

# 2020 Endorsement Questionnaire East County

Email address \*

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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 \*

Jean Walsh

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland 94608

What is your campaign website address?

<http://walshforactransit.com/>

What is your campaign email address?

[walshfortransit@gmail.com](mailto:walshfortransit@gmail.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: AC Transit Board of Directors, Ward 2

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.

several decades

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

My Ward is very diverse and I want to be sure to represent the needs of all my constituents. The majority of AC Transit riders are low income people of color, people with disabilities, students and seniors. The Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus is a good resource and I will work closely with the group and its leadership and members to ensure I best meet the needs of underrepresented communities and advance social, environmental and racial justice.

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

Sierra Club, Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club, East Bay Young Democrats, East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club, AFSCME Local 3916.

Please see my website for an updated list including elected officials:

<https://www.walshforactransit.com/endorsements>

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?

Since 2012

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

MIT, Masters Degree in Urban Planning, 2004

University of Colorado, Bachelors Degree in History and Political Science, 1991

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

Lime - Senior Public Affairs Manager, 2019-2020

Ford GoBike/Lyft - Director of External Relations, 2017-2019

SF Public Utilities Commission - Communications Manager, 2011-2017

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

Bike East Bay, Walk Oakland Bike Oakland, Longfellow Community Association (President), East Bay Transit Riders Union, Transbay Coalition, SF Bicycle Coalition, Prisoners' Literature Project, Elizabeth Warren campaign, and more.

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## CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I offer a fresh perspective and new energy to the AC Transit Board of Directors at a critical time when we cannot go back to the status quo. I am a sustainable transportation professional who has been working to increase sustainable options for getting around the Bay Area, including bike share, scooter share and transit. I am also a leader in transportation advocacy, bringing the voice of the transit rider front and center. I don't own a car and I use AC Transit, BART and my bike to get around. Finally, my background in community relations and experience working for a City agency means I will continue building productive relationships with diverse communities, elected officials, staff at transportation departments and others to increase cooperation and find solutions.

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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.

I've spent my career doing public outreach and communications, and I feel this is an area that in which AC Transit is weak and can benefit from my experience. I will advocate for the bus rider and work to get answers and increase communication. I've already been doing this. For one, I urged the Board to move to Zoom video meetings instead of audio-only public meetings to increase accountability and public participation. I've reached out to riders to hear their concerns and needs and am working with AC Transit staff and customer service to get resolutions to problems like missing bus schedules and benches, locked windows on buses, poor signage and notification when buses get cancelled or rerouted, and more. I will ensure that it's easier for the public to find accurate, timely information and I will make sure AC Transit staff conducts effective outreach to people in multiple languages and channels, and reaches people where they are.

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

Ward 2 is a special district encompassing parts of North and West Oakland, a bit of Berkeley, and all of Piedmont and Emeryville. APA communities comprise between 16% and 25% of the population in those cities.

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

My Ward encompasses several cities, so it's predominantly Chinese, with Asian Indian, and Korean (+Vietnamese and Filipino)

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

I would imagine its low income seniors (on fixed incomes) who are dependent on transit. We need to make the bus fast, frequent, reliable, safe, affordable and easy to use.

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

I think transit riders have similar concerns: they want transit to be reliable, fast, and safe. The bus should come when it says it's going to come. The bus should be fast and frequent. The bus should be safe and clean.

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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?

I have a few ideas about this: make sure bus operators are trained to spot harassment and equipped to de-escalate situations. Post a hotline number in multiple languages on buses and at bus stops for riders to report issues. Hire unarmed outreach ambassadors to ride the bus and promote safety. Work with the APA community to identify concerns and devise solutions.

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

In the East Bay we've done a pretty good job of electing APA leaders to represent us, in positions including Assemblymember, Assessor, Mayor, Councilmembers, and more. We need to continue to ensure representation and work to increase representation and cultivate leaders among staff in local government. We must also work to improve communications, outreach and engagement to empower APA community members and ensure their voices are heard.

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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.

As a first time candidate myself, I haven't endorsed any candidates, but I have supported and worked with Asm Rob Bonta, Mayor Jean Quan, Assessor Phong La, Councilmember Sheng Thao, Zero Waste Commissioner Alfred Twu, and others.

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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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