

2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - Special Districts

Email *

cinapoli@aol.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 *

Cindi Reiss

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland, 94610

What is your campaign website address?

www.cindireiss2022.com

What is your campaign email address?

cinapoli@aol.com

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?

As an Asian American elected official, I know my victory in 2018 would not have been possible without my Asian-American supporters and support from this Caucus. The last four years have allowed me ample opportunity to build connections with other API leaders and communities and the Caucus continues to be a beacon for me in a political realm that easily becomes muddied.

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

Rob Bonta, Phong La, Melissa Wilk, Nicky Gonzalez-Yuen, Julina Bonilla

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?

16 years

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

PhD, Art History, University of California, Irvine, 2005; Executive Leadership Certificate, Stanford Graduate Business School, 2022; Professional Certificate, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2013; MA, Art History, SFSU 1995; BA, Comparative Literature and BA, Art History, University of California, 1993.

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

Professor, West Valley College, 18 years; Associate Professor , SFSU, 3 years; Associate Professor, San Francisco Art Institute, 4 years; adjunct at various CCCs , 8 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, Oakland Leaf

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.

In 2019, as VP of the Board we passed resolution 19/20-52; and as President , we passed Resolution 20/21-25 . Both resolutions were statements on the District's staunch stance on anti -asian violence and xenophobia.

In my 2021 commencement speech at the Peralta colleges, I opened with the commemoration of the six Asian-American women who were killed in Atlanta and spoke about the need to be pay attention and stop the anti-asian violence in our local and national communities.

In 2021, the Board promptly investigated and took action when a faculty member at Laney College exchanged emails with an Asian-American student to anglicize her name.

In sum, I continue to use my seat to amplify the API student and community voice at Peralta to ensure all of our students--including the many that are often left out-- are heard.

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?

I believe the Peralta District must do more. The student population is 24 percent API , yet our faculty rates are 16% and administrators are 13%. Our faculty and administrative percentages are not in line with our student API numbers. It has been the State Chancellor's office's goal to ensure students see themselves represented in faculty and administrator numbers, the same goal holds true for Peralta.

Additionally, we have one AANAPISI designated college , but the other three should be should be recognized as API serving institutions as well.

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?

No, I do not believe we have adequately met the needs of immigrant communities.

The District's outreach has not effectively included enough of our immigrant areas as the paraphernalia has not been targeted in the many languages of our brothers and sisters.

And though our website is translatable, it is --unfortunately --only translatable to Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Filipino and Laotian: this not enough.

We know we must do more.

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

Chinese, Asian Indian, Vietnamese

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

AAPI individuals who are also female, non-binary, LGBTQIA+, and/or elderly are the most at-risk in my community. I believe they are more at risk because they are targeted for more than one of their identities at once which makes them more vulnerable to many types of hate crimes. If these incidents are not physical and often not reported, the impact is profoundly devastating to their mental health.

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?

Mental illness is a great problem in our communities, especially among women.

It has impacted me greatly in finding ways at the state level to leverage funding for mental health resources but also in ensuring there are structures within our colleges that make safe spaces and mental resources accessible, available, welcoming and inclusive .

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.

The data that many organizations have collected and publicized such as stopAAPIhate has facilitated a more nuanced understanding of what AAPI hate looks like and what can be done. Without this objective data not only would we have not realized that verbal abuse/ harassment / micro-agressions constitute the majority of incidents reported but also that those incidents do not meet the legal definition of a crime (yet has been most traumatizing and impactful to our communities) and require solutions beyond law enforcement.

Because the most optimal and effective solution (as publicized by many papers on this topic) is education , I commit to making AAPI and AAPI education a priority during my tenure. The board's ability to a equity based environment that include language access, campus safety, culturally responsive mental health services, and curriculum and educational materials that reflect their own histories and identities will have a far reaching effect on educating large swaths of people in our communities.

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?

APALA, APEN , APADC, Phong La and the weekly AAPI Roundtable, Linda Wah, Serena Chen

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

Nikki Fortunato Bas, Phong La, Rob Bonta, Sheng Thao

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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