

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

alex@alexforberkeley.com

APA Democratic Caucus of Alameda County



PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT BY SEPT. 9, midnight. Please take time to review the questions before filling in the boxes since you cannot save the responses for later completion. 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 and the public to review.

Personal Information

Candidate Name *

Alex Sharenko

City and zip code of residence.

Berkeley 94710

What is your campaign website address?

www.alexforberkeley.com

What is your campaign email address?

alex@alexforberkeley.com

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- Alameda City Council
- Alameda School Board
- Berkeley, Mayor
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 2
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 3
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 5
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 6
- Berkeley, Unified School District Trustee
- Berkeley, Rent Stabilization Board
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 1
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 3
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 5
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 7
- Oakland, City Council, At-large
- Oakland City Attorney
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 1
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 3
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 5
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 7
- AC Transit, Bd. of Directors, Ward 1
- AC Transit, Bd. of Directors, Ward 2
- AC Transit Bd. of Directors, At-Large
- EB Regional Park Dist. Bd. of Directors. Ward 1

[unclear] [unclear], [unclear], [unclear]

AD 15, State Assembly Representative

AD 18, State Assembly Representative

Peralta Community College District, Bd. of Director, Area 2

Other:

Are you the incumbent?

Yes

No

Are you a registered Democrat? The APA Democratic Caucus can only endorse registered Democrats

Yes

No

How long have you been a registered Democrat? If less than 5 years, please explain your reason for becoming a Democrat.

life long

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I am running for Berkeley City Council to bring inclusive, accountable leadership to my diverse district. To do this I believe it is essential to reach out, listen to and engage with all groups, especially those that have been historically under-represented or marginalized. So yes, I am seeking your endorsement, but even more important I am seeking a dialogue and to build a relationship so that when I am in office I can better understand the issues that are important to you and be a better representative for the Asian Pacific American populations in my district.

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

Buffy Wicks (AD-15 Assembly member), Rashi Kesarwani (Berkeley City Councilmember), Lori Droste (Berkeley City Councilmember), Susan Wengraf (Berkeley City Councilmember), Darryl Moore (Berkeley City Councilmember- retired)

If we endorse you, will you use our name in your campaign materials?

Yes

No

Maybe

How long have you lived in the district which you are seeking to represent?

6 years

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

Georgia Institute of Technology- BS Materials Science and Engineering, University of California Santa Barbara- PhD Materials Engineering

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

GAF Energy- Materials Research and Development Engineer (~1.5 years); Tandem PV- Materials Scientist (~1 year); Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory- Postdoctoral Researcher (~1.5 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.

Berkeley Youth Alternatives, Berkeley Food Network, Friends of Strawberry Creek Park, Berkeley Housing Advisory Commission, Berkeley Commission on Labor, Berkeley Zero Waste Commission, Berkeley Democratic Club

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

1. What differentiates you from your opponents for the elected office that you are seeking?

I have served this community as a volunteer and City Commissioner and have actually written policy on housing for teachers and addressing our racial wage gap. I know how to translate our values to policy that actually solves problems. Additionally, my engineering and science education has given me critical thinking and quantitative analysis skills that are essential to being able to solve the complicated policy issues the East Bay is dealing with.

2. Describe one issue for the district you want to represent for which you have provided leadership and about which you are passionate.

I hope to address our related climate and housing crises and I have led on these issues by advocating for and championing naturally affordable housing options, green transportation options and by forming an all-volunteer, grassroots organization called Berkeley Neighbors for Housing and Climate Action to advocate and educate on these issues.

3. What percentage of the district you [or intend to] represent are of APA heritage?

approximately 10%

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

Chinese, East Indian, Filipino

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

I don't fully understand this question.

6. List the three top concerns of members of the APAs in your district.

I don't believe it is appropriate for me to speak for the APAs in my district but as an elected official I would engage with all APA community members to understand their needs and concerns.

7. During the COVID-19 pandemic, reports of anti-Asian verbal and physical attacks have arisen. If you are the incumbent, how have you addressed this? If you are a candidate how will you address this?

I would loudly and clearly speak out against such hate speech. The incumbent in my race has a history of supporting individuals that have used hate speech against a specific minority group and I think it is incredibly important that we have elected officials that have credibility on these issues which means clearly rejecting ALL hate speech.

8. Do you believe that Asian and Pacific Americans are adequately represented in local government? What can elected officials do to improve participation?

Asian and Pacific Americans are not adequately represented. To change this I would commit to appointing more Asian and Pacific Americans to City Commissions so that this underrepresented community has a louder voice in Berkeley

9. Please identify all Asian Pacific American candidates whom you have personally endorsed over the past 5 years including this election cycle. If there are none, please explain.

Rashi Kesarwani (Berkeley City Councilmember)

10. If you were faced with a situation that involved an Asian Pacific American community, would you seek consultation with our Caucus as a resource?

Yes

No

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

Please submit your responses by Sept. 9, 2020 midnight. Our North County Endorsement Meeting is scheduled for Thu., Sept. 24 beginning at 6:30 pm on Zoom. Only those candidates submitting the questionnaire on time will be on our endorsement ballot. No changes to your responses can be made after it is submitted.

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