

# 2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email \*

stewart.chen@yahoo.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 \*

Stewart Chen

City and zip code of residence. \*

Alameda 94501

What is your campaign website address?

None

What is your campaign email address? \*

stewart.chen@yahoo.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. \*

not at the moment

Are you an APA Caucus member? \*

Yes

No

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

I strongly advocate for the inclusion of all democratic voices. Historically, API voices have been underrepresented within the Central Committee. Drawing from my extensive experience, I aim to contribute significantly to the Committee. As a leader within Chinatown, I carry the voices that have been neglected and overlooked for several years. The Central Committee holds a crucial role in our county's democratic system, and it's imperative to ensure its membership reflects the genuine diversity of our county.

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? \*

Since 1989

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

For the last 25 years, I've dedicated myself to public service, contributing to city and county commissions, and holding elected positions such as the Alameda City Council and the City of Alameda Health Care District. I've actively engaged in various political events, supporting fundraising initiatives, and campaigning for multiple members of the APA Democratic Caucus. Recently, I was reelected to the Oakland Chinatown Improvement Council, where my focus is on revitalizing our business district and ensuring the safety of our residents and visitors.

## 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? \*

Among the population, one-third belongs to the APA heritage, with the three largest groups comprising Chinese, Filipino, and Vietnamese communities.

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? \*

I see those without a party preference as individuals potentially open to exploring various affiliations, and we should proactively engage with this community, encouraging their participation in our events. Many, if not most, are unfamiliar with the Democratic Party, so reaching out requires extra effort. The majority of APAs in our county are foreign-born and may not grasp the intricacies of the party system, necessitating a more thorough approach in educating and involving them.

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. \*

One of the essential roles of the Central Committee is to endorse and support candidates seeking office. As a member, I am committed to advocating vigorously for increased APA representation in public office by endorsing qualified APA candidates. Additionally, in addressing issues affecting APA communities, I aim to place relevant items on the agenda, shedding light on concerns vital to our communities. Moreover, leveraging my position within the Central Committee, I intend to actively support APA candidates by providing personal assistance in their campaigns.

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

Rob Bonta and 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.

The resolution directed at the Mayor of Fremont remains fresh in our minds, and it was an unwarranted action that left a negative impression.

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

Absolutely not. I firmly believe in a system that permits members to express their opinions freely and without facing repercussions.

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

This is a topic that I personally lack knowledge or awareness about.

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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