

2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - City Elections

Email *

marilyn@marilynforalameda.org



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 *

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

City and zip code of residence.

Alameda 94501

What is your campaign website address?

marilyn4alameda.org

What is your campaign email address?

marilyn@marilyn4alameda.org

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- City of Alameda, Mayor
- City of Alameda, City Council
- City of Alameda, School Board
- City of Albany, City Council
- City of Albany, School Board
- City of Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 1
- City of Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 8
- City of Berkeley, School Board
- City of Berkeley, Rent Stabilization Board
- City of Dublin, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Dublin, City Council
- City of Dublin, School Board (short term)
- City of Dublin, School Board, Area 5
- City of Emeryville, City Council
- City of Emeryville, School Board
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 3
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 4
- City of Fremont, School Board, #3
- City of Hayward, City Council
- City of Hayward, School Board (long term)
- City of Hayward, School Board (short term)
- City of Livermore Mayor

- City of Livermore, Mayor
- City of Livermore, City Council, Dist. 1
- City of Livermore, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Livermore, School Board
- City of Newark, Mayor
- City of Newark, City Council
- City of Newark, School Board
- City of Oakland, Mayor
- City of Oakland, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Oakland, City Council, Dist. 4
- City of Oakland, City Council, Dist. 6
- City of Oakland, School Board, Dist. 2
- City of Oakland, School Board, Dist. 4
- City of Oakland, School Board, Dist. 6
- City of Piedmont, City Council
- City of Piedmont, School Board
- City of Pleasanton, City Council, Dist 1
- City of Pleasanton, City Council, Dist. 3
- City of San Leandro, Mayor
- City of San Leandro, City Council, Dist. 1
- City of San Leandro, City Council Dist. 5
- City of San Leandro, School Bd., Area 2
- City of Union City, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Union City, City Council, Dist. 3
- City of Union City, City Council, Dist. 4

New Haven School District, #4

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?

I would be honored to be endorsed by the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus because I have the highest regard for Alameda's APA community, who comprise nearly one third of Alameda's population, and have assisted me with important local issues. For example, in 2021, Serena Chen, Carl Chan, and Vinny Camarillo participated in my Mayor's Town Hall via Zoom and Facebook Live, to address incidents of violence toward APA individuals. Alice Lai-Bitker, physician Mini Swift, MD, and pharmacist Helen Lee were members of my Mayor's COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force which scheduled vaccine appointments for 700+ Alameda seniors, and helped staff two vaccine clinics and a booster clinic at Mastick Senior Center.

Before and during my 10 years in elected office I have benefitted from the wise counsel of APA community members on fair housing issues (Lynette Lee, Rev. Michael Yoshii); the 2000 campaign to Build A New Main Library (the late Arnie Fong, Marilyn Ng, Lena Tam, (now Judge) Delbert Gee); the campaign to Save Alameda Hospital, (the late Assembly Member and County Supervisor Wilma Chan, Jean Fong; and governance (the late Niel Tam).

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

State Controller Betty Yee
State Senator Nancy Skinner
CA Assemblymember Mia Bonta
Alice Lai-Bitker, Alameda County Supervisor, retired
El Cerrito Mayor Gabe Quinto

More endorsements at marilyn4alameda.org

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?

Most of my life: My family moved here when I was 4, I left to go away to college, then returned with my husband in 1986. We've been here ever since, and raised our (now adult) twins, a son and daughter, here.

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

Alameda public schools (Edison, Lincoln M.S., Alameda H.S.); UC Davis, Human Development, Bachelor of Science; American University of Beirut, University of California Education Abroad Program; Santa Clara University School Law School, Juris Doctor

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

Mayor, City of Alameda - December 2018 to present
Alameda City Councilmember - December 2012 - December 2018
Better Business Bureau, Arbitrator, 2007 - 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.

League of California Cities
Alameda County Mayors Conference
League of Women Voters Alameda
Bike Walk Alameda

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.

The previously referenced Mayor's Town Hall to discuss this topic. Another Mayor's Town Hall with Hollaback! and Asian Americans Advancing Justice to offer Bystander Training. No, they took place in 2021.

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?

There is always room for improvement. As Mayor, I have made it a point to appoint APA residents to City boards and commissions, which is an excellent stepping stone to running for elective office.

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?

Again, we can always do better. We need to make sure translation services are available and that documents are available in multiple languages.

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

In the City of Alameda, #1 Chinese, 42%; #2 Filipino, 23%; #3 Vietnamese, 8% ("Other Asian" is 13% of our APA population, but would represent multiple ethnicities.)

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

I believe APA women and elderly men to be the most at-risk APA community members, based on reports I receive, and some tragic incidents occurring next door in Oakland where recently a beloved dentist, an Uber driver, and an elderly gentleman out for a walk were killed in senseless acts of violence directed toward APA individuals.

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?

Just how pervasive violence toward Asian Americans is and has been. It has motivated me to work to change this.

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.

Education, increased awareness, bystander training, arrests, and prosecution.

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?

Some of my community members, including Serena Chen and Carl Chan.

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

Lena Tam, Alameda BOS; Lily Mei, State Senate; Gabe Quinto, El Cerrito Mayor

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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