

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): *

Cara, Hoxie
.....

Preferred Name (if different than campaign name):

Cara
.....

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? *

Orinda City Council

CA FPPC ID # *

1471685

Campaign Website *

www.cara4orinda.com

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

Elizabeth Daoust and Yasaman Lee

.....

Social Media Handles *

Cara Hoxie
.....

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

I am a lifelong Orinda resident and care deeply about my community. I have served for the past 8 years on the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees. I want to bring my understanding of our community and my problem solving skills to address some of the difficult issues facing Orinda such as housing, fire safety, fire insurance coverage, and green energy.
.....

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

As one of five Council members, I will be entrusted to make decisions that are in the best interest of the Orinda community while recognizing the needs of Contra Costa county and the larger Bay Area that are in keeping with my goal of making Orinda a community where everyone belongs.
.....

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

I grew up in Orinda, raised my family in Orinda, volunteered extensively in Orinda and currently serve as President of the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees. I am a graduate of Smith College and Cornell Law school. I practiced law for 5 years in San Francisco at Heller Ehrman and then served as President and CEO of Choice in Aging (a large non-profit organization based in Pleasant Hill that serves seniors and adults with disabilities) for 14 years. While on the School Board, I helped to increase teacher salaries by working with my fellow Board members to pass a parcel tax (Measure Z). I have also worked to find creative ways to make home buying more affordable to teachers by partnering with Landed, a non-profit that provides down payment funding to teachers. I have worked to bring the MOFD, the City and the School District together to address evacuation and other fire concerns facing Orinda schools. I also worked to pass two bond measures (Measures E and I) to improve our school facilities: adding HVAC in every classroom, a fire safe multi-purpose room at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, and a Student Services building and Wellness Center at Orinda Intermediate School.

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

My primary goals are to serve the Orinda community and to address its challenges while maintaining its fiscal stability. A few of my top priorities include revitalizing downtown Orinda, working to address the fire insurance coverage crisis many Orindans are facing, improving walkability and safe routes to schools, and encouraging more green power and EV charging.

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

Having served on the School Board I have had a lot of experience engaging with the community. I respond very quickly to emails, I listen to feedback in person, by phone, in meetings or in town hall settings. I attend as many community meetings as possible so that I am visible and available in the community.

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 a lifelong Democrat and I feel that the the Democratic voice is a very important one in our community. When my family moved to Orinda in the 1960's, there were not a lot of Democrats, and my mother fought hard to bring the democratic voice to Orinda. I have financially supported Democratic candidates. I will proudly use the endorsement in my campaign materials and I would be happy to support other local democratic candidates.

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

Not only have I served on the School Board but I have also served on the Lamorinda School Bus Transportation Authority, ensuring students have safe transportation to school while working to mitigate traffic on major thoroughfares such as Moraga Way. As we continue to grow, transportation will continue to be an important regional issue.

Section 2: Democratic History

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

I am a lifelong Democratic.

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? *

I believe in excellent public education. I have worked to ensure students in Orinda have the best possible public education through improving teacher salaries, improving the classrooms in which our teachers work, advocating for teacher housing, and creating wellness centers at all of our schools in order to address the mental health concerns of students and families. I believe all books have a place in our schools. I believe strongly in a woman's right to choose and since my days at a woman's college I have fought for that right.

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? *

These are high priorities for our community and as a School Board member I have worked hard to create an environment in which everyone belongs. In 2022 while I was the School Board President, the District passed a joint DEI resolution with the City of Orinda. The School District established DEI committees at each school site as well as district wide. Both the school district and the City of Orinda adopted the slogan "Everyone Belongs Here" and we have continued to collaborate on DEI over the past several years.

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? *

Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees 2016

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

Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees

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

I have supported Democratic candidates at the local, state and national level and I have financially supported numerous Democratic campaigns.

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. *

I serve on the Lamorinda School Bus Transportation Authority.

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. *

Senator Steve Glazer, Orinda City Council members Darlene Gee, Latika Malkani, Inga Miller, Brandyn Iverson and Janet Riley. School Board members Edda Collins Coleman, Hillary Weiner, Eve Phillips and Katie Shogan. Also Amy Worth, Sarah Butler.

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

Lamorinda Democratic Club, Young Democrats, and additional community leaders.

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. *

As a School Board member, I worked with the City of Orinda to pass the 2018 Safe Gun Storage law and to educate parents and families about the importance of safe gun storage to prevent suicide and accidental death.

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 absolutely oppose criminalization of low level offenses and have worked to create restorative justice systems for discipline at Orinda Intermediate School.

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. *

As a School Board member, I have worked to ensure that the textbooks we adopt are inclusive, historically accurate and age-appropriate. This past spring, the Orinda Union School District adopted new Social Studies textbooks that were vetted by a thorough and inclusive process, including input from our Diversity Equity and Inclusion committee, teachers, parents, and community.

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. *

As the President and CEO of Choice in Aging, I worked extensively to ensure Seniors could stay in their homes through providing Adult Day Care services, care giver support services, Alzheimer's care and respite care services, and language and culturally specific programs for underserved seniors. I also currently drive for Seniors Around Town, transporting local seniors to doctor's appointments.

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. *

I believe in green energy and have installed extensive solar panels and back up batteries in my own home. I do not sufficiently understand why Orinda has not allowed Orinda residents to participate in MCE as an alternative to PG&E but think it is something the City should reconsider.

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. *

On the School Board, I helped to establish our Diversity Equity and Inclusion committee and have worked to partner with the City of Orinda to make Orinda a more welcoming place for all families. In June, the School Board unanimously passed our annual resolution in support of LGBTQIA+ people in our District, including staff, students and families.

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 wholeheartedly support reproductive rights for women!

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. *

On the School Board, I have worked to increase salaries for all District employees and by working to pass Measure Z, our Orinda Parcel Tax that funds increased salaries. This past year alone, the School District increased teacher and staff salaries by a historic 14%.

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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