

***SAN DIEGO ALLIANCE for ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER
AMERICANS***

& FILIPINO AMERICAN CAUCUS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

2008 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for your interest in the San Diego Asian Pacific Islander and Filipino American community. Please answer each question in 250 words or less. Brief answers are satisfactory.

Please note: your questionnaire will be posted on our website for members to review.

CANDIDATE/CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

- 1.) Candidate name: **Christine Kehoe**
- 2.) Campaign address: **1010 University Avenue, PMB 765, San Diego, CA 92103**
- 3.) Office sought: **California State Senate, 39th District**
Legislative district, if appropriate: **39th**
- 4.) Are you the incumbent: **Yes.**
- 5.) Campaign website: **www.kehoeforstatesenate**
- 6.) Campaign email: **chris@kehoeforstatesenate**
- 7.) Campaign phone: **619-236-1293**
- 8.) Campaign manager: **Myrna Zambrano**

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- 9.) Are you a member of an Asian, Pacific Islander and/or Filipino organization? **Yes.**
- 10.) If yes, please list your affiliations: I serve on the **Senate Select Committee** on **Asian Pacific Islander Affairs**

Please limit your answers to no more than 250 words:

11.) What makes you the most qualified person for office?

During the past 14 years, I have served the residents of San Diego first as a member of the San Diego City Council, then as a member of the California State Assembly, and now as a member of the California State Senate. During this period I have been a strong advocate for improved public education, access to quality and affordable health care, civil rights, and public safety. I have a proven track record of working hard, getting the job done, and being accessible to the people I represent.

12.) Why seek support from the Asian Pacific Islander and Filipino community?

The API community represents a major constituency within my district. Asians and Pacific Islanders constitute roughly 15% of the population of the 39th Senate District putting it in the top 1/3rd of all Senate Districts in the state. While many of the issues facing the API community are shared with other ethnic groups in the 39th Senate District such as good schools, safe streets, and greater access to quality health care, there are issues specific to the API community; equal access to education, jobs, and social services, protection from discrimination, promoting cultural sensitivity, and greater civic participation, that are important to the community and to me as your elected representative in this district.

Simply by virtue of its location, San Diego will always be a gateway to the Pacific Rim for trade, travel and immigration. Decisions that we make in Sacramento can have a major effect on California's role in the Pacific so understanding the concerns of the API community will help.

13.) If elected, what are your top priorities during your term?

My priorities will continue to be safe neighborhoods, a clean environment, improved schools and fiscal responsibility. As a member of the Senate Budget Committee, I have the additional responsibility of working to make sure that your tax dollars are spent efficiently, and that government services are provided in a cost-effective manner.

After the 2003 Southern California firestorm, I was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to serve on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission. As a result of that effort, and the lessons we learned from last year's fires, I have been leading the efforts to reduce our exposure to wildfires, improve the state's fire fighting capabilities, and securing funding to purchase additional equipment. Until we have achieved a significantly greater level of protection, this will remain one of my top legislative priorities.

14.) What distinguishes your priorities and goals from the other candidates?

Experience. Based on my years of service at the local and state levels, I know how to accomplish goals that make our life better. I work well with my colleagues in Sacramento, and can utilize my relationship with local elected officials to work on issues that are important to you.

15.) How have you in the past and how will you in the future used your position to expand the presence and influence of Asian Pacific Islanders and Filipinos in public policy and politics?

Because of my interest in and support of issues important to the API community, this past year I was asked to serve on the Senate Select Committee on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs. The committee identifies opportunities to increase API community interaction with government and address other community concerns. The select committee tackles such issues as health, language access, civil rights, immigration, and worker rights.

16.) What have you done that demonstrates your commitment to and effectiveness in promoting Asian Pacific Islander and Filipino interests (and if you have not contributed, please discuss any area(s) you may have made a contribution &/or improve the current condition)?

I have been a strong supporter of programs important to the API community, and am proud of the fact that in 2007, I once again received a 100 percent rating from the Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality for my votes on key pieces of legislation important to the Asian Pacific American community. I have members of my committee staff who are members of the community and act as my liaison to the API community.

17.) In a difficult budget year, how would you prioritize raising taxes and cutting public services?

In the recently concluded budget negotiations, I supported a combination of cuts and revenue enhancements. There are many important public services which have been cut drastically and which cannot sustain further cuts. We should eliminate all out-dated programs, and cut funding for non-essential services. Then we must look for additional revenues, such as the proposed increase in the state sales tax, to make sure that all essential services such as education, health care and public safety are adequately funded.

18.) Due to periods of drought, the impending water shortages will have a drastic affect on small businesses and San Diego County residents' quality of life. What are your plans to help meet the demand for water resources?

San Diegans need the assurance of additional water supplies. That is why I support the proposal to build a major desalinization plant in Carlsbad. I continue to advocate for conservation and have authored legislation to make conservation a priority. In addition, we recently passed, and the Governor signed a measure to appropriate money from the

recent water bond for major improvements in the Bay Delta where we get 80% of our water. It will reinforce the levees so we don't have a catastrophic event where sea water and potable water could mix. It also allocates money for surface storage and groundwater replenishment.

19.) Foreclosures affect the whole community, as a consequence of lack of property tax contribution, displaced families and potential blight. What solutions do you propose to address the housing crisis?

Clearly this is a financial crisis of historic proportions for our country. Because the state has limited authority over banks and mortgage companies, a resolution to this problem will have to come primarily from our federal government.

In California there was major legislation this year that passed the legislature to address this crisis. Several bills were signed including one that requires lenders to contact homeowners to explore restructuring as an option before initiating a foreclosure. Another doubles the amount of time for a family to move from a foreclosed property and requires owners to maintain any vacant properties to help reduce vandalism and blight. I'm sure that the repercussions of this crisis will face us in the coming years and I am committed to do all I can for struggling families.

20.) A large segment of the Asian Pacific Islander and Filipino community is growing older; childhood obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure cases are continually on the rise. What policies do you support to improve access to quality health care?

I strongly supported Senator Kuehl's SB 840, the Universal Health Care bill. Unfortunately, Governor Schwarzenegger chose to veto this measure. I will continue to support legislative efforts to provide access to quality, affordable health care for all Californians.

21.) Have you failed to vote in any national, state, legislative general elections or statewide ballot proposition elections in the past five years? If yes, why?

No.

22.) Do you have plans to seek higher office? If so, what office and when do you plan to run?

I have no plans to seek higher office. I am fully committed to my re-election campaign and to serving the residents of the 39th Senate District to the best of my ability.

Please list any endorsements you have received:

California Association of Highway Patrolmen

California Association of Professional Scientists

California Association of Code Enforcement Officers

California Federation of Teachers
California Labor Federation COPE

California League of Off-Road Voters
California Professional Firefighters

California Teamsters Public Affairs Council
California School Employees Association (CSEA) AFL-CIO

California Teachers Association
CDF Firefighters
Chicano Democratic Association
Equality California
Franklin D. Roosevelt Democratic Club

International Union of Operating Engineers

International United Auto Workers
NOW California
Peace Officers Research Association of California

Planned Parenthood Action Fund
Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG)
Progressive San Diego
San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sierra Club
Victory Fund

I would be honored to add your endorsement.