

Democratic Party of Contra Costa County Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for seeking the endorsement of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC).

Please submit your completed questionnaire and remit the endorsement application fee of \$30 no later than , August 12, 2024. Interviews will not be scheduled without both a completed questionnaire and received payment.

- Pay Endorsement Application Fee:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/2024campaignunityfund>.

1. Click on "Donate"
2. The page will say "2024 Campaign Unity Funds" - Just fill in \$30 as the amount to pay.

- Complete Candidate Questionnaire.

IMPORTANT INFO

- Your application fee must be paid before questionnaires will be processed.
- Interviews will not be scheduled without both a completed payment and completed questionnaire.
- You must have submitted your questionnaire and payment **before August 12, 2024 before 11:59pm PST.**
- Your completed questionnaire will be added to the DPCCC website after all interviews are conducted.
- The DPCCC membership will vote on endorsements at a **Special Meeting on August 29, 2024.** You will be sent an invitation to the meeting which you are welcome to attend.

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The DPCCC aspires to be an organization where members are empowered and feel safe to be who they are, regardless of ethnic, cultural, or social demographics. We are committed to fostering equity and social justice through our policies and actions.

We hold ourselves accountable for unwanted behavior and we expect decision-making to be based on justice principles. We actively oppose **racism, sexism, classism, ageism, ableism, homophobia, and all other forms of prejudice wherever we see it**, and we take action individually and collectively to right past wrongs in our communities.

Section 1: Candidate Information

Name (First, Last): *

Ahmad Anderson
.....

Preferred Name (if different than campaign name):
.....

Age *

- Under 18
- 18 to 24
- 25-44
- 45-65
- Over 65
- Prefer not to disclose

Pronouns: *

- She/Her/Hers
- He/Him/His
- They/Them/Theirs
- Ze/Zie/Hir/Hirs
- Prefer not to disclose
- Other:

Gender Identity (*check all that apply.*): *

- Gender non-conforming
- Genderqueer
- Genderfluid
- Non-binary
- Woman
- Man
- Transgender
- Prefer not to disclose
- Other:

Sexual Identity (*check all that apply.*): *

- Bisexual
- Queer
- Gay
- Heterosexual or straight
- Lesbian
- Asexual
- Pansexual
- Prefer not to disclose
- Other:

With which racial or ethnic group(s) do you identify? *(Mark all that apply): **

Native American or Indigenous

Black, African-American

Eastern European

Latino/a/x/e

Pacific Islander

Asian

East Asian

South Asian

Southeast Asian

Middle Eastern, Northern African

Native Hawaiian

East African

West African

South African

Central African

White

Multiracial/Mixed Race

Prefer not to disclose

Other:

Which office are you seeking? *

Richmond City Council District 5

CA FPPC ID # *

1470505

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

Doug Linney nextgeneration.org

.....

Social Media Handles *

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ahmad-anderson-93baa14>

1.1 - Why are you running for this office? Give no more than your top 3 reasons. *

Economic Development, Safe/Clean Neighborhoods, and Housing for ALL

1.2 - What are the responsibilities that come with the office you are running for? *

City council members are elected officials who work collaboratively with other City council members, City Manager, staff, labor and constituents: The council functions as the city’s legislature. passing laws and ordinances. The city of Richmond hires the city manager to handle the staff and administration of the city and proposes an annual budget. Additionally, city councilmembers should create a vision for their city: Financial and fiduciary responsibilities, economic development throughout the city, housing at all levels, public safety, and environmental justice.

1.3 - What are your personal or professional qualifications that you believe make you the best candidate? *

For more than 60 years, Richmond has been my home. My mother and father, Irma Anderson and Rev. Booker T. Anderson Jr., both served as Richmond mayors with focus and integrity. They taught me how public service done right builds community. I know what needs to be done to move Richmond forward. I am a leader who listens to every perspective and works on solutions, not roadblocks, to progress.

I've served as the Chair of the City of Richmond's Economic Development Commission, the Vice President of the Richmond NAACP, and on the Board of Directors of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. I've been a Human Resources professional for 25 years. I know how to create a workforce that is affirming and accountable, precisely the kind of expertise needed to guide Richmond toward sustainable budgeting that preserves and improves vital services.

District 5 deserves a Councilmember who will focus on what matters most: Keep our city finances in check to avoid drastic cuts to services; Clean and safe neighborhoods; Shared prosperity: a commitment to attracting quality jobs and support for small businesses; Environmental justice for every Richmond community; More investments in homes affordable at all income levels; and More help transitioning the unhoused into permanent housing.

1.4 - What are your top goals for this office? How do you plan on achieving them? *

*Economic Development- expand workforce training retain local / small businesses. Collaborate with labor, state/ federal leadership to design, implement and build a East Bay Skills center for internship and apprentice certification programs.

*Housing for ALL at every level. Review and address delayed PLA's- Provide homeless transition services - behavioral health services, substance abuse counseling / ensure public areas and parks are safe.

* Safety and Clean neighborhoods: Re-imagine - Community Policing and training. Improve 911 response time - address forced overtime in law enforcement which impacts productivity, performance and morale. Improve 911 response address process, procedure, and staffing goals, retention and recruitment. Street calming * Sideshows and excessive speeding

1.5 - How do you plan on engaging your constituents in dialogue after you are elected? *

I am a city council member for ALL of Richmond! I will not only facilitate town hall meetings in my district, but also throughout the city of Richmond with their district council member. I represent District 5, but I vote on the issues and concerns of ALL Richmond residents. I will provide quarterly email communications and attend RNCC meetings when able.

1.6 - This is a 3-Part Question: Why are you seeking the endorsement of the DPCCC? How will *
you use our endorsement? How will you support other endorsed candidates and issues?

As a Democratic Party organizer, I have stumped for our candidates in Iowa, New York, the golden state of California, raised money, donated, door-knocked, phone-banked and endorsed numerous of our Party's local, regional, and state candidates and measures.

The Party's endorsement would be the capstone on a family legacy exemplified by the Justice-Equity-Diversity-Inclusion and Democratic traditions and activism in Richmond and Contra Costa County from my mother, former Richmond Mayor Irma Anderson, and my father, former Richmond Mayor Booker T. Anderson Jr. I will exemplify the DPCCC values in both word and action.

1.7 - Please feel free to include any additional information you would like us to consider in *
evaluating your candidacy.

I am the City of Richmond's native son! I have exhibited proven and demonstrated community leadership not only in Richmond but throughout West Contra Costa County and San Francisco Bay Area. I possess the energy, integrity and fresh innovative ideas to move the city forward. Richmond needs diversity of thought leadership, transparency and financial acumen leadership. My opponent is an member of the Richmond Progressive Alliance. The majority of the present City of Richmond Council are members of the RPA. The key question to ask ourselves: Has the quality of life in Richmond improved? In my opinion the answer is emphatically... NO!

At 25 years of age, I ran for the Richmond City Council city-wide election in 1985. I lost by 400 votes. My mentors provided guidance and support as I charted my next civic and public servant leadership. For 39 years I've been fighting the good fight by staying involved intentionally focusing on my city of Richmond, California where I was born and raised. Richmond is known as the City of Pride and Purpose. I do not take pride in the present city council leadership or their policy direction. I am committed to being a lighthouse for the city of Richmond and their residents. Keeping citizens in safe harbor and being north star towards a better quality of life in the future.

Section 2: Democratic History

2.1 - List your previous and current party affiliations. When did you first register as a Democrat and why? *

Democrat all day everyday...way before 1978 when I turned 18 years old and became eligible to vote . Why ? My mother is from Massachusetts, home of the great democratic family John ,Robert, and Ted Kennedy , father from Texas the home of LBJ who all were instrumental and fundamental to historic civil rights moments for me to be able to seek political office and quality of life We, the people have today today. More importantly, paved the way for Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Jordon, Barak Obama, and now KAMALA HARRIS who I grew up with ...WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!!!

2.2 - I have read and acknowledge the California Democratic Party's current platform (value statement) and will adhere to these values in the performance of my elected position. *

To learn about the CADEM Platform, please click [here](#).

Yes

No

2.3 - In your opinion, which elements of the CADEM Platform are most relevant to the position you are seeking? If elected, how do you plan to advance them? *

Every element is important! Elected or not will continue to fight for Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion for ALL !

2.4 - Have you actively supported policies and initiatives that prioritize and protect reproductive healthcare and freedom, and can you affirm your commitment to continuing this support if elected? *

Yes

No

2.5 - If elected, what would you do to advance equity, anti-racism, justice, and belonging? *

YES ! Advancing equity, anti-racism, justice and belonging is not just about celebrating MLK Jr. Bday , Womens Month, Indigenous people day or PRIDE month. It is about Taking action to debias policies and procedures, how and where we seek talent and recruit for candidates as a city. Assessing our Pay Equity policies, ensuring our benefits for employees meets their needs across the city staff. Addressing Unfunded liabilities *(Pension program) looking out for employees and families today and in the future.

2.6 - Have you actively opposed LGBTQIA+ issues, which may involve voting against solidarity, supporting harmful or exclusionary policies, or publicly expressing opposition through statements or comments? (i.e. voting against or making disparaging remarks about the display of pride flags, marriage equality, trans-inclusive policies, or queer-inclusive curricula). *

Yes

No

2.7 - Have you previously sought the endorsement of the DPCCC? If yes, for what elected office? Were you endorsed? *

Yes in 2020 I sought the endorsement. I believe no one received enough votes to secure the endorsement

2.8 - Please list any elected offices, positions and date(s), which you hold/held or campaigned for as a candidate. *

Richmond City Council 1985, BART Board District 7 1992, Richmond City Council 2020

2.9 - In what ways have you supported and actively participated in the Democratic Party at the local, state, and national levels? *

As a Democratic Party organizer, I have stumped for our candidates in Iowa, New York, the Golden State of California, raised money, donated, door-knocked, phone-banked and endorsed numerous of our Party's local, regional, and state candidates and measures.

The Party's endorsement would be the capstone on a family legacy exemplified by the Justice-Equity-Diversity-Inclusion and Democratic traditions and activism in Richmond and Contra Costa County from my mother, former Richmond Mayor Irma Anderson, and my father, former Richmond Mayor Booker T. Anderson Jr. I will exemplify the DPCCC values in both word and action.

2.10 - Please list any clubs, boards, commissions, and /or organizations with which you are an active member, including the length of your affiliation and any leadership position you hold/held. *

- Richmond Chamber of Commerce
 - NAACP
 - Rotary
 - Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
 - Laurel Park Neighborhood Council
 - Easter Hill United Methodist Church Freedom School Executive Committee
 - University of California , Berkeley Alumni Association
 - Northern California Black Human Resources Professionals
 - Bay Area Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion Network
 - Society Human Resources Professionals
-

2.11 - Have you ever endorsed non-Democrats? *

- Yes
- No

2.11a - If so, what were the circumstances?

N/A

Section 3: References & Club Endorsements

3.1 - Please list any other endorsements you have received for this campaign. *

- 23rd Street Merchants
- Contra Costa Buildings and Construction Trades Council
- West Contra Costa County Mayors & Council members
- Hercules City Council Chris Kelley
- Pinole Mayor Maureen Toms
- City Council Anthony Tave
- San Pablo Mayor Patrica Ponce
- City Council Rita Xavier
- El Cerrito Mayor Tessa Rudnick
- Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Wysinger
- City Council Gabe Quinto
- *Albany Vice Mayor Robin Lopez -Alameda County but born and raised in Richmond
- California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond
- Contra Costa County Supervisor Federal Glover
- State Senator Nancy Skinner
- Contra College Trustee John Marquez
- AC Transit Director At Large Joel Young

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

BWOPA, CCYD, Malia Cohen, Buffy Wicks, and Congressman Mark Desaulnier, Former Congressman George Miller Jr. * Congressman Garamendi does not endorse in local elections

Some of the Democratic Clubs use this questionnaire in their endorsement process. If you would like to be considered for Democratic club endorsement(s), please contact the club(s) directly by going to our DPCCC website club's page:

<https://contracostadems.com/clubs/>

Part 2: DPCCC Values Section

Please proceed to fill out the 2nd section of the Candidate Questionnaire on the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County's Values.

DPCCC Value: Criminal Justice & Conflict Resolution

- *Opposes criminalization of low level offenses, advocates for Community Support Services, funding for prompt rape kit processing, gun violence prevention measures; Opposes scapegoating, racial profiling, religious profiling, bigotry, vigilantism, exploitation, and any xenophobic conduct that polarize communities and denounce actions by the government or individuals that keep undocumented immigrants in the shadows of our society; Supports Law Enforcement Training, Civilian Oversight Committees, independent investigators for cases involving the use of deadly force or in-custody deaths, restorative justice;*
- *Supports a properly funded and staffed the U.S. foreign service that promotes democracy and human rights around the world; Supports candidates who work to de-escalate tension especially in areas of conflict like Israel/Gaza, Sudan, Haiti, and other parts of the world through good faith negotiations and work for world peace; Endorse candidates who support the Democratic Party as it works to counter aggression by countries that violate the sovereignty of other countries and that fund and implement physical, cyber, and financial attacks on democracies and developing countries.*

Please expand on your stance and describe the potential impacts on the community that you seek to represent. *

1. I strongly oppose these policies and procedures. In District 5, 54% of my constituents are of the BIPOC community. Throughout history of this country and the city of Richmond these methods have resulted in physical and psychological harm.
2. I support good faith methods and negotiations to achieve peace not only internationally but also domestically.

DPCCC Value: Criminal Justice & Conflict Resolution

- *Opposes criminalization of low level offenses, advocates for Community Support Services, funding for prompt rape kit processing, gun violence prevention measures; Opposes scapegoating, racial profiling, religious profiling, bigotry, vigilantism, exploitation, and any xenophobic conduct that polarize communities and denounce actions by the government or individuals that keep undocumented immigrants in the shadows of our society; Supports Law Enforcement Training, Civilian Oversight*

Committees, independent investigators for cases involving the use of deadly force or in-custody deaths, restorative justice;

- *Supports a properly funded and staffed the U.S. foreign service that promotes democracy and human rights around the world; Supports candidates who work to de-escalate tension especially in areas of conflict like Israel/Gaza, Sudan, Haiti, and other parts of the world through good faith negotiations and work for world peace; Endorse candidates who support the Democratic Party as it works to counter aggression by countries that violate the sovereignty of other countries and that fund and implement physical, cyber, and financial attacks on democracies and developing countries.*

Please expand on your stance and describe the potential impacts on the community that you seek to represent. *

I strongly oppose these policies and procedures. In District 5, 54% of my constituents are of the BIPOC and immigrant community. Throughout history of this country and the city of Richmond these methods have resulted in physical and psychological harm. I am the descendant of slaves and immigrants from West Africa, Barbados, St. Lucia and Panama. I will stand up for our immigrant communities, not only because they are vital to our economy, but because they are a vital part of our social fabric.

2.I support good faith methods and negotiations to achieve peace not only internationally but also domestically. I will also stand up against hate in all forms in our communities- everyone should feel welcomed in the Richmond and the United States.

DPCCC Value: Education & Child Support Services

- *Advocates for high-quality, affordable child care; support programs for low income families including access to parks and job retraining; ensures educational materials (textbooks, library books) are inclusive, historically accurate, and reflect scientific consensus including age-appropriate, medically accurate sex/gender education; replacing sworn peace officers in schools with trained non-police personnel; Supports policies that respect students' civil rights related to gender expression and addresses issues like gender-based violence and harassment.*

Please expand on your stance and describe the potential impacts on the community that you seek to represent. *

I will advocate to reinstate the City of Richmond City Council - WCCUSD liaison to address the policies and procedures as it relates the education and welfare of childcare and education. I have been very active in holding the WCCUSD accountable for the critical missteps at Stege Elementary School

DPCCC Value: Seniors & Veteran Support Services

- *Supports the California Master Plan for Aging including dignified living at home housing options that are age, disability, and dementia-friendly; prioritize public housing initiatives over privatization for seniors and adults with disabilities; support retraining for those aged 55-65, and extend unemployment; oppose mandatory retirement; call for stronger oversight of reverse mortgage programs, rigorous prosecution of financial crimes against seniors; support comprehensive single-payer healthcare, with interim Medicare Part D reforms; support HICAP services, affordable mental healthcare including issues around isolation, quality caregiving, and increased funding for In-Home Supportive Services. Preserve programs like Adult Protective Services and home-delivered meals; advocate for the removal of the FICA income limit to strengthen Social Security and preserve pensions.*
- *Champions the needs of veterans and military families by promoting equitable treatment and benefits, access to education including tuition waivers and retraining, adequate healthcare funding including government assistance for those exposed to toxins; elimination of veteran homelessness, establishment of Veterans' Courts and justice programs and support independent investigations of claims of hazing, rape, sexual assault and harassment and that the military remove the chain of command from all investigations and prosecutions; support a path to citizenship for military service members, and protections against discrimination based on ethnicity, disability, gender identity, political affiliation, race, religion, or sexual orientation; oppose deportation of military personnel and limitations on citizenship for children of veterans who are born abroad.*

Please expand on your stance and describe the potential impacts on the community that you seek to represent. *

The recent census report posted in July 2024, identified the aging population in West Contra County and specifically in Richmond is increasing. However, we lack the critical wrap around services to address their needs. The fundamental area is housing and healthcare. I have worked in the healthcare industry as a human resource professional and have a strong relationship with Life Long Medical and Dr. Desmond Carson. I will collaborate with him champion and assess the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

DPCCC Value: Affordable Housing & Environmental Protections

- *Supports eviction protections, rent control/stabilization, anti-harassment ordinances, and habitability protections; Supports zoning and housing policies that ensure sustainability and affordability, including infill and mixed-use developments that balance job opportunities with housing availability; Promotes the integration of green spaces and community gardens in all communities; Supports local authority in phasing out fossil fuel extraction and preventing the zoning of new extraction sites; Advocates for strong regulatory measures for setting science-based health and safety setbacks from residential areas for industrial sites, including oil and gas wells and toxic dump sites.*

Please expand on your stance and describe the potential impacts on the community that you seek to represent. *

Support: I serve on the Fair Housing, Advocates of Northern California Board of Directors.

<https://www.fairhousingnorcal.org>

Additionally, I served as Chair of the City of Richmond's Economic development Commission. As Chair, I advocated for Economic development, housing for ALL at every level: Affordable-Sustainable, Green spaces which do not create housing injustice, and phasing out of fossil fuel. Yes, the reality is for decades the BIPOC, disenfranchised, socio-economically and underrepresented communities were not considered when industrial sites, including oil and gas wells and toxic dump sites placed in our communities. I fully support science-based health and safety policies / setbacks from residential areas for industrial sites, including oil and gas wells and toxic dump sites.

DPCCC Value: Equality & Human Rights

- *Actively advocates for a just and inclusive society, speaking out against all forms of racism, discrimination, harassment, hatred, and violence; Supports movements and initiatives that address discrimination; Enforces policies that ensure equal opportunities and equal pay for equal work across genders, races, and abilities; Upholds the rights of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals for acknowledgment of their stated name, gender, and pronoun; Supports the use of gender-neutral language to foster an inclusive environment; Promotes the participation of women, LGBTQIA+, people with disabilities, and people of color in elected office and ensures access to facilities consistent with individuals' gender identity and disability access; Supports the right to free speech, ensuring it does not extend to discriminatory practices against any group based on race, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation.*

Please expand on your stance and describe the potential impacts on the community that you seek to represent. *

I endorsed civil rights for ALL: Women, LGBTQIA+, people with disabilities, and people of color from a very early age in my life.

DPCCC Value: Healthcare & Reproductive Rights

- *Advocates for the preservation of rights under Roe v. Wade, guaranteeing confidential and unrestricted access to reproductive services without the need for consent or judicial intervention, ensuring continued coverage of all healthcare options; Works toward implementing a universal, single-payer healthcare system, while in the interim, seeking reforms to make Medicare Part D more affordable and accessible, including the ability for Medicare to negotiate drug prices.*

Please expand on your stance and describe the potential impacts on the community that you seek to represent. *

Making quality healthcare accessible to all isn't just a policy imperative, but a moral imperative as well. No one should be forced to make the often-impossible choice between meeting basic needs and accessing essential healthcare services.

I will advocate for a truly universal healthcare system. I will work with Federal and State legislatures to take action to lower prescription drug prices, so Californians and can afford necessary medication. I will also collaborate to build a full-service hospital serving West Contra Costa County, increasing hospital capacity to the benefit of all residents.

DPCCC Value: Economic Justice & Business Development

- *Support for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship focusing on women, people of color, and those with limited entrepreneurship opportunities including veterans; Support the rights of employees to organize and Project Labor Agreements; Ensures a safe working environment free from harassment, intimidation, and retaliation; Advocates for the establishment of local banks and credit unions, limiting regressive financial operations like check cashing businesses and pawnshops; Promotes Project Labor Agreements to protect workers; Supports initiatives to counteract "food deserts" by developing local grocery stores and community gardens in underrepresented areas.*

Please expand on your stance and describe the potential impacts on the community that you seek to represent. *

Support! I have been endorsed by 23rd Street Merchants, Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council, Richmond Chamber of Commerce PAC. I am the former Chair of the City of Richmond Economic Development Commission. Throughout my tenure we challenged the city leadership make impactful efforts to support Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship focusing on women, people of color, and those with limited entrepreneurship opportunities including veterans.

Reminders:

* After submitting this questionnaire, please go and pay your endorsement application fee at:

<https://contracostadems.com/donate>

* Please direct questions to the Endorsements Committee Chair Tamela Hawley or Vice Chair Cameron Sasai at endorsements@contracostadems.com

* The DPCCC Code of Conduct: <https://contracostadems.com/about/code-of-conduct/>

* The CADEM Party Platform: <https://cadem.org/our-platform/>

If you like, you may submit a biography and/or resume in the section below. Not required.

 Add file

Submit Questionnaire

By submitting this questionnaire, I attest that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and to uphold the Code Of Conduct. <https://contracostadems.com/about/code-of-conduct/>

Thank you and good luck with your campaign! We will be in touch with you to schedule your interview time.

Interviews will be scheduled by District Directors.

By submitting this questionnaire, I agree to accepting the endorsement of the DPCCC if offered. *

Yes

No

I have paid my endorsement application fee: <https://contracostadems.com/donate/> *

Yes

No

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