

## Candidate Questionnaire

### 1. General Information

Candidate Name: Evan Low

Office Sought: State Assembly District 26

Proposed Ballot Designation: State Assemblymember  
(Or Occupation Listing)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1787 Tribute Road Suite K

Candidate/Body Person Cell Phone: 408-482-7383

Candidate Email Address: [asmevanlow@gmail.com](mailto:asmevanlow@gmail.com)

### 1. Campaign Team

Provide the names, email, and cell phone numbers for your campaign team:

#### **Contact 1**

Name: Patrick Ahrens

Email: patrickjahrens@gmail.com

Phone: 408-482-7383

#### **Contact 2 (optional)**

Name:

Email:

Phone:

#### **Contact 3 (optional)**

Name:

Email:

Phone:

1. **Elected Office**

Do you currently, or have you ever held public office?

**Yes, current State Assemblymember, former Mayor Campbell**

1. **Personal and Political Background**

**Current Occupation:** State Assemblymember

**Are you a registered Democrat?** Yes

**Have you ever been registered with another political party or selected “Decline to State” or “No Party Preference” for your voter registration party affiliation, and if so, for what period?**

**Life long Democrat**

**In less than 250 words, briefly summarize your personal background (work experience, education, community involvement, etc.).**

As the son of a local eye doctor and outspoken community leader, I have learned the value of community activism at a young age. After attending local public schools and earning degrees from De Anza Community College and San Jose State, I went on to graduate from the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. I am committed towards making real improvements in peoples' lives, which has been the driving force behind my public service.

I am a strong advocate for diverse representation in his community. In 2006, I made history by becoming the first Asian-American, openly gay, and one of the youngest people ever elected to Campbell’s City Council. I made history again in 2009 when I was elected as Mayor of Campbell and became the youngest Asian-American Mayor in the country. And in 2014, I became the youngest Asian-American legislator to be elected to the Assembly in state history at that time.

As a State Assemblymember, I have worked closely with my community and my colleagues to tackle some of the greatest challenges facing the Silicon Valley and the entire state of California. I have been a leader on a diverse range of issues including job creation, affordability, environmental protection, marriage equality and civil rights, transparency in government, and fiscal reform. I am a leader in the Assembly, serving in many different capacities such as the Chair of the California Legislative LGBT Caucus, co-chair of the Legislative Technology and Innovation Caucus, chair of the Business and Professions Committee, and the Vice-chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus.

In 2010, the Silicon Valley Metro Newspaper named me one of the “Top 25 People who will change Silicon Valley.” I have also been named “Legislator of the Year” by the Internet Association, TechNet, The Computing Technology Industry Association, California Faculty Association, Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, California District Attorneys Association, and Faculty Association of California Community Colleges.

I will continue to bring new energy, innovative leadership, and a renewed commitment to California’s values to the State Assembly.

**What endorsements have you received from organizations and prominent individuals?  
(You may either use the space below or attach a separate list.)**

CA Democratic Party

1. Check boxes:

Previously held positions in the 2022 election cycle:

In the 2022 cycle have you:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Have you affirmed to any other organization to boycott or not take trips to Israel from any particular sponsor to learn about Israel or Palestine?
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<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Have you endorsed, supported or opposed any bills as a result of your position, would reduce, withhold or condition aid to Israel?
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In the past five years, have you:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Participated in an organized activity, including a forum, on Israel or related issues?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	While holding office, introduced or co-sponsored legislation (other than purely ceremonial, supportive measures) on Israel or related issues or the Jewish community? If yes, please specify which kinds in this box below:

1. **Policy Questions**

Please describe your positions on the following issues. Please limit your responses to 250 words for each response. If you wish, one response may include up to 500 words.

**1. Please describe your relationship, if any, with the Jewish community in the area you serve as an elected official:**

The Jewish community in the Bay Area is one of the largest Jewish communities in the United States. I am proud and honored to have the opportunity to represent and advocate for our Jewish residents in Silicon Valley. With the rise in anti-semitic hate crimes, I proudly co-authored

House Resolution 49, introduced by Assemblymember Gabriel last year, to recognize the month of May 2021 as Jewish American Heritage Month and urge all Californians to learn more about the heritage and contributions of Jewish Americans.

I have openly and strongly supported the Jewish community and have spoken out about the crimes targeting the Jewish people. I was also honored to meet with the members of the Jewish Democratic Club of Silicon Valley and hope to have more opportunities to ensure that we have open communication and that our State leadership, myself included, will continue to do all that we can to support JDCSV and all of our Jewish residents in the community.

**1. Hate Crimes: Do you see Anti-Semitism as a Hate Crime? How do you propose working on Hate Crimes if you are elected?**

Yes. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a rise in hate crimes and violence against the Jewish and Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Other communities, including African Americans, Latinos, Muslims, the LGBTQ community, Sikhs, immigrants and individuals with disabilities also face a growing number of hate crimes.

In my role as the Vice Chair of the California Asian & Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus, I have partnered with community leaders at all levels of government, in the public and private sectors, to organized rallies with hundreds in attendance, held forums to open up the conversation of Asian hate, and spoke at dozens of virtual and in-person events to show support to our AAPI community and uplift AAPI voices. I organized one of the first AAPI hate rallies in the County when the rise of violence and hate crimes first began.

Last year, the Legislature and Governor Newsom passed the API Equity Budget. Sponsored by the API Legislative Caucus, it is a historic 3-year investment of \$166.5 million in California's API community. The budget will be used to fund critical resources in response to the surge in anti-API hate, as well as address the longstanding racial inequities that have harmed the API community for generations.

**1. Do you support or oppose efforts to boycott Israel (BDS)? Have you had any discussions with your community about BDS?**

I do not support any boycott to Israel and I look forward to visiting Israel this Summer with the California Legislative Jewish Caucus.

**1. Ethnic Studies Program: Would you support state policies that ensure that Jewish-American lesson plans are included in the Ethnic Studies curriculum? Would you work to change lesson plans that denigrate Jews, Judaism and Israel?**

As a former college professor, I know the importance of accurate curriculum and the importance of learning and remembering our history. The Jewish-American community greatly contributes to who our community and all of the U.S. are today. Their experience is unique and it is necessary to learn their perspectives and views. I strongly support having Jewish-American lesson plans and policies included in our ethnic studies taught in our California schools.

**1. As a Democrat, what steps can we take to help fight anti-Semitism on both the left and the right?**

In the Assembly, I will continue to support increased enforcement of hate crime laws and stop the massive rise in anti-Semitic hate crimes in the Bay Area, oppose efforts to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel, and fight against anti-Semitism wherever it may be.

Last year, I supported AB 57 (Gabriel) to better prevent, respond to, and document hate crimes in California. Specifically, AB 57 strengthened training requirements for peace officers and require improved guidance, outreach, data collection and reporting by the California Department of Justice. Hate crimes are on the rise nationally and in California. This worrying trend underscores the clear need for increased hate crime training for our law enforcement officers so they can correctly identify and respond effectively to hate crimes.

**1. What other issues do you think are unique or important to the Jewish and pro-Israel community, and how do you propose to make a difference with these issues and keep in touch with the community?**

Over the past several years, there has been growing concern around the role of social media in promoting hate speech and misinformation. As the co-chair of the California Legislative Technology and Innovation Caucus, I will work with the California Legislative Jewish Caucus and the other ethnic caucuses in the Legislature to require more transparency and accountability from the social media platforms.

Thank you for your time and effort to complete this Questionnaire

Contact information:

Dorene Kastelman

President Jewish Democratic Club of Silicon Valley

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