

East Bay Young Democrats Questionnaire 3/2010

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot: Wilma Chan
2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number)

Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 3

3. What is your current occupation or elected office?

I am currently VP of Policy for Children Now, a national education and health advocacy organization for children with headquarters in Oakland

4. Are you the incumbent? No
5. How long have you resided in this district and city? I have resided in the district for 25 years and in the City of Alameda for about 14 years.

Campaign Name: Wilma Chan for Supervisor 2010

5436 Locksley Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618

Campaign volunteer coordinator: Alex Boscovich 510-401-4249

Campaign Manager: Mike McCormick 510-273-9104

FAX: 510-769-6393

e-mail: wilma.2010.supervisor@gmail.com

FPPC #1323585

OUR ISSUES

(Please answer the first five questions in 250 words or less)

1. The national impasse in healthcare reform continues as Alameda County residents seek basic services to help them. How important is healthcare to you and is it a priority of your campaign? How would you use your office to work towards making health insurance available to more people in Alameda County?

Healthcare will be my top priority. I have worked on healthcare policy and advocacy for over 15 years. I chaired the health committee at the Board of Supervisors (where I served from 1994-2000) and in the State Assembly (2000-2006). With the passage of national healthcare reform, it will be important to make sure it is implemented in a way that protects the safety net and insures great access and high quality care. This will be a complex process that I hope to lead if elected. I would also like to restore the County organized health program for all children that the County abandoned several years ago. I have direct knowledge of how the State interfaces with the County (I helped write AB1422 that saved the Healthy Families Program last year) and will use that knowledge to make health care available to County residents.

2. Young adults entering the workforce need stable jobs with fair pay and benefits. How will you use your office to create good jobs for Alameda County's young adults (especially at-risk youth) and ensure a living wage? Would you fight for Alameda County to pass a living wage ordinance?

I have been totally supportive of living wage ordinances throughout my career, and I would fight for Alameda County to pass one. I plan to help create jobs through partnerships between the County, labor unions and community colleges to pool ideas and resources for job creation. A concrete example is work I am currently engaged in between afterschool advocates and the community colleges to create career ladders. I will also continue to work with the Economic Development Alliance for Business to work on job creation through community benefit agreements and trade and investment agreements.

3. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has seats at several County and regional transportation and housing agencies, including MTC, ABAG, CMA, and ACTIA. Would you be interested in serving on any of these boards? What do you think Alameda County's priorities should be on these boards?

The Supervisors all serve on ACTIA. The District 3 representative has customarily also served on BCDC. I would welcome the opportunity to serve on these Boards. I would consider appointing young adults to serve as alternates where possible.

4. Young adults are skeptical about the integrity of the democratic process, especially given the recent Supreme Court decision regarding campaign finance. How will you work to ensure that elections in Alameda County are secure, inclusive, and fair? We are especially interested in public financing of elections, maximizing voter turnout, and instant-runoff voting. Would you support public financing for supervisorial elections or stricter limits on campaign finance contributions and reporting requirements?

I have been a long time supporter of reforms that encourage voter participation including support of public financing. I sponsored a bill for a pilot in Alameda County for same day voter registration, but Gray Davis vetoed it. I think it would be worthwhile to try that again. We need to make sure our voting machines have total integrity. We need a fulltime registrar

of voters (there is currently none at the County). I would work with others on the Board to move toward campaign contribution and expenditure limits for Supervisor campaigns.

5. Transparency and openness are vital for citizens to inform themselves about the actions of their government and elected leaders. If you were elected, would you post your official schedule and calendar on your county website? Would you also support broadcasting county hearings live on public television?

Yes. The County will begin live streaming shortly as well. The issue of public broadcasting is mainly a cost issue, but I am generally supportive.

6. 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.

I have always included young adults in my community work. In my Adopt- a- School program, we recruited dozens of high school and college students to help beautify Oakland Preschools. In 1999, I headed up a project to build a skate park in Alameda with volunteer labor. There were literally hundreds of young people involved in that project that brought together over 600 community volunteers. I also created the John George mentoring program and have always had young adults as mentees working in my offices. I will continue to work with mentees if elected, work directly with the youth councils in my district and even hire young adults on my staff.

Accomplishments For Youth

Please describe in detail at least three of your accomplishments that have improved the lives of young people. 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.

One of my biggest accomplishments working with and for young people was rolling back the Governor's 2004 plan to cut higher education by sending UC and CSU students to community college. I went to the Speaker and got authorization to organization a statewide campaign against the proposal. We organized hearings and protests across the state, set up a website and prepared posters and stickers for all supportive Members to display. We were successful in turning back the cuts. Some of the skills this displayed were the ability to organize constituencies, the ability to work with young people, the ability to seize an important opportunity and the ability to produce a win.

Another accomplishment I am proud of was my opportunity to teach at UC Berkeley for two years (2007-2008). I taught a small seminar on politics in California for undergraduate students. Each year, I taught about 18 students. Not only do I feel I had a positive impact on their

understanding of how the political process works, but I was also able to help them gain placements in the Assembly and Senate as interns. I worked very hard to make sure the placements fit the individual student's needs and interests. I also continued to keep in touch with a number of my students. I have written letters of recommendation for jobs and graduate schools for a large number of them. I have also employed a number of them on my political campaigns. The skills I believe I showed here are an ability to listen, an ability to teach and a passion to help young adults succeed.

I truly enjoy mentoring young people. I have helped a number of young people run for office. I am a mentor for the Mills Early Education Masters Program and for the Woman's Caucus of the Democratic Party. I will always make time to mentor young people. Your success is my passion.

Lastly, I was an early endorser (8/2007) of President Obama because of his emphasis on including young people in his campaign. I was greatly inspired by the thousands of young people who came forward to work to get him elected. I enjoyed working with young people on the campaign.

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 list endorsements here.

See ~~attached~~ [below] list of experience and endorsements. The accomplishments largely cover the period I served in the State Assembly (2000-2006). A few of my major accomplishments when I served in the County from 1994-2000 were: joined the tobacco lawsuit that brought \$20 million/year for health services; formed the premier First Five Commission for young children; prevented Cigarettes Cheaper from opening a store across from Alameda High School; formed two new children and youth collaborative in Alameda and San Leandro; expanded the number of school based health clinics.

I believe my compassion for children and young adults, my track record of effectiveness, my experience and my ability to work with others would make me an effective advocate for young adults as an office holder.

Endorsements

Alameda County Central Labor Council

State Controller John Chiang

Betty Yee, State Board of Equalization

State Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, ret.

Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fiona Ma

Assemblyman Paul Fong

Assemblyman Johan Klehs, ret.

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson

Alameda County Sheriff Charles Plummer, ret.

Alameda County District Attorney Tom Orloff, ret.

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club

San Leandro Mayor Emeritus Shelia Young

San Leandro School Board Member Pauline Cutter

San Leandro City Councilman Jim Prola

San Leandro City Councilwoman Joyce Starosciak

Rose Padilla Johnson

Alameda Councilman Doug DeHaan

Alameda School Board Member William Schaff, ret.

Alameda Hospital Trustee J. Michael McCormick

Oakland City Attorney John Russo

Oakland City Councilman Ignacio De La Fuentes

Oakland City Councilwoman Pat Kernighan

Oakland City Councilwoman Desley Brooks

Oakland City Councilwoman Nancy Nadel

Oakland School Board Trustee David Kakishiba

Berkeley City Councilman Kriss Worthington

Hayward City Councilman Bill Quirk

Mark Friedman, CEO First Five Alameda*

Jane Garcia, CEO La Clinica de la Raza*

Gilda Gonzales, CEO Unity Council*

(partial list as of March 23, 2010)

*title for identification purposes only

Assemblywoman Wilma Chan

Progressive Democrat

Leadership, Action and Real Results

Wilma Chan's legislative accomplishments include cutting edge, progressive bills that have made California a national leader. She has proposed and won enactment of legislation on healthcare, the environment, early education and pre-school for seniors, young adults and working families.

Accomplishments

- Carried successful legislation to ban dangerous PBDE chemicals in mattresses, computers and other household goods, making California the *first state in the nation* to do so.
- Won approval for a 'first in the nation' bill prohibiting lead in faucets and plumbing, where it can leach into the water supply. Lead is known to cause learning disabilities in children.
- Passed some of the most consumer-oriented healthcare legislation in the nation including Assembly Bill 774 to prevent hospitals from overcharging middle and moderate income families more than other patients simply because they lack health insurance.
- Authored successful legislation to expand public pre-school to thousands of children in low-performing districts and won \$100 million in the state budget. Locally, her office 'adopted' Fruitvale School in Oakland where they started a new public pre-school and brought volunteers and services to the school.
- After the Governor refused to repay \$3 billion he had 'borrowed' from education during lean times, Chan launched a grassroots campaign, tabling throughout the East Bay, generating thousands of postcards that helped convince him to change his mind and repay the money.
- Led the successful fight in the Assembly against the Governor's plan to cut financial aid, eliminate programs to recruit low income and minority students, and turn away 10,000 students who had *already* been admitted to UC schools. Organized hearings and more.
- Served as the Alameda County co-chair of the campaign against the 2005 anti-choice ballot measure, spoke publicly in opposition and other work.
- Actively recruited Democratic Party activists, union members, women, people of color and young people to become 16th Assembly District delegates.
- Authored legislation to expand affordable, quality healthcare to 800,000 uninsured children as well as bills to expand the state's insurance program, Healthy Families to parents.
- Co-author and later one of only four principal co-authors of legislation to provide Universal Health Care (SB 840/single payer) guiding it through the Assembly Health Committee.
- Coauthored AB 32, the landmark bill to cap greenhouse gasses and as Majority Leader championed an earlier version of the same bill.

- Won a \$25 million set aside in a state school bond to create small schools. Co-authored a multi-billion-dollar education bond to build and renovate schools.
- Enacted a law to put the onus on chemical companies to give the state testing methods for finding dangerous chemicals in the environment.
- Expanded the number of school-based health clinics in Alameda County and currently working to expand health services to Peralta Community College students.
- Initiated the successful effort at the Alameda Cty Board of Supervisors for bi-lingual ballots.
- Authored the successful proposal to lower community college fees in the 2006 budget.
- Chaired the Assembly Select Committee on California Children's School Readiness and Health and held the first state hearings on the link between a child's health and school success. Issued a groundbreaking report and recommendations on school readiness and children's health and worked with other legislators to introduce a package of related legislation.
- Authored legislation reinstating taxes on the wealthiest to raise approximately \$2.2 billion for the 2005-06 fiscal year, to restore funding for K-12 schools and community colleges lost through the suspension of the Proposition 98 minimum funding guarantee.
- Initiated a 'Spruce Up for Kids Day" which provided mini-grants to 74 child care centers in Alameda County for minor repairs, new equipment and community gardens. Did extensive outreach to pre-schools, child development centers and child care programs to encourage them to apply for the grants of up to \$5000.
- Launched the "Partnership for Success - Adopt A School" program in Oakland and Alameda to link businesses, congregations and civic organizations with local public schools. Organized hundreds of volunteers, service organizations, businesses and unions to spruce up public school child care centers in Oakland and Alameda including Woodstock Child Development Center and Towata Park in Alameda, Prescott Child Development Center in the Prescott neighborhood in West Oakland, Fruitvale School and El Centro de la Raza Child Development Center in the Fruitvale, Manzanita Child Development Center in the San Antonio neighborhood, Hintil Kuu Ca Child Development Center in Redwood Heights, Arroyo Viejo Pre-School in the Eastmont neighborhood, Laurel School in the Laurel District, Golden Gate School in the Golden Gate neighborhood in Northwest Oakland, and Stonehurst Pre-School in the Elmhurst neighborhood, all in Oakland. Activities ranged from helping teachers decorate bulletin boards to gardening and painting murals.
- As a first step in addressing the child obesity crisis, proposed and won approval of legislation to reintroduce nutrition into the health curriculum in public school.
- Carried successful legislation to allow counties to donate surplus computers to local public schools. Delivered the first computers to Emerson School in Oakland.
- Wilma Chan was and is committed to ending the war, Vietnam then and Iraq now. She authored a legislative resolution against the war and did a citywide mailing to constituents to explain the impact of the war on the state budget and get them involved.
- An outspoken opponent of urban casinos, Wilma Chan and then-Assm. Paul Koretz led the successful fight to kill the Governor's sweetheart Indian gaming compact deals in the Assembly during 2006. Chan organized against the proposed shoreline casino in Oakland which would, among many other problems, have impinged on wetlands. Set up shop at farmer's markets to generate letters in opposition.

- Succeeded in making the state program that provides food stamps and cash assistance to low income and disabled legal immigrants permanent, rather re-authorizing it year to year.
- Proposed legislation to create bulk purchasing programs for pharmaceuticals and opposed the pharmaceutical bill that called for voluntary reductions in drug costs.
- When the Bush-backed expansion of prescription drug coverage, Medicare Part D, became law, it was (and is) so poorly designed that many older adults and people with disabilities could not navigate the system. Chan co-authored legislation to regulate and provide oversight to the prescription programs. Organized hands-on workshops held at sites with computer labs where trained staff and volunteers walked seniors through the complex on-line enrollment process to help them sign up. The workshops were offered in four languages.
- Carried successful legislation to help Highland Hospital, the county hospital in Oakland meet earthquake safety standards.
- When the chemical industry killed Wilma Chan's bill to ban phthalates in products used by children under age 3, she launched a community campaign to get it passed. Phthalates, a chemical used in many plastic baby bottles, teething rings, baby toys and water bottles, has been linked to cancer and reproductive system defects. Chan wrote a guide to healthier homes with information about how families to reduce their exposure to phthalates and PBDEs and distributed thousands of them through pre-schools and Head Start programs in Oakland, Alameda, Berkeley, Piedmont and cities throughout the state.
- Walked the picket line alongside workers at Summit Hospital in Oakland and Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley and supported workers at Planned Parenthood, West Oakland Health Center, Kaiser Sybase, Claremont, Radisson, Safeway and many more.
- Advocated for a statewide study to determine the best way for California to provide in home support services to all California seniors and people with disabilities on a sliding fee scale.
- Introduced legislation to require disclosure and limit consumer contributions on high deductible health plans that can cost patients thousands in deductible and co-pays while delivering less than needed coverage.
- Fought to restore school district equalization funds and unrestricted funds to school districts
- Built County support for the 2000 Project Labor Agreement with Davillier-Sloan at the Port of Oakland for a seaport and aviation program worth over \$1.2 Billion a year.
- Organized a local campaign against Bush's proposed tax cuts, collecting 3000 postcards in two weeks.
- Co-authored state housing bonds that include money for low and moderate income housing.
- As the first Chair of the Alameda County First Five Commission, advocated for and implemented the Childcare Development Core that gives monetary stipends of up to \$6000/yr. to childcare providers who go back to school or other training to earn early childhood education credits.
- Led and won the Alameda County Board of Supervisors fight to dedicate the entire tobacco lawsuit settlement money to healthcare.

For more than 16 years Wilma Chan has broken 'glass ceilings'. Chan was the *first* woman in California history to become the Assembly Majority Leader. She used this position to fight

for a progressive policy agenda and resources for the district. If elected to the Senate, Ms. Chan will be the *first* Asian American women elected to the Senate in California history.

Ms. Chan was the first Asian American and one of the first women elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the first Asian American elected to the Oakland School Board (with Jean Quan).