

2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

We expect the responses to be based on each candidate's individual lived experience.

Email *

aarontiedemann@gmail.com

Basic Information

Endorsement Questionnaire



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 to review. Caucus members attending our Endorsement meeting on January 13 will be provided a ballot to vote. Only candidates who have submitted their completed questionnaire will be listed on the ballot. Questionnaires must be submitted by December 28 at 5 PM.

Personal Information

Candidate Name *

Aaron Tiedemann

City and zip code of residence. *

Albany, 94706

What is your campaign website address?

What is your campaign email address? *

aarontiedemann@gmail.com

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- Central Committee AD 14
- Central Committee AD 16
- Central Committee AD 18
- Central Committee AD 20
- Central Committee AD 24

Are you an incumbent? *

- Yes
- No

Are you a registered Democrat? *

Yes

No

Are you on a slate? If so, please identify. *

Democrats for Affordable Housing

Are you an APA Caucus member? *

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement? *

I am seeking the Caucus's endorsement to forward my and my slates efforts to bring smart, progressive decision makers to the County Democratic caucus.

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

Yes

No

Maybe

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

25 years

Please list what experiences most qualify you to serve on the Central Committee (e.g., education, work, volunteer, life experiences, political campaigns) *

Secretary of local Democratic Club for 4 years, City Councilmember for Albany since 2020, Goldman School of Public Policy, Masters of Public Policy 2022.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS - Central Committee

1. What percentage of the district in which you are running are of APA heritage? And what are top three Asian ethnic groups? *

around 20% of the district, with Chinese, Indian, and other Asian Americans making up the largest groups.

2. Asian Americans are the fastest growing population in Alameda County and are in the majority in three cities. While the majority are Democrats, a growing number are registering as No Party Preference. How can the Central Committee be more relevant to these communities? *

The Central Committee can take a variety of actions. First, the Committee has a duty to respond to Anti-Asian hate with timely and forceful resolutions rejecting discrimination and promoting public safety. The Committee can also work closely with the A/PA Caucus to ensure A/PA communities feel represented by their candidates and have their voices heard. We must also work to increase registration and turnout, as is part of the core mission of any Democratic body.

3. List three ways in which you could help the CC promote a greater awareness of issues of concern to the A/PA communities and support greater representation on elected bodies. *

Recruitment: we have successfully practiced this in Albany, where our Council was largely white before myself and another Councilmember worked to recruit and help elect two nonwhite candidates, including John Miki, to the council. While I myself may not be A/PA, I and others on the committee can ensure that members of the A/PA community are ready and able to get involved and even run for positions.

Collaborate with A/PA Caucus: your Caucus is obviously best suited to work with the A/PA community, and the Central Committee can work with you to tailor our resolutions and promote candidates that respond to the needs of the community and ensure interest in participating.

Focus on Issues that Matter: People engage when they have a real need and a real chance to directly affect things in their community. To engage A/PA communities, and any communities, our party needs to focus on the issues most important to the local community and those we have a real chance of creating change on.

4. Please name local Asian American candidates the Central Committee has endorsed in the past 10 years. *

I do not know them all but some are; Fiona Ma, Alex Lee, John Miki, Jenny Wong, Rigel Robinson, Mel Chiong, Sheng Thao, Jaime Yee, Alfred Twu, Rashi Kesarwani, Janani Ramachandran, and Nikki Fortunate-Bas

5. Proposing and adopting resolutions is one of the main functions of the CC. Some of the resolutions over the past several years impacted members of the APA communities. Please comment on what you think of those resolutions. *

* Incumbents - response is required.

The CC site currently does not have their resolutions accessible to the public, which makes it very difficult for not only candidates to check on what they have done but for anyone affected to get involved. Broadly, I know that the A/PA community has not always been consulted or worked with as directly as possible for resolutions that impact them.

6. Do you believe that the vetting process for Resolutions is adequate? Please explain your response. *

Largely yes, as it depends on the members of the committee to bring forward resolutions. The key factor is who sits on the Central Committee, given that the largest determinant of what goes forward is the judgement of those members. I am running for Central Committee because I believe I have the right judgement for that process and will ensure the right resolutions go forward.

7. How impactful have the past resolutions been on the quality of life for low-income Alameda County residents? *

Not terribly impactful. While resolutions are not binding, they are a part of the party platform, and it is important that they push the window of what is possible and hold elected officials and office seekers to account with those positions. That also means we have to focus them on the issues that are most important to members of the community, something that is sometimes lost currently. In my time on Council and working with my local Democratic club balancing the larger picture with what is possible and most important to our community has been a central focus of mine, and something I hope to bring to the Central Committee.

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

Please submit your responses by Dec. 28, 5 pm. Our Zoom Endorsement Meeting is scheduled for January 13 beginning at 10 am. Only those candidates completing the questionnaire will be on our endorsement ballot. No changes to your responses can be made after it is submitted.

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