

# 2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - City Elections

Email \*

liz4bart@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 \*

Liz Ames

City and zip code of residence.

Union City 94587

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What is your campaign website address?

[www.ames4change.com](http://www.ames4change.com)

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What is your campaign email address?

[liz4bart@gmail.com](mailto:liz4bart@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: BART Director District 6

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 am a representative of our multi-cultural and diverse community and would be honored to have your endorsement.

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

Senator Glazer, Fremont Council Member Jenny Kassan, Bike East Bay Advocacy Director Dave Campbell, and BART Directors Debora Allen and John McPartland

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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 50 years

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

B.S., Civil Engineering from San Jose State and licensed Civil Engineer

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

City of Palo Alto Senior Project Manager and Civil Engineer for over 25 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.

I am Vice-Chairperson of Tri-City Ecology and Chairperson of Save Union City Hills committee.

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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.

I have publicly condemned incidents of hate, violence, harassment, discrimination, shunning and bullying against our passengers and employees. The acts against patrons including Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders will not be tolerated in or around BART. BART is an essential public transportation system that I intend to make a welcoming place for all.

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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?

Yes, BART is one of the most diverse employers and offers service to all income levels. BART also has interpreters, provides announcements and brochures in multiple languages.

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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?

Immigrant needs are not being met with so many needs are for the basic services such as food, clothing and shelter. BART can do our part and is supporting a 20 percent discount for riders at the federal poverty level and a free transit pilot for students and those that may be housed in selected affordable housing complexes. This two-year pilot will allow transit agencies to study the success of this free transit pass program possibly resulting in a longer-term discounted transit fare program in the future.

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

Indian, Chinese and Filipino are the largest ethnicities in my District.

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

Asian seniors and immigrants are most-at-risk given these groups are widely profiled in the nation and in the Bay Area with the incorrect association of how the pandemic began.

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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 am saddened by the mistreatment of Asian population taking the brunt of anger and violence during the pandemic. Education about the pandemic causes as well as treating people with equity and inclusivity can alleviate hatred and discrimination in our communities.

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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.

We must focus on public safety as the number one priority. If people feel safe, they will ride BART. I spearheaded systemwide replacement of fare gates to reduce rampant fare evasion. I also supported hiring more police officers to improve safety for all our passengers and employees.

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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?

BART staff and Directors attend resource fairs and similar community events to provide information about BART services and discounted fare programs. For example, I attended an Afghan resource fair sponsored by the Fremont Unified School District. This type of event is a way to hear from community voices to increase understanding and their diverse needs.

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

I have endorsed candidates that have the best qualifications regardless of ethnicity. I have endorsed Sarabjit Kaur Cheema and Lily Mei in the past.

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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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