

# 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): \*

Cindy Darling  
.....

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? \*

Walnut Creek City Council .....

CA FPPC ID # \*

1468767

Campaign Website \*

www.cindyardling.org

Campaign Consultant/Manager \*

California Progress Lab

.....

**Social Media Handles \***

@cindydarling4wc

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

I am running for re-election to continue the important work I began in 2020. I want to push forward our sustainability efforts, build and sustain a vibrant economy that provides opportunities for all, and continue to work to improve public safety so that Walnut Creek is the safe inclusive city we all want it to be where everyone has a chance to be heard.

I have a long history of being able to work with a variety of interests to negotiate win-win solutions. In my first term on Council I've helped craft decisions that bridge divides on the council and move important problems to solutions. For example, the Council had previously declined to address the public safety issues anti-abortion protesters were creating at the local Planned Parenthood clinic. With a focus on our common interest in preserving order and public safety, we got a unanimous vote to both create a buffer zone and to ban amplified sound at the clinic. I want to continue to use these skills to help my city.

I believe in the honor intrinsic in public service and want to carry on my family tradition of giving back to my community.

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

As an incumbent council member and as the current Mayor Pro Tem, my understanding of the job is that it is a combination of pushing, cheerleading, pulling, and a bit of cajoling so that everyone in Walnut Creek can find ways to work together for the benefit of our citizens, businesses and our visitors to achieve our common goals.

The Walnut Creek City Council listens to our community and using their input, establishes priorities for the city every two years. I've been proud of the priorities we've established:

Diversity, equity, and inclusion,  
Economic development and job creation,  
Environmental sustainability and climate action,  
Parks, facilities, and other infrastructure,  
Public safety & social wellness.

After establishing our priorities, the next big task for the council is aligning our budget with them. In 2022, it became clear that while our budget was adequate to sustain current city operations, we needed some additional resources to truly address all of our priorities. We voted to put Measure O on the ballot and the voters agreed with us. With Measure O, we've been able to fund important programs such as a full time CORE team of social workers to reach out to those experiencing homelessness, we've added key staff and resources to implement our Sustainability Action Plan, we've added library hours so our kids have a place to study after school, and we've secured the resources to build our new community center and aquatics complex.

How we go about implementing those priorities and actions is the third leg of the stool. Each priority has its own action plan and we monitor that work to ensure that we are achieving the metrics we set. In some cases, we've asked staff to look at new approaches. While Walnut Creek has not historically used Project Labor Agreements (PLAs), with the construction of the community center and aquatics complex, I along with two of my fellow council members asked the City Manager to reach out to labor and bring consideration of a PLA to us prior to going out to bid. My hope is that we can find a win-win solution.

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

I have have a long track record in....

Public Service

Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek City Council

Chair, Walnut Creek Planning Commission

Chair, San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Independent Citizens Oversight Committee

Deputy Assistant Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

Environmental Advocacy

Board Member, MCE Clean Energy

Co-Founder & Environmental Planner, Darling H2O Consulting, Inc.

Bay Area Regional Coordinator, CALFED Bay Delta Program

Environmental Specialist, California Department of Fish & Wildlife

Member, East Bay Leadership Council Water Task Force

Community Leadership

Founder, Las Lomas All-Knighter Foundation

Civic Affairs Committee Member, Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce

Troop Leader & Camp Counselor, Girl Scouts

Den Leader & Committee Chair, Boy Scouts

Walnut Creek Citizen's Institute

Volunteerism

Walnut Creek Downtown

Walnut Creek Community Services Day

Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation

Walnut Creek Schools

See attached resume for more information.

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

My top three priorities are

**Sustainability:** Our Sustainability Action Plan lays out the commitments we as a city have made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These commitments address transportation, electrification of public buildings, homes, and commercial buildings, water conservation and other sustainability practices. We also have incorporated community health and resilience actions to deal with the impacts we are already seeing from climate change. We are working to implement our plan through incentives, education, and regulation.

**Public Safety:** Public safety, in its broader sense, has been an important council priority since I've been on council. We will continue to move beyond just adding officers and focus on building a modern and healthy police department that has the tools, education, training, and full accountability it needs to keep us all safe. I will work to maintain our full time team of social workers to assist our homeless and to implement alternative non-law enforcement mental health responses. We are also working to improve public safety on our roads with increased focus on pedestrian and bike safety, especially around schools.

**Economic Prosperity for All:** To make our city work for all, we need to attract new businesses by streamlining permitting and by applying the lessons learned during Covid when city government had to be nimble. We also need to build the housing and infrastructure needed to support the workers who are employed by those businesses. I will continue to look for opportunities to make it easier to do business with the city and to make it safer to walk, bike, and drive here. And we will get the new pool and swim center built

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

I regularly represent the city at the Farmer's Market and other events such as Earth Day, Memorial Day, the local Pride Parade, and so many other events so that I can hear directly from our constituents about what is on their minds. I also make sure that I am accessible, sharing my contact information with the public, discussing important issues on my social media pages and responding to every constituent who reaches out.

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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?

I am seeking the DPCCC endorsement because it is an important tool to demonstrate my support for bedrock Democratic Party principles. It's the party that believes government is useful and effective at solving problems, it's the party that wants to build social equity, that thinks it's important to protect the environment, that sees health care and housing as a basic human right and is committed to building a better tomorrow through education, social justice, and lifting up those who have not always been at the table.

I will use it in communications, especially with registered Democrats. I believe the party's endorsement will be essential to victory in Walnut Creek. In 2020 Democrats were 51% of our population and that has increased to 55% this year while Republicans have dropped from 22% in 2020 to 19% this year. I intend to use the endorsement on my campaign materials, especially while GOTV with Walnut Creek Democrats.

I will continue to support my fellow Democrats all up and down the ticket. For example, I've worked closely to support Luz Gomez, Patt Young, and Florence Wedington, all newly elected or appointed board members in the water and wastewater industry and who are also women of color in a male dominated industry because they can bring fresh perspective.

I will always support the Democratic Party and will help other candidates, whether financially or with my time and voice. The importance of solidarity and all rowing in the same direction in this most critical election year cannot be underestimated.

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

Here's a small selection of my accomplishments since joining the city council:

**Sustainability:** I helped implement a new climate sustainability action plan, while keeping MCE Clean Energy rates below those of PG&E-powered cities, reducing carbon pollution by the equivalent of over 3 million gallons of gas. Walnut Creek also expanded electric vehicle charging, encouraged diversion of waste from the landfill, banned gas powered leaf blowers and implemented innovative projects such as the Transit Signal Priority project and the free downtown and Shadelands shuttles, making it even more convenient to go from BART to downtown or Shadelands.

**Public Safety:** I worked to improve public safety for ALL by better training WCPD and implementing an alternative 24/7 mental health response program. Walnut Creek brought in additional officers, crime analysts and technology to help keep our city safe. And to improve customer service and quality of life, WCPD now has a customer feedback program so anyone interacting with officers can weigh-in on their service. 90% have reported they were treated with respect and 85% held a positive view of the department.

**Economic Prosperity for All:** I helped fund and recruit a full team of social workers to assist our homeless, helping them to move out of encampments and into supportive housing and jobs programs. Since most offices are located far across the Bay, Walnut Creek needs to attract good jobs, while encouraging responsible development that provides a place for working families to live. I have worked hard to attract new businesses, revitalize our downtown, balance the city budget (with strong reserves!) and improve long-term fiscal sustainability and oversight with Measure O.

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## 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 when I turned 18 and have never looked back. I believe that the Democratic Party is the party working to ensure that everyone has rights, opportunities, and the ability to live in a safe world. The party that believes that our country works best when economic opportunity is shared equitably. We believe in education for all, celebration of diversity, and that our best days are ahead of us, rather than behind us.

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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? \*

Our Sustainability Action Plan works to promote elements of the platform on Energy and Environment and on Sustainable Communities that are important to me personally, professionally and as a mother. I will keep pushing our city to do more on Sustainability.

The elements in the platform on Gun Violence Prevention are part of my efforts to address public safety. We as a council have enacted a safe gun storage ordinance and I will continue to use proclamations, appearances, and social media to reinforce the concept that gun safety is all of our job, as well as promote policy changes when opportunities arise.

My work on economic prosperity for all reflects the party platform on Culture and the Arts. I will continue to partner with our arts community to increase diversity and to involve all of our community in our arts programming because it is both an important economic driver for our community that brings in over \$30 M a year and with our new strategic plan that emphasizes diversity and seeking new audiences, it helps foster belonging in our community.

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? \*

Diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging are bedrock council priorities. If elected, I will keep the focus on this priority in how the city does its work and recruits and maintains its staff, how our city programs reflect the breadth of diversity we see in our population, and how we treat our visitors, residents, and employees with respect, while doing everything we can to ensure more equitable outcomes for residents.

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, I sought endorsement in 2020 when I first ran for City Council and was endorsed by the DPCCC as well as the Rossmoor Dems, the Young Dems, the Lamorinda Dems, the Lambda Dems and others. So far this year, I have been endorsed by the Lamorinda Democratic Club and am pursuing endorsement from other clubs.

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

Walnut Creek City Council, 2020-2024

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

Before the 2016 election, I was a “crab feed” Democrat. I’d make a few phone calls and donations here and there and show up at local crab feeds. Both my husband and I had careers in public service that required us to be politically aware but did not necessarily permit us to be politically active. With the 2016 election, the stakes got a whole lot higher. Before being elected, I helped with the Women’s March, phonebanked voters, emailed members of Congress and donated to campaigns. Now as an elected representative, I have sought out and supported new candidates, especially women, to support their campaigns. I’m also proud to sponsor local events such as the Solidarity Gala. I also have joined with a group in Rossmoor to selectively fundraise for some of the key races for the House this year.

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. \*

Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation  
Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce  
East Bay Leadership Council  
Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts  
Walnut Creek Community Service Day  
Ruth Bancroft Garden

See attached resume

2.11 - Have you ever endorsed non-Democrats? \*

Yes

No

2.11a - If so, what were the circumstances?

I have not endorsed any non-Democrats for any partisan races.

### Section 3: References & Club Endorsements

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

Contra Costa Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
 Contra Costa Building & Construction Trades Council  
 Lamorinda Democratic Club

Assemblymembers Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Tim Grayson

County Supervisor Ken Carlson

County Supervisor John Gioia

Former County Supervisor Karen Mitchoff

Fellow city council members from other cities including Shanelle Scales-Preston, Pittsburg, Sue Noack and Matt Rinn, Pleasant Hill, Latika Malkani, Orinda, Nancy Parent (Fmr) Pittsburg, Gabe Quinto, El Cerrito, Alex Walker-Griffin, Hercules

Water leaders including Florence Wedington, Barbara Hockett, Mike McGill, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, John Coleman, Marguerite Young, and Luz Gomez, EBMUD, Patt Young, Ernie Avila, and Bette Boatman, CCWD

Education leaders including Cherise Khaund, MDUSD, Chris Grove and Jennifer Chen, Acalanes UHSD, Aimee Moss Walnut Creek School Board.

Many of our local commissioners and all of my fellow city council members.

### 3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? \*

I hope to earn Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and Congressman Jared Huffman's endorsement again, as well as Contra Costa Young Democrats, Rossmoor Democratic Club, Diablo Valley Democratic Club, and other democratic clubs, Planned Parenthood, and environmental groups, like the Sierra Club.

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 &amp; 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. \*

In 2020, when I joined the Walnut Creek City Council, our community was in the midst of a difficult and painful conversation about race, mental health, and policing after the death of Miles Hall. We have worked to ensure that there is now 24/7 non-police response to calls for someone in the midst of a mental health crisis. We have also added specialized mental health training for teams in our police department for those times when they are called to accompany the mental health teams. We have been one of the first cities to implement Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement training as well as implicit bias training for EVERYONE in city government from parking staff to the City Council.

We have also promoted gun safety in our community. After the tragedy at Uvalde, we unanimously passed a safe gun storage ordinance and we regularly include Moms Demand Action in our National Night Out events. I also have personally spoken out against the anti-Semitic hate speech that has been brought into our council chambers and have stood with my fellow local electeds against hate.

## DPCCC Value: Criminal Justice &amp; 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 think this question got repeated?  
.....

### 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. \*

We work closely with out school partners and child care providers to ensure that our children grow up in a world where they feel supported and valued for who they are. For example, we have recognized our local school district for their inclusion of Wellness Centers for their students where they can get the assistance they need with mental health and other challenges facing kids today. We have also long flown the Pride flag and our police wear Pride patches during June as a way to ensure that everyone feels seen. One event we've hosted these last two years, Drag Queen Story Hour, is a great opportunity for families of all types to gather in a supportive atmosphere. Beyond feeling included, we also want our youth to feel like their voices can be heard so in addition to our regular youth commission, we have also included youth commissioners on three of our city commissions. I am committed to continuing to build Walnut Creek as a community where everyone feels safe and welcome to work, live, and play.  
.....

## 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. \*

Walnut Creek has a significant population of seniors both in Rossmoor and in our broader community. We provide services and support to seniors through our non-profit partners such as Meals on Wheels and through our Arts and Rec programs. These programs range from Lyft passes even if a senior doesn't have access to a smart phone, to tenant counseling and support services. You can break our senior services into three parts...first part is the active senior community. Here we strive to have a balanced offering of classes and activities through our Arts and Rec Department, whether you are interested in art or just want to swim laps. Second component is our lower income seniors. We have senior housing at Villa Vasconcellos and we are very close to opening Hope Village which will be transitional housing for our homeless seniors. It is a sad commentary that this is one of the faster growing segments of our homeless populations. The last category are our frail, elderly seniors who need more routine assistance to stay in their homes. This is where Meals on Wheels and other senior assistance programs come in. One of my favorite programs during Covid was the friendly caller program where if a senior needed help, had a question or just wanted someone to talk to, we had staff and volunteers ready to take their calls.

## 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. \*

Walnut Creek has just proudly been designated a Prohousing City by HCD and has a certified Housing Element that builds on our planning efforts to support housing especially near transit. We are probably one of the few cities that didn't need to rezone anything to provide ample opportunity sites for new housing. We have proactively through our West and North Downtown Specific Plans planned for new housing that has transit access, is near the best schools and is near most job opportunities. Our newest affordable project, Hope Village, which will house homeless seniors, is under construction and residents are moving into Esperanza Place developed in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. We recognize the importance of housing to the health of our economy and to our city.

We also adopted a Sustainability Action Plan this year, to guide projects and programs to make Walnut Creek a greener city and part of the climate solution.

Lastly, Walnut Creek is celebrating the 50th anniversary of our Open Space. Our forefathers and mothers had the wisdom and insight to pass a funding measure that allowed the city to acquire our Open Spaces. Today we have more open space per capita than any other city in the county. It gives us all room to breathe and was an essential part of maintaining my mental health through Covid.

## 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. \*

Our council priorities include Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging and we work to promote these values through education and training of our employees, through the way we speak and the proclamations we share, and through some fun new arts programs. Our new creative director at Center Rep promises that the production next month of Arsenic and Old Lace will be "queerishly delightful" so we will all have to wait and see what exactly that means.

One particular challenge we've faced this year is anti-Semitic groups that have targeted our City Council, like they have in El Cerrito and other cities. We as a council have steadfastly spoken out against this hate speech, even though we have all received postcards at our houses and the anti-Semites seek to intimidate us all, especially Kevin Wilk, in their comments. I have personally defended Kevin and gathered with other local elected leaders and our faith communities to speak out against hate.

#### 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. \*

I have worked in close partnership with Planned Parenthood to ensure that their staff and patients can safely access their clinic in town while respecting the first amendment rights of the protesters that have flocked there since Covid. We have adopted both a buffer zone ordinance and a ban on amplified sound and I've heard from friends who work as escorts that it has made their lives much more enjoyable. I have also stayed in close communication with WCPD and our District Attorney to ensure that laws protecting patient privacy are being enforced at the clinic. With the Dobbs decision, the potential for privacy violations has increased as we've welcomed out of state patients and the consequences have become even more impactful as other states have succumbed to right wing rule.

## 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. \*

Economic vitality and opportunity for all is a key priority for me. We have worked to improve the city's permitting process so it is easier for a new small business to open in the city. We also have economic development staff who partner with our new businesses to help introduce them to the community.

On labor, I am proud to be endorsed by the Labor Council and the Building & Construction Trades Council. Walnut Creek has not used PLAs historically but I joined two of my fellow council members in a motion to instruct the City Manager to bring the potential for a PLA for our pool and community center back to the Council.

### 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](mailto: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.

 Cindy Darling Re...

 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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Google Forms