

Questionnaire for Candidates for Alameda County Board of Education Trustee Area 1

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot: Lois Corrin
2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number) Trustee District 1 Alameda County Board of Education
3. What is your current occupation or elected office? Educator
4. Are you the incumbent? Yes No **X**
5. How long have you resided in this district and city? Almost 23 years

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:	Lois Corrin for District 1 Trustee 2010 Alameda CountyBoard of Education
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OUR ISSUES (18-35 year olds)

Please answer the first four questions in 250 words or less

1. Faced with the continual threat of budget cuts and layoffs, what would you do in your position to preserve educational funding for Alameda County schools? I would work with the other trustees to develop a budget that keeps cuts away from the classroom and support lobbying to place funding of public education as a top priority of the state. Coordination by

the County Office of grant proposals and professional development for all of the 18 districts in the County would be another strategy. The Art is Education initiative is such an example.

2. Given the inevitable cuts that Alameda County school districts face as a result of the budget crisis, what should be the priorities as schools and districts allocate ever-scarcer resources? How will you help the BOE provide strong fiscal oversight for the schools and districts in the county? Quality education in English, math and technology literacy complemented by arts and physical education programs. The complementary programs could be strategies to achieve proficiency in the other areas. Reviewing and evaluating regular information on expenditures and participating in developing the spending plan is the best way to provide strong financial oversight.
3. The Alameda County BOE serves expelled and incarcerated youth. What steps would you take as a member of the board to improve services for these youth? What role do you see for these schools in the county's schools system overall? The court and community schools are a very important part of our system serving a particularly vulnerable population. Ensuring that these students can complete a high school education that will serve as a foundation for higher education and or vocational education is the goal that I see. I would like for the curriculum to include mediation, restorative justice and civic engagement.
4. Sacramento's broken budget process has placed a tremendous burden on our education system. What reforms do you support to improve the budget process in Sacramento? Do you support a simple majority of the legislature to pass a budget and/or new revenue? Increasing revenue is the answer... from the information I have from the last County Board meeting I attended and the last local Board meeting I read about, funds have been reduced so much there is nothing else to cut. I do strongly support a simple majority to pass budget/new revenue legislation.
5. Have you collaborated with young adults in your community work in the past (list specific examples)? How are young adults involved in your campaign? How will you continue to involve young activists in your work after you are elected? Please be specific. The most important young adult in my campaign is my daughter. She was my first donor. A small contribution but very important in symbolic and practical ways. She attends UCLA where many of my neighbors' children attend. Camille told her friends and their families about my candidacy during spring break. In my everyday activities I am in conversation with many young adults most of whom are in education or other professions that help youth: after school enrichment programs and counseling services. There are other young people I know from my community who I will support my campaign through mail parties, phone banking and precinct walking. I also volunteer with First Place. All of these young people will be a resource for me when I become a trustee.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Please describe in detail at least three of your accomplishments that have improved the lives of young adults. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities that apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

Supporting young people has always been important to me because of the parents, extended family and community that helped me become a successful adult. I am most proud of raising a confident, capable and compassionate young woman. As the only African American girl in her public school experience and one with a learning difference; I became an advocate for support for academic services to insure that she

was well prepared to attend college. Through her hard work she learned the strategies to be successful, was accepted to UCLA, earned a merit scholarship and earned all As during the first quarter of her junior year. As she was growing up she attended many city council and other community meetings with me. We did joint mother daughter community service projects throughout Oakland including working festivals at the Oakland Museum of California and making dinner for families at Children's Hospital. She spoke before our city council when she was in the second grade. When she was accepted to UCLA she was 1 of just over 210 students who decided to matriculate there. As a freshman she spoke before the Regents and expressed her concern for the lack of support for outreach and retention of African American and Latino students at UCLA. She participated in the non violent protests against funding cuts to the UCs and against the recent horrific racist behaviours at UCSD.

The work of First Place for Youth is also important to me. This organization supports youth who are "emancipated" or rather have aged out of the system and no longer eligible for services. As Chair of the Stanford Women's Club of the East Bay support group for First Place, I have connected alumnae with these young people to help them with resume development and the job search. We also host the annual Thanksgiving dinner for these young people and their families. This gives all of us an opportunity to connect and celebrate community.

As a speaker on an alumni panel during public service week, I encouraged a group of college juniors and seniors and first year law students to become engaged in their communities. I explained that I truly understood the need to make a good to great salary as a professional given so many students now have huge loans to pay off for their education, however being active in one's community could be as simple as joining a commission or committee, attending city council meetings regularly, writing an op ed or being a board member for a non profit organization. Seeking employment in a local agency or seeking political office were also options but not the only ways to be active. I was pleasant surprised by the number of students who talked with me afterward and remember me as I meet them now as professionals in public service or philanthropy.

EXPERIENCE

Please list or describe your current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life. Please explain how your experience would make you an effective advocate for young adults as an office holder. You may also list endorsements here.

I have always been active in my community especially in the areas of public education social justice, women, families and the arts. My skills include oral and written communication, financial management, grantmaking, fundraising, leadership and mediation. The organizations listed are ones that I am involved with and how I am involved.

Piedmont Mediation Group: I am one of five trained community mediators. Our group came together in response to racial conflicts in town. Our purpose is to facilitate conflict resolution among and between our neighbours. This is my 6th year.

Stanford University: I am very active and enthusiastic Stanford University alum. In addition to having served a 4 year term as a trustee on the Alumni Association Board where I chaired the

Customer Service Committee, I attend many campus events and university sponsored events including reunion and public programs. As a member of Program Committee of the Stanford Black Alumni Association Northern California and a member of the Board of the Stanford Women's Club of the East Bay, I participate in student recruitment and welcoming events. I am a lifetime member of the Stanford Alumni Association and a member of the Stanford Associates, an organization that encourages service to Stanford and recognizes the service of alumni.

Associated Community Action Programs in Alameda County (ACAP): Community action programs provide services for Alameda County residents whose economic circumstances are fragile. Programs include support for reentry men and women, summer employment for youth, savings programs, financial literacy education and family support services. ACAP is governed by two groups elected officials, the Governing Board, and individuals who represent the public, the Community Action Board (CAB). This is my first term as the Chair of CAB.

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA): The OMCA tells the story of California using a unique combination of disciplines: art, science and history. I have served on the African American Advisory Council for a decade and a half, ten years as Chair. The AAAC is one of several advisory councils who facilitate connection to the community in terms of outreach, volunteer support and sharing interests and concerns that inform exhibits and programs. I am also a member of the Multi Cultural Council.

Piedmont Unified School District : As a parent volunteer my participation includes everything from being room parent, to parent education program coordinator for the high school, to being President of PAINTS, the (financial) support group for visual arts in the schools to the Piedmont Appreciating Diversity Committee (PADC). PADC is a community group that supports diversity education and inclusion through grants to teachers, a free film series and public programs.

First Place for Youth: First Place supports “emancipated” or “aged out” (former) foster youth in making an orderly transition to self sufficiency. First Place provides housing, financial literacy education, job training and other services to their clients ages 18 to 24. I am a member of the event committee which plans the annual fundraiser Gala. With members of Stanford Black Alumni Association Northern California and the Stanford Women's Club of the East Bay we prepare a Thanksgiving Holiday Meal the week before the holiday for First Place clients.

Piedmont League of Women Voters: I am the Voter Services Chair. Responsibilities include providing voter education in literature or producing candidate and issue forums.

Alameda County Registrar of Voters: I serve as a poll worker.

City of Oakland: I have joined members of the Oakland Police Department, during the last two years for the Night Out, to connect with residents about neighborhood safety.

Community Celebrations and Remembrances: I plan and coordinate the annual celebration of the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the City of Piedmont now in its 13th year. As a member of the Chauncey Bailey Memorial Artists Project I wrote the text for a visual art collage to honour his work as a journalist.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre: This is my first season as a docent.

Additional Affiliations are: ***Bay Area Blacks in Philanthropy, National Charity League Oakland Piedmont Chapter, The Junior League of Oakland East Bay, Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Oakland Chapter, and The Junior Center of Art and Science.***

Endorsements to date: Margaret Fujioka, Piedmont City Council, Gay Plair Cobb, former Trustee Alameda County Board of Education, District 2