

## 2022 Primary Endorsement Questionnaire

DEADLINE: Submit by 12:00 Noon, Monday, April 18, 2022

Email \*

liz@ortegaforassembly.com



Thank you for your interest in being considered for an endorsement by the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County. Please answer each question in 250 words or less. Be honest and direct. Please submit your responses by 12 Noon, Monday, Apr. 18. All questionnaire responses will be posted on our website for Caucus members to review.

Personal Information

Candidate Name \*

Liz Ortega

City and zip code of residence.

530 Fortuna Ave, San Leandro, 94577

What is your campaign website address?

www.ortegaforassembly.com

What is your campaign email address?

liz@ortegaforassembly.com

Are you a registered Democrat? The APA Democratic Caucus can only endorse registered Democrats \*

Yes

No

Are you an APA Democratic Caucus member? \*

Yes

No

How long have you lived in the district which you are seeking to represent?

40 years

What are the names of any community or nonprofit organizations with which you have been an active volunteer in the past 3-5 years.

Oakland Rotary, CWA

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## CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

1. What actions have you taken to address anti-Asian discrimination/bullying/harassment?

Please explain in what capacity you have acted and whether any of these actions were prior to 2020. (i.e., as an elected representative, member of commission/board/organization, and as an individual.

I have always supported all community members from Richmond to Union City, in advancing equity in the workplace. In recent years and through the pandemic, I have work to make sure we have access to testing and vaccinations, in all communities. I will continue as the assemblywoman to address those needs of the API as I address them all.

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2. One out of every 3 Alameda County residents is of Asian ancestry but are underrepresented in elected office. What have you done and will you do to elevate their issues of concern?

The issue that impact API community are the same that impact most of our community, lack of access to services, equitable healthcare, educations and safe streets. We have had many API leaders, and still do, so continuing working with my colleagues and leaders, to make sure we are always in communication about the needs of the community. I want to have more town halls, meetings with API communities, like so many others, as making sure we move the entire community forward is how we lead for us all.

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3. One-third of Alameda County residents were born in another country. Do you believe that the needs of immigrants have been adequately addressed by the office you are seeking to represent? What changes are needed to better center their needs?

When I was three years old, my undocumented mother traveled hundreds of miles to California with me and my infant brother, in search of the American dream. My father gained a union job as a janitor at the Oakland Coliseum (SEIU-USWW) and my mother held a union position at Aramark. With these two jobs, my parents were able to buy our first home on 71st Avenue in East Oakland. My family struggled to achieve our American dream, but through hard work, community support and a belief that we could have a better life, we created our own dream.

Unfortunately for many working families in the Bay Area and California, that American dream is getting further and further out of reach. I'm running for Assembly to level the playing field so that every family has the same opportunities to achieve that dream and more.

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4. What have you learned about Asian Americans in the past year that you were previously unaware of and how has that impacted you?

I have worked closely with API community members my whole life as someone who has lived in these communities, facing the same lack of representation. Over the past year I have seen how our issues, from API to Latino, are based in access and equity. I believe that having great relationship representing API working families in my role, has given me more insight on how we need to collectively work together, to make sure we all have a pathway to a pursuit of happiness in the East Bay and District.

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5. What is the difference between supporting Asian American/Pacific Islander issues and being an Ally?

I believe that supporting and being an ally is what we should all do, all the time. Understanding each other and being culturally competent is how we bridge our communities and learn how to really address issues. I believe there is much we can do together and as someone who has always worked with all communities, I hope we can spend more time discussing our issues and collectively addressing them, which I plan to continue doing as the State Assemblywoman.

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6. What resources (people/organizations) will you tap to increase your knowledge and understanding of the on-going needs of the Asian and Pacific Americans living in your district?

Asian Pacific Environmental Network, who I have been working with them as partners of the Labor Council over the last four years.

7. Please identify any Asian Pacific American candidates whom you have publicly endorsed/supported over the past 5 years including this election cycle. If there are none, please explain.

Nikki Bass, Phong La and Sheng Thao

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

Only candidates who submit questionnaires by noon Monday, April 18 will be considered for endorsement.

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