

2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email *

alfleisher@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 *

Arielle Fleisher

City and zip code of residence. *

Oakland, 94610

What is your campaign website address?

N/A

What is your campaign email address? *

afleisher@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. *

Empower Oakland Slate

Are you an APA Caucus member? *

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement? *

I would be honored to receive the APA Caucus' endorsement. The AAPI is a key constituency of the Democratic Central Committee. As a mother and transportation advocate, I am committed to safer, stronger Oakland. The rise in AAPI hate crimes and traffic injuries and fatalities is unacceptable. Throughout my career, I've worked tirelessly to make our streets safer for everyone, particularly pedestrians and bicyclists, who are disproportionately impacted by traffic fatalities, including AAPI community members. We need leaders who are committed to furthering the safety of the AAPI community, to celebrating Oakland's diversity - its greatest strengths - and ensuring the AAPI community has a powerful voice in the Democratic Party. As a mom, advocate, and AAPI ally I see myself not just as a candidate, but a force for positive change. I am committed to helping build a safer, more just, and inclusive Alameda County. I humbly ask for your endorsement to amplify the voices of our communities and build a brighter future for generations to come.

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? *

9 years

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

My policy expertise, honed through my extensive experience in local government and good government advocacy, provides me with the skills, background and understanding to successfully serve on the Central Committee.

Relevant experience includes:

- * Liaison to the SF Board of Supervisors, SFDPH - 1 year: Developed strong relationships with the BOS, stood up vaccine clinics and developed SF's vaccine strategy focused on ensuring access for equity priority communities.
- * Transportation Policy Associate, Senior Associate and Director, SPUR - 4 years: Focused on developing a high quality transportation system in the Bay Area and improving government practices through collaboration and accountability.
- * Planning Analyst, SFMTA - 2 Years: Focused on Vision Zero and developing programs and policies that encourage biking and walking.

Educational background:

- * Master Public Health, University of Michigan
- * Master Urban Planning, University of Michigan
- * BA, History, UC Davis

Community Organizations and non-profits:

- * Women in Transportation, Co-Chair, Mentorship Program
- * Transport Oakland, Policy Chair
- * Bay Area Council, Transportation Committee Co-Chair
- * Pandemic Moms Club / Founder (April 2020 – present)
- * Oakland Fund for Public Innovation, Hiring Manager

1. What percentage of the district in which you are running are of APA heritage? And what are top three Asian ethnic groups? *

21% of Assembly District 18 has Asian Heritage according to the 2020 census. The top three Asian groups are Chinese, Filipino, and Vietnamese

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? *

Invisible and ineffective: That's how the Alameda County DCC appears to the AAPI community and many others. This vital party body, tasked with shaping policy and amplifying voices, has fallen short of its potential. Too many Democrats are unaware of its purpose, scope and remit. The DCC needs to be better for the AAPI Community and all the other communities that have been sidelined.

Focused and intentional changes can spearhead a more relevant and collaborative DCC. Suggestions include -

- * Elect board members with deep experience in government and policy, and a track record of delivering policy wins for underserved communities.
- * Establish regular community forums in diverse neighborhoods, utilizing culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach and materials.
- * Develop actionable policy proposals that improve the lives of Alameda County residents, and particularly the specific concerns of AAPI residents and all marginalized groups.

The DCC can and must be transformed into a powerful force for good.

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 - Listening, learning and humility - If elected, I would make listening and learning about AAPI community needs, wants and expectations central DCC's efforts. I would bring humility to the role - it is incumbent on me to listen and learn and to work collaboratively to translate my understanding into action.

2- Deep policy and government experience - I know how government works and how to foster a transparent, relevant and accountable policy process. I would use these skills to support policies and candidates relevant to the AAPI community.

3 - Representation - Ensuring that the AAPI community is successfully integrated in the DCC and given opportunities to volunteer, intern and support its efforts.

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

Endorsed in the Nov 2022 Election: 1. Ro Khana, US Congress 2. Fiona Ma, USTreasurer 3. Rob Bonta, Atty General 4. Alex Lee State Senate 5. Rashi Kesarwani, Berkeley City Council 6. Sheng Thao, Oakland, Mayor 7. Nikki Fortunato Bas, Oakland City Council 8. Janani Ramachandran, Oakland City Council 9. Lance Nishihira, BART Board 10. Jaime Yee, Pleasanton City Council.

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.

The DCC can and must do better. Its resolutions have been largely performative- platitudes that won't actually spur real change for Alameda County residents. And Alameda County residents deserve change - they deserve a safer and stronger Oakland grounded. I want to see Oakland get back on track and on a positive trajectory. Sound resolutions that are truly grounded in the improving the lives of Alameda County residents are integral to achieving that outcome - and that starts with staying close to, and elevating the needs of, the County's diverse communities and representative organizations like the APA Democratic Caucus.

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

No. The current process (1 week) does not allow for enough time for dialogue, review and analysis. It's imperative to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the resolution, and their potential implications for communities such as AAPI communities - that takes time. It requires consulting with experts, reading the research, talking to community and ensuring enough time for adequate public comment. The current process is inadequate and key changes need to be made.

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

I want to see Oakland get back on track and on a positive trajectory. Past resolutions have been too focused on politics and not on actually improving the lives of Alameda County residents. We have to get back to the process of using our political system to improve outcomes for Oakland's strong and diverse communities - not further political aims.

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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