

2022 Primary Endorsement Questionnaire

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

Email *

cherylcookkallio@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 *

Cheryl Cook-Kallio

City and zip code of residence.

94566

What is your campaign website address?

www.cook-Kallio.com

What is your campaign email address?

cherylcookkallio@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?

45 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.

Center for Civic Education, CA We the People/Project Citizen, Pleasanton Partnership in Education, Alameda State and County Democratic Party

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 Fremont Teacher (40 years) with classes that were often a majority API I have addressed these issues in real time. Last year while zoom teaching I helped students who were addressing these issues in their senior project. It is hard to quantify since I believe I dealt with many these issues regularly. I stand with my API colleagues in protests and demonstrations. However, I believe that what I have done with young people over the years had the most impact.

As a city council member in Pleasanton (2006-2014) I often met with the city attorney about policies that discriminated against many groups including API. In one cases advocating for a family who had their car destroyed by a city tree. (and was being discouraged by the city attorney from pursuing a claim. I advocated for a friend who was trying to get a permit for signage for her restaurant. She clearly was having trouble because she was wearing hijab. I was thankful that at least some people knew to call me.

My work with non profit civic organizations has also placed me in a position as influencer in how our board in constructed. We strive to be representative of the country. I just nominated an API as a board member.

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 actively mentored API individuals to run for office (Shawn Kumagai for council).I made a number of calls to encourage the nomination of Harris Mojadidi to Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. Many young people I have either taught or worked along side in campaigns have remained active in politics, (Sean Manalo, Deepa Sharma, Harris Mojadidi). Many have gone on to work for representatives or as policy makers, (Samah Shaiq, Howard Wang). The examples are just a representative.

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 don't believe the needs of immigrants have been adequately addressed. Like we all needed help when our families arrived in this country, we must reach out and offer that help to others. In schools, in government institutions, in our political institutions, we must foster access. Things are sometimes difficult in English, information should be available in the immigrants comfort language. It's benefits our entire community to make sure that immigrants have services.

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 am heartsick at the attacks on Asian Americans in broad daylight. My friend was shopping with her husband and was attacked and her purse was stolen in a shopping center in San Leandro. While the attacker was hitting her, he was screaming anti Asian insults. By the time her husband was around the car the guy was halfway across the parking lot.

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

An ally means you understand the issues, a supporter means you understand AND take positive action to support API individuals.

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?

My friends, people with whom I sit on national boards, the API caucus are among the people and organizations on which I rely for information and resources.

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.

Rob Bonta, Fiona Ma, Raj Salwan, Shawn Kumagai, Kristie Wang, Mia Bonta, Harris Mojadidi, Sheng Thao

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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