

2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - City Elections

Email *

nmizell@berkeley.edu



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 *

Nathan Mizell

City and zip code of residence.

Berkeley 94704

What is your campaign website address?

What is your campaign email address?

nmizell@berkeley.edu

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 believe we share many values in regards to the treatment of APA tenants in our city. The Rent Board has an important role in protecting and supporting our community and the Asian American and Pacific Islander experience is (and should be) central in the work of the Board.
.....

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

Jesse Arreguin, Berkeley Mayor
Gus Newport, Former Berkeley Mayor
Kate Harrison, Berkeley Vice-Mayor and Councilmember
Ben Bartlett, Berkeley City Councilmember
Rigel Robinson, Berkeley City Councilmember

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?

4 years (citywide office)

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

BA in Legal Studies from UC Berkeley (May 2022)

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

Paralegal, Bryan Schwartz Law 4 months
GUI/Bug Tester, Statewide Database at Berkeley Law (roughly year and a half)
Associate, Cal Performances (A few months)

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

Berkeley Community Safety Coalition, Associated Students of the University of California

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 a PAB Board Member I supported former Chair Chang in his work reviewing the department's hate crime response. As a student leader, I supported resolutions pushing the university to ensure better treatment and resources for international students, including Asian international students.

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?

While I believe the Rent Board has started in positive work to better position Berkeley Rent Board to be responsive to the APA community, more work can certainly be done. Outreach is a central portion of the Board responsibilities, and I will advocate to greater outreach to students, elderly and immigrant members of the APA community.

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?

While the Rent board has conducted outreach work, I believe more is needed. I would propose greater outreach utilizing the Board's survey, and I would welcome the APA Democratic caucus and other dedicated organizations on what specific actions could best address APA community needs.

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

Citywide, the largest APA ethnicities are Chinese, Indian, and Korean

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

New immigrants, elders and international students are likely the most at-risk based on their recent arrival in the community and lack of institutional support. These groups experience a disproportionate amount of targeting and neglectful treatment due in part to a lack of connection to, and recognition by political institutions.

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?

In the past two years, I've learned (in a Berkeley class & at a #stopasianhate rally) that Asian Americans have been erased from the political process in America despite the continual activism of Asian Americans throughout American history. This erasure is of course not a reflection of Asian Americans, but a reflection of how American society neglects the important demands of Asian American communities. While this erasure takes on a difference from the Black community, they are both related to the underlying focus of racism in our society. Learning this has staged my connection to the Asian American struggle and given me an increased level of sensitivity to the struggles faced.

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.

When incidents occur they should be addressed promptly. I cannot speak for the APA experience, but as a Black man who has experienced microaggressions, I share in the frustration that such actions are often left unaddressed. As a member of the Rent Board, I am committed to calling out Anti-Asian comments and actions throughout my professional and personal life.

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?

As a longtime student learner invoked in governance, I have had regular communication with student government organizations and APA community leaders around issues related to the needs of their community. As I work to step into a new role, I will expand my communication to other organizations who have an interest in policies that impact the APA community.

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

Rigel Robinson, for Berkeley City Council
Alfred Twu, AC Transit Board

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.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms