

2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - City Elections

Email *

shrukumar@gmail.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 *

Shruti Kumar

City and zip code of residence.

Union City, 94587

What is your campaign website address?

In progress

What is your campaign email address?

shrukumar@gmail.com

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?

As an Asian American, and a registered Democrat, I find that my values align really well with the APADC. I am a first generation Asian American of Indian origin. I have experienced the struggles first-hand and will support the needs of the APA community.
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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).

Building and Trades Council of Alameda County
Mel Shuen-Mallory, President New Haven Unified School District
Sarabjit Cheema, New Haven Unified School District

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?

15 (Fifteen) years

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

MS (Physics) 2005; San Francisco State University
MSc (Electronics) 2001; University of Mumbai
BSc (Physics) 1999; University of Mumbai

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

City College of San Francisco, Professor of Physics, 15 years (Presently working)
Diablo Valley College, Adjunct Instructor of Physics, 2 years
Contra Costa College, Adjunct Instructor of Physics, 1 year

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

Boy Scouts of America
New Haven Unified School District

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.

At the beginning of the COVID pandemic, there was significant harassment of Asians in the two schools that my children went to. I sat my children down and explained to them that such acts of harassment are not to be tolerated. I equipped them with tools to stand up against these acts.

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?

Union City has a very diverse student population. New Haven Unified School District has been doing an excellent job with serving Asian and Pacific Americans. Our high school offers Chinese, Filipino, and Punjabi as options in their World Language program. They also offer a course in Asian American Studies, which was a great experience for my son when he took it. One of our middle schools was renamed in 2015 to honor the activism, labor, and lives of Larry Itliong and Philip Vera Cruz who are important figures in Filipino and American history. In addition, our school district also offers a two way dual language Mandarin Immersion Program at an elementary school site.

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?

New Haven Unified District does a great job addressing the needs of their immigrant students. There are lot of programs to make education equitable and accessible to one and all. The Mandarin Immersion Program and the Spanish Immersion Program are two examples. These have been very well-received by the community.

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

Filipino, Asian Indian, Chinese

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

There is not one specific APA community that is most at-risk. There are percentages of Asian Indian, Filipino, and Chinese communities that are at-risk mostly due to language barriers.

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?

Teaching in a community college has given me the invaluable experience of learning about other Asian American cultures beyond my own (Asian Indian) culture. I have learnt that Asian Americans are extremely hard-working and very focussed on educational outcomes.

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.

(1) Trying to educate the broader community about Asians and other marginalized community members.
(2) Having support systems like counselors in place. Counselors are key to the well-being of students and help them thrive. I commit to ensuring that there are adequate counseling resources for our students on all campuses.

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 am very closely knit with the parent and teacher community. I will continue to have deep conversations with them to gain a better understanding of the issues that they face, and see how the school district can help them.

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

None yet.

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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