

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): *

Anthony Caro
.....

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? *

The Contra Costa County Board of Education, Area 1

CA FPPC ID # *

1468216

Campaign Website *

www.anthonycaro.com

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

Edgar Rosales

Social Media Handles *

@Anthony.E.Caro, @caro4schoolboard, @anthony_e_caro

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

I am running for the Contra Costa County Board of Education Area 1 to support our most at-risk students and close the achievement gap. If elected to the county board, I want to create a pipeline of support and resources from the county to the district level to ensure our WCCUSD students have as much support as possible.

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

The County Board of Education facilitates resources from the State-level to the local school district level. They approve or disapprove of the budget of the County Office of Education, oversee Charter School petitions, and set policy and curriculum for County Schools to include the Juvenile Detention Centers.

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

I have years of experience as a community organizer where I organized parents, students, and teachers to advocate for education policy initiatives. I also have served in the United States Army for 5.5 years, where 4 of those years were in Active Duty Status. My military service has qualified me to lead under extreme pressure.

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

My top three priorities are community-based schools, college and career readiness, and teacher retention and growth.

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

I plan to have quarterly forums where community members can gather, and I can hear their concerns and ideas for our schools. I also plan on attending many community-hosted events, so I can make myself known to my constituents and reach out to them for their input.

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? *

The endorsement of the DPCCC is like a beacon to voters in the County that look toward the party for guidance on who to vote for. Voters want to support a candidate that aligns with their values and will benefit their communities. I am seeking the endorsement of the DPCCC because I believe I am that candidate, and I would like to use your endorsement to better advertise myself to the voters I cannot reach on my own. I will support other endorsed candidates by offering my guidance and raising awareness of issues that must be addressed to improve our community.

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

We are a combine that is focused on coalition building. We have diverse endorsements from labor partners and other Democratic leaders such as State Superintendent Tony Thurmond and the California Teachers Association.

Section 2: Democratic History

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

I first registered as a Democrat around 2016/2017. I chose this party because it was the party that aligned with my values and I was proud to vote for Bernie Sanders in my first primary election in 2016.

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? *

The most relevant element of the CADEM Platform is the education piece. I 100% support the party's positions, including the funding needed to support our foster youth and special education programs. Aside from introducing budget policies to support these initiatives, I will advance this platform element to hold my fellow Democrats accountable for supporting these initiatives. If every candidate in my area of the county who gets the party's endorsement gets elected, I will remind them of their commitment to the CADEM Platform which includes committing funding to fully support our public education system.

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? *

I support resolutions that call for more equity and anti-racism training in our schools. Not just for our teachers, but for staff and volunteers as well.

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? *

I honestly do not remember. I was 21 when I ran for the WCCUSD School Board in 2018. The Contra Costa Young Democrats and the Lambda Democratic Club endorsed me, but I do not remember if I applied for or received the DPCCC endorsement.

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

I ran for the West Contra Costa Unified School District School Board in 2018, and lost.

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

I am the treasurer of the largest Democratic club in Contra Costa County, the West County Dems. I have been in this position for over a year and became active in the club as soon as I returned from Active Duty service.

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. *

Sergeant in the United States Army. I've served since 2018. This is not a municipal or community-based club, but I think it counts as an organization that comes with a culture of its own.

2.11 - Have you ever endorsed non-Democrats? *

Yes

No

2.11a - If so, what were the circumstances?

Section 3: References & Club Endorsements

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

California Teachers Association

United Teachers of Richmond

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond

Contra Costa County Board of Education Trustee, Consuelo Lara

Contra Costa County Board of Education Trustee, Sarah Butler

Contra Costa County Board Supervisor, John Gioia

Contra Costa Community College District Governing Board President, Rebecca Barrett

Contra Costa Community College District Governing Board Member, John E. Márquez

Contra Costa Community College District Governing Board Member, Fernando Sandoval

West Contra Costa Unified School District Board Trustee, Madeline Kronenberg (former)

West Contra Costa Unified School District Board Trustee, Todd Groves (former)

West Contra Costa Unified School District Board Trustee, Jamela Smith-Folds

West Contra Costa Unified School District Board Trustee, Demetrio Gonzalez-Hoy

City of Albany Vice Mayor, Robin López

City of Berkeley Mayor, Jesse Arreguín

City of El Cerrito Mayor Pro Tem, Carolyn Wysinger

City of Pinole Mayor, Maureen Toms

City of Pinole Mayor Pro Tem, Cameron Sasai

City of Pinole Councilmember, Devin Murphy

City of Richmond Mayor, Nat Bates (former)

City of San Pablo Mayor, Genoveva Calloway (former)

City of San Pablo Mayor, Patricia Ponce

City of San Pablo Vice Mayor, Arturo Cruz

City of San Pablo Councilmember, Rita Xavier

California Teachers Association President, Dr. Terry Jones (former)

Steve Early

Mike and Ruth Peritz

Michael Gonzales

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

I am waiting on the results of my interview with the Contra Costa Labor Council and the Contra Costa Building Trades Council.

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. *

I am running for an education board seat. This stance impacts our student community. When I read this, I read it from the perspective of how we treat our BIPOC students and newcomers from other countries. I not only agree with this stance but vow to do my part in making our schools a welcoming environment for all students, especially those who often go without representation on education boards.

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

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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. *

Yes, I support this stance and am dedicated to seeing our schools improve.

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. *

Yes, let's protect those who are no longer able to protect themselves, and that includes seniors who have difficulty finding the right resources to live with dignity. As a Veteran, I also believe in supporting those who support us through their military service.

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. *

Yes. This directly impacts our teachers who are having trouble to afford to live in the areas where they teach. I believe in raising their wages and providing affordable housing to solve the teacher shortage crisis.

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. *

My stance is I support this.

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. *

My stance is I support this.

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. *

My stance is I support this. In our schools, I plan on implementing partnership programs so students can begin career training early. My hope is for students to have internship experience upon graduation and can begin their adult lives with a sense of direction based on exposure to the local job market.

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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