

# 2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email \*

ioanaq@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 \*

Yoana Tchoukleva

City and zip code of residence. \*

Oakland 94608

What is your campaign website address?

<https://peoplepoweredprogressives.com/index.php/ad-18/>

What is your campaign email address? \*

ioanaq@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. \*

People Powered Progressives

Are you an APA Caucus member? \*

Yes

No

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

I am seeking the APA Caucus endorsement because I want to listen to the needs of the AAPI community and, if elected, I want my policies and practices to be representative of all the communities that live in AD18, including the API community.

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? \*

12 years

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

I am an attorney, restorative justice circle keeper, and organizer dedicated to realizing a community-led vision for justice, safety and wellbeing for all. As an immigrant from Bulgaria, who fled my country to escape domestic violence at home, I was initially grateful to have found safety in the U.S. but soon saw how access to safety is conditioned upon the color of one's skin. As a white immigrant, I received unearned advantages that my friends who came from Ghana, Peru or Thailand did not experience. I became an attorney to change that – to help end laws that had disparate impacts on communities of color and to pass laws that could heal the harm of the past.

After graduating from Berkeley Law, I worked at the ACLU as a civil rights fellow seeking to end juvenile life without parole in California, one of the sentencing practices that disproportionately hurt not just Black and Latino, but Asian youth as well. My first client was a Filipino kid who was 16 y/o when he was sentenced to spend the rest of his life behind bars. I then worked as a civil rights attorney before being hired by the SF District Attorney's Office to help set up the restorative justice unit. I now proudly work as a prosecutor.

I live in Oakland and my heart breaks that our city is experiencing crime that is harming older residents and local businesses, including those within the API community. I am here to create change.

## 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? \*

Folks of APA heritage make up 18.5% of AD18 and top Asian groups are Chinese, Vietnamese, and Filipino.

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? \*

Great question! The Central Committee needs to have more voting members that come from the AAPI community. Additionally, it needs to have more members in general who understand the needs of the AAPI community and can advocate for policies, endorsements and resolutions that support the AAPI 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. \*

1) The Community Action committee needs to hold listening circles with API business, community orgs and neighborhood groups. 2) The Legislation Committee, where I serve as a Vice-Chair from position as an associate member of the Central Committee, needs to have more diverse membership that includes members of the API community. 3) I will advocate for the EBoard and AD Co-Chairs to appoint API community members and leaders as associate and alternate members.

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

Alfred Twu; Jenny Wong; Sheng Thao; Nikki Fortunado Bas; Jamie Yee; Alex Lee; Fiona Ma

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 new to the CC in my role as an associate member and the CC website does not list past resolutions so it's hard for me to answer this question.

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

No, I think the three co-chairs of the Res Committee need to have equal say (they currently don't). I think they should not have the power to edit and change as they please any resolution submitted to them by a member. I believe the full body should have the right to see the original text and vote on the resolution as originally submitted if amendments are rejected by the full body.

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

Barely at all. Resolutions by nature are non-binding documents; they are statements of principle. Even well-principled resolutions still have little impact on residents of our county, let alone low-income residents. To make a difference, resolutions need to be followed up with action: endorsements of the right candidates and ballot measures, community events, etc.

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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