Please e-mail your completed questionnaire to
karen.fong@sbcglobal.net

Thank you for taking the time to seek our endorsement.