Central Committee Candidates, Assembly District 72

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.

Kathia Canlas

Kathia is a labor organizer for United Domestic Workers of America based in Orange County that represents homecare providers helping run the strategic labor campaigns to support, uplift and empower homecare workers. Kathia was the former Communications Coordinator for the Orange County Labor Federation where she worked on various campaigns in local, state and national elections. She was instrumental in turning Orange County Blue during the 2018 elections for the four congressional districts helping develop the strategic plan for Labor. She also serves as the President for the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance – Orange County Chapter where she is involved in voter registration and educating the community about Census 2020. Kathia serves on the Executive Board of the Coalition Labor Union Women of Orange County.

Sergio Escobar

No statement received.

Libby Frolichman

I am a passionate, grassroots activist!

For the past 2 1/2 years, I have spent hours giving voice to what we care about, pushing back against hate and helping elect Democrats. I have been a local face when I speak at city councils
or school boards. I have engaged with hundreds of voters & potential voters via knocked doors, phone calls & postcards. I organized and/or participated in well over 100 protests—always attempting to talk to possible voters. I understand that success for our party means welcoming ALL into our big tent and being sure that we are reaching outward.

I am running for Central Committee because I am very proud of the gains that we have made, but I know they are fragile. There is a lot of work to be done to maintain our achievements, advance our objectives in this county, and protect ALL our rights. https://tinyurl.com/Libbyfor72

Karen A. Hinks

I have been involved in politics and policy throughout my professional career having worked on hundreds of federal, state and local campaigns nationwide and in Orange County. At a very early age I became impassioned by activism and social justice where I quickly discovered that without the investment in and commitment of people and their communities, social justice is never served. The Democratic Party system has for too long, dismissed outright the voices of progressives, People of Color and those belonging to marginalized communities. This March 3rd, Democrats in Orange County have an opportunity to elect Central Committee members who are beholden only to the thousands of registered Democrats in their respective Assembly Districts. The Democratic party belongs to the people --- 2020 will be the year the change makers of Orange County become the decision makers on behalf of the people. I would be honored for the opportunity to be your representative.

Michelle “Misha” Houser

*No statement received.*

Jaci Iannello

Healthcare is a human right and we are in a climate emergency. It is crucial that we have elected officials that support these issues and the will of the people, not special interest groups. The only way we are going to do that is by joining together to support candidates that have the political courage to stand up for what is right. That’s me. I hope to have your support and your vote.

I am the Chair of Feel the Bern Democratic Club Orange County, a Climate Reality Leader, a founder of the Green New Deal SoCal Coalition, and an organizer for Our Revolution OC. I am inspired by my community and appreciate
being able to walk the walk when it comes to many of the progressive ideals we value.

Together, we will fight for everyday people. Vote for Jaci Iannello by March 3rd.

Louise Larsen

I’m an active member of the DPOC, a 2X elected ADEM and currently serve as alternate for U.S. Rep. Alan Lowenthal on the Central Committee. I now seek my election for the Central Committee this March with Rep. Alan Lowenthal’s endorsement. I’m an active member of over five Democratic clubs, and on the boards of three.

As a Central Committee I will protect our democratic elected officials serving in office while advancing the progressive democratic values we hold dear. Together we will create powerful positive changes, defeat an immoral and unethical GOP both here in Orange County and nationally.

Shayna Lathus

Shayna Lathus is a middle school science teacher in an urban district. When a Huntington Beach City Council vote kept a highly qualified young man of color off of a Board, she decided to run for that office in 2018. She was inspired to be a voice for underrepresented communities in her city. During her campaign, Shayna was the only candidate to speak out against the City of Huntington Beach when they planned to sue to oppose the California Values Act. She earned nearly 19,000 votes in her first election. A few months later, Shayna was elected to the California State Democratic Party as a delegate in AD72. Shayna continues to work with the immigrant community and decided to run for Central Committee in order to represent those who feel they have little or no voice in matters that affect all of us.

https://www.partyofthepeople-oc.com/ad-72

Mark Anthony Paredes

Mark Anthony currently serves a Central Committee Member for the Democratic Party representing the 72nd Assembly District. He has been a long-time healthcare advocate helping promote access to healthcare services for the underserved communities. He has built a strong relationship with non-profit groups throughout the state to help bring needed resources to the community. Mark Anthony also served proudly as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Garden Grove championing safe streets and responsible growth in the city. Currently he serves
on multiple non-profit boards in the community that include the Heritage Museum of Orange County and the Boys and Girls Club of Garden Grove. He is an appointed committee member on the Orange County Transportation Authority Citizen Advisory Board.

Oscar D. Rodriguez

Oscar Rodriguez is a community activist from the Oak View Community in Huntington Beach, CA. He graduated with his Bachelor of Science degree in Health Care Administration from California State University, Long Beach and is currently working at Orange County Community Housing Corporation, a non-profit helping extremely low income families transfer to self-sufficiency through housing and education. He Co-Founded Oak View ComUNIDAD, a local grassroots group that advocated against Rainbow Environmental Services, a transfer station that is 50ft from elementary school and 100ft from his community. Oscar also serves as an advisory board member for the SCAQMD Environmental Justice Advisory Council. In 2016, he received the Environmental Justice Award by the SCAQMD. Oscar is currently a delegate to the California Democratic Party representing the 72nd Assembly District and was also recently elected on the board of directors for the Chicano Latino Caucus representing Region 7 which encompasses Orange County.

Mary Tromp

I was born in Guelph, Ontario Canada and moved to the United States in 1985. I obtained a Bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and worked in computer software for my working career. I went back to school and received a Masters degree in Applied Statistics. After I retired I got involved in the Seal Beach Leisure World Democratic Club first as treasurer and now as president. I am also involved in the Citizen’s Climate Lobby which is a group that is working on getting legislature passed to decrease carbon in the atmosphere. I am also treasurer of the Americans United for Separation of Church and State and I am treasurer of the Orange County group. I am on the board of the Stroke Support Association and I visit hospital patients who have had a stroke.

Victor Valladares

My name is Victor Valladares, proudly father of two beautiful boys, serving as the elected Democratic Party of Orange County West, Vice-Chair by our current Central Committee. In an effort to incorporate the Latinx Community to the Democratic Party structure, I am honored to also serve as President of the Chicano Latino Immigrant Democratic Club of Orange County. 5 years ago, Oscar Rodriguez & I co-founder of Oak View ComUNIDAD, a grassroots community-driven organization located in Huntington Beach’s predominantly Latinx community. Serving on our city of Huntington Beach as an appointee to the Citizen Participation Advisory
Board (C.P.A.B.).

I am running for re-election in order to continue empowering constituency bases that traditionally have been ignored but are pivotal in order to elect progressive democrats who will represent our democratic values. I humbly ask for your vote.