

2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email *

robintorel@aol.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 *

Robin Torello

City and zip code of residence. *

San Leandro, 94577

What is your campaign website address?

Pending

What is your campaign email address? *

robintorel@aol.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. *

20th AD Democratic Coalition

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? *

Districts can change every 10 years. Lived in San Leandro for 25 years; and the unincorporated areas since 1977. @'

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

I have served on the ACDCC since 1993, with 18 years as Chair of the Party. I have worked and organized campaigns since 1993 as well. Developed the United Campaigns for the regions within the County to help generate volunteers to campaign locally. Served as the Chair for Eden Area UDC since 1993 which covers the current 20th district for the most part. Member of several Democratic clubs and a founding member of APA, Wellstone, Castro Valley, Tri-City Demo, Tri-Valley Demos, EBYDS and the South YDs. My purpose was to broaden the voices and participation in our Party.

I graduated with teaching degree in Social Studies.(History and Political Science). My passion has always been is to strengthen our democracy and build a better society for all. Hence, my work in candidate recruitment, training to ensure their election.

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? *

The percentage varies within the 20th District but it seems to average around 30% (Hayward and San Leandro particularly). The highest ethnic groups are Chinese, Filipino and "Other Asian".

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? *

We need more representation on the Central Committee (and that is why we made sure we added Asian representation on our slate), recruiting candidates and in elected office.

Unfortunately, "No Party Preference" is growing overall and we need to find more ways to connect with community groups to see what they need in order to register as Democrats. Learning what Asian Americans are looking for in their representatives and showing that we are listening to their particular needs. The Party also has to improve their forms of communication so Asian individuals can learn what we stand for; as well as do this via Asian media sources to reach them where they live.

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. *

I think the Party needs to organize community meetings, coffees, etc. for those who want to learn more about the Democratic Party. We would reach out to various age and ethnic community groups to help us. For instance, working with APA to help us with these connections and what topics are of interest in the Asian communities. I would bring in speakers such as local Democratic leaders who could address crime, housing, etc. that interests the various Asian communities as their specific needs may not be the same.

Reaching out to Asian young people to get them interested in campaigns, working for candidates, internships, etc. to build their sense of participation, volunteerism and political action. Hopefully, becoming future candidates themselves when the time is right for them.

Finally, ensuring that more Asians who are interested can be appointed to ACDCC alternate and associates positions to have more of a voice in our future direction.

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

Janini Ramachandrian, Sheng Thao, George Syrop, Benny Lee, Raj Salwan, Malia Vella, Shawn Kumagai, to name a few (on vacation in CT and have no access to a computer).

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.

Our Resolution process is only effective if we can get officeholders or groups (depending on the issue) to comply. So really only local issue resolutions such as condemning an action, or moving for passage is the most impactful.

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

No. I have asked for reform for awhile and we are finally making some changes. For the most part, it has been ineffective to this point. It has changed since I was Chair.

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

Resolutions are only good when they generate action by election. For instance, through our efforts some cities only enacted Sanctuary City protection or Navigation centers through our pushing them to do so.

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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