

2022 Primary Endorsement Questionnaire

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

Email *

lilymei4statesenate@gmail.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 *

Lily Mei

City and zip code of residence.

Fremont, 94539

What is your campaign website address?

www.lilymei.org

What is your campaign email address?

lilymei4statesenate@gmail.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?

29

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

APAPA, Citizens for Better Community, Friends of Children with Special Needs, South Bay Chinese Club, Habitat for Humanity, TriCity Volunteers, Music for Minors, League of Women Volunteers, Compassionate Network CityServe

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.

For many years I have been involved with Asian awareness and programs supporting our community's needs. For over 20 years I have been involved with Citizens for Better Community a Chinese based group advocating for greater civic engagement. As a CA State President Emeritus of APISBMA (Asian Pacific Islanders School Board Members Association), and an immediate past President of NLC (National League of Cities) APAMO (Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials). During the onset of the pandemic, I helped coordinate a media press conference in support of our local Asian businesses and restaurants, I led discussions on API hate awareness via partnerships with our local police department, our local county District Attorney's office, Stanford Nurses association, local media outlets including ethnic media. In my city I helped with multiple organizations including our city/School district and local Mayors conference to make public statements and resolutions of support as well as hosted a large public rally. Locally for supporting culturally focused medical programs I have partnered with Asian Health Services and On Lok.

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?

I have worked to diligently ensure Asian ancestry is reflected - As a first generation American and AAPI woman I am dedicated to focusing on issues facing all. However, working women, immigrant communities are near and dear to my heart. I would want to continue my advocacy to champion issues by joining the Women's and AAPI state legislative caucuses. On the National level I am one of four currently presiding directly elected Asian Women mayors in the United States – when I won, I was the third directly elected AAPI Women Mayors for large cities in US History. Locally I have mentored, supported, partnered with and endorsed many candidates via internship and training programs through community organizations such as APA Democratic Caucus, APAPA, Vision New America, Civic Leadership USA, SF Cause, Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute, APISBMA, and APAMO.

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?

I do not believe that the needs of the immigrants have been sufficiently addressed as the pandemic and recent outreach efforts show the need for increased support and additional programs/resources to provide language and cultural training to help deliver services centered around their diverse and growing needs especially in light of the past few years of AAPI hate.

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 sadly learned in the past year that many Asian Americans including civic organizations while proudly touting the values of being upstanders and not bystanders but whether out of fear or lack of conviction do not follow through with themselves doing so. This has been of great impact for me as this lack of collaboration leaves us wanting for more courageous conversation and leadership.

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

It is far easier to pronounce the support for Asian American/Pacific Islander issues and the need for awareness but to be an ally is to have the courage to follow through.

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?

APA Democratic Caucus, APAPA, Vision New America, Civic Leadership USA, SF Cause, Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute, APISBMA, and APAMO.

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.

I have always been a proud supporter for over 15 years in the development and elections of many fellow Democratic API women: CA State Controller Betty Yee, CA State Treasurer Fiona Ma, Saratoga Mayor Yan Zhao, Milpitas Council Member Eveyln Chua, Fremont City Council Member Teresa Keng, Cupertino City Council Member Hung Wei, Oakland City Councilmember Sheng Thao, Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District School Board Members Cynthia Chang and Katherine Tseng; Former Fremont City Councilmember Suzanne Chan, also I have supported many API Democratic men: Congressmember Ro Khanna, Santa Clara Supervisor Otto Lee, Assemblymember Evan Low, Assemblymember Kansen Chu, Fremont Vice Mayor Raj Salwan, Milpitas Mayor Rich Tran and Foothill-DeAnza Board Trustee Gilbert Wong.

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

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

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms