

# 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 \*

Kristie Wang

City and zip code of residence.

Livermore 94550

What is your campaign website address?

[www.KristieWangforSchoolBoard.com](http://www.KristieWangforSchoolBoard.com)

What is your campaign email address?

[WangforSchoolBoard@gmail.com](mailto:WangforSchoolBoard@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: .....

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.

33 years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I would like to signal my solidarity with the APA community and the principals of the Caucus. Part of my motivation to run for School Board is to increase the diversity of the Board and to represent the growing diversity of our community, so this identification is important to me. I'm also in a competitive race of five candidates and would appreciate the boost of an endorsement.

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

Livermore Mayor John Marchand  
Livermore Vice Mayor Bob Woerner  
Livermore School Board President Craig Bueno  
Dublin City Councilmember Shawn Kumagai  
Fremont City Councilmember Vinnie Bacon  
More at: <https://kristiewangforschoolboard.com/local-officials/>

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?

14 years

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

University of Chicago, 1991, BA in Public Policy  
Harvard University, 1993, Master in Public Policy (MPP)

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

I've mostly been a stay-at-home mom for the past 16 years, so my most recent paid positions don't give a complete picture of the unpaid community work I've been doing, as well as the full-time paid positions I had before. In any case, here they are:

Bay Area Community Resources, PR/Media Consultant, Fall 2019-present

Livermore Valley Swim & Tennis Club, Dance Instructor, September 2012-present

Children Now, Communications Director, 2000-2004

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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.

Flavors Addict Kids-Livermore, Tri-Valley Haven, Global Taiwan Institute

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## CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I have a strong background in public policy and a long track record of advocating for children and families, including working on many projects with our School District and Board. Since 2018, I have successfully advocated for local policies throughout the Bay Area to combat the youth vaping epidemic and have been part of the team that took it all the way to passage as state law. In doing that work, I developed relevant knowledge of local government and contacts with local officials that make me uniquely ready among the new challengers to be effective from day one.

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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 co-founded Flavors Addict Kids-Livermore with two other moms to combat the youth vaping epidemic in our city. We have since spread our advocacy work throughout the Bay Area and were part of the force behind the passage of the new state law on flavored tobacco. In doing this work, I learned a lot about public health and in particular, health disparities and inequities based on race. This is an issue that I will definitely continue to pay attention to and advocate for.

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

11.14%

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

Filipino, Chinese, Asian Indian

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

I have to admit I don't have a lot of actual data on this, so I can only provide anecdotal evidence in my particular area of interest, which is education. In a reflection of the national data, more of our APA community consists of immigrants rather than native-born Americans. For this community, post-secondary education is even more critical, and the students work very hard. However, I am seeing that many of the Southeast Asian students either set their college goals lower than they can due to financial considerations or forego it altogether. I would love to find a way to mentor students like that to help them obtain scholarships and other financial help so they can attend the best schools they can gain acceptance to, rather than the ones they can afford.

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

1. Effect of shelter-in-place on small businesses: Many of our APAs are small business owners, whose businesses have been dramatically curtailed by the long period of shelter-in-place orders.
2. Education: We are the only District in the Tri-Valley that does not offer Chinese language classes or credit for our local Chinese language school, even though we have a growing population interested in taking Chinese. I have been trying to advocate for this in the past year and will continue to do so. Our community also is concerned about changes in the college admissions process due to Covid, SAT/ACT changes, affirmative action, etc. If I'm elected to School Board, I can play a unique role in helping the community navigate through these changes.
3. Racial tensions due to backlash against BLM movement and Covid-19

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?

My city currently has no civic leader of Asian descent, though there is one running for mayor now. It's important for those of us Asian Americans of visibility in our community, whether in an official capacity or not, to speak out for our community and to elevate our community's voices on attacks to our people. In my role as a community advocate, I have highlighted the special harms to people of color and the specific concerns of Asian Americans, such as my advocacy for Chinese language classes/credit. I will continue to bring attention to these issues.

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

We definitely need more APAs in local government, both to elevate the concerns of our community and as a pipeline to higher levels of elected office. There is a lot that elected officials can do to improve participation. They can recruit APAs to participate in civic groups and organizations and mentor them to be community leaders. Then they can encourage them to run for elected positions and mentor them through the grueling campaign process. As a first time candidate myself, I could not do this without the support and mentoring of many current elected officials. Looking behind them to pull up others is a critical role for all elected APA officials.

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.

I am fairly new to local politics, so I have not been in a position to endorse anyone. However, I am proud to have the endorsement of Dublin City Councilmember Shawn Kumagai and Pleasanton School Board Vice President Jamie Yee for my current campaign.

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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