

# 2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email \*

terryataplin@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 \*

Terry Taplin

City and zip code of residence. \*

Berkeley 94710

What is your campaign website address?

N/A

What is your campaign email address? \*

Terryataplin@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? \*

Alameda County's APA community is vital, has made important contributions to the Democratic Party, and has a long history of local political leadership. I have always valued the close inter-cultural relationship and allyship with APA communities that I have been fortunate to experience growing up in Berkeley. Carrying the endorsement of the APA Caucus would affirm my commitment to working with and elevating the voices of Alameda County's diverse APA community.

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? \*

My whole life, 35 years.

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

The following qualifies me to serve on the Central Committee: my service on the Berkeley City Council including the Public Safety and Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment, and Sustainability policy committees and 2x2 Joint Task Force with the BUSD School Board; my volunteer service on the boards of Waterside Workshops, the Berkeley Public Schools Fund, and the Berkeley Film Foundation; my work as a caretaker for my mother who is disabled and lives with MS and Diabetes; my BA in Classical Languages: Greek and Latin and my MFA in Creative Writing: Poetry from Saint Mary's College of California; my years of volunteer service as poetry slam coach in the youth, college, and adult national tournament circuits.

## 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? \*

Berkeley which makes up the majority AD14 in Alameda County is 20.9% and Oakland is 15.8% albeit comprising a much smaller portion of AD14. The three largest APA demographics are Chinese, Indian, and Other Asian.

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 relevance and success of the Democratic Party rests in its ability to engage and communicate with constituent communities. This is accomplished by meeting people in the spaces they naturally congregate and by foregrounding issues and priorities that are meaningful to the community in a culturally sensitive manner. Rather than virtue-signaling, parroting slogans, or attempting to dictate what communities care about, the Party must maintain an open and responsive stance that allows the Party to be informed by communities what their needs, concerns, and priorities are to determine how to be of service in the most effective and impactful way.

In Alameda County, our diversity truly is our strength. Only by forming partnerships and empowering the voices and agency of each of our communities can we harness the power of that strength.

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. \*

Producing multilingual materials and creating multilingual feedback channels across all platform; partnering with APA leaders and organizations to facilitate dialogue (and other programming) around local issues and impacts of local policy; actively support and elevate local APA leaders to run as candidates and serve on boards and appointed bodies.

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

A.C. Transit Director – At-Large, Alfred Twu; A.C. Transit Director – At-Large, Alfred Twu; Berkeley Councilmember – Dist. 1, Hon. Rashi Kesarwani; Dist. 7, Hon. Rigel Robinson; Hayward Councilmember – Julie Roche, George Syrop; Livermore Councilmember – Mel Chiong; New Haven USD Director – Area 4, Shruti Kumar; Oakland Mayor – Hon. Sheng Thao; Oakland Mayor – Hon. Sheng Thao; Pleasanton Councilmember – Jamie Yee

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.

There are some resolutions such as those condemning hate that provide a positive outlet for the re-affirmation of the Party's guiding ethics and the values of our local community. These tend to reflect consensus around a core principle or aspiration towards a collective goal. Resolutions in this spirit have the potential to activate or inspire positive engagement and community service in the spirit of our Democratic ideals. However, there are also resolutions that have an inverse impact, that do not inspire or activate positive engagement but rather foment social division and ideological schism, or that only seem to serve to advance an agenda or serve an ego. Resolutions such as these fail to fulfill either the Committee's or the Party's purpose. The intent behind resolutions should always be to appeal to the highest ideals of our community and democracy, and resolutions impacting constituent communities should be drafted in correspondence and collaboration with the impacted community.

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

No, I do not believe every resolution has received adequate vetting. I have seen 11th hour amendments rammed through the floor. I have seen recommendations of the Resolution's Committee completely reversed with voting members having hours' notice. The Committee is all volunteers, I am committed to working with committee leadership to ensure the resources to keep workloads manageable. I will also work to foster an environment that encourages inquiry.

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

Resolutions by nature are symbolic rather than material. The Central Committee's resolutions have not tangibly improved the quality of life for low-income Alameda County residents. Not in and of themselves, at least. Insofar as a resolution affirming the Party's commitment to combat gun violence in the community might inspire the various members to engage in said work, then there is potential for them to be indirectly impactful. A resolution of this sort requires authors and members whose sole focus were on the improvement of quality of life for low-income Alameda County residents--a principle around which I have formed my slate.

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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