

2024 Central Committee Questionnaire

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

Email *

annie4acdcc@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 *

Annie Koruga

City and zip code of residence. *

Fremont, 94538

What is your campaign website address?

Our website is pending, and our web designer should have it up in about a week

What is your campaign email address? *

annie4acdcc@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. *

Democrats for Equity and Inclusion

Are you an APA Caucus member? *

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement? *

Being from Fremont, one of the most heavily A/PA parts of Alameda County, I often work with A/PA people in the context of politics and community engagement, and value the perspectives and insights of this community. A/PA people have been underrepresented in political spaces, and as such I seek to uplift A/PA voices and people. This endorsement would help to foster relationships and lines of communication. Furthermore, I am proud to be running on a slate which is 50% A/PA.

As a proud member of the ACDCC – and since January the ACDCC's Recording Secretary, I have sought to reform and modernize processes in the spirit of justice, to uplift and promote the inclusion of marginalized communities, such as the A/PA Community. Concurrently, I have brought a unique perspective as one of the youngest ACDCC members, and someone who holds marginalized identities themselves.

As Recording Secretary, I promised to and began taking Executive Board Meeting minutes as a measure to increase transparency, something which has never been done prior to my tenure. I then enshrined this practice via bylaws amendment, to ensure that members and clubs alike now have a record and understanding of the decisions of the Executive Board. I also wrote an open meetings policy, to ensure that all ACDCC members, including the club representative from the APA Dem Caucus or any other club, have the right to attend Executive Board Meetings. Furthermore, I have introduced a more modern way to take roll, saving approximately 15 minutes each meeting, and have drafted and send a welcome email to all new members. This email ensures that the ACDCC is a more welcoming and inclusive space, as new members have basic information concerning how to participate and who to contact.

The reason that I have advocated and implemented many of these reforms is because I understand that the Democratic Party, traditionally, has not always been a welcoming place for marginalized people. It still is not always a welcoming place for marginalized people, including the A/PA Community. However, the Democratic Party has a duty of systemic inclusion, and a duty to create inclusive processes.

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? *

Just over 13 years

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

I draw on a vast array of experience in party politics, both within the California Young Democrats and California Democratic Party, at various levels. I have a comprehensive understanding of the inner workings of the County Party, and have been proud to work hard to broaden our base and make our party more effective. I have used, and continue to use these positions to uplift young people, marginalized people, and people who have been systemically disenfranchised. Below is a list of positions in party spaces which I have held:

- Current Executive Board Member / Recording Secretary of the Alameda County Democratic Party
- Former ACDCC Political Action Committee Co-Chair
- Former Tri-Cities United Democratic Campaign, Field Organizer
- Tri-Cities United Democratic Forum, Secretary
- Executive Board member of the California Democratic Party
- East Bay Young Democrats, Policy Director
- California Democratic Party Organizing Committee Member
- California Democratic Party, Renters Council Executive Board Member
- Young Democrats of America, Rules Committee Member from California
- Young Democrats of America, Disability Caucus 2nd Vice Chair
- Young Democrats of America, Environmental Caucus, Environmental Diversity and Justice Taskforce
- California Young Democrats, Progressive Caucus Chair
- California Young Democrats, Environmental Caucus Secretary
- California Young Democrats, Policy and Political Affairs Committee Member from the Bay Area
- Tri-Cities Democratic Forum, Secretary

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? *

As a note, not all of AD24 is in the district, however CensusReporter.Org reports that AD24 is 61% APA. The top 3 APA ethnic groups in the district are Chinese, Indian, 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? *

The Central Committee must actively reach out to APA communities, in culturally relevant and specific ways. For example, our written materials, such as campaign literature, should likely be translated into languages other than English, such as Mandarin and Hindi. We must also understand that the APA Community is very diverse, and not assume the community is a monolith, or approach every interaction the same. Part of achieving this understanding on a systemwide governance level is supporting data disaggregation policies (for example when I served on the Fremont USD SRO Review Taskforce, FPD presented data which lumped all Asians into one category, and I advocated for desegregation). Furthermore, we must be present where APA communities are, with an emphasis on South County and the Tri-Valley, and must build and strengthen partnerships with existing community leaders and organizations like the APA Dem Caucus.

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. *

- Support the development and facilitation of culturally informed candidate trainings, through collaboration with members of the A/PA Community. These training programs must understand that A/PA people may face unique and distinct challenges when running for office, especially if they hold multiple marginalized identities, such as being an A/PA woman. Furthermore, these trainings must communicate to candidates of all races that they need to engage with the A/PA community, while understanding that the A/PA community may have unique and specific concerns.

- Actively and affirmatively consulting with the APA Dem Caucus, to introduce resolutions, host events, and build partnerships. The ACDCC should be taking the initiative to reach out to the APA Dem Caucus, and other clubs which represent marginalized people, instead of only waiting for those clubs to reach out to the party. This can be done both through a strengthening of relationships and informal partnerships, as well as through a formal process, such as the ACDCC appointing a liaison, or working with club representatives.

- Continue to push the party to be more active and visible in the community (such as through tabling at community events) in Southern Alameda County and the Tri-Valley. These areas, which have often been deprioritized are many of the same areas with high Asian-American populations, especially Fremont and Dublin. As the only ACDCC Executive Board Member, elected by the entire body, from Southern Alameda County, I have continued to push the party to be more present in areas which have oft been ignored, such that people from those communities can have their concerns heard and build trust with the ACDCC. For example, I advocated for the ACDCC to table at the Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll – even though it did not work out, I'm proud to have advocated for that.

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

Moina Shaiq, Shruti Kumar, Seema Badar, Jenny Wong, Lance Nishihira, Sadia Khan, Sarabjit Cheema, Scott Sakakihara, Gary Lym, Nikki Fortunato Bas, Negeen Mosaed, Janani Ramachandran, James Chang, Raj Salwan, the late Wilma Chan, Sheng Thao, Jamie Yee, Lance Kwan, Alfred Twu, Sue Chan, Harris Mojadedi, Aziz Akbari, Xouhua Bowen, Mel Chiong

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, as I serve as an alternate member.

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

As a former member of the resolutions committee, I understand that there are ways to improve the vetting process. For example, while any member can come to the resolutions committee, even if they are not on the resolutions committee, some perspectives are not always present when decisions are being made in the resolutions committee. To remedy this, a system where members and clubs who would be impacted by the resolution are reached out to could be implemented, however it would need to be ensured that this is done in a just and fair way. Furthermore, in the General Meeting, resolutions are often placed at the end of the meeting, and are not given adequate time to be vetted. To remedy this, resos could be heard near the beginning of the meeting.

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

Resolutions, regardless of content, have not had the maximum impact they could in my view. This is in part because there is not a systemitized way to communicate these resolutions to relevant decision making bodies, like city councils or school boards.

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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