

Charles Davidson

INCUMBENT, Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District (RHFD.org) Elected: 2020-2024

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CA FPPC ID # **85-2653403**

DPCCC 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Primary/General Election (As of 6/9/2020)

Thank you for being a part of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County's (DPCCC) Endorsement process.

Please complete this questionnaire and email it to the DPCCC Endorsements Chair at

endorsements@contracostadems.com

Deadline for submission: No later than XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The Democratic Party of Contra Costa County's Mission "We are dedicated to protecting the American Dream for the people of Contra Costa County by electing Democrats that will uphold the promise of equality, justice and freedom for all."

We developed our candidate questionnaire from the democratic values and policy priorities of California Democratic Party Platform. We ask that you read the Platform, found at CaDem.org, before you fill out the Questionnaire.

Note the questionnaire is presented in five (5) sections.

- Section 1 Background; Section 2: Campaign Information; Section 3: Candidate Questionnaire; Section 4: Issues Position; Section 4: Elected Position; Section 5: Campaign Strategy. Section 1-4 contain information about you and your campaign, your values as a Democrat, and your knowledge of the office for which you are running. The information provided will be available through the DPCCC Web page, www.contracostadems.com after endorsements are made.

- Section 5 contains information relevant to your strategy for winning this office and your understanding of campaign fundamentals. This information will be held confidential and will only be shared among the DPCCC Endorsements Committee members as part of their deliberations.

- Some of the information from the answers to our questionnaire may be shared orally by the Endorsements Committee Chair when he or she reports on the committee's deliberations or recommendations to the full Contra Costa Democratic Party.

There is a mandatory Endorsement Application fee of \$30 that must be paid prior to our accepting your questionnaire and scheduling an interview. Endorsement Application Fees may be paid through ActBlue with this link.

● Required Information

SECTION 1: Background (to be posted on the DPCCC web page)

1. *Have you previously sought the endorsement of the DPCCC, if so, for what elected office. **No**

2. Party Registration History: List your party affiliations and when did you first registered as a Democrat and why? Democratic Party – 1972. Supported the Roosevelt wing of the Democratic Party (Franklin and Eleanor) because progressive, anti-racist and pro-labor.

3. Please list offices, positions and date(s) which you held or campaigns in which you were a candidate. CADEM- AB15 delegate (elected, 2012-2016); CC County Democratic Party (Appointed. 2012-2018); Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District (RHFD.com; elected 2020-2024)

4. Please describe your support and participation in the Democratic Party at the local, state and national level. In 1994, at age 12, I passed out LBJ for president flyers in Michigan outside the election site (opposing Republican Barry Goldwater). Voted first time in the 1972 Democratic Party. Since 2012, I have walked and canvassed in every election in the City of Hercules. In the advocacy group, MoveOn.org, in 2008 and 2012, **I was involved in massive call campaigns with hundreds of callers for the Obama Campaigns, being the principle MoveOn coordinator for the East Bay MoveOn Chapter from 2010 until 2014. I have been involved with lobbying in Sacramento and attend multiple caucuses within the CADEM.**

5. Please list your top five (5) individual and organizational endorsements.

6. Please list any clubs and/or organizations with which you are an active member, including the length of your membership and any leadership position you have held.
SunFlower Alliance: Co-Founder; an East Bay Environmental organization and advocacy group since 2013.

Rodeo Citizens Association: A 501(C)3 community advocacy group in Rodeo, a Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community. Board Member since 2021.

Hercules Democratic Club: 2012 until present. Former HDC Vice President from 2014-16

7. Have you endorsed a person registered with another political party in the past 12 years? If so, please list who, when and why. **No**

DPCCC 2020 Candidate Questionnaire
Primary/General Election (As of 6/9/2020)

SECTION 2a: CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

(to be posted on the DPCCC web page)

Please provide us with your campaign and contact information

Name:

Campaign Website: **Under construction**

Name of Campaign Committee: - **self** -

CA FPPC ID # **85-2653403**

SECTION 2b: CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Understanding you and your Campaign Values

(to be posted on the DPCCC web page)

In order to focus on specific questions pertaining to the office you are seeking at the interview, please provide brief and succinct written answers to the questions below. Type answers below each question that follows:

1. State the three (3) top reasons you have for running for this office.

a. Ensure superior (beyond adequate) EMS services, noting that Rodeo, a disadvantaged community with poverty heavy industry, has a 3-times the EMS call rate than Hercules. b. Fiscal responsibility and long-term quality Fire/EMS services. c. Support west Contra Costa County medical service delivery as there is no local, public emergency room since the closure of doctors hospital.

2. If elected, what are the three (3) top priorities that you have for your term, are they viable and how do you plan on accomplishing them? **a. Ensure that RHFD fully receives its allocated share of tax revenues, that has not occurred. b. Proper administrative and financial management. c. Determining long-term planning strategies.**

3. Why are you seeking our endorsement? How will you use our endorsement? How will you support other endorsed candidates and issues? **a. I am seeking the endorsement because I want to raise the awareness of the the Rodeo and Hercules communities to the proposed annexation plans of the RHFD. b. To raise my public profile to accomplish my ability to inform resident of RHFD's activities, issues, plans and proposals and to raise their level of involvement in public safety. c. I will support the entire Democratic Party Slate, walk door to door and canvass.**

4. Please feel free to include any additional information you would like for us to consider in evaluating your candidacy. **I have a background in environmental science and public health.**

DPCCC 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Primary/General Election

As of 6/9/2020

SECTION 3: ISSUE POSITIONS

(to be posted on the DPCCC web page)

Please tell us your position on the following issues.

Do you support or oppose: * Indicate your choice with an "x"

ECONOMIC JUSTICE Support Oppose Not Sure

- Reassessment of Commercial & Industrial Property - YES ✓
- \$15/hr minimum wage - YES ✓
- Regulation of "pay day" lenders - YES ✓

CIVIL & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Reducing jail/prison overcrowding by decreasing penalties for minor drug offenses - YES ✓
- Changing standards of using deadly force from "reasonable" to "necessary" and to train police officers to consider alternative methods before resorting to deadly force. - YES ✓
- Reform the bail system - YES ✓
- Restorative Justice practices - YES ✓

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Transportation of tar sand oils and other hazardous materials on the county's rail corridors - Oppose
- Green New Deal - YES ✓
- New fossil fuel infrastructure projects – Oppose new FF infrastructure projects, but wholeheartedly support worker and public safety improvements in existing FF infrastructure and efficiency improvements. I have heavily involved in advocacy over safety issues at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), meeting with elected officials throughout the Bay Area, and have provided numerous technical comments regarding safety to CARB and Contra Costa County.

EDUCATION

- Statewide Moratorium of Charter School Expansion, including co-location with public schools – Yes ✓
- Local oversight of Charter Schools by local School Districts schools – Yes ✓
- Full funding of existing State and Federal Special Education Mandates schools – Yes ✓
- Adult Education and Community College program for life-long Learning schools – Yes ✓
- Full Funding of Public Schools, including "Schools and Communities First" ballot initiative. schools – Yes ✓

DPCCC 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Primary/General Election

As of 6/9/2020

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY Support Oppose Not Sure

- Facilities to accommodate Trans individuals - Yes ✓
- Wage equality, thus allowing individuals to achieve upward mobility and economic equality in our communities - Yes ✓
- Mandatory affirmative action measures aimed at enhancing equality in employment, education, and business opportunities - Yes ✓
- Protection of LGBTQ Rights - Yes ✓

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Commitment to environmental justice: no community should be subjected to environmental hazards due to race, economic standing, or immigration status. - Yes ✓
- Fossil Fuel infrastructure projects – NO expansions
- Immediate moratorium on fracking - Yes ✓ (100% yess in CA, Nationally, to the degree possible with national security considerations. Strict rulings on wastewater control. Support the robust growth of the electrification of transportation (ie, EVs and RailRoads)
- Provide adequate funding for the federal and equivalent state regulations such as the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, or the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and oppose attempts to weaken such protections. - Yes ✓ (Ardently !)

HEALTH CARE

- A women's right to choose a safe and legal abortion. - Yes ✓
- Universal comprehensive health care for all Californians that includes medical and dental care, full reproductive health services that respects a woman's right to choose, preventive services, prescription drugs, and mental health and substance abuse counseling and treatment. - Yes ✓ (Also ardently)

HOUSING

- Rent (Control) stabilization and Just Cause Evictions - Yes ✓

DPCCC 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Primary/General Election

As of 6/9/2020

- The development of new affordable housing units for families and individuals with low incomes. - Yes ✓ (Start with the transient housing built during WWII, such as in Rodeo and Montalvin Manner in West CC County.)
- Transit-friendly zoning and walkable, bikeable neighborhoods to encourage sustainability, affordability,

and accessibility regardless of age, income, or physical limitations. - Yes ✓ (When the Rodeo Safeway closed and moved to a new store in Hercules, placing a lease restriction on their former Rodeo supermarket, the Residents of Rodeo are now walking in the street to go shopping at Safeway)

HOMELESSNESS Support Oppose Not Sure

- Speed construction of affordable housing, possibly bypassing State environmental reviews. - Yes ✓ (bypassing State environmental reviews - this needs more careful consideration, because of the capacity of wealthy communities to oppose affordable housing and middle-income communities to have a say in zoning. This is a very complicated issue and I am not yet fully informed on the protections in place or the willingness of either the State, Counties, local communities or Federal government to follow through.)
- Reform land use laws, eliminating delays on housing construction near transit hubs and downtown areas. - Yes ✓ within reason and done carefully.

IMMIGRATION Support Oppose Not Sure

- Efforts to provide an expedited path to citizenship for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) individuals and their families. - Yes ✓
- Local law enforcement agencies acting as federal immigration law enforcement or cooperating with federal law enforcement absent a federal judicial warrant. - Yes ✓ But ONLY if it improves the ability of the community to accept immigrants if they so desire, AND NO, if used to help deport law abiding potential immigrants. Complex issue, but **I support Sanctuary Cities**
- Detention centers that separate families and detain or incarcerate based solely on ethnicity, race, religion, or national origin. – **Unconstitutional and fascist**

TRANSPORTATION

- Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) driving-reduction targets, shown by science to support climate stabilization. - Yes ✓
- Work for equitable and environmentally-sound road and parking operations; support strategies to reduce driving, such creating smart growth and “complete streets,” teaching bicycling traffic skills, and improving transit, from local systems to high-speed rail. - Yes ✓

OTHER

- Separation of Church and State - Yes ✓
- Privatization of essential government services -- Yes ✓

DPCCC 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Primary/General Election

As of 6/9/2020

- Ending the federal prohibition of cannabis - **Yes ✓**

- Approving cannabis businesses - **Yes ✓**
- Project Labor Agreements (PLA's) for private and public sector infrastructure projects that provide local hire. - **Yes ✓**. However, I do not support fossil fuel infrastructure projects that are tacitly and provably unsafe to public safety (I have previously and publicly opposed projects that are what, I believe, are grossly unsafe (and that are always sited in low-income/ minority-majority communities) or that are otherwise very clearly unnecessary from an environmental, energy and/or economic perspective. That said, in support of strong PLAs, critical infrastructure projects should always have well-paid and knowledgeable professionals constructing them, who collectively understand all safety regulations, legality and best practices. PLAs are safer in the long run and more equitable for maintain families and middle-income communities.

DPCCC 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Primary/General Election

As of 6/9/2020

SECTION 4: POSITION SOUGHT UNDERSTANDING

(to be posted on the DPCCC web page)

1. What are the two (2) biggest issues facing the position for which you are running and what do you plan to do to address these issues? **a. Accessing all refinery property tax funding allocated to RHFHD that previous boards did not access. b. Determining whether the district should stay independent or merge with larger agency, ie, ConFire.**
2. What is the Annual Budget administered by the entity for which you are running? **\$10.5 million.**
3. What are the population and voter registration demographics directly affected by the office for which you are running? **Hercules at \$37,000 per capita income compared to Rodeo at \$21,000 per capita income. Rodeo has approximately three-times the EMS/Rescue call rate as Hercules. Both communities have greater than 70% non-white populations.**
4. How are the activities of this office primarily funded? **a. Ad valorem Property tax. b. 2 special assessments and Measure O equal about \$4.0 million per year.**

DPCCC 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Campaign Manager Campaign Consultant(s):

Projected Funds Needed to Win. How will you prioritize these funds. * \$500 - \$1,999

Funds Raised as of (enter latest date information is available)*: \$0, so far.

Who do you see as your main opponents in this election? Please rate the difficulty of the opposition you face and why you think that you can win.

Formidable opposition, because they will have significant, well-funded organizational support.

I think that I can win because I have always told the truth about RHFD financial resources, that goes against the board majority's main reason for annexation, that they contend is a deficit of the district's financial resources. I very strongly disagree and note significant, but not-yet accessed financial streams due to the district, that the RHFD board must proceed to claim.

Additionally, it is a great cause for community ire that the current annexation proposal is to require special unique taxes on Rodeo and Hercules residents, post annexation. I consider it most particularly egregious that residents of Rodeo, a disadvantaged community with a high poverty rate, would be specially taxed if annexed into ConFire, under the current plan (that residents in, for example, Walnut Creek do not pay, although they are in ConFire).

Key points that will separate you from your opponents:

1. I have been heavily involved with and collaborated with numerous Environmental Justice organizations in Contra Costa's Northern Waterfront and West County in support of community-based efforts for promoting public and environmental health. In my political work, I have actively supported the goals of the 2012 Senate Bill (SB) 535 (De León), for example, that established requirements for minimum funding levels to "Disadvantaged Communities" and observe that after a decade, there has been little actual headway in this direction, but a lot of talk. "Disadvantaged Communities" have no lobbying capacity within our local and regional body politic, while the moneys spent by trillion dollar-level fossil fuel companies and their allies obliterate all capacity for dialog.

2. I have worked on EJ issues as a member of the Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission since 2018, where we authored CC County's Climate Action Plan (portion of the General Plan, Envision 2045). In writing the CAP, we attempted to address social and health disparities in EJ communities in Contra Costa, such as Rodeo, that typically are situated adjacent to pollution sources, such as refineries, petrochemical facilities and major electrical power plants have high poverty rates and majority non-white populations.

3. I very strongly oppose the particular *conditions* of the currently proposed annexation resolution for RHFD to be annexed into ConFire, such as:

a. Rodeo and Hercules being required to pay three special taxes (that we have used to remain an independent fire district with two stations) that are in addition to the Fire/EMS allocation from the ad valorem property taxes.

Post annexation, while no one else in ConFire would pay these significant parcel tax surcharges above their ad valorem property tax, Rodeo and Hercules would pay these surcharges, indefinitely.

b. The proposal to be annexed into ConFire is based upon the erroneous supposition that RHFD is irrevocably broke, when it has been revealed that Phillips 66's (and previously, the Unocal refinery's) \$1.6 million ad valorem property taxes have not made it into RHFD's accounts since 1995, when the refinery was annexed into RHFD territory. This information was only revealed through extensive research into why the district had such low ad valorem tax receipts and after months of independent communication with the County Controller (needed in order to obtain the entire set of relevant documentation that stated these funds were due to be paid to RHFD).

c. The current board majority has opposed the proposal for RHFD to convert the Measure O parcel taxes into a unit tax in order to be able to obtain significant revenues from the high-density, multi-unit and high-rent apartments constructed and being constructed along the Hercules waterfront.

IV. I support the right of the citizens to have an **advisory vote** on whether annexation should occur or not. Specifically, I oppose the ability of one single tie-breaking vote on a five -person board to make the decision that should involve over 10,000 voters, especially since one of these three was a senior executive-level ConFire employee at the time of his being elected.

V. As a board member of the **Rodeo Citizens Association**, we have obtained the last small forested ravine and wildlife refuge in Rodeo, at 861 Laurel Court. Our goal is to convert the abandoned site of the former Rodeo Swim Club into a **Community Garden and Educational Nature Center**, while also preserving the natural open space. The RCA is working with the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) to accomplish this goal.

The RCA has actively been making the property fire safe and have applied for a grant for wildfire prevention using County Measure X-funded "Crew 12" to remove dead trees in the ravine and other flammable plant material. To date Phillips 66 has also generously contributed \$100,000 overall for the project, particularly in paying \$30,000 for the removal of 16 huge eucalyptus trees and other assistance.

Elizabeth Genai – Rodeo Senior Center – Meals on Wheels, Programming. (510) 241-8705

Please submit completed questionnaire to endorsements@contracostadems.com.

Resume:

a. RHFD board director (2020-2024)

b. Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission, where our task for the last 6 years has been crafting the Climate Action Plan portion of the County General Plan, Envision 2045. (2018-2024)

c. Sunflower Alliance – Environmental Justice advocacy. Principally East Bay, especially the Northern Waterfront and West CC County, but also regional and statewide advocacy. Frequent long-term agency interactions with the **Bay Area Air District (BAAQMD)** and also the County Hazardous Materials Division, the DTSC and CARB. Advocated to City Councils throughout CC County for the adoption of **Community Choice Energy**. (2013-present)

d. Medical Social Worker: in the SF Tenderloin; North of Market Senior Service (1982-4). Developmental of Child Care Worker (State of MI/AFSME: 1978-1980 and CA 1980-82)

e. In 1995, I met with the FDA (in Bethesda MD) over advancing HIV/AIDS treatment protocols (as part of and representative of a group of nationally prominent AIDS medical advocacy organizations).

f. Sports therapist in the Physical Therapy Department at the San Francisco Ballet (1985-1995). Semi-retired in that capacity.

g. EDUCATION: University of Michigan – Pre-medical degree w biology and psychology major (1984). Graduate education in biochemistry, molecular and cancer biology (non-matriculated at UC-Berkeley and Wayne State Univ./Detroit).

h. US Patent #: 6,594,335. Phase-Contrast Medical Micro-Imaging.

DPCCC 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Primary/General Election

One-time contribution to the 2024 Campaign Unity Fund (of the CC County Democratic Party): Order #**AB303556481 \$34.00** This contribution was made on August 12, 2024. Please note that on your credit card statement this contribution will appear as one or more charges to ACTBLUE*DEMCONTRACOSTA Recipients via 2024 Campaign Unity Fund Recipients (via **2024 Campaign Unity Fund**)

Date	Recipients	Amount	2024-08-12	Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (Federal Account)	\$30.00	2024-08-12	TipActBlue – thank you!	\$4.00
Total	\$34.00	Billing Address	2108 Drake Lane Hercules, CA 94547	Employment Info	Not Employed	Contact info	Charles Davidson charlesdavidson@me.com	5108378441
Payment info	VISA 2811	Contribution info	Order Number: AB303556481					