

2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - City Elections

Email *

denniswaespi@sbcglobal.net



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 *

Dennis Waespi

City and zip code of residence.

Castro Valley

What is your campaign website address?

4118 Arcadian Drive

What is your campaign email address?

denniswaespi@sbcglobal.net

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: Member, Board of Directors, East Bay Regional Park District

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?

The APA Caucus has grown since 2005, as has the Asian Pacific American population. Two of the cities I represent, Fremont and Union City, have a majority Asian population. It is my goal to represent everyone in Ward 3 and I recognize the tremendous influence of the APA Caucus.

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

Sierra Club
Hayward Demos Democratic Club
All of my fellow East Regional Park District Board Members
Supervisor Nate Miley
Supervisor Richard Valle

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?

All of my life, 72 years.

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

San Jose State University, BS Degree, Recreation and Leisure Studies, 1974

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

East Bay Regional Park District, 1974-2012
I was a Park Ranger, Firefighter and Maintenance Supervisor during my 38 years with the Park District.

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

California Association of Recreation and Park Districts, Board of Directors
Alameda County Special Districts Association
Hayward Area Recreation and Park District Foundation
Faith Lutheran Church, Castro Valley

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.

Throughout my life, I have tried to follow the "Golden Rule" and treat others as I would like to be treated. As a member of the East Bay Park District Board of Directors I have voted in support of a resolution condemning the murder of George Floyd and creating a policy of diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the Park District(2020), a resolution officially denouncing xenophobia, racism, and violence against Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders and reaffirming the District's commitment to a safe, welcoming and inclusive workplace and park system. As an individual I have chosen as one of my two appointees to the Park Advisory Committee, an Asian Indian to represent Ward 3.

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?

Obviously not in the past, but with increased participation in the political process and the work of organizations like yours, that paradigm is changing. With the Appointment of Olivia Sanwong in Ward 5 and Dee Rosario having served since 2016 in Ward 2, the composition of the EBRPD Board of Directors is 28.6% Asian American. I expect that number will increase in the near future.

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?

We can always do better, but in my 48 years with the Park District, I feel we have always been an inclusive and welcoming place for all to enjoy. We have created a position of Community Outreach Coordinator to engage formerly underserved communities.

Our Multicultural Wellness programs bring together many ethnic groups to share their cultures and food as we create a safe, welcoming environment in parks throughout the District. We conduct surveys including immigrants and underserved communities to understand their needs and also any barriers that would exclude them from enjoying parks.

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

Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino

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

From what I've read and seen in the news, I think elderly Asians and Asians that own and operate small businesses in inner-city environment are the most at risk.

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 the APA population in the Bay Area and especially in my district has increased quite rapidly. Also the APA involvement in political action and electing candidates is quite successful.

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.

At the Park District, we have a zero tolerance policy involving microaggressions or any kind of harassment against any individual or groups that we work with or serve. We have sent employees to classes to identify these microaggressions or subconscious bias'.
We will continuously work to be more inclusive.

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?

I would welcome any education that the APA Democratic Caucus would offer. I will continue to work with the EBRPD to learn and understand the needs of Asian and Pacific Americans.
nd I will rely on and tap the great Knowledge of Dee Rosario, my fellow Board Member and friend.

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

Dee Rosario, EBRPD
Danny Akagi, Castro Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors
Kunio Okui, Castro Valley School District Trustee
Shawn Kumagai, 20th Assembly District
Jean Quan, Oakland Mayor
Ces Rosales, Berkeley City Council
Lily Mei, 10th State Senate District
Alex Lee, 25th Assembly District

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.

Google Forms