

2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email *

mbarnett2017@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 *

Michael Barnett

City and zip code of residence. *

Oakland 94618

What is your campaign website address?

<https://climatelaborprogressives.com/> (and <https://www.mbarnett2020.org/>)

What is your campaign email address? *

mbarnett2016@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? *

The support of the Caucus and the APA community are extremely important to me, in part because of my life experiences. I lived in Japan for three years as a child, and I have traveled in seven Asian countries, including extensively in China. Through these experiences, I have gained insight to related issues, and I support APA candidates. I am award-winning scientist and educator at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. As a member of the Executive Board of the California Democratic Party, I am serving on its Resolutions Committee and was previously on the Platform Committee, where I wrote the planks on Education and on Criminal Justice (the legislature has enacted many of these reforms). I was an Obama delegate to the Democratic National Convention. I have been a Democratic activist since the time when I worked with John Lewis on a project on voter suppression. Throughout my life, I have been a progressive activist for civil rights, peace, education, climate, criminal justice, and for labor. I (and my slate) have been endorsed by Betty Yee, Rob Bonta, Gabriel Quinto, Mike Chang, Dee Rosario, Nicky Gonzalez Yuen, Tony Thurmond, Eric Swalwell, and many others.

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? *

17 years

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

I am a PhD physicist and have founded two major national science education nonprofits, and led many other educational projects (as a volunteer). My work as a scientist allows me to bring an analytical view to many political and other issues. I have campaigned for Democratic candidates in many states. As a member of the Central Committee, I am Chair of its Resolutions Committee and have handled close to a hundred resolutions. I have been a member of the Executive Board of the CA Democratic Party for many years, and served on the CDP Platform and Resolutions committees. I was an Obama delegate to the Democratic National Convention. An important life experience is as a parent to three children and three grandkids and three foster grandkids; all of them are amazing,

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? *

34% Chinese, Indian, Filipino

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 improve our outreach to Asian Americans as individuals and as clubs and other organizations. Our committee has a number of Asian Americans, and we should continue and strengthen our efforts to put them in positions of influence on the committee. When there are openings for Members, Alternates and Associates on the committee, we should seek A/PA community members to serve in those positions.

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. Push the CC to put our A/PA members in positions of power and influence. 2. Reach out to A/PA organizations for increased input into our activities. 3. When there are openings for Members, Alternates and Associates on the committee, seek A/PA people to serve in those positions.

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

Sheng Thao, Jean Quan, Rob Bonta, Betty Yee, Dee Rosario, Ro Khanna, Phong La, Nikki Fortunato-Bas, Lena Tam, Alex Lee, Fiona Ma, Jenny Wong, Raj Salwan, Janani Ramachandran,

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.

As a co-chair of the Resolutions Committee, we have passed all resolutions brought to us that impacted the APA communities in a favorable way. We would not pass and have not passed any resolution that had a negative impact on the APA communities.

In 2016, I authored a resolution, which in part said:

"Whereas the Democratic Party remains a refuge of community for the oppressed, the poor, immigrants, the homeless, seniors, people with disabilities, victims of war and violence, veterans, women, Labor, working people, LGBTQ, Latinos, African Americans, API Americans, people of all religions and creeds, and many other minorities, and...

"Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party will continue to zealously pursue its essential American values of compassion for everyone and will continue to aggressively take action to seek a better country for all of our peoples,..."

I worked with Austin Tam with resolutions asking for clemency in support of predominantly AAPI inmates. The committee adopted the resolution authored by Alfred Twu about AC transit redistricting, which includes representation.

After consultation with the chair of the CADEM AAPI caucus, the committee defeated a resolution on a ban on marriage between first cousins resolution.

I worked with Austin Tam on his resolution denouncing AAPI hate in 2021.

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

Resolutions are submitted to the Resolutions Committee by a member of the Central Committee or by any Democrat living in Alameda County. We tend to have 3-7 resolutions per month (which is as much as we can handle). The co-chairs receive them and help the submitter with the proper format and any improvements in the clarity of the resolution. Before the Central Committee meeting, the Resolutions Committee (about 12 people) meets and discusses each resolution with input from the author(s). We also allow any Democrat from Alameda County to speak (and sometimes others). We then vote and send our recommendation to the Central Committee. The Central Committee debates and then votes on each resolution. This process seems to work well in most cases, but we are always seeking means to improve the vetting process.

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

Passed resolutions are sent to city councils, the county Board of Supervisors, the state legislature, the governor, and depending on the content to others. Certainly, many resolutions address the quality of life for low-income residents, and the impact depends on the nature of the resolution. The Democratic Party in Alameda County is highly respected, so there is much impact when we send a resolution.

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.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms