

2022 Primary Endorsement Questionnaire

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

Email *

wahab.aisha@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 *

Aisha Wahab

City and zip code of residence.

Hayward 94541

What is your campaign website address?

www.AishaWahab.com

What is your campaign email address?

ateam@aishawahab.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?

30+ 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.

Afghan Coalition, etc.

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.

Within weeks of the shelter in place ordinance - I introduced the first Anti-Asian Hate proclamation, and even fought to have it in place - other cities did so 10 months later when violence started trending on the news in late 2020/early 2021. I have also consistently stood up for all APA folks, even representing the larger API folks on different bodies. I belong to SAFA - South Asians for America, the White House regional body for API conversation, and more. Prior to 2020, I've helped with immigration issues, domestic violence, education and much more of the API community.

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 will continue the work I've been doing. I will make space for them, highlight the diversity within API communities, help the youth with internships, jobs, and more and work with our elder population to get the services they need.

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?

No, I believe that a lot more can be done without the constant need of protests. I plan on being a doer and a person that sees the problem before it trends. I believe that immigrant communities are taken less seriously due to the frequency of them voting, language barriers, and more. I plan to prioritize them as they are our community members. I believe resources, funding, and engagement need to be prioritized for this 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?

I'm still very interested in data. Oftentimes, people don't realize that when referring to the Asian community - it is not a monolith. I knew this but didn't realize how many policy making officials are unaware of the nuance, the difference, the needs, and the level of support each group has. It seems that data is useful to explain these issues to other policy makers and advance the issues with solutions once data is clearly laid out in front of others.

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

To know when to support and when to lead is the key difference. I plan on leading our communities as I'm an Asian American but also know I can't speak for all APA folks and this is when it is important to make space for those specific community leaders.

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?

There are many, both in the East Bay and South Bay and I'm proud to be endorsed by so many of them - both as clubs, organizations, and individual community leaders. I plan on talking to them, working on things such as an Asian American Roundtable and doing more. I can also learn from them. There are organizations at different stages too - such as LEAD Filipina which is fairly young organization versus the Afghan Coalition which has been around for nearly 20+ 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.

I've endorsed or supported: Fiona Ma, Betty Yee, Phong La, Jennifer Ong, Ellen Kamei, Ro Khanna, Rigel Robinson, Harris Mojadedi, Wilma Chan, Yogi Chugh, and many others.

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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