

2022 Primary Endorsement Questionnaire

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

Email *

alex@votealexlee.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 *

Alex Lee

City and zip code of residence.

95133

What is your campaign website address?

www.votealexlee.com

What is your campaign email address?

alex@votealexlee.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?

Entire life - 26 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.

Unhoused Response Group, Hope for the Unhoused, California Young Democrats, South Alameda County Young Dems

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.

As a member of the Budget Committee and the API Legislative Caucus, I was proud to push for the historic \$156.5 million API Equity Budget that was approved and signed. The funding provides resources to address systemic discrimination and rising hate incidents against AAPI communities. In addition, I've co-authored AB 2549 to help put an end to street harassment. I've also personally participated in several anti-hate rallies calling on more community-based solutions and funding.

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?

Our District office is multilingual and helps support constituents with their issues and casework. I have also supported AAPI interns in both our Capitol and District office including from APAPA and SikhLEAD to help elevate high school and college AAPI leaders. Additionally I've continued to support qualified AAPI candidates for state and local office in both Santa Clara and Alameda County.

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?

While I believe our office does a good job, more needs to be done to help meet people where they're at statewide. For example, for many State programs (especially during the Pandemic), there were only services offered in English at the start such as applying for rental assistance or vaccinations. I pushed for multiple language capacity so that more residents can get the help they need. Our office is multilingual, and sends mailers out in English as well as the language they've requested for the ballot.

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

While conducting research for my bill, AB 1444 to protect small businesses from third-party delivery apps, I learned of the enormous disparity for restaurant closures. Chinese and Asian restaurants were hit even harder due to the xenophobic narrative surrounding COVID-19, and Asian restaurants had a far higher rate of closure than non-Asian restaurants. I pushed for more support for our small businesses, and particularly our minority owned businesses. I also have a bill this year, AB 2164 to support small businesses in becoming ADA compliant, become more accessible, and avoid costly lawsuits.

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

Allies don't go through the same lived experiences as the communities they support, but use their privilege to advocate for and support marginalized groups including AAPI communities and combatting Asian hate.

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?

API Caucus, AACI, Sewa International, APAPA, APA Democratic Club

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.

James Coleman for State Assembly
Aisha Wahab for State Senate
Janani Ramachandran for State Assembly
Malia Vella for State Assembly
Vicky Chon for County Board of Education
Sara Aminzadeh for State Assembly
Stephanie Nguyen for State Assembly
Diedre Nguyen for State Assembly
Tiffany Vuong for Milpitas City Council
Lucy Shen for Fremont Unified School Board
Sheng Thao for Oakland Mayor
Andy Li for CC Community College Board
Otto Lee for Santa Clara County Supervisor

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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