

# 2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - Special Districts

Email \*

spriggs4actransit@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 \*

Barisha Spriggs

City and zip code of residence.

94578

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What is your campaign website address?

spriggs4actransit.com

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What is your campaign email address?

spriggs4actransit@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?

The Asian Caucus, its members , and Asian voters are important to me. I want to make sure their needs are met in my elected positions.

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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).

Phong La, April Chan, Alfred Twu, Nikki Fortunato-Bas, Liz Ortega

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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?

28 years

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

San Francisco State University, 2009, Criminal Justice Studies, Bachelor of Arts

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

1. The Education Team, Substitute Teacher, July 2021-Present 2. Swing Education, April 2019-June 2021. 3. GroundWorks Campaigns, August 2012- November 2018

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

My Eden Voice and Eden Renters United

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.

I am a member of the California Democratic Party and the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee. As a delegate and central committee member I have voted to support resolutions and legislation endorsements to stop anti-Asian harassment.

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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?

It has not. More safety improvements are needed in Oakland Chinatown and along International Boulevard.

I catalyzed The \$2 Million Emergency Repave of Ashland and the \$20 Million Ashland East 14th Street Phase II Corridor Improvement Project. Transit riders, pedestrians, and bicyclists, now have a safe and accessible commercial corridor because of my advocacy. The street now has expanded bus boarding platforms, new bus shelters, new seating at bus stops, safer sidewalks, adequate street lights, bike lanes, and safer crosswalks.

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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?

Bus service needs to connect immigrant communities and the places they shop and work.

As a bus rider in a working-class Brown and Black community with many essential workers, I want to make sure riders who depend on AC Transit have healthy, connected communities. I believe public transit should be reliable, accessible, equitable, affordable, and environmentally friendly. I will keep fares low with quality customer service. I strongly support employees and their unions. I will obtain additional funding to hire more employees and restore service to pre-pandemic levels.

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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.

Afghan refugees. Many recently arrived in 2021. High rent in Fremont, which was the original center of the Afghan community in the Bay Area, means that many new refugees are moving to Hayward and the surrounding unincorporated areas, where they need transportation to stay in touch with their communities.

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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?

I have learned that the growing turnout of Asian American voters was important for winning swing states in 2020 and important Senate races such as the Georgia runoff. I have also learned that the economy and healthcare are top issues for Asian American voters.

I have also learned that in Alameda County, the Oakland Alameda Access Project is a priority for the APADC. This would reduce traffic and car crashes that impact Chinatown. As a transit director I would support this project.

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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.

It needs to be addressed preventively and not just after incidents happen. I support state bill SB1161, which would require transit agencies to collect data and use it to reduce harassment on public transit and at bus stops.

We especially need to provide safety for women riding public transit, through a public education campaign, having state funding be tied to collecting data on riders' safety needs, and a statewide public health effort to prevent harassment in public spaces.

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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?

Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County  
My Eden Voice  
APIA Vote  
Stop AAPI Hate  
California Democratic Party Asian Pacific Islander Caucus  
Alfred Twu

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

Alfred Twu and George Syrop

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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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