

2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email *

rowena@rowenaforoakland.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 *

Rowena Brown

City and zip code of residence. *

Oakland 94607

What is your campaign website address?

N/A

What is your campaign email address? *

rowena@rowenaforoakland.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. *

Unified Voices for Democracy

Are you an APA Caucus member? *

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement? *

I am seeking the endorsement of the Asian Pacific American Dem Caucus because this is an organization that I highly respect, and value their experience and expertise in the community. I was born and raised in the East Bay, a community known for its diversity. As a result, I have always felt a connection to the various cultures within the API community. My first trip out of the country was a trip to the Philippines and I would later complete my study abroad in Beijing and Shanghai learning the language and culture of a dynamic society. Upon coming home and completing both my undergraduate and legal education - I have committed myself to working on behalf of all communities here in the City of Oakland and the 18th District - as Campaign Manager and later District Director for State Assemblymember Mia Bonta.

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? *

2009

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

As a Black, Queer woman who lost both of my parents by the age of 17 - I understand the importance of advocacy and representation. I have worked very hard to complete my education at Mills College, majoring in Political Science and a concentration in comparative government. Before seeking my legal education, I worked in management where I traveled across the United States training in leadership development. I worked for the City of Oakland, at a time that demanded courage - in the face of uncertainty, during the COVID-19 pandemic. I assisted city departments to migrate to online platforms and led my office communications to ensure valuable communications and resources made it to East Oakland residents. I believe that my purpose is to serve, to be in service to others - that includes providing educational support, supportive services, and on-the-ground resources. Upon completing my legal education, this year, I stepped into the role of District Director for State Assemblymember Mia Bonta and immediately worked on my first piece of legislation AB1520, a bill to help advance civic education in schools. At the same time, I volunteer to support candidates who run for local and state offices in California as a Board member for the East Bay Young Democrats and a Board member for Black Women Organized for Political Action. This is only the beginning of the work I am prepared to accomplish both in the role serving on the Central Committee and beyond.

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? *

All of Alameda County

Chinese 9.9%

East Indian 5.2%

Filipino 4.8%

AD18:

#1 Chinese 8.4%

#2 East Indian 5.2%

#3 Filipino 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? *

Civic engagement is very important to me, as a previous middle school civics instructor - understanding how our democracy works is essential to the role of the Central Committee and of uppermost importance. So for the Central Committee to be more relevant - cultural competence and inclusivity would be key. This involves understanding and respecting the diverse cultures within the Asian American community. It would require hosting community engagement events to better understand the concerns and priorities of the Asian American community. This would also include language accessibility and translations of important documents, outreach in various languages, and multilingual staff or volunteers to connect. In my current role as District Director for State Assemblymember Mia Bonta, I have worked to ensure all voices in the 18th District are heard and prioritized.

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. *

Host regular listening sessions where members of the Central Committee can hear directly from the community about their needs, concerns, and suggestions. Actively incorporate this feedback into decision-making processes. By implementing these strategies, the Central Committee can become more relevant and responsive to the needs of the growing Asian American population in Alameda County, fostering a stronger connection and engagement with these communities. This would also include ensuring diverse representation within the Central Committee which will help build trust and demonstrate commitment to inclusivity. Forge partnerships with existing Asian American community organizations. These groups often have established trust and connections within the community, making reaching and engaging with residents easier.

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

AG Rob Bonta *also includes as State Assemblymember, Mayor Sheng Thao *also includes when councilmember, former Mayor Jean Quan, City of Alameda councilmember Malia Vella and councilmember Nikki Bas

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 of the Central Committee but as someone who has worked in the 18th District for a couple of years, I recognize the importance and the impact of some of these resolutions. I believe these resolution are representative of our values. And, when resolutions are passed that do not center all members of diverse communities - it causes division and mistrust. In the 18th District, we have many diverse communities and all should be seen, heard, and valued.

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

I am not an incumbent and believe that the vetting process for Resolutions should be updated to ensure they are not harming the community and spreading misinformation. On note: many of the policies and procedures of the Central Committee need to be updated.

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

I believe that there have been many factors impacting low-income communities both before and post-pandemic here in the 18th District - housing affordability, mental health supportive services, lack of food security, unsafe public transportation, and lack of support in our local business community. The resolutions passed by the central committee should be vetted and in alignment with our local government and state legislatures.

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