

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): *

Juan Banales
.....

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? *

Pittsburg City Council

CA FPPC ID # *

1472587

Campaign Website *

Electjuan.com

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

N/A

.....

Social Media Handles *

N/A

.....

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 work that has been started around heavy investment in infrastructure, strong economic development projects, and heavy investment in youth development in Pittsburg.

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

Set goals and priorities, set budget, set legislative policies, and hire the best possible city manager and hold them accountable to executing goals, budget and policies.

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

Educational background: Bachelors degree in Engineering and MBA both from UC Berkeley. Other qualifications: I have served two terms as council member and Mayor. Prior to that I served on the planning commission for three years.

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

1. Prioritize youth development by increasing facilities and programming dedicated to youth development and recreation. We started construction of a 40,000 sq. ft. multi-sport indoor recreation facility. In addition we are planning on building multiple sport fields on the former Pittsburg golf course. I will continue to push to achieve this vision of youth recreation and youth development. 2. Increase infrastructure investment- I have led the efforts in increasing funding to road maintenance. This last year we were able to invest \$12 million in road repairs, 3-4x normal spending. I will continue to prioritize infrastructure investment in our city budget. 3. Economic Development- I will continue to prioritize economic development efforts. Our goal is to bring more local jobs to Pittsburg and surrounding cities. We will continue to roll out the red carpet for companies that want to do business in Pittsburg. Where we can we will drive economic development efforts such as the former golf course where half of it will be used for a \$800 million data center project at full build out. This was driven by city council as these are city owned parcels. I will continue to look for opportunities to drive economic development projects within the city.

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

After elected I will engage constituents by attending neighborhood improvement team meetings and other events that help to promote dialogue around resident concerns.

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 many of my core values are represented within the Democratic Party and in tough decision making I've depended on my core values to help guide me. I will place your endorsement on campaign media such as mailers and social media. I will help other endorsed candidates as best I can, group walking efforts, etc.

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

N/A

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 registered Democrat, I registered in 2016 because I had previously been no party preference through my college years. I graduated in 2013 and when I decided to run for office in 2016, I felt the desire to establish my party affiliation.

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? *

1st element: Business and Economy-Continue to encourage the sustainable growth of small businesses. I plan to advance this by continuing our already successful Pittsburg Eats Program which provided small business restaurants in Pittsburg with twelve \$10,000 grants as well as skills training such as social media marketing and finances. Potentially expand this to other types of small businesses outside the restaurant sector. 2nd element: Child and Community Well-Being-Expand parks, recreation, and mentoring centers for children and young people. I supported and approved the re-opening of the Pittsburg Marina Center Youth development and recreation center. I also supported and approved the Dream Courts multi-sports 40,000sq. ft. new facility which will serve our youth. I will continue to drive and support projects that support youth development.

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 have a record of supporting equitable policies including ensuring all four corners of our city get fair and equal access to city resources including capital improvements. As mayor I ensure that all community members that attend council meeting feel welcome and that their comments are heard. I will continue this to ensure all members of our community feel that they belong and can participate in the democratic process.

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, for Pittsburg City Council in 2016 and 2020. I was endorsed both times.

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

Pittsburg City Council 2016-2020 and Pittsburg 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? *

I have made financial contributions to national democratic candidates. I have also endorsed local democratic party candidates at the local level.

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 was a member of the Pittsburg Planning Commission from 2013-2016, and was Chair of this commission for 2016 until elected to City Council that fall.

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. *

State Senator Steve Glazer, Supervisor Federal Glover, Pittsburg Councilmembers Shanelle Scales-Preston and Dionne Adams, Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council, Former Pittsburg Mayors Sal Evola, Merl Craft and Nancy Parent. Former School Board President Vince Ferrante.

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

Central Labor Council and other elected officials

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 led the effort to create the Digital Office for New Americans which established a city vetted collection of online resources for immigrants looking for assistance in becoming a citizen or for legal services. This office also led to a recurring annual proclamation for National Immigrants day and hosting a naturalization ceremony at Pittsburg City Hall.

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 led the effort to create the Digital Office for New Americans which established a city vetted collection of online resources for immigrants looking for assistance in becoming a citizen or for legal services. This office also led to a recurring annual proclamation for National Immigrants day and hosting a naturalization ceremony at Pittsburg City Hall.

DPCCC Value: Education & Child Support Services

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

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

I have supported education and child support services. I supported increasing hours at the Pittsburg public library, these hours were paid out of city dollars.

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. *

I support seniors and veterans and in my time in office have supported our City Operated senior center with programming services as well as capital investments for facility upgrades. We have hosted the DA office in awareness and prevention programming around fighting against financial fraud against seniors. I supported a veterans affordable housing development in Pittsburg which opened in 2023.

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 in principle support eviction protections and anti-harassment protections. I support rent control/stabilization as addressed at state law level. I have supported many mixed use developments in Pittsburg such as the Atchison that opened this year with over 200 units of mixed affordable housing as well as commercial on the ground level. It is a shining example of mixed use development.

DPCCC Value: Equality & Human Rights

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

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

I support equality and human rights. in 2019, as Mayor, I led the effort to raise the pride flag in Pittsburg for the first time. I also led the effort to create the Digital Office for New Americans which established a city vetted collection of online resources for immigrants looking for assistance in becoming a citizen or for legal services. This office also led to a recurring annual proclamation for National Immigrants day and hosting a naturalization ceremony at Pittsburg City Hall.

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 support and advocate for the preservation of rights under Roe v. Wade.

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. *

I have supported PLAs. I voted to approve the first PLA in City of Pittsburg. Through CDBG funds we have supported community gardens in our underrepresented areas in the city.

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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