



## Central Committee Candidates, Assembly District 69

*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.*

### Luis Aleman

Luis Aleman serves as the Secretary of the Democratic Party of Orange County and President of the Latinx Young Democrats of Orange County. He lives in Santa Ana and works as an organizer for the Orange County Labor Federation. Luis believes the Democratic Party should champion criminal justice reform, a single-payer healthcare system, a living wage, the right for workers to organize and join a union, humane immigration reform, and the inclusion of marginalized voices. He is running for the central committee because he wants to see young democrats and others have a seat and decision-making power at the table.

### Juan Gabriel Alvarez

Juan Gabriel Álvarez is an Anaheim resident, husband, father of two boys and a teacher. Juan is a first generation Chicano whose parents immigrated from Michoacán, Mexico. He is currently serving as a trustee and clerk for the Anaheim Elementary School Board. Juan has a longstanding history of advocacy work in his community. He is a member of SOMOS Anaheim where he helps plan the annual Día de Los Muertos event in Anaheim, he is on the executive board for his local teacher's union the Anaheim Secondary Teachers Association, he is president and founder of a literacy focused non-profit called Operation L.E.E., and he volunteers countless hours at various community events. Juan is an advocate for working families, believes in a living wage, supports affordable housing, believes in Medicare for all, hopes for the abolition of ICE, champions social justice issues and is worried about climate change.

## Ariana Arestegui

As the only candidate representing Garden Grove Democrats on the AD 69 Central Committee ballot, I would be honored to receive your vote. I'm the first in my family of Mexican immigrants to graduate from college. 9 to 5, I work in a law firm—my every other hour is spent supporting Democrats and exploring the great outdoors. As a former executive director and current board member of the Democratic Foundation of Orange County, I've worked to raise funds for voter registration projects and support the election of Democrats across the county. I'm a proud member of the Orange County Young Democrats and hope to bring my youth and energy into the Central Committee. Most importantly, I want to ensure that there is a seat for members of my community at the DPOC table. My neighbors deserve representation in the committee that is local, vocal, and present.

## Giovanni Chavez

Giovanni Chavez serves as the Chair of the California Young Democrats Latino Caucus and Vice President of the Latinx Young Democrats of Orange County. He lives in Santa and is a tenants' rights advocate. Giovanni helps families at risk of eviction or facing hostile landlords fight for their rights. He is running for central committee because he believes in a humane immigration system, criminal justice reform, tenants' rights, a single payer-healthcare system, the right for workers to organize, marginalized voices, and a living wage. Giovanni wants the central committee to represent the face of a changing Orange County.

## Veronica Chavez

My name is Veronica Chavez, I'm an organizer with UNITE HERE Local 11. I began speaking publicly about the realities of the poverty faced by Disneyland workers in February 2018. Also been a leading voice in calling on Disney to pay its workers a living wage, and my advocacy has been covered by the Los Angeles Times, The Guardian, and La Opinión.

Besides I work advocating for living wages in Anaheim, Veronica works tirelessly organizing my coworkers and community. In June 2018, I introduced Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders during his visit to speak to Disneyland workers in Anaheim. I'm currently working with the Coalition of Resort Labor Unions to pass a living wage initiative that would impact nearly 30,000 workers at Disneyland.

The reason to run for this position, continue to ensure the welfare of workers and their families.

## Manny Escamilla

Manny Escamilla was raised in Santa Ana, spending his youth at the McFadden Library and Jerome Center. After graduating from Santa Ana Unified, he went on to UC Berkeley and received two master's degrees from UCLA.

He began working for the Santa Ana Public Library in 2004, as part of the White House Award-winning TeenSpace program and spent fourteen years working for the City of Santa Ana as an urban planner, librarian, and historian. He was recognized by Library Journal for his work with the Teen Community Historian program to collect, preserve, and share local history.

Manny serves as a board member of the Makara Center for the Arts, the Mexican American Heritage and Cultural Center of OC, and the Director's Circle of Cal State Fullerton's Grand Central Art Center. He continues to work towards advocating for policies that protect the working people of Orange County.

## Jessie Lopez

Jessie Lopez was born in Santa Ana, CA, to two working-class parents. As a first-generation student, Jessie worked two jobs to put herself through college.

Throughout her academic journey, Jessie helped lead several student organizations that focused on the empowerment of the student body. Since graduating, Jessie works full-time at a law firm and enjoys using her bilingual skills to help with pro bono cases.

In her time off, Jessie serves as a coalition member for Rise Up Willowick, Orange County Environmental Justice, and is a board member for the National Women's Political Caucus. Jessie also volunteers her time with the Public Law Center, OCCORD, and Planned Parenthood. She is a firm believer in civic engagement, the right to equal treatment and opportunity, and is passionate about empowering community participation.

## Martin Lopez

I have been a proud resident of Anaheim in the 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District for 15 years. In 2006, I became a US citizen and since then, I have proudly voted for progressive democrats across the ballot.

I am currently serving as a commissioner with the Anaheim Workforce Development Board. In 2012, I was appointed to serve on the Anaheim Citizens Advisory Committee on District

Elections and Community Engagement. I helped lead a coalition of hotel and food service workers, community, and grassroots activists that won the historic district election in Anaheim in 2014.

In 2017, I was elected as a delegate to the 69<sup>th</sup> AD for the Democratic Party.

In 2018, I helped lead a campaign to pass the Anaheim Living Wage and helped turn the OC Blue!

Today, I am running for the OC Democratic Party Central Committee to continue addressing the issues of our district. I humbly ask for your vote.

## Jose Moreno

*No statement received.*

## Thai Phan

As a first-generation immigrant whose parents fled the devastation of the Vietnam War, I want to ensure that immigrants, regardless of status, have a voice on the Democratic Party of Orange County's Central Committee. It is crucial that our community stands together to fight the hateful rhetoric against immigrants and people of color coming from the White House and Republicans everyday. As a young progressive woman, I also want a party that acts on the critical issues that affect my generation. We can't just be about opposing Trump. We must be a party of ideas, a party that embraces affordable housing policy, high-quality education for all, and supporting small businesses. I want to use my experience as a Santa Ana Planning Commissioner and attorney to focus on local issues like improving transportation and creating more recreational opportunities for families. I hope to earn your support.

## Isuri R. Ramos

I am the daughter of Mexican immigrants from Acapulco and Puebla. I am a product of SAUSD schools and attended UCSD where I earned my Bachelor of Art degrees in International Studies - Political Science and Urban Studies and Planning. I now work with residents and community partners in Santa Ana to do tenant rights work, outreach, education, and policy advocacy to improve the quality of life for residents with limited resources.

I served as the Chairwoman of the City of Santa Ana's Community Redevelopment and Housing Commission and I am currently serving my second term as a 69th Assembly District Delegate for the California Democratic Party.

I am proud to be running with the Party of the People Slate. I humbly ask that you support me and all of the Party of the People candidates in your district. Learn more about our values and platform at <https://www.partyofthepeople-oc.com/>

## Avelino Valencia III

I humbly request your support in my re-election to the Orange County Democratic Central Committee. I will continue my efforts in increasing civic engagement, with an emphasis on our youth, continuing to increase voter registration, and striving to develop a truly inclusive and collaborative Democratic Party.

## Janelle M. Welker

*No statement received.*