

2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - Special Districts

Email *

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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 note: your questionnaire will be posted on our website for Caucus members to review. Please submit your responses by Tuesday, Sept. 6 by 5 pm.

Personal Information

Candidate Name *

Stewart Chen

City and zip code of residence.

Alameda

What is your campaign website address?

Stewartchen.org

What is your campaign email address?

Stewart.chen@yahoo.com

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- AC Transit Board of Directors, Ward 3
- AC Transit Board of Directors, Ward 4
- BART Board, Dist. 6
- Dublin San Ramon, Area 5
- EBMUD, Ward 3
- EBMUD, Ward 7
- East Bay Regional Parks District, Ward 3
- Livermore Area Rec and Parks District
- Fairview Fire Protection District
- Oro Lomo Sanitation District
- Eden Area Healthcare District, Area 3
- Eden Area Healthcare District, Area 5
- Peralta Community College District, Area 3
- Peralta Community College District, Area 5
- Peralta Community College District, Area 7
- AC Transit - At-Large
- Other:

Are you the incumbent?

Yes

No

Are you a registered Democrat? The APA Democratic Caucus can only endorse registered Democrats

Yes

No

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

Representation matters. AC Transit board has not had any API representative on it's board and one of the goals of the API Caucus is to recruit and help qualified API candidates get elected to their respective offices.

List ONLY the top 5 endorsements that you have received. (Please reference your website if you want to alert us to more).

Mayor Elihu Harris, County Assessor Phong La, Council President Nikki Bas, Council member Sheng Thao, and Alameda County Democratic Caucus President Lena Tam.

If we endorse you, will you use our name in your campaign materials?

Yes

No

Maybe

How long have you lived in the district that you are seeking to represent?

Since 1985

Educational background: What schools have you attended, date graduated, major and degree(s) earned.

BS Biology Northwest Missouri State University 1984 , Palmer Chiropractic University 1987

Employment: List the last three (3) paid positions, indicating name of employer, job title, and length of employment.

CarePlus Chiropractic Center since 1988

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

Oakland Chinatown Improvement Council- President, Oakland Asian Cultural Center- President, Chinatown Lions Club- Vice President.

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/or as an individual.

As the President of Oakland Chinatown Improvement Council, I have led protests, rallies, meetings with policy makers to address the anti-Asian hate crimes. I have also been working collaboratively with OPD and County Sheriff's office regarding Asian hate crimes.

2. One out of every 3 Alameda County residents is of Asian ancestry but are underrepresented in elected office and make-up 28% of all eligible voters in the County overall. Do you believe the legislative body you are seeking to represent has adequately served Asian and Pacific Americans? Why or why not?

No. Currently, there is no one of API descent serving on the AC Transit Board.

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 was born and raised in the Philippines. As a bus riding immigrant myself, I see monolingual API seniors struggling to read and understand some of the signs and instructions. We need better translated signs and schedules in our stops and website.

4. Please identify the three largest APA ethnicities in your district.

Chinese , Filipino and Vietnamese

5. Please identify the most at-risk APA community in your district and explain why.

Seniors- our seniors are afraid to leave their homes to go shopping, visit their family, doctors appointments, and it is taking a toll on their mental health.

6. What have you learned about Asian Americans in the past 2 years that you were previously unaware of and how has that impacted you?

Third generation Chinese born in the Philippines married to a Vietnamese wife, I believe I can represent all three ethnic groups (which happens to be the 3 largest API ethnic groups).

7. How do you think microaggressions and verbal harassment against Asians and other marginalized community members can be better addressed and what will you commit to doing? If you have intervened in the past, please describe what you did.

I have consistently stood up against racism. I have worked with mainstream media in calling out hate crimes committed to our API seniors and women , and I will not stop until we have the ears of the governor.

8. 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?

Alameda API Democratic Caucus is a good start.

9. Please list any Asian American candidates you have publicly endorsed.

Phong La, Lena Tam, Nikki Bas, Sheng Thao, Benny Lee, Rob Bonta, Alfred Twu etc.

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

Please Submit your responses by Sep. 6, 5 pm. We will be holding several zoom endorsement meetings covering all three regions of the County before the end of September, tbd. Only those candidates completing the questionnaire will be on our endorsement ballot. No changes to your responses can be made after it is submitted.

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