

2022 Primary Endorsement Questionnaire

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

Email *

shawn@shawnkumagai.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 *

Shawn Kumagai

City and zip code of residence.

Dublin 94568

What is your campaign website address?

www.shawnkumagai.com

What is your campaign email address?

shawn@shawnkumagai.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?

6 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.

State Treasurer, California Democratic Party API Caucus (Board Member with various leadership roles since 2017)

Board Member, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA), Tri-Valley Chapter

Board Member, League of California Cities API Caucus

Board Member, National League of Cities Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials Caucus

Trustee, Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District

Commissioner, Housing Authority of County of Alameda

Commissioner, Alameda County Fire Department Advisory Commission

Member, Association of Bay Area Governments General Assembly

Board Member, East Bay Community Choice JPA

Alternate Board Member, Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority

Member, Tri-Valley Affordable Housing Committee

Member, Tri-Valley Water Liaison Committee

Chair, Dublin Federal and Military Communities Committee

Member, Dublin Economic Development Committee

Member, East Bay Regional Park District Liaison Committee

Member, League of California Cities Transportation, Communication, and Public Works Policy Committee

Lead Co-Chair, CDP Credentials Standing Committee

Delegate, California Democratic Party Democratic State Central Committee

Vice Chair, Alameda County Democratic Central Committee

Rotary International (Dublin Rotary Club)

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 supported AAAJ efforts to support SB 54 (The California Values Act). I have been a strong and vocal advocate for various API recognitions and proclamations while serving on the Dublin City Council, including for the Muslim and Sikh faith communities and APA Heritage Month. In the wake of the on-going crisis in Afghanistan I was proud to be the first East Bay city to author a resolution in support of the Afghan American community. In late-2020, I was a strong and vocal proponent of action during the rise of anti-AAPI hate. I supported local activists to put together peaceful demonstrations in the city. Finally, I was a strong advocate for the empanelling of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force in 2020 and served on the advisory subcommittee charged with defining the task force and picking a diverse slate of task force members (including fair representation from Dublin's diverse API community). I am proud of the many recommendations that the task force put in their report that specifically recognized the needs and cultural diversity of our city's API communities.

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?

As a Dublin City Councilmember, I am proud to represent a majority AAPI city. I have fought to ensure that all Dubliners feel a sense of safety and inclusion in their community. I have led efforts to raise the pride flag, support transgender day of remembrance, and authored a resolution to support resettlement of Afghan refugees. In the state legislature I will champion policies that are rooted in equity and inclusion, as well as policies that redress harm created by white supremacy, particularly within housing policy. We still see remnants of white supremacy in our zoning and land use laws and we need to ensure that our housing policy creates diversification and access to opportunity. This would expand upon the work I have done on the Dublin City Council to build more affordable housing. My leadership philosophy will be rooted in equity and restorative based policies.

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?

- Provide access to culturally competent services and resources, particularly amongst our monolingual community members. We must consistently advocate for language services and the engagement of ethnic media and trusted API community-based organizations to promote these services and resources. This is particularly important in light of the scourge of AAPI hate.

- Address medical misinformation in our API community in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

- Advocate for data disaggregation because prevailing data collection methods prevent comparison within the diverse AAPI community, leading to continuing disparities in healthcare and education.

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 continue to learn every day about the beautiful diversity of cultures, religions, ethnicity, and heritage of our AAPI community. The AAPI community is not a monolith and we need to ensure that every level of government and political organizing respects its diversity of priorities and thought.

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

Being an ally means actively listening to the AAPI community, uplifting AAPI voices, taking a step back when necessary to give AAPI community members the space to advocate and fight for their own issues, enabling AAPI to achieve their own positions of power, and fighting to ensure that AAPI interests and needs are being met.

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?

As I always have, as an elected official and community organizer, I will depend on community leaders and organization within each of our AAPI communities. I frequently work with Asian Americans Advancing Justice, APAPA, and the network of AAPI elected officials to better understand the on-going needs of our community.

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.

Phong La, Gabriel Quinto, Melissa Ramoso, Betty Yee, Fiona Ma, Lena Tam, Kristie Wang, Susanna Wong-Ordway, Andy Li, Thomas Wong, Sabina Zafar, Samir Qureshi, Sheng Thao, Raj Salwan, Diedre Nguyen, Stephanie Nguyen, Manveer Sandhu

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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