

# 2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - City Elections

Email \*

nickpilch4albany@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 \*

Nick Pilch

City and zip code of residence.

Albany 94706

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What is your campaign website address?

albanyforward.org, nickpilch4albany.com

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What is your campaign email address?

nickpilch4albany@gmail.com

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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 proud to have your endorsement. Your Caucus' support is important because of the significant APA representation in Alameda County and the City of Albany. Additionally, I am proud to be running on a slate with John Miki, who identifies himself as APA.  
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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).

Preston Jordan, Albany Mayor

Aaron Tiedemann, Albany Vice-Mayor

Sara Hinkley, Albany School Board President

Vonnie Davidson, Albany School Board Vice-President

Brian Doss, Albany School Board Trustee

Also see <http://albanyforward.org/endorsements>

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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?

22 years

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

Bowdoin College, B.A. Chemistry 1983. Post-graduate studies in art, architecture, and computer science at FootHill College, and Stanford University.

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

Operations Support Manager, UC Berkeley, 6 months; Director, Cloud Operations, Bluescape, 7.5 years; Software Engineering Manager, Salesforce, 3.5 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.

Albany Democratic Club, currently President; Co-founder Albany Strollers & Rollers; Sierra Club, Northern Alameda County Group Executive Committee Member.

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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.

As Mayor in 2020, I issued many Mayor statements, several of which addressed Asian hate. On social media, and in political emails, I denounced Asian hate. Post-2020, I continued to denounce Asian hate on social media.

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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?

We have been struggling to find at least one Asian representative on our City Council for many years, ever since the departure of Jewel Okawachi from our City Council. This year, I am happy to say that I am running on a slate with Robin López and John Miki. John is of Asian ancestry.

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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?

That's a good question. I'm not entirely certain. When I was previously on the Albany City Council, I was the first to call for the City to designate itself a Sanctuary City after the election of Trump, and I believe we did hold some information sessions for immigrants at that time as well. If elected, I will pursue this question as I think it's an important one. We did issue a proclamation for Immigrant Heritage Month in 2022, and have done so in previous years.

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

Chinese, Indian, Korean. In 2020, I calculated this for Alameda County District 5, and it was Chinese, Filipino, Indian. Using American Community Survey data, and the Berkeley CCD, I see similar results - Chinese being the top, then Indian, then Korean. I've heard that data for the 2020 is not as granular as for 2010, so this might be the best I can get.

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

At this time, I would say it has to be Chinese, due to Covid, although my understanding is that anti-Asian hate is not that discriminating, unfortunately. I would like to know what the Caucus thinks, and organizations in the Asian Community Collaborative (ACC) <https://www.acgov.org/board/district5/acc.htm> might be a good resource for this as well.

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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?

That anti-Asian hate well-predates the pandemic. It's not that I did not know this, but I've come to a much better understanding of this now. I was just recently reminded of discrimination against early Chinese immigrants who came to California with the Gold Rush after a visit to China Camp. Such blatant discrimination continued through WWII, unfortunately, and less blatant discrimination continues until this day. It has caused me to be more aware of my privilege as a white man.

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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.

Elected officials must continue to make it clear that they denounce any and all manifestations of anti-Asian hate. And they must intervene on the spot if they are part of any conversation in which microaggressions and verbal harassment are occurring. I have had the opportunity to directly intervene in the past, except to denounce anti-Asian hate in writing.

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?

A close colleague, Julia Chang Frank, and my new colleague, John Miki, will be my community resources. Additionally, Julia has begun an Asian Parents Engagement Group In Albany which I will tap too. Finally, this Caucus and other regional Asian organizations will be important to reach out to as well.

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

Rashi Keserwani, Gabe Quinto, Alfred Twu

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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