

2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email *

ed@electdirectorhernandez.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 *

Ed Hernandez

City and zip code of residence. *

San Leandro 94578

What is your campaign website address?

<https://electdirectorhernandez.com/>

What is your campaign email address? *

ed@electdirectorhernandez.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. *

No

Are you an APA Caucus member? *

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement? *

Yes

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 in San Leandro since 2004, 19 years.

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

I previously serving on the San Leandro City Council from 2016-2020 and its Planning Commission from 2011-15, currently serve as the Vice Chair and District Director for the Eden Health District, being endorsed by the Alameda County Central Committee and subsequently elected to this role in 2022.

I also serve on the Ava (former East Bay) Community Energy Community Advisory Committee as the Vice Chair, appointed by the Conference of Mayors and recently re-appointed by the Board of Directors; serve on the Alameda County Fair Association for the past seven years (or six fairs), San Leandro Community Food Pantry as a Board Member, San Leandro Democratic Club President (2022-23) and the Rotary Club of San Leandro as its current President for the 2023-24 year. Finally, I was elected as an AD18 Associate member earlier this year by the Democratic Central Committee.

My education spans Finance, Real Estate and Organizational Development from the schools of Cal State Long Beach (BS), Cal State East Bay (MBA) and the University of San Francisco (MS) with experience in for profit and non profit organizations for the past twenty years, currently working for myself as a real estate broker and consultant.

In regards to campaigns, I have won two of my last three political campaigns and planning to run for San Leandro City Council in the 2024 General Election, having been endorsed by local and state elected officials in previous years, anticipating similar support in that election.

I am married to my wife, Katherine, for the past 19 years with two young daughters (Rachel and Sarah) where we have lived in our San Leandro home, having met Katherine in Long Beach during my studies. My parents immigrated from Mexico at a young age and I benefitted from the family trips to Mexico to learn the culture and importance of maintaining the traditions and values of my parent's generation while assimilating to a life in the United States, where it's been an honor to serve the community.

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? *

35.43% are of APA heritage with Chinese, Filipino and Vietnamese the largest three ethnic groups in AD20.

Sources:

District Map, AD20, 2020 Census Population (<https://a20.asmdc.org/district-map>)

Resources on Asian American Voters, APA Democratic Caucus, December 2023

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? *

The Central Committee can engage community leaders and organizations where Asian Americans are, identifying concerns and finding solutions to items such as community safety, food insecurity and affordable multi-generational housing with established leaders in the APA lead Community Benefit Organizations like Asian Health Services.

We can work with our elected leaders to provide measurable outcomes affecting the change needed in the APA community, seeing reductions in crime against the community, targeted resources of food and healthcare solutions and affordable housing opportunities in existing areas with established community members.

For example, the Committee can have targeted actions that not only drive awareness to APA concerns, like food insecurity, but works to provide on-going funding of programs that support programming or resources to address the disparities in health, access to materials in native languages, cultural programming to build stronger ties to existing communities, and drive 'get out the vote' campaigns to non-voting but eligible members of the APA community.

By driving improvements in the quality of life by Democratic members of the Committee, more residents will choose a preference to be a lifelong Democrat for generations to come, because we were the party that was more inclusive, caring and drove improvements to the quality of lives in the APA community and its members.

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. *

By partnering with the APA Caucus to elevate concerns or issues not being addressed by the Committee, working to steward positions and actions that ensure A/PA community members are heard, vote and elevate leaders to advocate for the prosperity of the group.

For example, with recent concerns of violence against Asian Pacific American (or AAPI Hate), it's important to provide the necessary resources to prosecute hate crimes, ensure proper education of available resources for community members to report the crimes and support community benefit organizations that help with the fight to stop the hate.

Also, driving more awareness to food and mental health insecurities is vital, as having served and volunteered at the San Leandro Community Food Pantry, there is a significant percentage of our guests that are presenting as APA seniors who do not speak English and require compassionate and culturally responsive assistance to communicate basic needs (or concerns), where we could also be working to pull down resources to help provide these long lasting resources, if desired, to be more food secure and happier in their lives.

Finally, working with local entities to promote and encourage the support of APA businesses in our community, finding ways to collaborate in private/public sponsorships to solve the concerns of good paying jobs for APA youth in our community, especially with organizations like Ava Community Energy who is supposed to deploy \$15m to the local community and other monies through the Local Community Development Plan for green, clean and good paying jobs.

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

Most recently, the Central Committee has endorsed Rob Bonta, Ro Khanna, Fiona Ma, Aisha Wahab, Alex Lee, Janani Ramachandran, Xouhoa Bowen, Alfred Twu and many more through the years.

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 process is a very democratic process, and political, that may or may not result in the intended results desired by the Committee.

For example, in 2020, I supported the importance of not taking police union monies for campaigns, but did see the value of their endorsements. The Committee is still set to ask candidates to reject police endorsements, but I feel it is important to have a working relationship with public safety personnel who also live and work in the community, sworn to protect the community from violence and uphold the law, fairly.

However, with policies or resolutions that put the community at risk, for violence and/or hate, it's important to address the root cause of trust and accountability, driving the desired outcomes for APA residents, especially protecting our most vulnerable populations of children, seniors, victims of domestic violence, hate crimes and our unhoused residents.

It's vital to have the conversations with the APA community on local concerns, have vigorous but healthy debate on potential resolutions, and ensure leaders compromise, where needed, without the fear of repercussions for expressing thought leadership, or having the courage to have the conversation.

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

From joining and listening to recent conversations during the Central Committee's discussion of resolutions, there has been conflict about the receipt and process to review and approve the resolutions, specifically how much time has been allocated for the review and discussion, offline, prior to discussing them during the actual meeting.

Although, I agree that more time is necessary to discuss potential resolutions, the size of the Committee lends itself to small working groups and possibly discussion sessions with each of the Assembly District members to discuss and/or recommend language changes, positions to support, oppose or remain neutral, where needed on resolutions.

However, with resolutions that support the inclusion, respect and equity of its members and community, it's important to stand up against those individuals or elected officials who do not stand for the values of the Committee that includes favorable positions on APA issues, that push for peace, for fair and just wages, speaks up against hate, and holds our elected officials accountable for their actions.

I believe with any process, there is work to do to improve them, but it's up to the individuals committed to the APA to fight for the seat at the table, with allies, so voices like that of the APA Democratic Caucus are heard, respected and valued, so we can move forward, together, and drives resolutions with measurable results that make a difference in our community and lifts up the lives of Asian Pacific Americans.

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

The past resolutions have been leveraged to promote the positions of the Democratic Central Committee to elected officials who represent themselves as members of the party, leveraging these positions to affect the desired changes or outcomes expressed by the Committee.

For example, Sanctuary City, Minimum Wage and Rent Control are examples of policies (or resolutions discussed/adopted) by the Central Committee to ensure the quality of life for low-income residents is addressed in our community. These topics of interest, have afforded our vulnerable and low-income Alameda County residents opportunities to feel and be safe from prosecution from federal agencies, ensured (or drove towards) a living wage and ensured residents, families and elderly members of the community, that rent increases were mitigated for their homes, especially as renters.

There is more work to be done, around food, mental health and housing security, while driving actionable outcomes to support the residents of Alameda County with specific focus on our APA community from the recent years of hate speech and actions. This APA hate that was experienced through the Trump presidency will start to spike up once again, sadly, and I am committed to being an ally and partner to ensure we can stop the hate and improve the quality of lives for Asian Pacific Americans.

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