

# Rob Bonta - Assembly District 18

SO YOU WANT THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE WELLSTONE CLUB

CANDIDATES FOR CALIFORNIA OFFICE

America is experiencing a deep and prolonged recession in which as many as 25 million people are unemployed or underemployed -- unable to provide for ourselves and our families. Wholesale cut-backs in the social safety net, the schools, and basic infrastructure are taking place. The country is embroiled in three costly and misguided military conflicts. Our nation is deeply divided on issues of race, class, and gender. We suffer from a profound loss of direction. We need vision and leadership from elected officials.

The WDRC only endorses registered Democrats who campaign on issues substantially in accord with our Club values. Based on the demands of the present situation, and referencing our Club's stated values (see our website <http://www.wellstoneclub.org/platform.htm>), please address the following questions, and try to keep each answer to 100 words or less.

ISSUES:

1. What are the three most significant issues in your race.

The three most significant issues are: (1) public education, (2) the budget, jobs and the economy, and (3) public safety. I would also add preserving our social service safety net as a fourth very significant issue.

(1) Improving Public Education in California

I am a product of California's public schools. I had a dream to go to the best universities in the world and I was able to realize that dream because of the strength of California's public schools. By working my way through college (cleaning laundry rooms) and with the help of financial aid, I was able to attend Yale College, then Oxford University and Yale Law School. As a parent and public servant, I worry that my children and the next generation that they are a part of will not be able to fulfill the same dream. I have been a public school parent since my oldest child Reina was first old enough to go to school. I have seen firsthand increased class sizes, fewer instructional days, teacher layoffs, programmatic cuts, and the shortage of basic supplies in the classroom. California has gone from being one of the top 10 states in the country in per pupil funding to one of the bottom ten states. As a parent, this concerns me deeply. In politics, it is said that "how California goes, so goes the rest of the country." If this is the case, then California is leading the race to the bottom.

This must change. And that is why I have fought for school funding increases both locally and statewide.

My two daughters Reina and Iliana Bonta are plaintiffs in the Robles Wong vs. California lawsuit, which challenges the state of California's public school finance system. The state's public school finance system is broken and needs to be fixed so that all of California's children are given the learning opportunities they deserve. Education is a fundamental right of every child in California. California has set clear requirements for what schools are expected to teach and what students are expected to learn. The state further requires that schools provide numerous services and programs deemed necessary for students to succeed, such as health services. By doing so, the state has an obligation to provide the resources necessary to meet the required standards, but has failed to do so. The lawsuit asks the state to remedy this dire problem and to ensure that children in the East Bay and throughout the state receive the financing they need to receive a high quality education.

I also worked with my local teachers and classified school employee unions to pass a parcel tax for our schools in Alameda that helped lower class size, keep schools open, save jobs, and, generally, protect our teachers, parents, students, and community against Sacramento's takeaways. In addition, I am currently assisting the San Leandro School Board with its planned parcel tax measure.

As a state legislator, I would support lowering the threshold for local parcel taxes from a 2/3 vote to a simple majority, or, alternatively, to a 55% majority vote as is currently the threshold for facility bonds, in order to allow communities to more easily pass parcel tax increases that will support their schools. I am a strong believer in local control of schools in particular and government in general, and part of local control is allowing the voters to tax themselves in order to fund programs they deem on that strong relationship. The ability to more easily raise taxes locally is particularly important in the current environment in which the state is not raising the needed revenues.

For my support of the schools, I have earned the endorsements of numerous educators, including three local school board presidents: Morgan Mack-Rose from the San Leandro School Board, Ron Mooney of the Alameda School Board, and Hydra Mendoza of the San Francisco Board of Education. I also have the support of Peralta Community College Board Member Bill Withrow as well as numerous other school board members, educators, teachers, and parents of students in the schools.

## (2) Job Creation, Economic Revitalization, and the Budget

As Vice Mayor, and as the Chair of the City's Economic Development Commission before becoming Vice Mayor, I promoted job creation and economic revitalization. I have fought to attract new businesses and jobs to the city and to retain and support existing businesses. I also established the America's Cup Committee to bring economic benefits to the City of Alameda and our citizenry during the upcoming event, which is expected to generate over \$1.2 Billion in economic activity and create over 8,000 jobs. In addition, while Vice Mayor, the City successfully negotiated for the conveyance of the former 918-acre Alameda Point (Naval Air Station) from the Navy to the City at no-cost. This is the single greatest instance of progress made with respect to the Naval Air Station since it closed nearly a decade and a half ago and clears the way for the creation of thousands of jobs and massive economic revitalization. This project will be the largest infill project in the Bay Area. While Vice Mayor, the City also got on the shortlist to be the site for Lawrence Berkeley National Lab's second campus.

The state can help create jobs and revitalize the economy with a stimulus package that might include a statewide school facilities bond or a public infrastructure bond, both of which would help put Californians back to work while making needed investment in our infrastructure.

We must generate more revenue at the state level and invest in California. We have seen a profound divestment by our state during the perennial budget crises. With the most recent budget cuts of \$15 Billion, we have reduced our state spending to levels last seen in 1972-1973, when our population was half the size. I am seeing the impact of this dramatic divestment by the state of California everywhere, from severe understaffing of our police and fire departments which threatens our public safety, to burgeoning class sizes, fewer instructional days, and reductions in academic and career and college readiness initiatives in public education which threatens our future. The budget crisis is further impacted by California's dysfunctional tax system, with its high reliance on the volatile personal income tax and the regressive sales tax, low property taxes capped by Proposition 13 which shifted the burden to new residential owners and away from commercial property, and a two-thirds legislative vote to raise taxes or impose new fees while it only takes a simple majority to create a corporate tax loophole. We need to end the undemocratic two-thirds rule that allows a minority of Republicans to hold our state hostage. I support exploring other revenue options, such as an oil excise tax, implementing a split-roll property tax, a personal income tax on the very wealthy, increased sales tax, and closing corporate tax loopholes.

## (3) Preserving Public Safety

A kindergarten student at the elementary school both of my daughters attended was recently shot and killed in front of his parents' food truck in Oakland. Last year, I attended the candlelight vigil in Oakland of a 3-year old child who was shot and killed in a crossfire while being strolled down the street by his parents in the middle of the day in a bustling retail district. The people of the East Bay deserve higher levels of public safety. That is why as Vice Mayor I supported no cuts to street level services for police and firefighters and will continue to fight for safer communities. I have worked to approve fair and decent Firefighter and Police contracts through good-faith, collective bargaining after three years of stalled negotiations. However, other

municipalities have not been as fortunate as us. This public safety crisis is exacerbated because of unfunded state mandates and the tenuous realignment of prisoners without sufficient funding. As an Assemblymember, I would leverage the resources of the state to ensure that, in the short term, there is sufficient, visible, and proactive community policing in the neighborhoods to deter and stop crime as well as, in the long term, ensure that we invest in education and job training to help create an environment in which crime is less likely to occur in the first place.

#### (4) Ensuring A Strong Social Service Safety Net

I have neighbors who have lost their homes and friends who have lost their jobs. I have been in the ER with my family along with individuals who were seeking non-

As the President of the city's Social Service Human Relations Board and as the Vice Mayor, I approved grants to keep roofs over the heads of the would-be homeless, keep the electricity and gas on in people's dwellings, and provide food assistance to the hungry. We need to make sure that we have a social service system that protects and serves the most vulnerable in our system when they need it most, including the sick, the elderly, and the poor.

2. Do you support cuts in the next state budget? Yes \_\_\_ No X

If yes, what would you cut?

If no, how would you meet all the state's fiscal demands?

We must generate more revenue to adequately fund the various critical services provided by the state. There are three possible ways to do this: (1) a bipartisan solution; (2) a political solution; or (3) a legislative solution. The bipartisan solution: Democrats can potentially identify one or two moderate Republicans to support revenue increase. This is possible, but not likely in this day and age of Republican "no tax" pledges. The political solution: In this year of redistricting, Democrats can identify a couple of formerly red districts and turn them blue in order to achieve the 2/3 threshold. The legislative solution: Pass the other half of Proposition 25 (simple majority to pass a budget) by making revenue increases subject to a simple majority vote of the legislature (or, at the very least, a lower super-majority, such as 55%). Once increasing revenue is possible, we can explore a number of revenue options, such as an oil excise tax, implementing a split-roll property tax, a personal income tax on the very wealthy, increased sales tax, a tax on sugary beverages, and closing corporate tax loopholes

3. What will you do to protect workers rights', union rights', including public unions, to engage in collective bargaining and political action?

As I have always done, I will be an active and vocal force for these rights. I regularly walk picket lines - most recently with the California Nurses Association and SEIU; sign petitions and engage in other organizing activities because they are the right things to do, not because I am involved in politics.

I spent a number of my early childhood years in the United Farm Workers headquarters of La Paz (in the Central Valley) where my parents were an active part of the movement and worked as farm worker organizers alongside UFW leaders Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Philip Vera Cruz, Pete Velasco, and Gilbert Padilla, among others. Members of the UFW helped raise me, and I am proud that my parents and I were part of one of the greatest social justice movements in the history of California and this country. The fight for justice the UFW and my parents began almost 40 years ago continues today. I was proud to recently march with the UFW as part of the March for Fair Treatment for Farm Workers, a 13-day pilgrimage from the Central Valley to Sacramento to call for legislation that would protect farm workers' rights to join a union and provide for overtime after 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week. I was pleased to see that, as a result of the march, Governor Brown signed SB 126 into law, allowing California's approximately 400,000 farm workers to more readily join unions and speak up for fair labor practices.

I am and have been a strong supporter of working families. I am a union member and come from a union family. I am a long-time and current member of the Municipal Attorneys' Association and both of my parents

are long-time members of SEIU 1000 (California State Employees Association). Both of my parents are currently retired and living off of the CalPERS pensions that they earned, that were promised to them, and that they deserve to keep. I am currently earning my own pension as well. I oppose moves to change the public pension system to a defined contribution plan, such as a 401(k). Our public pensions provide much needed retirement security for government employees, whose total compensation generally lags behind their private sector counterparts.

My commitment to supporting working people includes:

- As the Vice Mayor of Alameda, I approved fair and decent contracts for the Alameda Firefighters and Alameda Police Officers through the good-faith, collective bargaining process after three years of stalled negotiations with the prior administration.
- As Vice Mayor, I am currently taking the lead in working with the Building Trades and Carpenters unions to have a city-wide Project Labor Agreement approved in Alameda.
- As Vice Mayor, I approved a favorable contract extension with IBEW Local 1245 members after protracted, unproductive, and unfavorable negotiations under the prior administration.
- As Vice Mayor, I successfully supported the involvement of a representative from every City bargaining unit in the selection process for our new City Manager.
- As a Director of the City of Alameda Health Care District, I worked in good-faith with and arrived at contracts approved by the California Nurses Association (C.N.A.) (unanimous approval), SEIU UHW Local 250, Local 6 ILWU (Longshore Warehouse Union), Local 29 OPEIU (Office and Professional Employees International Union), and Local 39 Operating Engineers.
- I supported United Food & Commercial Workers Local 5 in their successful effort to pass a .big box ban. ordinance in Alameda.
- I picketed with the California Nurses Association and nurses at Oakland Children's Hospital in support of fair and decent healthcare benefits and working conditions that promote quality patient care.
- I signed a letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security regarding unjust I9 audits at Pacific Steel Casting Company and attended a press conference at the Alameda County Central Labor Council office speaking out against these unfair practices.
- I financially supported the locked-out workers at Castlewood Country Club (UNITE HERE Local 2850).

For my support of working people, I am honored to have earned the early endorsements in my State Assembly campaign of the following labor organizations:

United Farm Workers (UFW)

AFSCME (American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees) Council 57

Alameda Firefighters, IAFF Local 689

Alameda Police Officers Association  
East Bay Automotive Machinists Local 1546

Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, AFL-CIO

San Francisco Firefighters, IAFF Local 798

San Francisco Police Officers Association

In addition, I will fight to ensure that the so-called Paycheck Protection (actually "Paycheck Deception") Act is not passed. With the United States Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United, which allows for essentially unlimited corporate spending in elections, working people need the ability to counter that influence with political action of their own, something that is achieved through organized labor unions funded through their members.

4. What are your legislative priorities - what is the most important legislation you will seek to introduce or work to pass?

I would like to see education, public safety, economic development and healthcare fully funded by reversing the oppressive anti tax measures passed in California over the last 30 years and by ending the trend of all-cuts budgets and establishing a pattern of raising reasonable revenues in California. As mentioned above, generating more revenue to adequately fund the various critical services provided by the state will require one of the three solutions I outlined: (1) the bipartisan solution; (2) the political solution; or (3) the legislative solution.

5. Which California taxes, if any, would you raise? Which, if any, would you lower?

I am prepared to explore and pursue a number of revenue options, such as an oil excise tax, implementing a split-roll property tax, a personal income tax on the very wealthy, increased sales tax, a tax on sugary beverages, and closing corporate tax loopholes. Corporate tax credits and loopholes have to end. We need to correct how we tax private enterprise in California in order to prevent the boom and bust that comes from relying on personal income taxes.

6. Do you support any changes to Prop 13? Yes X No \_\_\_\_

If yes, what changes? Split roll reform on the commercial side to close corporate tax loopholes.

If no, why not?

7. How would you address the crises in our health care system? What is your position on single payer (Medicare for All)?

I support single payer. Currently 47 million Americans have no health insurance. The majority of the uninsured work at jobs that provide no health benefits. There are systemic problems within the public and private health care system including hospital closures, ER diversions, and denials of care by insurance companies. I am in favor of a publicly administered, universal health care system (i.e. "single-payer").

Single payer health care would allow California to negotiate the best rates for health care from hospitals and pharmaceutical corporations and as such I would strongly support its implementation in our state and nationwide. The larger the pool of insured individuals, the less risk each individual bears, and single payer would allow us to reduce costs across the board. Furthermore, single payer would severely reduce the number of uninsured individuals entering our hospitals - ideally providing insurance for all - which would reduce costs on hospitals and allow them to pass on the savings to other patients. In terms of implementation, I believe we can achieve single-payer within California through a combination of legislative action (such as Senator Mark Leno's SB 810 from past sessions), the health insurance exchange program, and federal waivers to the exchange program. I know Vermont is attempting to implement single-payer through its exchange starting in 2014-- as opposed to 2017 for alterations to their program-- which will require the approval of the Obama Administration. As far as national implementation of single-payer health insurance, I believe the first step would be to establish a well functioning system on the state level that could be successfully expanded into a federal program following several years of beneficial results and fiscal stability.

8. Do you support cuts to the state budget? Yes \_\_ No X

If yes, what would you cut?

If no, how would you meet all the state's financial obligations?

We must generate more revenue to adequately fund the various critical services provided by the state. There are three possible ways to do this: (1) a bipartisan solution; (2) a political solution; or (3) a legislative solution. The bipartisan solution: Democrats can potentially identify one or two moderate Republicans to support revenue increase. This is possible, but not likely in this day and age of Republican "no tax" pledges.

The political solution: In this year of redistricting, Democrats can identify a couple of formerly red districts and turn them blue in order to achieve the 2/3 threshold.

The legislative solution: Pass the other half of Proposition 25 (simple majority to pass a budget) by making revenue increases subject to a simple majority vote of the legislature(or, at the very least, a lower super-majority, such as 55%). Once increasing revenue is possible, we can explore a number of revenue options, such as an oil excise tax, implementing a split-roll property tax, a personal income tax on the very wealthy, increased sales tax, a tax on sugary beverages, and closing corporate tax loopholes

9. Do you support public financing of elections? Yes  No

Why or why not?

I believe there can be workable ways to do this. It is done in San Francisco, where I work, but it must be done carefully. The current campaign finance system is broken and needs to be fixed. I favor holistic, comprehensive reform, as opposed to piecemeal changes that may have unintended consequences. As reform is implemented, a close eye must be kept on the impact of US Supreme Court rulings on the campaign finance landscape, such as Buckley v. Valeo (which says the money is speech and limitations cannot be placed on a candidate's own campaign expenditures or on independent expenditures) and Citizens United (which allows for essentially unlimited corporate spending in elections).

10. Do you support any limitations on a woman's reproductive rights? Yes  No

If yes, what limitations do you support?

11. What are your environmental priorities?

Generally, reduce reliance on automobiles (including by promoting transit oriented development (TOD)), encourage alternative sources of fuel, and address rising sea levels that will affect the East Bay.

Specifically, the following three issues: 1.) Alameda Point cleanup and development, 2.) Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and transportation. 3.) The effects of Global Climate Change and rising sea level on the district and Oakland International Airport.

1.) While serving as a naval base, Alameda Point was subject to extensive toxic industrial dumping, and cleanup efforts have spanned decades costing more than half a billion dollars. Fortunately, cleanup efforts are winding down and we are now seeking to utilize this important space environmentally and economically. While I served as Vice Mayor, the City recently persuaded the Navy to convey the land to the City of Alameda at no cost. Right now we are looking closely at a variety of mixed-use development in the area, which would include green industry, preserving the natural habitats for the endangered species located there, specifically the California Least Tern and California Brown Pelican, transportation oriented development, light industry, high technology businesses, and creating low and middle income residences for a living-working environment. However, while it may be safe for people to work at Alameda Point, I remain concerned over the health of families that would live in this historically contaminated environment. For example, while some areas may be suited for residential construction, will families be allowed to have gardens and will the environment be safe for children and animals to play outside? These are important questions that must be reviewed before we proceed.

2.) We need to continue to cut our GHG emissions through a concerted regional effort within transportation and land use planning as well as power generation. I am the City of Alameda's representative on the Alameda County Transportation Commission, which informs the Metropolitan Transportation Commission on issues pertaining to the implementation of the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act (SB375). I am also involved in the development of the Alameda Countywide Transportation Plan, a long-range policy document that guides transportation funding decisions for Alameda County's transportation system over a 25-year horizon and works to meet the goals of SB375 and the statewide targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions set by AB32.

The CWTP lays out a strategy for meeting transportation needs for all users in Alameda County and includes projects, programs, and improvements for: new and existing freeways, local streets and roads, public transit (paratransit, buses, rails, ferries), as well as facilities and programs to support bicycling and walking. In addition, for the first time, the CWTP will require the County to meet greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets set by the State of California under SB 375. The target is a 7% GHG reduction by 2020, and a 15% GHG reduction by 2035. To address SB 375 requirements and other needs, the current update to the CWTP will address transit oriented development and priority development areas; parking management; transportation systems management and goods movement; as well as transit connectivity, maintenance and operations. Within the City of Alameda, we have been strongly promoting the use of buses and ferries, as well as supporting a bicycle and pedestrian friendly environment.

The City of Alameda also has a zero-waste strategy to reduce the amount of trash in our landfills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, Alameda Municipal Power, a department of the City of Alameda and a municipal utility that has provided reliable electric service for more than 120 years, has an electric generating resource mix that is among the cleanest in the nation, providing the City of Alameda the distinction of being the lowest greenhouse gas emitting community in Alameda County and one of the lowest in the State.

3.) Rising sea levels will place major infrastructure improvements at risk as well as pose significant threats to the people of the district. Local studies have asserted potential increases in sea level in excess of one foot within the next several decades and even larger increases within the next century. This places infrastructure, such as the Oakland International Airport and the East Bay Municipal Utility District's treatment plant, at a serious risk that we cannot ignore.

12. Which initiatives on the California ballot do you support and why? Which do you oppose and why?

At this moment, I support the Cancer Research Act (increase of the tax on cigarettes to fund cancer research) and the initiative on term limits (limit of 8 years (Senate)/6 years (Assembly) replaced with 12-year limit on combined service). And I oppose the so-called Paycheck Protection ("Paycheck Deception") Act. I also support Governor Brown's tax plan (tax on the rich and sales tax increase) to generate much-needed revenues for the state.

13. How do you propose to work with other legislators and grassroots groups to collectively strive to reduce the federal military budget and free up funds for use by the states for job creation, rebuilding the social safety net, energy development and the like?

I believe in effective leadership driven by collaboration, partnership, open-mindedness and a willingness to listen. I will be active in working with our Congressional delegation to generate more support from my fellow state legislators to communicate to Congress the sense of Californians. I will be working hard to re-elect President Obama and return a Democratic majority to Congress so that my and my state legislative colleagues' conversations with our federal representatives and leaders will be more productive.

14. Which of the issues detailed above will you highlight in your campaign?

All of them, especially my ideas about strengthening our economy, stopping all cuts budgets, improving public education, job creation and economic revitalization, preserving public safety, and ensuring a strong social service safety net.

YOUR CAMPAIGN:

15. Who are your principal opponents?

Kathy Neal, Joel Young, and Abel Guillen.

16. What is your campaign budget? \$300,000+

17. How much have you raised to date? Over Half. I believe that I have raised more money than any other candidate in the last reporting period (I raised approximately \$160,000 between July 1 and December 31, 2011).

18. Who are your major donors? Please list them and state the amount of their donations to date.

1. Jose Gomez, Former Executive Assistant to United Farm Workers Co-Founder Cesar Chavez - \$7800 (Primary and General)
2. Warren Bonta (father), Retired - \$7800 (Primary and General)
3. Jerry Meyer, artist - \$7800 (Primary and General)
4. Alameda Firefighters Association PAC - \$7800 (Primary and General)

For more details, please see form 460 available Jan 31 at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)

19. How are you building a winning coalition?

Through my work with labor, the Democratic Party, local business leaders, healthcare and education leaders, the public safety community, young people and seniors, community leaders and grassroots activists, parents, etc. we are ensuring that voters understand that my roots are in social, economic, and racial justice.

I believe that I am currently the candidate with the most momentum in this Assembly race. I have the most organized labor endorsements to date: United Farm Workers of America (UFW), AFSCME (American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees) Council 57, East Bay Automotive Machinists Local 1546, Alameda Firefighters, IAFF Local 689, Alameda Police Officers Association, Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, AFL-CIO, San Francisco Firefighters, IAFF Local 798, and the San Francisco Police Officers Association. I have also received the endorsements of numerous congresspeople (Congressperson Judy Chu), state legislators (Senator Ted Lieu, Assemblymembers Mariko Yamada, Warren Furutani, Mike Eng, Fiona Ma, Paul Fong as well as the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus), local elected officials in Oakland (such as Oakland City Councilmember Pat Kernighan), San Leandro (such as Vice Mayor Michael Gregory and School Board President Morgan Mack-Rose), Alameda (essentially all of the local elected officials) and beyond (Mayors, Councilmembers, School Board members, members of special districts), business leaders, and other community leaders (<http://www.robbonta.com/supporters/>). I am proud and honored to have such a strong and broad coalition of support.

20. What is your record of activity on the issues listed in this question-naire and grassroots politics?

Since I was a child growing up in La Paz, where my parents were farm worker organizers with Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, I have been active in the social, economic, and racial justice movement and community and grassroots organizing. I am proud that my family was part of the United Farm Worker movement, what I believe was one of the greatest social justice movements in the history of our country and certainly in California. And I am extremely proud to be endorsed by the United Farm Workers of America in this Assembly race. I grew up attending rallies, protests, and demonstrations speaking out against injustice. I served as a community organizer working with children and families in urban public housing neighborhoods. As mentioned above, I participated in pickets and marches with the UFW, CNA, and SEIU. Currently, my children are named plaintiffs in the Robles Wong education funding lawsuit, something that I wear as a badge of honor, standing up against the state's practice of underfunding our public schools.

Vice Mayor, City of Alameda (November 2010 - Present)

Director, Alameda Healthcare District (2007 - 2010)

Commissioner, Alameda County Transportation Commission. February 2011 to present



Economic Development Commission, City of Alameda. Chair, Fall 2009-2010. Vice Chair, Fall 2008-Fall 2009. Member, Fall 2006-2010.

Social Service Human Relations Board, City of Alameda. President, 2005-06.

Co-Chair of Family Services Workgroup, Board Member. SSHRB, comprised of community volunteers, was established by the Charter of the City of Alameda and advises the City Council regarding Alameda's social service needs. 2003-2006.

Alameda Democratic Club. Co-President, Fall 2006-Fall 2009

Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County. Board President, Fall 2006-Fall 2009.

Member of Board of Directors, December 2005-present. Worked to strengthen and empower the API community, to support API leaders, and to advocate regarding policy issues of importance to the API community.

Filipino-American Democratic Club of Alameda County, Founding Member, 2009-present

Wellstone Renewal Democratic Club

Alameda County Democratic Lawyers Club

East Bay Young Democrats

Filipino Advocates for Justice (formerly Filipinos for Affirmative Action).

Member of Board of Directors. Fundraising Committee Member. Filipino Advocates is a community-based organization that provides direct services to youth, immigrants, and laborers. 2004-2010.

Manilatown Heritage Foundation. Member of Board of Directors, Finance, Fundraising & Board Expansion Committee Member, Member of Advisory Board of Directors. MHF is a community development organization currently operating the Manilatown Center on the ground floor of the new International Hotel in San Francisco. 2003-present.

Alameda Hospital Foundation. Board Member. Spring 2007-Fall 2009.

Alameda Unified School District Superintendent's Parcel Tax Advisory Committee, 2009-10.

21. Which of your political activities define you as a progressive?

My commitment to social, economic, and racial justice. My commitment to working people. My commitment to the most vulnerable in our community, including the poor, the sick, and the elderly. My commitment to education equity and adequate public school funding.

I am running for state assembly to continue the commitment to public service and the struggle for social justice and progress that my parents were a part of and that I have pursued in my professional career. My parents were farm worker organizers with the United Farm Workers and worked directly with UFW co-founders Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta and Filipino UFW leaders Philip Vera Cruz and Pete Velasco in La Paz, the UFW headquarters in the California Central Valley, where I spent my early childhood. My father was part of the Civil Rights Movement and marched with Dr. Martin Luther King in the deep south. My mother has been a long-time leader in the Filipino social justice movement. Both of my parents worked for over 50 years combined as state employees serving the people of California. As a community organizer, I saw firsthand the devastating impacts of underfunded schools, high crime, and poverty, and it was all too clear the need to speak for those children and families whose voices were not being heard. As a Deputy City Attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, I represent everyday people including bus drivers, firefighters, and police officers and I bring consumer protection cases to protect California's residents from different forms of abuse.

I am the only candidate in the race with a family and, as such, am uniquely-positioned as someone who understands and is invested in public education, health care, etc.

In addition, I would be the first Filipino American state legislator in the history of California. Filipinos are the second-largest Asian American group in California and the fastest growing, yet the Filipino community has

never had a representative in the state legislature. The legislature is supposed to represent the full-spectrum of diversity in California, but it has failed to adequately represent the Filipino community. I hope to help shatter this glass ceiling.

22. Do you commit to designating yourself as a "Democrat" on the ballot?

Yes.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Following an established WDRC multi-step process, you will be notified whether you will be considered for an endorsement by the WDRC. This questionnaire will be retained in Club files.