

2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - Special Districts

Email *

lance@lance4bart.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 *

Lance Nishihira

City and zip code of residence.

Union City 94587

What is your campaign website address?

www.lance4bart.org

What is your campaign email address?

lance@lance4bart.org

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?

I have taken great pride in being an APA public servant. This endorsement would reinforce our solidarity in gaining representation for our community in our political systems.

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

Fiona Ma, State Treasurer; Phong La, Alameda County Assessor, Shawn Kumagai, Dublin City Council Member ; Janice Li, BART District 8 Director ; Deepa Sharma, California Democratic Party, API Caucus Chair (for ID Purposes Only) ; see www.lance4bart.org/endorsements for the growing list

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?

24 years

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

California State University Hayward, BA in Mass Communication 1996

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

Director of Design, PayPal (6 years) ; Head of Design, WePay (8 months) ; Director Design Innovation Center, Comcast Silicon Valley (4 years)

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

Daily Bowl, New Haven Schools Foundation, Union City Economic Advisory Team, Union City General Plan Advisory Committee, Measure M Oversight Committee

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.

On the school board, I have championed resolutions in favor of supporting Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month as well as approving curriculum promoting a more balanced understanding of Asian Pacific history (Japanese internment, Filipino labor strikes, Chinese contribution to Westward Expansion).

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?

Currently there is only 1 out of 9 APA representatives (11%). If I am elected, that would bring representation to 22%.

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?

Currently, our representative does not actually meet with any constituents, let alone organized groups based on any kind of affinity grouping. I think that an initial step would be to meet.

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

Chinese (16% HH), East Indian (13% HH), Filipino (9% HH)

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

I think presently Afghani and Pakistani community members continually struggle with the establishment narratives that portray it as fanatics and terrorists. It's very easy to see patterns between how they are currently being treated and the Japanese Americans during World War II.

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 we are becoming quite an organized political force in The Bay Area- thanks to groups like the APA Democratic Caucus of Alameda County.

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's important to understand that the fight to end micro aggressions and unconscious bias is a marathon, not a sprint. We need to understand where we've been, how long we were there, and where we are going to understand the entire journey. I commit to continuing my support and advocacy for our community for as long as I am able.

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?

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

Vipan Bajwa, Shawn Kumagai, Lena Tam, Kenneth Pon

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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