

2022 Primary Endorsement Questionnaire

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

Email *

pamela@pamelaprice4da.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 *

Pamela Price

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland 94605

What is your campaign website address?

pamelaprice4da.com

What is your campaign email address?

pamela@pamelaprice4da.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?

Continuously Since 1997; previous 1978-1989

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

Coalition for Police Accountability - Pro Bono attorney and member: 2019 - present

S.F. Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights - I served two (2) terms as the Co-Chair of the Board of Directors, as the Director of Special Projects, and I have been a member since 2004

Oakland East Bay Democratic Club, 2019 - present; Current Secretary and Membership Chair - Legacy club founded in 1940s to produce Black Political self-determination through electoral politics by organizing grassroots coalitions of East Bay African Americans.

Ida B. Rising Political Action Committee, CEO and Founder

Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) - I served as the Political Education Chair (PEC) for the Richmond/Contra Costa Chapter (2015-2016) and as a member of the State Board

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.

I stand in solidarity with my AAPI brothers and sisters in the fight against hate, discrimination and intimidation. The rise in attacks born out of racism, ignorance, and fear is appalling and all of Alameda County needs to rise up against the hate.

I am heartened by the passage of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act introduced by my personal sheroe Senator Mazie K. Hirono (D-Hawaii) and Representative Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) to deter hate crimes and violence directed at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The Act was designed to expedite the Justice Department's review of AAPI hate crimes and would designate an official oversight team.

Alameda County's greatness is intertwined with AAPI history, contributions and greatness. Any attacks of hate on Asian American Pacific Islanders in our nation or locally is an attack on all of us in the East Bay and Alameda County.

As a member of the Alameda County Democratic Party Central Committee, I have co-sponsored and/or voted for a number of anti-AAPI hate resolutions. In January 2022, I attended and participated in a vigil in Fremont in solidarity with the family of Michelle Alyssa Go, an Asian woman who was the apparent victim of anti-Asian hate in NYC. I have posted and tweeted on social media about the need to stand in solidarity with the AAPI community.

Prior to 2020, as a member and leader of the SF Bay Area Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights, I worked collaboratively with Asian activists to address the racial and economic disparities imposed on the Asian communities primarily in San Francisco. I supported the work of SF Public Defender Jeff Adachi on many occasions, and participated in panels with him on the impact of criminal justice reform on Black and Asian communities.

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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?

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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?

NO. Regardless of someone's immigration status, a District Attorney's Office should be steadfast in protecting their safety and rights. This is a priority in my platform in my race to be Alameda County's next District Attorney. There are many areas where I will create a justice system that protects our vulnerable immigrant and/or Latinx community:

END THE USE OF DEPORTATION AS PLEA-DEAL TACTIC:

In a report from ACLU of Northern California and Urban Peace Movement, it was revealed that The Alameda County DA's Office had internal guidelines instructing its prosecutors to leverage immigration consequences in order to seek longer probation or jail time during plea negotiations from non-citizens until March 2020. This practice will never be used in Price-led DA office.

Having a DA's office that the community trusts is paramount in building true criminal justice reform. It is key that the DA's office enforce and follow the mandates and spirit of the sanctuary City resolutions adopted throughout Alameda County. In addition to working to assure that defendants are not offered plea deals that have unintended consequences on their immigration status, it was the mandate that deportation will never be used a tactic to scare people into plea deals.

STOP IMMIGRANT-TARGETED FRAUD & EXPLOITATION:

Members of our immigrant communities often find themselves as victims of theft, and fraud preying on their need of seeking residency, citizenship or legal services. These individuals offer assistance in exchange for large sums of money or personal identifying information, sometimes without providing promised services at all. Also, undocumented immigrants are sometimes hesitant to cooperate with law enforcement due to their immigration status become more vulnerable to exploitation related to their employment, wages, and housing.

ESTABLISH OFFICE of IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE

According to Homeland Security, many immigrants are fearful of admitting that they have been a victim of a crime in part because they believe they will be removed (deported) from the United States if they report the crime. As your future DA, I will continue to support a sanctuary state. I will also establish the first Office of Immigrant Assistance within the DA to bridge the gap between the immigrant community and law enforcement. The office will help immigrant survivors of crime navigate through our judicial system and connect them with local services that can provide them with advocacy, healing, and immigration security (U.S. law provides several protections to undocumented immigrants who have been victims of a crime).

PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE COURTS:

Making sure all victims, defendants and parties have access to court interpreters is key creating outcomes based in true justice. Currently the DA's office states "Although the court attempts to meet all requests, the court is not always able to provide an interpreter in every language or in every civil case." I commit to meet the language needs of all our citizens who are seeking justice. Language justice is a key practice used in social justice movements in order to create inclusion and dismantle traditional systems of oppression that have traditionally disenfranchised non-English speakers. I will look forward to creating an inclusive environment that reflects and understands the language spoken by victims of crime by opening more opportunities for bilingual prosecutors so that victims of crime's stories are not lost in translation.

HATE-CRIMES

I will create a Hate Crimes unit that aids all the divisions and units in the protection of victims of hate crimes.

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

That the Asian-American community is divided in its views about public safety (as is often the case in the African-American community) but many Asian Americans perceive the police as protectors of public safety whose misconduct should be excused at all times, regardless of the impact on the community or the consequences of the misconduct. Learning this has caused me to increase my outreach to the Asian-American community to engage in a dialogue about how police services benefit some and not others, and why and how we can improve police services for the whole community, not only when particular criminal incidents hit the news media.

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

An ally in my view is being a champion for AAPI issues in solidarity with advocates for the AAPI community, and being willing to allow AAPI activists to drive the conversation.

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 have been endorsed by APALA, AFL-CIO, former Oakland Mayor Jean Quan, former Pleasanton School Board Trustee Jamie Yee, Alfred Twu, Austin Tam, Oakland Rising Action, Ray Bobbitt, and I will look to those advocates for working people and the AAPI community, for increased knowledge and understanding, as well as other AAPI activists and community members whom I love and respect.

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 Chang, Austin Tam, Alfred Twu, Janani Ramachandran

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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