OREB 2026 Endorsement Questions and Information

The first step to gaining endorsement from Our Revolution East Bay is completing the Endorsement Questions. Please answer **every** question; it is important to know your values. Most questions are Yes or No at the end of each section you may expand on any of your answers. Your explanation should be **CONCISE.** We may publish your answers to any question. **The purpose of the questionnaire is to ensure that endorsed candidates' values align with those of OREB. OREB continually monitors the actions of endorsed candidates regarding their questionnaire responses.**

If you have concerns or questions, please contact Carol Coyote and Michael Cheng.

Email *

thushan@thushanforalameda.com

Campaign Information

1. Name (as listed on the ballot): *

Thushan Amarasiriwardena

2. Preferred Pronouns: *

he/him

3. Position running for *

Alameda City Council

4. Email *

thushan@thushanforalameda.com

5. Phone number *

4132304773

6. Campaign website *

thushanforalameda.com

Core Values

1. Do you pledge to take no money from Super PACs? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. Have you or will you accept contributions from AIPAC? *

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

3. Have you or will you accept contributions from police unions?: *

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

4. Have you or will you accept contributions from landlord/real estate developers? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

5. Do you support the Fair Elections/Clean Money Proposition (SB42)? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

6. Do you support and will work for Universal Single payer Healthcare? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

7. Do you oppose genocide and military occupation? For example: Gaza? Venezuela? Ukraine? Cuba? Greenland? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

8. Do you support abolishing ICE? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

9. Do you support legislation to tax billionaires? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

10. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be brief)

Campaign finances and support (please be explicit)

1. Who contributed to your campaign? Other than individual donations, who have and who will you receive donations? List all groups, unions, businesses (especially those doing business with the entity in which you seek to hold office). *

At this point I have not taken any donations nor do have any commitments.

2. Which candidates will/have you endorse/d and/or contribute/d? *

Malia Vella (Alameda City Mayor - $250), Carrie Hanhel (Alameda Unified School District Board - $250), Tyler Savage (Alameda City Council - $250), Adriana Valencia (AC Transit Board - $100)

3. Please list persons and organizations who have endorsed you. *

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft – Mayor of Alameda
Michelle Pryor – Vice Mayor of Alameda
Malia Vella – Candidate for Mayor, two-time Vice Mayor
Ryan LaLonde – President of Alameda Unified School Board
Ron Mooney – President of Downtown Business Association
Doug Biggs – Former Executive Director, Alameda Point Collaborative
Alameda Firefighters Local 689
Alameda County Building Trades Council

4. Please list PACs, and independent expenditure committees supporting you. *

None that I'm aware of

5. List any/all industries, organizations and people that you will decline donations and endorsements from, * please be inclusive.

Fossil Fuels, Law Enforcement, Anti-tax groups

Crime and Law Enforcement

1. What do you think about the use of force by police? What and when is appropriate and what and when is not? *

- It should be the absolute last resort when clear, real and imminent physical harm to others can occur.
- Many of these problems that lead to an acute police/citizen force situation, are really results of long simmering structural issues. We should invest (and don't do enough) in social nets, education, housing, and job opportunities that set people off a positive and productive path in life
- Officers need deep and regular training on appropriate tactics and we should also push to de-escalation first and community policing models like more walking beats and making genuine connections with the community they serve

2. Do you support banning private prisons? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

3. Do you support installing surveillance cameras such as FLOCK, which stores individual information, at * public areas?

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

4. Do you oppose capital punishment? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

5. Should convicted felons and prison in-mates be granted the right to vote? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

6. Do you believe it is ever warranted to suspend due process? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

7. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise)

Human Rights, Immigration, and Civil Rights

1. Do you support DACA? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

2. Do you support closing immigration detention facilities? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

3. Do you support increased funding for immigration assistance? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

4. Should immigrants without felonies be given a path to citizenship? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

5. Do you support DEI? (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

6. Do you support reparations? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

7. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise)

Infrastructure Issues

1. Do you support public banking? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. Do you think public transit should be free? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

3. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise)

Public transit is already heavily subsidized and taking it the next notch could really change people's decision making, increasing usage and in turn structural investment in this core infrastructure. The Bay Area needs to unify the transit systems towards a seamless one, combining procurement, maintenance and management to get economies of scale.

Current Labor Issues

1. Do you support a California “living wage”? How? *

Yes. It's morally wrong that there are families working multiple jobs to make ends meet. Often corporations shift that burden on to our social nets so we just pay for it on the back end. We need to make sure everyone is paying their fair share.

2. List 3 ideas to reduce the price of shelter in your community? *

- Faster permitting and approvals
- Allowing for smaller units with shared facilities (like SROs)
- Ensure CEQA process does get used as a tool to prevent housing / larger scale housing

3. What do you propose to protect renters in your community? Please comment on laws/acts, such as Costa Hawkins and others, to be repealed, and added/legislated? *

I support Alameda's Rent Stabilization and Rent Board inside the City Attorney's office and think these are critical programs that we must maintain

4. Do you support the repeal of all laws that criminalize or punish homeless people? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

How do we provide/develop more affordable and low-cost housing? In your community and in California? *

Build significantly more at all levels. We have a supply problem. Market rate housing is one of our strongest and most viable paths to build affordable housing (Alameda for example has a 15% requirement).

Education (How do we provide affordable and quality education and childcare?)

1. Do you support charter schools? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. Should charter schools be at no cost and unionized? Please use examples in your community.

If they're taking public funds then yes to no cost, and if the teachers want to be unionized, they should have the right to organize. I do believe that there's lots of room for innovation in schooling and while I'm a proponent of Public Schools I also don't believe education is one-size-fits all and charter schools can provide a space to innovate / address specific issues in ways public schools typically can't/won't because of institutional inertia.

3. Do you support no cost public college and university? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

4. Do you support the cancellation of all student debt? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

5. Do you support free universal public pre-K? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

6. Do you support free universal childcare for children under 5? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

7. Do you support “strengthening” Title IX including trans rights? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

8. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise) *

I'm in favor of cancellation of student debt after a certain number of years of paying off / or after a certain amount of public service.

Environmental

1. How will you work to uphold environmental regulations in the face of the government's attempt to eradicate? Include and use example from your community. *

Federal environmental protections are being weakened so our local and state government must become the last line of defense. I'll support a local environmental review while aligning with Bay Conservation and Development Commission and our Air District without turning every local permit into a multi-year fight (particularly for housing). Protecting the environment and building homes aren't in conflict; Alameda needs both. We've seen CEQA used to stall important projects like our Food Bank, and I believe we need to strengthen the law so that it doesn't get used as a retaliatory tool beyond environmental concerns.

2. What do you think is the most critical environmental issue? In your community? *

Climate Change. Currently auto emissions generate the bulk of the (54%) of our city's greenhouse emissions. We need to encourage electrification, less car usage, and shorter travel distances for critical day to day errands by having mixed used developments weaved across town.

3. Do you support community and government oversight in the approval of and the construction of data centers for corporations? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Election

1. Do you support the Constitutional amendment to repeal Citizens United? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. Will you uphold the Voting Rights Act? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

3. Do you support universal mail-in ballots? (such as was used for Prop 50) *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

4. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise)

Money in politics is the most corrosive factor to our democracy. Citizens United unfairly allows the dollars of the few to out sway the voices of the many. This must be repealed ASAP

US Foreign Policy – National Issues Affect Local Positions

1. Do you support the international campaign of BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions)? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. What should the US policy be on Palestine/Israel? *

US policy should center around a two-state solution. Gaza and the West Bank must be led by a democratically elected Palestinian government, chosen through free and fair elections, moving toward real self-determination. We must also push for ending settlement expansion that has Swiss-cheesed the West Bank into disconnected pockets. The US should stop most arms sales to Israel (defensive missile interceptors to destroy incoming weapons seem ok), and commit to a massive, sustained investment in rebuilding Gaza and Palestinian lives from homes, hospitals, schools, water and power infrastructure. It must be more than just emergency aid.

Locally, I support any group that has shown ability to create real and sustained person-to-person connections to propose sister cities.

3. Do you agree with the current economic sanctions? *

Against Russia absolutely.

4. What are your views on the tariff policy?

I think its a tool that should be used to prevent other countries dumping cheap goods, often because of not following our goals here in America. We should use it as a tool to enforce our environmental, workers and safety regulations abroad. If you want to sell to Americans, it needs to be made aligned with our values.

Anything Else?

1. Thanks for your time and thoughtfulness. Is there anything else we should know? *

As a progressive, I want a government that works so well, you trust it to do more. If elected, I'll bring a curious, pragmatic, and data-informed voice to City Council. I'll focus on turning good ideas into visible results, keep you up to date on progress, and bring a neighborly friendliness into city politics.

I've walked every street of this Island with my daughters. Along the way I talked with hundreds of Alamedans. What I heard was pride. People love this Island, and they know exactly what they'd fix.

Longtime residents who want to stay but are worried about getting priced out. Vacant storefronts draining the life from our downtowns. Drivers speeding through neighborhoods. And climate change is hitting our infrastructure, like the lagoons in Bay Farm. These are solvable. I'm running to solve them.

This platform is based on talking to hundreds of Alamedans and the data to back it up.

AFFORDABILITY
Keep Alamedans in Alameda
Alameda is a stellar place to live. But the cost of staying here, from where to live, childcare, and food is squeezing too many Islanders out. In a recent city survey, 71% of Alamedans say the cost of housing and living is a serious issue. Housing costs are up 38% since 2020. Nearly half of renters are spending more than 30% of their income on rent. When we lose Alamedans because they can't afford to stay, and unravel the fabric of our island: the neighbors, teachers and small business owners that make this place special.
I'll work to protect Alamedans by building more housing and helping people already here. I support our rent stabilization program to keep renters at home. I want to meet Alameda's already approved housing goals (5,353 committed to build by 2031), proactively attract housing in our transit-rich commercial districts and Alameda Point and ensure we build more housing across all levels, including affordable and middle-income housing to rent and own. And when we build, I'll advocate for projects that weave into our town's historic charm so Alameda grows without losing what makes it home.

THRIVING DOWNTOWNS
Vibrant Storefronts
Our downtowns are a treasure. Small businesses build the Alameda we love. But if you walk Park, Webster, or Harbor Bay Landing you'll see empty storefronts, closed family favorites, and new businesses stuck waiting months or years to meet their first customer. I'll work to accelerate, streamline and bring clarity to the permitting process to open a business and maintain it. Every month a space sits waiting for paperwork is a month without revenue, lost jobs, and less life on our streets.
The city should be a source of help, not an impediment, for property owners trying to fill their space. But for storefronts left empty year after year, I'll investigate a commercial vacancy tax, with every dollar reinvested in our downtowns. The money from empty storefronts pays to spur filling them. Alameda needs to be the best place to build a small business.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY
Safest Streets in California
Everyone deserves to feel safe walking, biking and driving in their neighborhood. Fast and unsafe driving shatters that. Parents worry about their kids walking to school. Seniors say they've had too many close calls.
I'll strongly push for safer street design to walk, bike, and drive across our Island. I'll push us hard to achieve our goal of zero traffic deaths on our streets. Roundabouts, narrower streets where they're too wide, pedestrian daylighting, and protected bike lanes are the exact right moves we need to continue.
I'll make sure we have properly staffed public safety departments and a police department empowered to enforce our speed limits while making sure tools like automated licence plate readers solve crimes without crossing into mass-surveillance.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Invest in our future

Everything special about this Island is worth protecting. We're vulnerable to the challenges of climate change because we're surrounded by water. We need to shore up our aging seawalls and lagoons in Bay Farm, repave and redesign miles of poor roads to ease traffic and increase safety and our emergency and public safety infrastructure needs investment. I'm supporting the city infrastructure bond, Measure L, and want to be there to deliver it, to protect homes and our Island life. It is cheaper to invest today than to punt these problems to our children. The state's construction index shows costs have increased 46% since 2020. Why delay and risk paying more for less? When we do these projects, I'll make sure we do them on time, on budget, and with you as part of the design process.

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