

2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email *

andykelley@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 *

Andy Kelley

City and zip code of residence. *

Berkeley, 94702

What is your campaign website address?

not yet created

What is your campaign email address? *

andykelley@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? *

Staying connected with our local Democratic Clubs and the APA community is important to me. I've been honored to have the club's support in all my past central committee elections and to have worked closely alongside club members to support our shared Democratic Candidates and expand representation and access.

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? *

20 years

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

I currently serve as Recording Secretary of the Alameda County Democratic Party. I have served as member or alternate of the central committee since 2010. For the past 4 years I've served as a member of the California Democratic Party's Executive Board, am a past President and decade long officer of East Bay Young Democrats, and have co-chaired the Berkeley United Democratic Campaign for the past 10 years.

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? *

Over 20% of the district is APA, and about 30% in Albany at the Northernmost portion. Of that population 48% are Chinese, 16% Asian Indian, and 10% Korean.

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? *

Asian Americans are the largest demographic groups in Dublin, Pleasanton, and Fremont --- these are also some of the most purple areas in Alameda County. I long advocated for the Party to invest greater resources in voter registration and community outreach in these communities, but leadership has not always been receptive, or funds were not always available. Any successful outreach program in these regions must prioritize and be relevant to APA community and lead by culturally competent organizers engaged within the community. Historically each of our regions has been responsible for raising its own GOTV money. I'd like to see the party ask bluer parts of the county and regional stakeholders to help fund more targeted community engagement and outreach to grow our voter registration and representation within the APA community, especially prioritizing working with local APA elected Democrats.

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. *

Partnering with the APA Democratic Caucus on programming, inviting APA elected leaders to speak at our meetings on issues facing their communities, and planning specific outreach to APA communities on the work the party is doing to address their concerns in an intentional manner.

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

The list is longer than this but Betty Yee, Fong La, Mia Bonta, Rob Bonta, Lena Tam, Nikki Fortunato Bass, Dianne Martinez, Jenny Wong, Lance Kwon, James Chang, Ro Khanna, Mike Honda, Fiona Ma, Alex Lee, Aisha Wahab, Gary Lym, Malia Vela, Rashi Kersawani, Rigel Robinson, George Syrop, Sheng Thao, Janani Ramachandran, Jamie Yee, Xouhoa Bowen, Scott Sakakihara, Alfred Twu, Lance Nishihira,

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.

I think it is important for the party to stand by and follow its own rules as a democratic institution. That being said, there are times when the interests of the difference communities our party represents are at odds with one another. Often times it isn't matter of an entire community having different values, but of specific politicians having challenging positions that are in violation of the Democratic Party Platform. When these issues are seen as purely political, such as positions on library funding, it isn't as triggering or divisive as when issues of cultural or perceived cultural values gets involved. I do not think the limitations of Robert's Rules or the very rigid forum of ACDCC meetings is the best place to have these needed conversations, or that one or two examples casts aspersions on an entire community. I certainly think how several of these matters caused unnecessary division within the party and potentially damaged engagement with APA communities. I think the work needed, mentioned elsewhere, to invest in and engage meaningfully with our diverse communities isn't something that can happen in a single meeting or without a plan of action and I welcome and support that conversation. I've also been a strong supporter of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion trainings for party members and would like to see that work become centered in our ongoing practice.

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

Generally yes -- I think the Resolutions Committee process handles 95% of Resolutions wonderfully --- but I think when Resolutions are particularly controversial, on newer policy areas or areas of developing circumstance, or when they disproportionately impact members of a specific community (especially one that may not be represented on that sub committee).

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

I think resolutions in support of Affordable Housing, legislation to raise the minimum wage, support stronger workplace benefits and standards have been impactful --- but I think the impact comes from when the committee communicates our positions to elected Democrats and organizes support in the community, not simply in the passing of the position itself. A few years ago we passed a resolution to endorse local minimum wage raises across the county, we then worked with Dems on many of our local boards to introduce and pass this legislation or to place it on the ballot. The resolution was the beginning, but it was the organizing effort that was impactful.

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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