

ANU NATARAJAN

Seeking Position of: Fremont City Council

www.anu4fremont.com

1. If elected, what are your top priorities during your term? What would you like to accomplish and how would you go about doing so? Please be specific.

My top priorities is to continue to make Fremont the regional hub for green technology jobs and to increase the revenue base for Fremont to build on the recent success we have had. In addition, I would continue to look for additional opportunities to increase retail, recreational and entertainment opportunities for all ages, including starting the midtown as the civic center. Third, I would focus my efforts on increasing public transit options to connect with the BART and its extension to Santa Clara County.

2. How have you in the past and how will you in the future use your position to expand the presence and influence of Asian Pacific Americans in public policy and politics?

During my tenure on City Council, the number of Asian Pacific Americans on Boards and Commissions has increased dramatically. As the first Indian-American to be elected to City Council in the Bay Area, I have been able to get several Indian- Americans and Asian women engaged in the civic dialogue. In my current job as the Program Director for American Leadership Forum in Silicon Valley, my focus is community engagement. In this capacity, I have worked with groups like APALI, AACI, iForum to engage the Asian community in dialogue around reforming California's governance. I also served as co-convenor for a conference organized by Indian American Forum for Political Education. As part of my campaign, I make sure that I include opportunities for Asian American students to get to know the workings of a campaign.

3. 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*
- *Health Care*
- *Civil Rights*
- *Business*

As stated above, in my current job as the Program Director for American Leadership Forum in Silicon Valley, my focus is community engagement. In this capacity, I have worked with groups like APALI, AACI, iForum to engage the Asian community in dialogue around reforming California's governance. I was one of the original volunteers at the India Community Center helping create a center that would attract Indian-Americans of all generations. I have worked with the Sikh coalition when there

was an issue of license renewal for the predominantly Sikh cab drivers in Fremont. I envisioned and took part in “Wear a Hijab Day” in support of the Afghan-Americans when an Afghan woman was shot in Fremont. As a councilmember, I support the work of our Human Relations Commission including the Anti-Hate forums.