

# 2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - City Elections

Email \*

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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 \*

Ida Martinac

City and zip code of residence.

Berkeley 94703

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What is your campaign website address?

<https://berkeleyrentboard.org/>

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What is your campaign email address?

[IdaMartinac4RentBoard@Gmail.com](mailto:IdaMartinac4RentBoard@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?

Asians and Pacific Islanders compromise a large and important section of the constituency of the Berkeley Rent Board. I cannot imagine not seeking the endorsement of the APA Democratic Caucus.  
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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).

The Berkeley Tenant Convention  
The Berkeley Tenant Union  
SEIU Local 1021  
SEIU Local 1000 District Labor Council 744  
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

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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?

Since 2003

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

Golden Gate University School of Law, 2006, JD

City College of New York, 1998, BA

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

California Department of Justice, Legal Secretary, January 6, 2014 - present

United Nations, various general services, 2003; 2010 - 2011

Croatian Mission to the United Nations, special assistant to the President of Economic and Social Council, 2002-2003

Tokyo-Mitsubishi Securities (USA), Inc., 1998- 2002

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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.

Our Revolution East Bay

East Bay Democratic Socialists

San Francisco Gurdjieff Society

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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 an individual I have minored in East Asian Studies in college, spent a semester in Japan, studied shiatsu and tai chi, studied Mandarin while working at the United Nations, and have generally been putting a lot more trust in Traditional Chinese Medicine than Western mainstream medicine. I originally moved West from New York to be closer to the East and to work on maintaining renewable energy. This doesn't exactly answer the question but the point is that I am someone who has spent a significant portion of my life studying and admiring various aspects of Asian cultures.

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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?

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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?

The Rent Board both serves immigrant communities directly and partners with non-profit organization like the Eviction Defense Center and East Bay Community Law Center to ensure that needs in which the Board lacks specific expertise do not go unaddressed. I would welcome input from organizations like the APA Democratic Caucus, as well as any other organizations that do or could provide services to the Berkeley community that we would benefit from partnering with in order to fully meet the needs of Berkeley's APA population. As a first generation immigrant I have faced immense challenges myself, and can empathize with the plight of other immigrants therefore. Most of those challenges are tied to having to rebuild one's community over and over and having to reinvent oneself. As Rent Board Commissioner I would strive to foster community building, as strong community is essential to people thriving.

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

Chinese (48%), Indian (16%), Korean (9%)

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

Berkeley's population is split between students, about 1/3rd of our community, and long term residents. The most at risk APA community in each respectively are international students and seniors, who have important differences but also share many challenges. Both seniors and international students are sadly often the target of scams that prey on their vulnerability for the former and lack of familiarity Berkeley institutions for the latter. Too often students will arrive from abroad to a housing unit they have been promised only to find they paid security deposit and first or more months rent to con-artist, and are suddenly homeless. Asian seniors have been the target of aggressive phone scams which have reduced in volume but unfortunately persist.

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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 about the heinous attacks on Asian Americans in our communities, and have been profoundly saddened by the situation. I never realized there was so much ugliness until the former president, who shall remain nameless, unleashed xenophobic attacks throughout the country. I have personally offered emotional support to my Asian friends and colleagues who have felt threatened.

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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.

I have come to understand that all manner of seemingly innocent thoughts, actions and words have profound consequences, and have taken upon myself to try and be better at identifying thought patterns in myself before they turn into ugly words or actions. Individually that's what we all ought to strive for.

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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?

APA Dem Caucus, my colleague and friend Karen Kiyo Lowhurst, Jenny Wong, James Chang, Alfred Twu, and many others.

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

I am not a public official yet, so I haven't exactly endorsed anyone yet.

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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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