

## **GARRETT YEE**

Seeking Position of: Ohlone College Trustee, Area 2

[www.garrettyee.com](http://www.garrettyee.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.**

*Student learning is the top priority for any college district and this holds true for Ohlone College. That said, the three things that impact student learning at Ohlone are:*

**First:** *the state budget and how it impacts the college. We need to ensure that the revenues that the college receives from the state best serves the students.*

**Second:** *With aging facilities that are over 40 years old, we need to upgrade several of the building structures. There have been times where class has been canceled due to ventilation concerns in the science labs, which are poorly equipped to handle even basic chemical reactions. Further, the college does and is not ADA friendly and needs much improvement in this area.*

**Third:** *Students that want to transfer from Ohlone to the CSU or UC system should have a more seamless process. As a parent of a student at Ohlone College, I know we need to continue to improve the process and make it more efficient.*

- 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?**

*As the Scholarship Chair and President of the South Bay Chinese Club I helped grow the scholarship program several-fold. I initiated the only public Chinese New Year Celebration at the Fremont Library that continues to this day. Additionally, I brought to the Tri-Cities area the "Heading East: California's Asian Pacific Experience," that celebrates Asian history in California.*

*As the President of Citizens for Better Community (CBC), I helped to increase visibility of accomplished Chinese Americans. In fact, the Ohlone College Foundation recognized CBC as the Citizen of the Year. I led CBC's participation in the 80-20 initiative to display US flags and led CBC's participation in the July 4th parades where participation grew to over 200 participants by bringing together local Chinese organizations.*

*As Library Commissioner, I sponsored Asian cultural events such as the Japanese Cherry Blossom celebration and the Autumn Moon Festival celebration. As a member of the Japanese American Citizens League, I have been a key note speaker at their annual scholarship luncheon.*

*I am the first and only APA to serve on the Ohlone College Board. I am a member*

*of the Filipino America Democratic Club of Alameda County and the APA Democratic Club of Alameda County.*

*I have helped encourage, mentor, and support several APAs to get involved in the community and in politics. If re-elected, I will continue to do the same.*

**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** *I have served on the Ohlone Community College Board of Trustees for the past seven years. Prior to that, I served on the Ohlone College Foundation and Fremont Library Advisory Commission. I have served as a volunteer for the Fremont Education Foundation several years. With all these organizations, I have increased APA participation and involvement such as on appointed boards, APA focused events, and as the representative of the APA community.*
- **Health Care** *As a board member and past President of CBC, we have supported and co-sponsored Asian health fairs, the American Cancer Society Northern California Chinese Unit (including Relay for Life), Asian American Donor Program (AADP) bone marrow testing, and Hepatitis B awareness efforts.*
- **Civil Rights** *As President of CBC, our organization supported the efforts of Wen Ho Lee who was placed in prison without due process. When local Chinese Americans in our community were publicly accused of trying to make Fremont like Cupertino (where there are lots of Asians), I stood up to these attacks and responded publicly in print and television media.*
- **Business** *During my tenure on the Ohlone College Board, I have participated in two delegations to China (2004 and 2008) to help establish sister college relationships as well as business connections. I have participated in Chinese networking forums focused on Chinese businesses through CBC.*