

# 2020 Endorsement Questionnaire East County

Email address \*

Trish@Trish4U.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 \*

Trish Spencer

City and zip code of residence.

Alameda, CA 94501

What is your campaign website address?

Trish4U.com

What is your campaign email address?

Trish@Trish4U.com

What is the office that you are seeking? \*

- City of Dublin Mayor
- City of Dublin City Council
- City of Dublin, Unified School District Trustee, Area 1
- City of Dublin, Unified School District Trustee, Area 4
- City of Livermore, Mayor
- City of Livermore, City Council, Dist. 3
- City of Livermore, Unified School District
- City of Pleasanton, Mayor
- City of Pleasanton, City Council
- City of Pleasanton, Unified School District Trustee
- AC Board of Supervisors, District 1
- AD 16, State Assembly Representative
- Other: City of Alameda, City Council

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.

36+ years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I'm not positive if I'm current on paying my membership dues. I have been part of the APA Caucus and try to stay current but with COVID don't think I've received any recent emails. I have historically participated in APA Caucus events and appreciate the work of the Caucus. By the way, I'm happy to renew my membership if it's lapsed. Please email my personal email. Thanks!

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

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?

20+ years.

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

U.C. Santa Barbara (1977-1979), then transferred to U.C. Berkeley, earned BA in Sociology 1981. Then attended classes at Santa Ana City before transferring to UC Irvine to earn my Legal Assistantship Certificate, then while working full-time, attended Western State College of Law in Fullerton, Juris Doctor, 1990. Passed CA State Bar first try in 1990.

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

City of Alameda, Mayor - 4 years  
Alameda Unified School District - Board Member - 6 years  
Alameda Unified School District - Substitute Teacher 10 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.

Alameda Architectural Preservation Society  
Alameda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)  
Alameda Sister Cities Association  
Alameda Museum  
Alameda Legacy & Holiday Home Tours  
Alameda Youth Collaborative  
Kiwanis  
Mastick Senior Center

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## CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I'm the first and only Latino/Hispanic Mayor of the City of Alameda.  
From the late 1990s through the mid-2010s, when my children attended AUSD public schools and for years after, I volunteered in AUSD schools across Alameda, including schools that my children did not attend but needed volunteers. I served in numerous PTA positions in K-12 schools in AUSD, including as PTA Council President overseeing all of AUSD PTAs, as well as Athletic Boosters co-president and a substitute teacher for many years. I started substitute teaching after a principal asked me to, citing a shortage of substitute teachers. Soon thereafter, another teacher discouraged me from substituting on the West End of town. My reaction was to immediately go to District Offices and tell them that I would happily substitute teach on the West End of town, just assign me where needed. Thus, I substituted at almost all AUSD schools, and taught ESL, including a long term assignment. I am well known and supported by Alamedans, especially as a voice for those who may not be represented otherwise, those who may have barriers navigating government or receiving services to which they're entitled. I'm accessible and people from all walks of life reach out to me when they need assistance because they know I will do my utmost to serve them.

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

Sister-City Relationships. While Mayor, I restored Alameda's Sister-City relationship with Jiangyin, China and Friendship City with Wuxi, China. I also completed the formalization of Alameda's Sister-City relationship with Dumaguete, Philippines, initiated and completed the formalization of Alameda's sister-city relationship with Yeongdong-gun, South Korea and initiated Alameda's sister-city relationship with Varazze, Italy, which has yet to be completed. During my four years as Mayor, I led Alamedans on multiple trips to visit Jiangyin and Wuxi, China, Dumaguete, Philippines and to Yeongdong-gun, South Korea, taking a trip a year, and visiting more than one country on a trip. That's very meaningful and significant and unheard of as it's extremely time consuming but very worthwhile. I would like to support the completion of the relationship with Italy which has languished since my tenure as mayor and continue to support our other sister-city relationships. I have actually been successful at continuing to support those relationships as the former mayor but it would be helpful to also be a current council member. Sister City relationships are very special as they support cultural education here and in the city abroad. The goal of Sister Cities International is to "promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation—one individual, one community at a time." I strongly believe in that goal and have done my utmost to make it a reality for Alamedans and the cities we have relationships with. I am honored to be endorsed by many leaders of Bohol Circle Center, whom I met early on through our sister city with Dumaguete! I encourage you to read their endorsements of me on my website. <https://trish4u.com/endorsements/>

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

30.4

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

Chinese, Filipino, Korean

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

Pacific Islanders have the 2nd highest case rate of COVID-19 per 100,000 population in Alameda County, at 902.7 cases, significantly below Hispanic/Latino case rate of 2,587.3, but higher than African American 879.6, Native American 812.2, White 398.2, and Asian 375.3. Even though the County does not breakdown data per city, "Data from California's department of public health reveals that Pacific Islanders have contracted coronavirus at nearly twice the state's overall rate. As of 17 May, they have died from the virus at a rate 2.6 times higher than the state population – the highest death rate of any racial or ethnic group.' <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/may/22/pacific-islanders-california-coronavirus-death-rate> Alameda County unfortunately does not break out the death rate for Pacific Islanders and that may be because it's a low raw number.

There are many factors that may be contributing to this:

"The impact of Covid-19 among Pacific Islanders is exacerbated by the high prevalence of a range of pre-existing health conditions in the community, including diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol.

Roughly one in five Pacific Islanders have been diagnosed with heart disease and they are 46% more likely than the general population to be diagnosed with cancer – a rate higher than any other racial group, according to an April report from the Pacific Islander Center of Primary Care Excellence.

High poverty rates, lack of access to healthcare, and higher than average rates of "essential workers" can compound risk and accelerate the spread of the virus among Pacific Islander communities, said the organization.

Life in multigenerational households, common among communities of Pacific Islanders, complicates the challenge to maintain distance – especially if a member of the household works in the community and returns home to elders."

So, right now, during this pandemic there should extra support and attention to Pacific islanders to do our utmost to help them through this pandemic.

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

Currently, top concerns will be pandemic for health reasons and financial impact. Many own their own business and/or are employed in the service industry and may be have a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 and be facing extreme financial hardship at this time. It's important to reach out to ensure they're applying for financial assistance as available and may require translation services, and obtaining additional services such as food and health assistance as needed and eligible. So, health, finances/jobs, and thirdly, I'll add education, which is also unusual this year as many school districts and colleges are online and some may require additional assistance for computer, internet, translation, etc. Many families are supplementing what's being offered by schools and it's important to make sure families are being connected so that they may continue to educate/learn this school year.

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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?

The increased anti-Asian discrimination is terrible. As a council member, similar to my efforts while I was mayor, I will personally reach out to APA organizations and community members, and use my social media to help come out against it and support our APA community members. As a Mexican American, sadly my family and I have endured personal discriminatory physical and verbal attacks and I personally relate to how terrible it is.

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

I had the pleasure of serving with Neil Tam on the AUSD School Board and have served with Tony Daysog on Council. As mayor, I nominated APAs to City committees and commissions, and attended events such as when Ben Reyes became a judge to help support and encourage participation.

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.

Gary Lym for AUSD School Board and Stewart Chen for Alameda City Council.

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 East County Endorsement Meeting is scheduled for Thu., Sept. 17 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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