

LINDA MAIO

Seeking Position for: Berkeley City Council, Dist 1
www.lindamaio.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 priorities are evident in my track record. For over a decade I have worked for sound environmental stewardship, affordable housing, public safety, quality neighborhood services, traffic calming, and improved academic achievement for all children. Berkeley has recently received numerous environmental awards, and cities across the country now replicate our innovative programs. Determined to address air quality issues, in particular odors around Pacific Steel Casting, which employees over 500 people, I meet monthly with PSC. We conducted a lengthy Health Risk Assessment and air monitoring, and no health hazards have been revealed. Recently installed emission controls and other manufacturing alterations have dramatically reduced odor complaints.

Berkeley can be proud of 99 beautiful, affordable family apartments adjacent to the Brower Center on Oxford, and 80 much-needed, attractive, senior apartments at University and Sacramento. Despite the economic turndown, Berkeley enjoys a recently upgraded AA+ bond rating; our public safety response remains strong; University Avenue is finally paved.

Because data show that children starting at a disadvantage rarely succeed academically, I've taken a leadership role in improving early childhood education. My specific priorities are to continue to improve air quality, advance early childhood education, improve our economy particularly through development in the downtown, reconfigure and rationalize the I-80/Gilman interchange, work to create a more functional state government rather than the chaos we experience now that has reduced services and the tax base of our local communities.

1. 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?

My appointments of Asian Pacific Islanders have not been many and I would appreciate referrals. That is a clear stepping stone to political office and is an excellent way to mentor. I would be pleased to have help in recruiting appointees, particularly women.

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-** I am a strong advocate for early childhood education. There is an achievement gap among African American, Latino, and Asian students in our public schools. I am taking a leadership role in advancing early childhood education in our schools.
- **Health Care**
- **Civil Rights** – Attended the annual raising of the flag; advanced the causes of a free Tibet, and of the Falun Gong.
- **Business** – I recently learned that an Asian business, Flamingo Cleaners, was struggling because they lost street parking due to the new Trader Joe's. Although it is not my district, and because the representative was not responsive, I have gone to bat for this family.