

## 2022 Primary Endorsement Questionnaire

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

Email \*

teresa@kengforassembly.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 \*

Teresa Keng

City and zip code of residence.

Fremont, 94555

What is your campaign website address?

<https://www.teresaforasassembly.com>

What is your campaign email address?

[teresa@kengforassembly.com](mailto:teresa@kengforassembly.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?

22 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.

My local PTA

Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments (SAVE)

Asian American Caucus of the League of California Cities

Asian American Caucus of the National League of California Cities

Asian Americans for Good Government

Asian Real Estate Association of America

Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus

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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.

Throughout my service on the Fremont City Council, I have advocated for resources to solve and prevent violent crimes, including hate crimes targeting the AAPI community. I have helped organized and attended multiple anti-violence rallies and organize a memorial for Michelle Go, the Fremont-raised woman who was senselly killed by being shoved in front of a NYC subway.

As I mentioned above, I am an active volunteer with the Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments (SAVE), an organization that helps women and children escape abusive environments. I'm also a mother to two children with learning disabilities, and I've had to manage bullying in their lives. For this and other reasons, I've been an active member of my local PTA as well.

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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?

This is an issue I know all too well. If elected, I would be the only Asian American Democratic woman in the State Assembly. I have a long track record of supporting AAPI candidates and causes, and I am the only candidate for State Assembly who has endorsed Lena Tam in her campaign to continue the legacy of Wilma Chan in the 3rd Supervisorial District..

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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?

As a first generation immigrant from Hong Kong and Taiwan, I bring a perspective to government that few others bring. I know what it's like to live in a country with significant language and cultural barriers, and I also know how important AAPI-based community organizations are to helping our community find our footing and succeed in this country.

Our needs aren't being adequately met, but one thing I love about the Bay Area and California is that throughout my life, we've always tried to be better. Fundamentally, we need more outreach in languages other than English, and this means more decision makers in elected office and career civil servant positions who speak languages other than English and who come from communities where other languages are spoken. We saw this in applications for PPP loans and rental forgiveness. Business owners, renters, and landlords without English fluency were far less likely to seek the relief they were entitled to, and that's avoidable with better government outreach that includes partnerships with groups that understand the community.

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

Seeing how our community rallied together during the pandemic, I've developed a deeper understanding of the importance of our community speaking out for change. AAPI people are voting more, organizing more, and learning to be more vocal in the face of hate crimes targeting the AAPI community.

We also saw our community come together to support people and small businesses hard hit by its economic fallout from the pandemic, and that was very inspiring. It was proof that the communities we've forged together here in the Bay Area are resilient and supportive, more so now than ever in my lifetime, and I'm very appreciative of that.

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

An ally doesn't just believe in, say, and vote on the right things. They work to orient their lives in such a way that they are able to be a changemaker and help uplift the community. I plan on being more than a good vote; I plan on being an advocate and champion for all underrepresented communities but especially the AAPI community, as the 24th Assembly District has the highest concentration of AAPI voters in the State Assembly.

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?

I look forward to working closely with the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus and the many AAPI elected officials in our region (like Phong La and Otto Lee) on issues of importance to AAPI residents living here. While my campaign team is diverse, crossing multiple lines of age, gender, race, and sexual orientation, a majority of my campaign team is Asian American. My campaign consultant is Andrew Kim, who is the National Internship Chair for APAPA (Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs), and my closest advisors include Chinese community leaders like Don Sun and Albert Wang.

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.

Andrew Yang, Candidate for U.S. President and NYC mayor  
Lena Tam for Alameda County Supervisor  
Phong La for Alameda County Assessor  
Judy Chu for U.S. Congress  
Grace Meng for U.S. Congress  
Evan Low for State Assembly  
Mike Fong for State Assembly  
Pelayo A. Llamas for Alameda Superior Court Judge  
Phuong Nguyen for Newark School Board  
Lily Mei for Fremont Mayor  
Raj Salwan for Fremont City Council  
Yogi Chugh for Fremont City Council  
Aziz Akbari for ACWD  
Jeannie Yee for Washington Hospital Board

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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