

2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email *

joeytmyk1017@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 *

Joseph Mauro

City and zip code of residence. *

Pleasanton, 94588

What is your campaign website address?

peoplepoweredprogressives.com

What is your campaign email address? *

joeytmyk1017@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. *

Yes, the People Powered Progressives slate for AD-20

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 Democratic Caucus because I would like to continue the hard work that many, such as the caucus, have put into the party and the county. This caucus represents the single largest voting contingent of Alameda County Democrats, and are often underrepresented at all levels.

I share many of the same concerns that many in this caucus hold. One of those concerns is representation itself. Despite being one of the largest voting contingents in Alameda County, Asian Americans are severely underrepresented at all levels. I am a lifelong Pleasanton resident; I have seen firsthand how, despite having a vibrant and growing Asian American population, we have not had any AAPI city council members or a mayor because of policies. I would love to work with the caucus on ways to address this systemic underrepresentation.

Furthermore, we need more central committee members who address the increasing hate crime levels that are predominantly affecting AAPI members in our county, along with seemingly increasing crime rates. I want the county to do more to address hate crimes, because no one should be targeted because of their background. While attending college, I helped to found our school's first Ethnic Studies program as anti-asian hate crimes were growing, because I believe understanding one another is key to reducing hatred. I would also love to work with the club to find ways to reduce homelessness and crime. According to the Alameda County Homelessness Count and Survey Population report, over 3,000 unhoused people are AAPI. That is 3,000 too many. I want to work with this club on advocating for solutions that bring tangible results to the county.

I am running without backing from any corporate PACs, because I want to run to represent you, the people of this county. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. I am running to represent you. Please feel free to text or call me at (925) 998-3010, or to email me at joeytmyk1017@gmail.com. I am running as a member of the People Powered Progressives slate, and hope that they also receive your support.

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 the district for all of my life, minus the years that I attended UCLA (I am 22 years old).

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

- Graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles in June 2023
- Field Organizer for Josh Harder for Congress in 2022, organizing for one of the largest Democratic victories in the 2022 campaign cycle
- Worked on a Pleasanton Unified School District Health Curriculum committee; worked on updating outdated health curriculum, helped to make it more LGBTQ+ inclusive
- Received recognition from the Catholic Community of Pleasanton for my commitment to community service, organized young Church members to pack meals for the unhoused members at Open Heart Kitchen
- Organized undergraduate students at UCLA to support striking graduate students, which led to more concessions for severely underpaid workers
- Organized students and professors at Diablo Valley College to implement an Ethnic Studies program, and to reduce the number of parking tickets given by campus police

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? *

33.5% of AD-20 are of APA heritage according to 2020 census data. Because Pleasanton and Dublin are split in AD-20, I cannot find the breakdowns for those specific portions of the city. But, if they are included in my calculations, broken down by the percentage of each city in the district, the largest Asian ethnic groups in AD-20 are, in order, are Chinese, Filipino, and Asian Indian.

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 think, unfortunately, that Democrats have become complacent in Alameda County. Because we are one of the most Democratic counties, the party has not done a great job at reaching out to marginalized communities. I believe that we need to make meetings and material more accessible through more languages. Moreover, there is a similar issue going on with younger adults, a plurality of which are Asian American; As a young person myself, we need to encourage younger Asian Americans to get involved in the process. I am committed to doing voter registration drives and presentations to schools, colleges, and other places to get people who are not involved in politics to be registered to vote, and to get those who are registered to understand the ways to get more involved in the community. Lastly, we need more community input in the central committee. Parties are supposed to be open to public participation; I would love to hold community events where I could hear more from Asian Americans, as well as other groups, to hear their concerns. Unfortunately, because people who know about the central committee are often those who are extremely involved already, it is not representative. We need to do better.

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. I would love to hold community events in underrepresented areas to increase our accessibility, and so we can hear from the public. Increasing accessibility and knowledge of the Central Committee is a key part of my platform
2. Advocate for a more fair redistricting process. Currently, no AD in Alameda County is majority-APA, and we use AD's mostly because the Supervisor districts (like other counties use) are drawn egregiously. I would advocate for a fair and equal redistricting process that would produce a majority CVAP Asian Supervisor district.
3. Public comments. I would love if there was a public comment section to the Central Committee meetings. We need to hear from more than just the elected officials that are able to attend. We need to do more to increase our presence in communities that are not already plugged in politically.

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

In 2022, the Alameda County Democratic Party endorsed Rob Bonta, Aisha Wahab, Alex Lee, Sheng Thao, Alfred Twu, Nikki Bas, Janani Ramachandran; I was not aware of the Central Committee's actions before then, as I was at UCLA/at High School before and not aware of the Central Committee.

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 member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, and therefore am unaware of recent resolutions that have specifically impacted APA communities. Unfortunately, the website for the central committee does not currently list resolutions that have passed. I believe it is important to fix this issue, for transparency's sake.

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

I do not believe the process is transparent enough; I would love to have the process become more public, and to allow for more members of the public to be able to submit resolutions. We are elected by the people, and parties are supposed to be open to the public.

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

I honestly do not believe that resolutions are the most important part of this position. We should be focusing on working with legislators on drafting legislation that makes a difference, as well as helping to get Democrats elected at all levels that are committed to improving our quality of life. I believe that they can be a tool to put pressure on legislators and community stakeholders, but other avenues might be more helpful.

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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