



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:	Noel Gallo	
Permanent Address:		
City, State, Zip:	Oakland , CA 94601	
Office Sought:	Oakland City Council	District 5
Are you the incumbent?	Yes___ No_x__	
Campaign Website:	www.galloforoakland.com	
Campaign Email:	GalloForOakland@gmail.com	
Campaign Phone:	(510) 599-3045 - Campaign Staff (510) 289-4915 - Noel Gallo	

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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

Are you an APA Caucus member? Yes No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

My role as an elected official is to represent the residents and businesses of District 5, which includes a significant number of Asian Americans. I seek your endorsement and participation in my campaign to further create collaborations with key community interest groups that can make a difference in Oakland. Oakland is a diverse community that can be stronger, more successful if collaboration among various interests can be established. It is especially important to me that I work with and seek the advice of organizations and individuals dedicated to key community principles of equity, representation and quality governmental services for all.

List any endorsements you have received.

Organizations & Unions (to date)

*Oakland Firefighters Association, Local 55
Professional and Technical Engineers, Local 21 or Professional and Technical Engineers,
Local 21 AFL-CIO
East Bay Small Business Council*

Elected Officials

*Hon. Wilma Chan, Alameda County Board of Supervisors
Hon. David Kakishiba, Oakland School Board Member
Hon. Alice Spearman, Oakland School Board Member
Hon. Chris Dobbins, Oakland School Board Member
Hon. Abel Guillen, Peralta Community College Trustee
Hon. Bill Riley, President, Peralta Community College Trustee
Hon. Elsa Ortiz, President, AC Transit Board
Hon. Bill Patterson, EBMUD Director
Hon. Ken Berrick, President, Alameda County Board of Education
Hon. Sheila Jordan, Superintendent, Alameda County Board of Education
Hon. Charles Ramsey, President, West Contra Costa Board of Education
Hon. Jill Wynn, President, California School Board Association
Hon. Frank Matarrese, Former Alameda City Council Member
Hon. Joe Coto, California State Assembly
Hon. Alex Zermano, Hayward City Council
Hon. John Marquez, Contra Costa College Trustee
Hon. Carol Lee Tolbert, Former OUSD School Board Member
Hon. Sylvester Hodges, Former OUSD School Board Member*

Education Leaders/Principals:

Superintendent Xavier De La Torre, Santa Clara County Office of Education
Dr. Stan Paz, President, Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents
Assistant Superintendent of Facilities, Tim White, Oakland Unified School District
Daniel Hurst and Emiliano Sanchez, Principal and VP, Fremont High School
Alicia Romero, Principal, Oakland High School
Sheila Andujar, Principal, Oakland Tech High
Romeo Garcia, Principal, Arise High School
Robin Glover, Principal, Dewey High School
Preston Thomas, Life Academy High
Ben Chavis, American Indian Charter Schools
Jorge Lopez, Oakland Charter Academies
Sam Pasarow, Principal, Edna Brewer Middle School
Elia Bustamante, Principal, United for Success Middle
Reyna Diaz, Principal, Global Academy Elementary
Natalie Tovani-Walchuk, Principal, Glenview Elementary
Ruben Olivares, Principal, Think College Now Elementary
Eduardo Munoz, Principal, International Community School
Kareem Weaver, Principal, Lazear School
Leo Fuchs, Principal, Learning Without Limits Elementary
Larissa Adams, Principal, Ascend School
Steven Sexton, Principal, Lighthouse Charter School
Susan Sperber, Principal, World Academy Elementary
Moyra Contreras, Principal, Melrose Leadership Academy
Mark Triplett, Principal, Urban Promise Academy
Felicia Phillips, Principal, Bella Vista Elementary
Eyana Spencer, Principal, Manzanita Community
Katherine Carter, Principal, Manzanita Seed Elementary

Community and Business Leaders:

Alan Yee, Port of Oakland Commissioner
Jose Dorado, Measure Y, City of Oakland, District 5 Business
Jose Duenas, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Alameda County
Carl Chan, Chinatown Chamber of Commerce
Henry Woods, California Youth Outreach
Henry Rosales, Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation
Bill Paterson, NAACP
Emma Roos, Education Association for Hispanics
Sally Gallegos, United Indian Nations
Martin Waukazoo, Native American Health Center
Josefina Alvarado Mena, Safe Passages
Juan Vera, Centro Legal de la Raza
Maria Sanchez, Unity Council
Lisa Young, PTA, Edna Brewer Middle School
Rocio Gonzalez, PTA Lazear School
Maria Verdugo, Latino Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse of Alameda County
David Kakishiba, East Bay Asian Youth Services
Marcelina Sanchez, Director, Manzanita Recreation Center
Victor Ramos, Carmen Flores Recreation Center

Abraham Ruelas, Ph.D., Patten College
Stephanie Benavides, Oakland Parks & Recreation
Fred Morris, Oakland Parks & Recreation
Bruce Vuong, Quality Tech Automotive, District 5 Business

Churches:

Patten Christian Cathedral, Rev. Moncher
Patten Christian Cathedral, Rev. Wortham Fears
Allen Temple Baptist Church, Pastor J. Alfred Smith, Sr.
Shiloh Christian, Rev. Michael Moore

Oakland Community Members:

Yuki Nagasawa
Robert Apodaca
Louis Briones
Reyes Briones
Preston Turner
Allan Dones
Fran Matarrese
Emma Paulino
Lillian Lopez
Al Garcia, Reed Supply, District 5 Business
Lillian Cabrera, State Farm Insurance, District 5 Business
Gloria Ramos
Diane Johnson
Harry Tslentis
Winnie Nipay
Rosanne Torres
Viola Gonzales
Ernestine Tayabas-Kim
Claudia Albano
Jesus Pelayo
Joe Debro
Dr. Michael LeNoir
Domingita Velasco, Posada de Colores
Rosemarie Sanchez, Posada de Colores
Peter Roos
Julie Yim
Kim Ramirez, Bank of the West
Teresa Limon
Elisa Boone, Wells Fargo Bank
Lori Ramos
Joe Martinez, District 5 Business
Dr. Steve Lavato
Bill Ritchie
Markus Voneuw, Service for Peace
Maria Verdugo, Centro Juventud
Deborah Acosta
Dr. Sean Bullard, D.D.S.

Catalina Alvarado
Steven Alvarado
Javier Alvarado
Reyes Briones
Claudia Burgos
Robert Limon
Maria Limon
Claudia Burgos
Tom Limon
Angela McKenzie
Michael Ontiveros
Melinda McKenzie
Agnes Ramirez
Patricia Rios
Clementina Duron, Lazear School
Olga Gonzalez, Lazear School PTA
Simone Johnson
Zulma Munoz
Abby Cordova
Steve and Rita Cecaci
Pablo and Cora Tellez
Benito Sierra
Gabriel Valenzuela
Julie Yim, BART
Larry Tramutola
Marlene Labastida
Monica Montenegro
Ngoc Ngo
Shonda Scott
Stephanie DeHerrera
Isabelle Mussard

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?

I believe that Oakland is a city where citizens embrace diversity, equity, respect, education, and optimism. However Oakland has neglected its residents. Residents and businesses have left due to safety, lack of jobs, and the overall housing and economic crisis – impacted most are disenfranchised communities. It is essential that we aggressively focus on core services: infrastructure, crime protection, education, and economic development.

*To realize this vision, we need responsible, **experienced** leadership which is dedicated to public service, has proven ethical leadership skills, free of public or legal controversy. Oakland needs*

leadership that has proven to be effective and has a demonstrated record of public service. Oakland needs experienced leadership on Day 1.

I have deep ties to my community - I am a lifelong resident of Oakland. I have produced concrete results and am known as someone who represent my constituents' needs and works diligently and with integrity and passion on their behalf. I have tangible results and am known as someone who represents my constituents needs and works diligently on their behalf. Whether it is leading 6 successful bond measures to raise over \$1billion for our local public schools, serving on commissions and boards, or volunteering.

I have experience managing complex budgets and making difficult decisions. I have the education, management and public policy experience as well as have a longtime proven passion and commitment to Oakland.

I believe I am the most qualified candidate in the race and will be the best public servant for the residents of D5 over the next 4 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):

Education

- *As the leader of 6 school bonds that generated over \$1billion dollars for our local economy, I can proudly say I have simultaneously improved our schools, created jobs and responsibly spent this tax payer money. This bond money went to rebuild public schools throughout Oakland. A majority of the contracts that were awarded to Oakland based construction companies, many of whom hire Oakland residents or are owned by Oakland residents. Additionally I have worked with the labor unions to promote Project Labor Agreements and Local Business policies. I strongly believe that the City and the School District should be stronger business partners as well – identifying real opportunities for facility sharing, redevelopment/development opportunities that can be beneficial to both institutions. This joint development approach can be used with other governmental agencies owning property in Oakland.*
- *I have been part of the effort to lead Oakland Public Schools to make considerable academic growth through the development of Small Schools, Charter Schools and class size reduction at the elementary school level. Oakland is recognized by the State Department of Education as the most improved urban school district in the last 8 years.*
- *As a leader in OUSD, I collaborated with others to eliminate a \$40 million structural deficit by making reductions in programs that did not directly impact children in the classroom. For example, while not popular, the severe reduction in Adult Education Services and reduction of administration costs.*
- *Regaining local control from State receivership- At the request of the California Department of Education, I assumed the role of Board President and lead the negotiations with the California State Superintendent and the Alameda County Office of Education Superintendent and the appointed State Trustee to establish the conditions to regain local control.*
- *Re-Established Funding for 8 Pre-School Children Centers due to be closed in Oakland – Due to advocacy at the State legislators and the Governor's Office, we were successful in maintaining the program.*

- *Most recently, in working with the Board of Education, we were able to restore \$2million in funding for Special Education children.*

Health Care

- *Served on the Board of Directors for La Clinica de la Raza, a community health care organization providing health care services for Oakland residents primarily in Fruitvale, San Antonio and East Oakland.*
- *Promoted the development of health centers in OUSD middle and high schools sites. Now every middle and high school has an onsite health care facility.*

Civil Rights

- *Introduced OUSD Board Resolutions to support the Dream Act, Deferred Action, and resolutions denying INS access to school facilities and grounds.*
- *Longtime supporter of civil rights through community organization, civic involvement, protest marches and promoting empowerment through mentorship of many youth.*

Business

- *Previous work history includes Unity Council, Spanish Speaking Unity Council which serves broad community of Oakland. Role as OUSD Board Director, supported collaboration with East Bay Asian Youth Center, Lao Family Center. Supportive of Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, Korean Chamber of Commerce and the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce events.*
- *As OUSD School Board Director, I led efforts to approve Project Labor Agreements and through my role as Facilities Committee Chair worked to ensure that local firms had contracting opportunities.*

3. How have you worked with the API community in the past?

As described above, many of the issues affecting the API community are same issues affecting the Latino and immigrant community – I have demonstrated my support for immigrants, equal access and representation of all communities- my primary avenue for representation has been through education – working with local, state and national organizations.

4. Why do you think appointed and elected offices continue to be under-represented in terms of ethnic communities?

Elected offices continued to be under-represented by the time commitment required, campaign/election costs, compensation and limited training and role models. As an elected official, the responsibility is intense and often trying due to the number of special interests. Without effective training and mentorship, it is difficult. To get elected the cost is tremendous even at a local race – often exceeding \$100,000. The time commitment is also difficult if the candidate must also work to support their family. Having an established political network, role models for advice and introductions, knowledge and experience with issues and financial backing are often the reasons why ethnic community representation is limited. As a result it is cycle that needs to be broken by organizations like APADC, individuals willing to train and mentor, and campaign financing programs.

My life's has been dedicated to improving education - the only tool to build the next generation of leaders. I am proud that my campaign team is made up of many of Oakland's rising stars - most are minorities that grew up in D5, attended public schools, graduated from colleges and have returned to work and give back to Oakland. They are working on my campaign because I believed in them in their youth, and also to gain experience so they are more familiar with the democratic process, so they can eventually run for office, fight for causes important to them and better prepare them to be active, engaged citizens.

5. What can we count on you to do to address this on an institutional basis?

I am dedicated to continue to working with youth to offer training, mentoring opportunities. My primary campaign team are young Oakland college graduates, who are learning campaign management skills, voter outreach and engagement. I plan to continue to work with this group going forward to help them become Oakland's next generation leaders. Additionally, I commit to working with APADC and other organizations to support voter registration efforts, community outreach campaigns on key issues and to remain accessible to constituents and organizations.

6. What will you personally do to get input from underrepresented communities in your jurisdiction?

I have been successful as an elected official because I act with honesty, integrity and most importantly, I listen to my constituents. D5 is the most diverse community of Oakland, made up of numerous underrepresented residents and views. I will ensure that residents in my district have a voice and that I speak for their overall needs. As stated I will be accessible to constituents, and seek the advice of organizations. I plan to have a district community advisory group and plan to have an office within District 5. I will also continue to work with the many community, business and public policy groups to seek input.

7. What API policy issues and/or legislation have you championed in the past?

I have championed quality Education, Equity, Immigration rights, Dream Act and neighborhood safety.

8. How have you promoted APIs into leadership positions?

As an OUSD School Director, you have supported monitored and proposed policies to ensure representation in school site and administrative roles as well as business contracting opportunities. I have endorsed and assisted API local and state candidates – Wilma Chan, David Kakishiba, Gary Yee, and Alan Yee as examples.

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 - Good and Effective leadership is about listening and collaborating with all constituents and working with key community organizations.

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.