

# 2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email \*

pamelaferanesq@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 \*

Pamela Ferran

City and zip code of residence. \*

Oakland 94605

What is your campaign website address?

[www.empoweroak.com/acdem18slate](http://www.empoweroak.com/acdem18slate) (coming soon)

What is your campaign email address? \*

[pamelaferanesq@gmail.com](mailto:pamelaferanesq@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? \*

Thank you for this opportunity to apply for the APA Democratic Caucus of Alameda County endorsement. I am seeking your endorsement because I believe that we are strongest as a party when we consider all of the needs of our diverse community including the APA community. I would be available to hear the concerns of your caucus members and work in partnership to solve some of your members biggest issues such as anti-Asian hate and discrimination. Asian Americans make up a significant percentage of Democratic Party's voters in Alameda County including three cities in Alameda County are now majority API. Asian Americans are the fastest-growing race or ethnicity group in California over the last decade and I am dedicated to ensuring that your issues are reflected in the Alameda County Democratic party's positions and activities.

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? \*

I have lived 17 years in Assembly District 18.

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

I am qualified to serve on the Central Committee because I am a lifelong registered Democrat and I live in Assembly District 18. I understand the needs and challenges of working families as a mother of three young daughters residing in East Oakland. My education has centered around politics, government, and law. I graduated from Howard University with a BA in Political Science, and I am a licensed California attorney. I worked and volunteered on several campaigns, all of the candidates were Democrats. I gained valuable policy experience as a City of Oakland employee for four years serving as Policy Director and Chief of Staff to former Councilmember Loren Taylor. As Council staff, I tracked all legislation in the City of Oakland. I researched and drafted legislation including ordinances, resolutions, and commendations. I have volunteered with civil and voting rights organizations that work to increase voter education and participation like the NAACP. I would be honored to serve on the Central Committee and would encourage more residents to be involved and contribute to the Democratic Party.

## 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? \*

Based on the 2020 census 21% of Assembly District 18 is of APA heritage. The top three Asian ethnic groups in the Assembly District 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? \*

While many residents in Alameda County believe in the principles of the Democratic Party it is unfortunate that some are choosing to register as No Party Preference. The Central Committee should proactively work with the APA Democratic Caucus and other APA led organizations to learn why these residents are registering increasingly as No Party Preference and discuss solutions. The Central Committee should better communicate the reasons why it is important to register as a Democrat by promoting the issues and policies that the Democratic party represents. The Central Committee should work on issues that are important to these communities in order to show that they are being heard and supported. The Central Committee should focus more on the issues that are important locally and concern the day to day lives of residents. The Central Committee should also create a welcoming environment for people who want to participate in meetings. People may leave the party if they do not feel like they will be treated with respect when they are expressing their opinion on issues concerning their community.

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. \*

As the fastest growing population in Alameda County the central committee should prioritize promoting issues that are important to APA communities. Three ways to promote greater awareness of issues of concern to APA communities are 1) engage with organizations like the APA Democratic caucus and others to identify issues, 2) participate in local events to directly engage with residents and conduct opinion polls, and 3) support policies and resolutions that address issues of concern to APA communities, it is essential in our county to support diverse representation on our elected bodies. Diverse leadership leads to better policies that support our residents. Internship and mentorship programs provide an opportunity to provide pathways to elected leadership positions. Finally, the central committee should promote voter education and registration in APA communities to increase voter engagement.

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

The Central Committee endorsed the following candidates in 2022, Ro Khana, US Congress, Fiona Ma, US Treasurer, Rob Bonta, Atty General, Alex Lee State Senate, Rashi Kesarwani, Berkeley City Council, Sheng Thao, Oakland, Mayor, Nikki Fortunato Bas, Oakland City Council, Janani Ramachandran, Oakland City Council, Lance Nishihira, BART Board, 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.

I am not an incumbent. Please see my answers to questions 6 and 7.

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

In my position as Oakland City Council staff, I reviewed and drafted many resolutions therefore I understand their complexity and the need for proper evaluation. I do not believe that the vetting process for resolutions is adequate. Currently, resolutions can be considered a week after presentation. A week is not enough time to properly consider a resolution. Members should have adequate time to research and receive feedback before voting on a resolution. There should be sufficient time for the public to weigh in. There also should be enough notification time for members to come to the meeting and participate and ask questions. If the proper vetting is not done, members of the committee and the public may lose trust in the process. If they lose trust in the process they may no longer want to participate.

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

As many Alameda County residents continue struggle to purchase essentials such as food and gas, it is important that the Central Committee focus on issues and policies that affect our most vulnerable residents. The past resolutions have not been impactful on the quality of life for low-income residents. Too often the Central Committee has focused on political statements that do not concern the difficult issues faced by our communities such access to affordable health care, environmental justice issues, and housing affordability. As a member of the Central Committee I would focus on the issues and policies that improve the lives of our 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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