



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: Hermy B. Almonte

Permanent Address: San Leandro, CA. 94577

City, State, Zip: San Leandro, CA. 94577

Office Sought: City Council- San Leandro District: 6

Are you the incumbent? Yes ___ No X

Campaign Website: Hermy B. Almonte for City Council 2012 (Facebook page)
almonteforcitycouncil@gmail.com

Campaign Email: almonteforcitycouncil@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 510.430.0237

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 ___ No X

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

My goal is to win this election and API can make a big impact on my campaign having a solid organization supporting my campaign to be the first Filipino Asian-American City Councilmember in the City of San Leandro.

List any endorsements you have received.

Dr. Stewart Chen – City of Alameda Health Care District Board
Pat Gacoscos, Vice-Mayor Union City

Espie De Castro – Founder, United Filipino-American Nutritionists & Dietitians Association
Rinnie Rains
Kai Shu Lee Yang
Balwinder Grewal
Michelle Hullana
Sai Mei Li
David Magallon
Betty Evans
Roger Casci
Ulla Sousa
Kam Wing Yu
Donna Ronningen
Kenneth Ronningen
Tammi Richardson
William Richardson Sr.
Charles Correa
Helen Correa
Jerilyn Denny
Melodina Custodio
Nicanor Custodio Jr
John Alm
Kimberly Alm
Lanette Santos
Raymundo De Guzman
Josephine Blasques
Conrado Villanueva
Remedios Villanueva
Baptiste Rodriguez
Elmira Rodriguez
Linda Clarke
Kenneth Farias
Generosa Farias
Colleen Hess
Gary Hess
Steven Hess
Matoria Neagu
Rey Moral
Cornelio Moral
Karen Vigars
Tito Idos
Ruben Idos
Marian Punzalan
Merlito Punzalan
John Forras
Espie De Castro
Ador De Castro
Cesar Eugenio
Esther Eugenio
Mila Monteiro

George Ibanez
Dado Poot
Paul Groft
Mary Groft
Noe Tuason
Cora Tuason
Bong Solis
Linda Solis
Fe Delos Reyes
Mario Mendoza
Jun Casanas
Nellie Casanas
Norma De Ocampo
Evangeline Gelera
Gina Magtibay
Leo Garcia
Gloria Garcia
Beth Garcia
Noli Valera
Tess Valera
Ireneo Sy
Romy Camantigue
Rene Camantigue
Wafaa Aborashed
Priscilla Dela Rosa
Rafael Dela Rosa
Anh Truong
Racel Salas
Edith Salas
Melvin Castro
Zen Castro
Jun Ilagan
Marissa Ilagan
Bianca Ilagan
Fred Morales
Mitchie Matias
Joseph Daluraya
Mary-Anne Tracy Baker
Julius Javier
Ford Dealer - Marina
Sylantro Vietnamese Restaurant
Zen's Filipino Cuisine
Hormoz Sanati
John Duarte
Mohammad Alam
Narietta Safford
Gene Judson
Art Liguiliquid
Wafaa Aborashed

Jose Ringor

If we endorse you, will you use our name in your campaign materials? Yes X 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?

I will bring real reform in City Hall. I will not accept campaign contributions from city employee unions. I pledge to work hard, act with integrity, listen and be responsive to the diverse needs of the community and always put the people of San Leandro, first!

My opponent served almost six years on the city council and wishes to serve for another four years. Time and time again my opponent has spoken out the loudest on the city council and vigorously sought to advance the interests of employees at city hall. I know that what may serve the interests of a few does not always serve the interests of the community at large.

I will be an independent voice on the city council for the people of San Leandro. This is a fundamental difference between myself and my opponent.

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):

- Education – I served 4 years and was elected as the first Filipino Asian-American trustee of the San Leandro School Board. I worked with colleagues on the school board in a collaborative manner. Together we implemented the \$100 million plus, Measure B school bond. We kept the construction program on time and under budget. The results include the innovative Fred T. Korematsu 9th grade campus and our Arts Education Center with its beautiful theater for student and community performances. I also supported Measure M bond that will transform school playing fields and recently voted for the parcel tax measure that will be on the November, 2012 ballot for San Leandro voters to decide.
- Health Care – I am currently a Senior Housing property manager and a Lions Club Zone Chairman. I connect the seniors to the services Lions Club have like free eye examination and brought in to the seniors the brown bags program which Lions Club deliver to them twice a month. Seniors now have no worries for their grocery needs and have abundant of foods that are safely cooked by them.
- Civil Rights – I served as Member-At-Large with Alameda County Consumer Affairs Commission, I worked with fellow commissioners and launched identity theft

workshops in various cities of Alameda County.

- Business – I worked with community leaders and various groups in planning and promotion of various community events where involvement of businesses served a huge part of the events. I make sure that API businesses are given proper exposure to the community by holding community events in their place of business.
3. How have you worked with the API community in the past? Prior to my election to the school board, I served as the President of English Learner Advisory Committee of San Leandro High School. I am associated with Asian Cultural Community Association of San Leandro- ACCA, Lions Club of San Leandro, Cursillo Group, where there are big presence of API.
 4. Why do you think appointed and elected offices continue to be under-represented in terms of ethnic communities? Invested time to involve the community is sure not enough, language barriers are still a big issue, and disconnection still exists.
 5. What can we count on you to do to address this on an institutional basis? Promote participation in all areas and focus on empowering potential leaders by appointment to leadership roles. Promote a community dialogue, listen and respond to the diverse needs of the community.
 6. What will you personally do to get input from under-represented communities in your jurisdiction? Visibility of elected officials to the community they serve should be a high priority, regular meetings should be implemented in every district, and participation of residents should be encouraged.
 7. What API policy issues and/or legislation have you championed in the past? Passed and Adopted with fellow San Leandro School Board Members, Resolution 11-45, Filipino American History Month-October, 2011 and every October, thereafter. It was followed by a Proclamation from Mayor Stephen Cassidy, October, 2011 as the Filipino Heritage Month in San Leandro.
 8. How have you promoted APIs into leadership positions? Support API candidates in their political campaigns, encourage potential leaders to involve themselves to advocate, participate, and be counted on important issues and event affecting their communities. Empowering the youth by involving them in my current campaign efforts.
 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.