Central Committee Candidates, Assembly District 65

Candidates are listed by alphabetical order. Statements are printed as received. Not all candidates submitted statements. Statements compiled by the Democratic Party of Orange County (DPOC) as a service to Orange County voters. DPOC does not issue endorsements for Central Committee.

Eric Barlow

No statement received.

Ada Briceño

I immigrated to the US at 6, my family fled the civil war in Nicaragua. I settled in Orange County at 14. I began working as a hotel front desk clerk after High School. It was my first union job where I quickly rose to union leadership, and at 26, I became the 1st Latina President of UNITE-HERE Local 681.

Today, I serve as Co-President of UNITE-HERE Local 11, representing over 32,000 hotel workers in LA County, OC and AZ.

I'm also the Chairwoman of the Democratic Party of OC and I am the first immigrant in its history to hold that role. Orange County made national headlines under my leadership when the county's voter registration flipped blue for the first time in decades.

In the CA Democratic Party, I serve as Lead Co-Chair of the Finance Committee. I also served as Assembly delegate for the 65th District.
Jose Trinidad Castañeda

Born in Fullerton, Jose Trinidad Castaneda is a trusted community organizer running for Central Committee to bring a strong voice for youth, people of color, LGBTQ rights, affordable housing, and environment. Jose works as the Orange County Climate and Energy Advocate and Organizer with Climate Action Campaign.

Jose served as a commissioner on the City of Fullerton Parks and Recreation Commission, and currently serves on the South Coast Air Quality Management District Youth Leaders Council. In 2019, Jose received Certificates of Recognition for Public Service from the City of Fullerton and Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva for his service. In 2018, Jose received the Certificate of Leadership Award from State Senator Josh Newman for organizing the March for Science and People’s Climate March in Orange County.

Jose earned his Associate’s degrees from Fullerton College, and his Bachelor’s degree from CalStateLA. He is a 2019 Fellow of the New Leaders Council Institute.

Arnel Dino

No statement received.

Bruce W. Johnson

I’m asking for your vote to serve on the Democratic Party’s Orange County Central Committee (DPOC) because I believe we can achieve great deeds when we work together. I respect the interdependent circle of life; we should be good stewards leaving a clean environment for future generations. I believe our nation, state and local communities are safer when we provide opportunity to all our children in equal measure. Hope and respect for all life provides a great incentive to protect our neighborhoods, leading to healthier surroundings and encourages all people to excel.

I have served the Democratic Party of Orange County (DPOC) since 2009. In 2013, I became DPOC’s Treasurer. DPOC was barely surviving with just enough cash to pay one month’s bills. At the end of my term, in 2016, the cash balance could fund DPOC for twelve months.

I’d be honored to serve you in DPOC’s Central Committee.
Mirvette Judeh

Mirvette Judeh is a Mother, Activist, Community leader former Vice Chair of the Arab American Civic Council, OC women’s March board member and organizer, and is currently Southern Vice Chair of The Arab American Caucus of the California Democratic Party. She is on the Executive Board of 65th District California Democratic Party and is an Advisory Board member for the Council on American–Islamic Relations (CAIR) Los Angeles/Orange County

Mirvette Judeh is a Mother, Activist, Community leader and an advocate for disenfranchised communities. She is on the Executive Board of 65th District California Democratic Party, DPOC Central Committee Member and is an Advisory Board member for the Council on American–Islamic Relations (CAIR) Los Angeles/Orange County. She believes that change is possible one person and one day out of time.

Andy Lewandowski

The most effective way to strengthen our local Democratic Party, and to continue the momentum of the Blue Wave that flipped OC in 2018, is to give more diverse voices a seat at the table and build a bench of Democratic candidates at the local level. The candidates on the Party of the People Slate are emerging community leaders who have helped a more engaged and diverse Democratic electorate start to become a reality in OC, through grassroots efforts such as supporting local progressive candidates, encouraging fresh faces to run for office, and registering more Democrats to vote. We have the opportunity to elect this new generation of diverse leaders onto our Central Committee, keeping more voters engaged through leadership that reflects the increasingly changing demographics of Orange County Democrats. I hope we can count on your vote for all the Party of the People candidates in your assembly district.

Ed Lopez

*No statement received.*

Jose Paolo Magcalas

*No statement received.*
Marisol Ramirez

Marisol Ramirez is a 28-year-old social justice advocate. Her background consists of grassroots community organizing advocating for issues that she is passionate about. Her activism began in high school. Born and raised in the city of Anaheim, she organized her community against the disparity of resources amongst low-income immigrant families in neighborhoods. In 2016, the OC Weekly named Marisol as The People’s Organizer in Anaheim.

Marisol chose to run for Central Committee to continue her mission to advocate for unheard voices to have a seat at the table. She is a candidate on the Party of the People Slate that is reflective of grassroots community leaders. Voting for Marisol will mean supporting a new generation of leadership that strives to keep the Party alive by encouraging new faces to take leadership into their own hands and work collectively with others to build people power.

Mike Rodriguez

Hello, my name is Mike Rodriguez and I am in my seventeenth year of teaching History. I am a husband and father who believes in change from the bottom up. I advocate for Health Care 4 All, a Green New Deal, affordable housing, Ethnic Studies, Universal Education for K-16, and to Abolish ICE. I believe it is time to put people before profits to build an economy that is fair and just for all. I’m tired of hearing stories from my students like how a family of five has to rent one room of an apartment, ICE is stopping mothers and fathers as they pull into their mobile homes and detaining them, single mothers working three jobs to survive, etc. Together, we can reverse the trends of the last forty years that have created the largest inequality of wealth in the United States since the Great Depression. Please vote Party of the People by March!

Patricia Tutor

I am running for Central Committee because I care deeply about the difficulties that many people in our county are facing. As an activist I have proactively addressed our housing crisis, homelessness, and climate change. I have phoned, rallied, petitioned and called on legislators in support of these causes. I have worked to find local candidates who will fight to protect our workers, school children and LGBTQ individuals. If elected, I promise to bring my passion, tenacity and fearlessness to keep fighting for us all.
John Vassiliades

Am a lifelong democrat, proud union member and PECG officer for 3 decades. I have 36 years of public service; received numerous honors and distinctions working for the State of California, from US and State elected officials, and from Los Angeles Office of Education as an executive board member of LA County Science Fair committee. I helped bring good results in Orange County by spearheading outreach events and fostering alliances between unions and the DPOC. I pledge to continue this path to make us stronger, supporting:

· Working peoples’ rights, organized labor & collective bargaining
· Protect public employment from outsourcing public jobs
· Protect Public education and improving public-school system
· Halt the insidious scourge of contracting-out, no-bid contracts
· Single Payer Healthcare, Medicare & SS
· Human rights, LGBT, Marriage Equality, Immigration Reform
· Overturn Citizen’s United & support Campaign Finance Reform
· Religious freedom & Woman’s right to choose
· GND initiative to protect our environment