

JEAN QUAN

Seeking Position for: Oakland Mayor

www.jeanquanforoakland.org

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 as the Mayor of Oakland are:

- **Public Safety and community policing.** Police officers must be organized with geographic accountability (area assignments) so partnerships with the community can be built. I am committed to continuing to organize neighborhoods block by block with strong neighborhood councils and to prevention and intervention programs for young people. Passing the Measure Y amendment this fall would be key to maintaining the funding for both beat officers and for prevention/intervention programs that have brought crime down 40% over the last 3 years.
- I plan to be an **Education Mayor**—As a former school member who led major urban education coalitions at the state and national level. I know cities can do more for schools than we are currently. I hope to wrap the arms of the city around every school by organizing business and community support as well as city-wide policies that help schools, e.g. an education cabinet to coordinate job training, coordinated truancy programs, and city-schools partnerships such as the new 81st Ave Library which I started as a school board member in the 1990s and now completing as a City Council person in 2010. I will help organize community volunteers to help the 2,000 or so most at risk youth by organizing mentors for them from among the thousands of baby boomers retiring and wanting to give back. This is a doable organizing task that the Mayor must lead to seriously dent crime and youth hope.
- **Economic Development:** I will actively work to attract business investment in the city and ensure that jobs coming to Oakland from the Federal Stimulus dollars go to Oaklanders via appropriate training and internship programs. Matching up new Green jobs with green trainees would be a top priority. Making strategic investments at purchasing land via eminent domain at Valdez and Broadway would pave the way for facilities for a **major shopping area in Downtown Oakland to increase retail taxes.**
Workforce housing would be a top priority to maintain the type of city we all want for all income groups, especially middle class working people.
- **Transparent, Ethical, and Efficient Government** by being accessible hands on mayor. Conducting regular town hall meetings and attending

council meetings. Improving management by hiring a top notch City administrator with both empowerment experience as well as no-nonsense business acumen.

- **Green City:** Oakland is consistently named one the greenest cities in the nation. I hope to build on my work of supporting a more walkable, bikable city and progressive waste management (diverting compostables from the landfill which I also led as chair of StopWaste.org/Waste Management of Alameda County). Implementing the styrofoam ban and supporting plastic bag legislation.

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?

- I have a long history in the civil rights movement for Asian Americans. As a founder of Asian American Studies I helped implement programs to recruit low income and immigrant students to Berkeley.
- We used student based service learning projects to start many of the social service agencies that exist today in the community today – Asian Health Services, East Bay Local Development Corp, Oakland Asian Cultural Center, the International Hotel, Oakland Asian Student Educational Services (OASES), and many more.
- I helped push the Service Employees International Union and other unions to hire Asian and Hispanic language speaking staff to organize exploited janitorial, health care, and other service workers and helped found APALA, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance.
- As a school board member--the first Asian American in Oakland-- I fought to strengthen the voice of immigrant parents and students both as a Clinton appointee to the Title One Rules Making Committee, getting more urban and immigrant student funding. As the chair of the Council of Urban Boards of Education I helped block to removal of immigrants from the free lunch programs, won more funds for the Emergency Immigrant Grants, and challenged text book companies to be more inclusive of API history.
- As chair of the Asian Pacific American School Board Members Association I organized the first statewide conferences on API student issues and guide to API student issues.
- Locally, I fought for full implementation of the bilingual parents order against the Oakland school and worked to organize strong parent advisory groups, parent training, citizenship and English language programs for parents.
- I have conducted many voter registration drives getting many immigrant voters to vote by mail, increasing the Asian turnout. I registered over 1000 new voters when I ran for Council.
- I have defended the Oakland Language Access Ordinance and its implementation to make city services accessible to immigrants including our Chinese language Citizen Academy and Neighborhood Crime Prevention

Councils.

- I have chaired the Association of Asian Pacific American Municipal Officers and sat on the national Immigration Reform Task Force of the League of Cities.

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-** See Above.
- **Health Care-** As a patient advocate for the NY City Hospitals, I developed many bilingual and multicultural health education materials and training programs for health professionals serving Asian patients. Both as a student activist in the Bay Area and then as a health care worker in NY, I worked on community outreach programs including street fairs and senior screening programs that became on-going established programs –glaucoma screening, hepatitis education programs, ergonomic programs for garment workers. As a health care union representative I helped fight for the state requirement for translation for patients. As a school board member and now council member I worked to establish and expand health clinics in both schools and middle schools. These are particularly important for expanding access for immigrant students.
- **Civil Rights-** As a student leader at UC Berkeley, I helped lead fights for Asian American studies, equal opportunity admissions, and funding of student programs in our communities. We also helped start the International Hotel fight, one of the early fights for affordable housing and preservation of Chinatown/Manilatown. In NYC I helped lead organizing in support of equal hiring in the construction industry (Confucious Plaza) and police brutality. I was one of the West Coast leaders of the Vincent Chin campaign.
- **Labor** - Association and the Coalition of Labor Union Women. I was a leader in the founding of the SEIU Civil Rights Conference. I was the first woman business agent in Local 87 and piloted the community organizing campaign that later became standard in the national Justice for Janitors program. I was an international organizer for SEIU and worked on many campaigns organizing immigrant workers, including organizing janitors exploited at the SFO Airport. I led the political campaign at the SF Human Rights Commission for minimum worker rights requirements.
- **Business-** I have worked with neighborhood businesses, many of them Asian, to build business improvement districts and revitalize areas like the Dimond and Laurel. I obtained funding for façade improvements, organizing support, and parking changes. I am a supporter of the Chinatown Lunar and Street Fair

events.

- **Housing-** As a Council Member I helped lead the fight on the Council to save the low cost housing at Pacific Renaissance, organized for additional senior housing for immigrants and others, and set asides for affordable housing.