

2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email *

elizabethchols2020@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 *

Elizabeth Echols

City and zip code of residence. *

Berkeley 94708

What is your campaign website address?

www.climatelaborprogressives.org

What is your campaign email address? *

climatelaborprogressives@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. *

Climate Labor Progressives

Are you an APA Caucus member? *

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement? *

As a longtime member and supporter of the APA Dem Caucus, I would be honored to have your support. I am deeply committed to a Democratic Party that is welcoming, inclusive, and representative of our community. I want to partner with the APA Dem Caucus to achieve our shared goals and am proud to have a former APA Dem Caucus, Ces Rosales, serving as my alternate on the Central Committee.

I deeply appreciate your past support when I ran for the East Bay Regional Park District Board and for previous Central Committee races. I look forward to continuing to work with you going forward.

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? *

35+ years

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

Elizabeth serves as Vice President of the East Bay Regional Park District Board overseeing the largest regional park system in the country with over 125,000 acres of parkland. In this role, she has worked to preserve our natural environment for generations to come, expand equitable access to parks and recreational programs, combat climate change and reduce wildfire risk. Elizabeth previously served as Director of the state's Public Advocates Office under both Governor Newsom and Governor Brown advancing environmental policies to fight climate change and promote environmental justice. In the Obama Administration, Elizabeth served as Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration for the Pacific Region where she launched a new initiative to assist small businesses in gaining access to capital to green their businesses, and leverage opportunities in clean tech and energy efficiency. She also served as a member of the Obama Presidential Transition Team. Elizabeth is a longtime elected member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee. She received her BA in Economics and Political Science from Yale University and her JD from Stanford Law School.

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? *

Current voter file data for Assembly District (AD) 14 shows that approximately 12.5% of voters identify as AAPI and approximately 15.3% of households have at least one member who so identifies. Unfortunately, the AD 14 data file does not separate out the Alameda County portion of AD 14. However, looking at the cities included in the AD 14, AAPI voters make up 18.9% of Albany voters, 16.2% Piedmont, 9.5% Berkeley, 7.9% of Oakland City Council District 1 and 12.8% of Oakland City Council District 4. (Note: These council districts are only rough proxies for the portion of Oakland included in AD 14.) According to the 2020 Census, Chinese Americans, South Asian Americans, and Korean Americans make up the three largest AAPI 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? *

We need to engage with AAPI leaders, including the APA Dem Caucus to better understand the needs of the AAPI community and ensure that we are addressing these issues. We can also participate in more AAPI community and outreach events to highlight how the Democratic party is addressing these needs and to understand what we can do better.

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. *

- 1) Increased outreach and participation at AAPI community events to learn about issues of concern
- 2) Partner with the APA Dem Caucus to identify more AAPI candidates for mentorship and training
- 3) Build on implicit bias training and identify/address barriers to increased AAPI representation

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

CA State Attorney Rob Bonta, CA State Controller Betty Yee, CA State Treasurer Fiona Ma, Alameda County Assessor Phong La, Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao, AC Transit Boardmember Sarah Syed, Berkeley Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani, San Leandro Councilmember Xouhoa Bowen, Jamie Yee for Pleasanton City Council, Alfred Twu for AC Transit Board, Rent Board Commissioner James Chang, East Bay Regional Parks District Boardmembers Dionisio "Dee" Rosario and Olivia Sanwong (previously we also endorsed her for Zone 7 Board), Union City Councilmember Scott Sakakihara, Albany Councilmember John Miki, Berkeley Councilmember Rigel Robinson, Lance Nishihira for BART Board District 6

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 strongly supported the Stand Against Hate resolution which arose out of increased incidents of hate against the AAPI community. We also passed resolutions in support of immigrants and Alameda County's sanctuary policy which I strongly supported.

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

I believe that it is important to make sure that we fully understand both sides of the issue when a resolution is proposed, particularly if the resolution disproportionately impacts one community group. Often resolutions are brought up with an urgency that precludes sufficient consideration and understanding. Going forward we should put procedures in place to improve our vetting process in a way that is more inclusive, transparent, and efficient.

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

In order to make a difference in the lives of low-income Alameda County residents, our resolutions must be turned into action. We currently work with local and state officials to take action on the issues in our resolutions but more can be done to lift up issues important to low-income Alameda County residents.

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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