

JENNIFER PAE

Seeking Position of: Oakland City Council, Dist 2

www.jenniferpae.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.

Oakland is in the midst of an economic and social crisis. This election is about investing in Oakland's future and changing the discourse that has prevented our city from moving forward. Our main policy priorities include:

- Invest In Our Local Economy. Implement a jobs and economic development plan that: (a) best leverages federal dollars to benefit our community, (b) encourages fiscally and socially responsible lending and investments in our local workforce economy, and (c) strengthens Oakland's businesses, homeowners, and entrepreneurs.
- Invest In Our Young People. Strengthen collaborative partnership with the School District to address high truancy and low graduation rates for our young people.
- Invest In Public Safety. Prioritize public safety by: (a) addressing the root causes of crime by instituting a multi-strategy of violence prevention, intervention, and enforcement, and (b) ensuring a properly staffed, responsive, and accountable Police Department.

Right now Oakland voters are on edge. They see a city government that has lost touch with its people. It is time to invest in Oakland by bringing in new leadership and voices to City Hall. Together, we must *invest* in the prosperity of Oakland and make local government work effectively for our families, youth, and seniors. Our policy priorities must strengthen our community - when our diverse community succeeds, we all succeed.

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 Northern CA Chair of the API Caucus of the California Democratic Party, we have greatly expanded our membership and influence on a statewide level. Locally, I have volunteered my time to register new citizens to vote, many of whom are Asian Americans and register as Democrats.

For our campaign, APAs are in leadership positions from our Campaign Manger and Political Consultant to our Super Volunteers. Our campaign is committed to empowering the APA community by developing leaders through training and mentorship opportunities.

Furthermore, our district is incredibly diverse with a strong APA voting population that includes Chinatown and Eastlake, many of which are monolingual APIA speakers. We

will be organizing in-language door knocking and phone banks, as well as participating in election forums to empower our community in this election.

I am committed to continuing to educate and engage our community on our most pressing issues. It is important to go to where the community is rather than making it more difficult to be civically engaged. This includes accessibility through meeting locations and office hours, but most importantly, providing culturally relevant materials and language translation services.

The City of Oakland's Equal Access Ordinance has not been adequately funded and services have not been provided at the level that it should – this is a top priority. In addition, the recent violent attacks against elderly Asian Americans in our community highlight the need for public safety. We have duty and responsibility to ensure our community is safe and well protected.

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 am a product of our public education system and am the first in my family to graduate from a four year university. Right after I graduated, I became the President and Executive Director of the United States Student Association and was responsible for overseeing eleven staff members and a budget totaling over \$1 million that worked to expand access and affordability to higher education. It was my responsibility to negotiate federal policies with the Department of Education and members of Congress while serving on numerous boards and civil rights coalitions to advocate on behalf of over 2.5 million students. We organized national campaigns to expand financial aid and reduce student loan debt and I am proud to have worked on the Student Loan Reform Act years ago that was recently signed into law by President Obama.

- **Health Care**

My mother is the single most important reason that I am running for office. I grew up watching my mother, a single first-generation immigrant who raised two children while working and studying to become a nurse, demonstrate what hard work and perseverance can create. Growing up, we did not have access to quality affordable health care until my mother started working for Kaiser and became a member of the California Nurses Association. I volunteered my time to ensure that national health care was passed in our lifetime.

- **Civil Rights**

I have organized and advocated on countless campaigns that have advanced civil rights for our community. From the Voting Rights Act on the national level to the “Justice for NBC Workers” campaign locally, my values drive my passion and commitment to social justice, especially for underrepresented communities.

- **Business**

Although my father did not raise us, I know he worked very hard to make ends meet. When he came to this country, he started out painting houses and then ultimately opened up his own painting business. Unfortunately, by this point, his body had given out on him.

He passed at the age of 44 years old due to heart disease leaving behind four girls. I know and understand the sense of urgency we're in. I know what it means to invest in our businesses and our workforce. Many members of our community own small businesses and they are the backbone to our local economy. We must invest in Oakland's future by investing in our local businesses and local workforce.