

# 2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - Special Districts

Email \*

youngforactransit@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 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 \*

Joel Young

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland, 94612

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What is your campaign website address?

[www.joelyoung.org](http://www.joelyoung.org)

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What is your campaign email address?

[youngforactransit@gmail.com](mailto:youngforactransit@gmail.com)

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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?

Because it is a great organization.  
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List ONLY the top 5 endorsements that you have received. (Please reference your website if you want to alert us to more).

- Amalgamated Transit Union Local 192
  - AFSCME Local 3269
  - IBEW Local 1245
  - Contra Costa County Central Labor Council
  - Contra Costa Building Trades
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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?

Over 25 years

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

UC Berkeley Undergrad (class of 2000), UC Berkeley Law School (class of 2004)

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

Tidrick Law Firm, Partner, 12 years

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

Charles Houston Bar Association

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## 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.

In 2021 the AC Transit Board strongly condemned the attacks on the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, Anti-Asian harassment and acts of violence. In connection with that condemnation we issued a series of public statements admonishing the perpetrators of violence and commending those who, more and more, have had the courage to stand up for themselves and report these occurrences. For more details see <https://www.actransit.org/ac-transit-supports-aapi-community-denounces-anti-asian-sentiment-racism-violence>.

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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?

Systemic racism and other forms of bias are complex problems that require multi-department and agency-wide actions to uproot or to mitigate. At AC Transit we adopted a new strategic initiative to address systemic racism and other forms of bias (which includes racism and bias against members of the Asian and Pacific Americans). The strategic initiative has two parts: an internal component which seeks to further diversify the AC Transit workforce and address bias in the workplace, and an external component which seeks to ensure that the district provides high-quality service in areas of greatest need.

Moreover, every May, we celebrate and honor Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. But obviously we can do more and would look to your guidance on ways to better serve the community.

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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?

AC Transit serves a large immigrant population. As a result, we have attempted to better serve this community by (1) ensuring that we have translators at our public meetings; (2) using "I Speak" Cards that are produced and distributed to all employees (including in Operators' pouches) for emergency situations requiring language assistance (these will enable drivers to quickly keep LEP riders informed with the use of the language assistance hotline); and (3) the items referenced in Question 2.

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

Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino

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

Members of the APA Community that live in or near downtown Oakland. City leaders don't seem to be taking their role of protecting that community very seriously. They have let things get out of control and it does not appear that they have a plan in place to make things better.

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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?

Asian Americans have been subjected to a lot of racism in America including but limited to (1) the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882; and (2) the Chinese massacre of 1871, when a mob in Los Angeles' Chinatown attacked and murdered 19 Chinese residents.

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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 think because microaggressions are easily trivialized and brushed off, it's important to acknowledge that it happened and pointing out the underlying message within the microaggression. I think that we have to engage in tactics that range from deflections that express disapproval to challenging what was said or done.

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?

I usually tap my sister (who is half Asian) and my step mom (who is Asian) as a resource regarding the on-going needs of Asian and Pacific Americans. However, I am happy to learn more from all organizations in my district.

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

Kyra Mungia,

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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