

# 2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email \*

adrien.abuyen@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 \*

Adrien Abuyen

City and zip code of residence. \*

Oakland, 94605

What is your campaign website address?

My website is in development.

What is your campaign email address? \*

adrien.abuyen@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. \*

Yes. Unified Voices for Democracy.

Are you an APA Caucus member? \*

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement? \*

Receiving the APADC endorsement would be an honor, serving as both a vote of confidence in my commitment to effecting positive and impactful progress through my service on the Central Committee and in my dedication to fostering robust participation within the Asian Pacific American community in the civic and political process. I seek not only your approval as a signatory but also your active involvement.

Your endorsement signifies confidence in my experience and ability to advocate for the APA community and it represents a commitment to remaining engaged in my ongoing development as a community servant-leader. Additionally, it reflects a shared dedication to fighting against hate and divisiveness, working collaboratively towards inclusivity and unity. The role of the APA community is vital in our pursuit of democracy and equitable representation on issues that impact our everyday lives.

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 entire life.

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

I am proud to be a first-generation Filipino and Mexican college graduate from UC Berkeley and an alumnus of the Peralta Community College District (PCCD). Inspired by my family's roots in the United Farm Workers movement, I embody the values of integrity, dignity, innovation, and a resolute "si se puede" attitude.

During my time at UC Berkeley, gained training in human-centered design and social entrepreneurship as a RepresentEd Leadership fellow and contributed to the reestablishment of the CalACLU as their Vice President, helping to develop its community organizing and advocacy ability during a period when DACA was under attack. I ultimately graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies and utilize these cumulative skills and my lived experience to focus people and the community at the center of all of my work, strongly believing in the life-changing power of education. As a former Student Trustee of PCCD, I advocated for equity, access, and inclusion by organizing and facilitating collaboration among student leaders, faculty, and top-level administrators. Our efforts focused on matters that improved student success, including improved access to public transportation, reliable internet connection, real student representation in participatory governance, state-level representation at the California Community College level, and addressing food insecurity with a partnership with the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

In 2018, I served as a Legislative Intern in Washington, D.C. for Senator Dianne Feinstein, managing a legislative portfolio focused on matters of education and healthcare. Upon returning to California, I gained experience in public affairs, specifically in the areas of outreach and strategic partnerships, government relations, and supplier diversity. My mission was to help organizations navigate the political landscape of local, regional, and state government. Subsequently, I had the privilege of serving as the Director of Operations for SOS Meals on Wheels, the largest senior meal provider in the East Bay. Our mission was to ensure that homebound seniors in our community receive the sustenance and social support they need to live with dignified independence for as long as safely possible. To my core, I believe in bringing about positive and healing change in every role I occupy, cultivating multi-generational relationships that result in lasting community impact.

In the realm of political campaigns, I honed my skills in grassroots organizing during my time as a community college student as mentioned above. Since then, I have dedicated my efforts to volunteering for numerous Democratic candidates, consistently contributing to the democratic process. Notably, I assumed a leadership role in a mayoral campaign in the City of Oakland in 2022. This experience has provided me with an in-depth understanding of community-centric issues and equipped me with a versatile skill set to effectively mobilize individuals around candidates and challenges that profoundly resonate with them. My commitment to fostering genuine connections and addressing the concerns that matter most to communities fuels my ongoing involvement in political activism.

Presently, I serve as the Director of Public Affairs for the Kos Read Group, collaborating with civic-minded organizations to achieve results that matter and are meaningful to the community. My civic service extends to roles on the boards of SOS Meals on Wheels, RepresentEd Leadership, First Covenant Church of Oakland, as well as being an appointed delegate to the California Democratic Party for Congressman Barbara Lee.

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? \*

21.5% of AD 18 is of APA heritage. The top three Asian ethnic groups in AD 18 are Chinese at 8.4%, East Indian at 5.2%, and Filipino at 4.0%.

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? \*

To enhance its relevance to the burgeoning No Party Preference (NPP) communities, the Central Committee (CC) can forge alliances with Asian Pacific American (APA)-focused organizations, such as the APA Democratic Caucus of Alameda County or Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education. Collaborating with organizations like these, well-versed in the nuanced experiences of the diverse and growing APA population in Alameda County, will enable improved integration of APA priorities into the Central Committee's mission and agenda.

To deepen engagement with the APA demographic and engage the population of NPP communities, the CC can increase its efforts in promoting culturally-informed civic education and increasing voter participation. By addressing issues directly impacting their daily lives, like combatting AAPI hate, the Central Committee not only empowers the APA community but also establishes a meaningful connection with its initiatives centered on engaging the community at its core.

Furthermore, strategic partnerships with APA-focused groups are pivotal for gaining insights rooted in lived experiences. Actively seeking input and perspectives from these organizations ensures a comprehensive understanding of the unique needs and priorities of the APA NPP community. This collaborative approach guarantees that CC outreach efforts are informed, effective, and genuinely aligned and inclusive of the interests of the growing population of APA individuals identifying as No Party Preference. In doing so, the CC positions itself as a dynamic and responsive entity, bridging the gap between the political landscape and the diverse communities it seeks to serve.

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) Culturally informed and relevant voter/worker civic education and empowerment which aligns with the Central Committee's charge to coordinate a voter registration and get-out-the-vote program as described in article IV of the Central Committee bylaws. 2) Establish working partnerships with APA-focused organizations that are serving the community and informed by lived experiences to improve representation and inclusivity of the APA community and their issues of concern. 3) Support the development of leaders that focuses on increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion of the Central Committee.

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

Attorney General Rob Bonta, State Controller (ret.) Betty Yee, US Rep. Ro Khanna, Oakland Mayor (ret.) Jean Quan, Alameda City Councilmember Malia Vella, State Senate Dist. 10 – Hon. Aisha Wahab State Assembly Dist. 24 – Hon. Alex Lee Alameda USD Director – Hon. Gary Lym Albany USD Director – Sadia Khan Berkeley Auditor – Hon. Jenny Wong Berkeley Councilmember – Dist. 1, Hon. Rashi Kesarwani; Dist. 7, Hon. Rigel Robinson Dublin Councilmember – Kashef Qaadri Livermore Councilmember – Dist. 2, Mel Chiong New Haven USD Director – Area 4, Shruti Kumar Oakland Mayor – Hon. Sheng Thao Oakland Councilmember – Dist. 2, Hon. Nikki Fortunato Bas; Dist. 4, Janani Ramachandran, Pleasanton Councilmember – Dist. 3, Jamie Yee Union City Councilmember – Dist. 4, Scott Sakakihara A.C. Transit Director – At-Large, Alfred Twu BART Director – Dist. 6, 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.

Although I am not an incumbent and the availability of past resolutions is limited, resolutions passed by the Central Committee should include a comprehensive and inclusive view of the experience and challenges faced by our entire community which should include our APA communities. To bring about meaningful change, it is imperative that we approach any resolution with a multifaceted approach that involves a genuine willingness to be intimately educated about the journeys and stories of our community members.

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

No. The vetting process for resolutions can be improved by including more comprehensive input and perspective of other active democratic groups and impacted populations into the resolutions vetting process to increase even relevancy/impact, inclusivity, support, and efficacy for our increasingly diverse community.

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

Assessing the comprehensive impact of past resolutions on the quality of life for low-income Alameda County residents is currently challenging due to limited accessible information. However, the effectiveness of resolutions is contingent upon their ability to catalyze actionable change through collaboration with influential entities and decision-makers. Without a robust mechanism to encourage such collaboration and allocate resources toward resolution-based goals, their intended impact on the well-being of low-income populations in Alameda County and beyond may not be realized.

Moreover, it is imperative to underscore the importance of incorporating the perspective and experiences of the community during the resolution design and vetting process. By doing so, resolutions can be tailored to address the specific needs and challenges faced by low-income residents, enhancing the likelihood of meaningful and measurable impact.

Emphasizing community involvement in the resolution formulation ensures a more nuanced understanding of the issues at hand and promotes a collaborative approach to achieving positive outcomes for those directly affected.

In summary, while the current evaluation of past resolutions' impact is constrained by limited information, the potential for meaningful change lies in strengthening the mechanisms that facilitate collaboration, resource allocation, and, most importantly, community participation in the resolution-making process.

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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