

# 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): \*

Joey D. Smith  
.....

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? \*

EBMUD Director Ward 1 .....

CA FPPC ID # \*

146725

Campaign Website \*

joeydsmithforwater.org

Campaign Consultant/Manager \*

Pending

.....

**Social Media Handles \***

@Ms. Joey D. Smith (FB)  
.....

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

protect our high quality water supply; improve our infrastructure; ensure that our communities have information and access to employment opportunities and our Contract Equity Program for small & women/minority owned businesses  
.....

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

regular attendance of scheduled Board meetings, committee meetings, special meetings, workshop sessions, public hearings, potentially serve on joint power authority boards, or represent in professional associations, promote ethical behavior in the conduct of District business, uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of California and carry out the laws of the nation, the state and local governmental agencies; comply with applicable laws regulating conduct, including open government, conflict of interest, and financial disclosure laws, and follow the District Policy 6.04  
.....

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

I have lived three distinct careers within my 30+ years of working at EBMUD. I've worked in the Utility Plumber series for 13 years; 12 years as Supervisor in Facilities Management including Incident Base Commander for our Emergency Response Team; 8 years as a Water Conservation Technician working on water and energy conservation projects internally and with external EBMUD customers; additionally I've served in union leadership/representation for each of the three unions that represented my job classifications. The combination of working with customers, coworkers, management and discussions with Board members on topics of concern and importance have provided me opportunities to understand the workings of EBMUD, many of the concerns of our communities, and enriched time developed rapport, and confidence with the employees of EBMUD to get goals achieved.

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

Support EBMUD's responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us by including authorization for opening water accounts so that if there comes a time there is a question of responsibility for the water account there is documentation instead of people pointing fingers at each other. Grow the local community's understanding of opportunities for viable career path jobs/Contract Equity Program for entrepreneurs at EBMUD enhance the District's Public information outreach, and hold public meet and greet events similar to town hall meetings.

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

a dedicated email address and phone number for talk or text as well as regular "office hours"

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? \*

For many years I have been an active member and have grown to respect the reputation and influence of the DPCCC because I generally trust the people of DPCCC. I will proudly include my endorsement from the DPCCC on my website, literature and verbally share in conversation. I will support other endorsed candidates by collaborating in campaign events in shared/overlapping areas of constituency, potentially sharing mailers and discussing other ways to support each other with them.



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

I serve the county as a leader in the Commission for Women and Girls, I serve the city I live in on the Recreation and Parks Commission, I am a dedicated Democrat and hold the office of 2nd Vice Chair for DPCCC.

Section 2: Democratic History

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

Started as Democrat around 19years of age, for short time was American Independent but I wasn't claer of what that was, and then returned to Democrat because this better aligns with my ideals and life goals.

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? \*

Water. I plan to advance them through working with staff on "specific to EBMUD" goals, communicating and working with other electeds to meet common goals for all involved. Remaining engaged and open to information that will support these efforts.

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? \*

Continue my work on the DPCCC EAJ Committe while also providing feedback and support to the EBMUD Office of Diversity, Equity & Culture in whatever way is needed.

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? \*

Not that I recall.

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

2016 campaigned for county election for DPCCC.

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

Delegate to CADEM; CADEM E-Board; Associate Member of DPCCC; traveled to Nevada to canvas and door knock for the 2012 Obama campaign; supported the Democrat HQ in Richmond, and Walnut Creek; canvased to support the DPCCC slates since 2012; posted campaign signs throughout Contra Costa as an apprentice to Chuck Carpenter and advanced to handle West County solo for three election cycles; served as a Poll monitor in West County

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. \*

Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA richmond/Contra Costa Chapter) 20 yrs Lifetime member, Secretary, 2nd VP, 1stVP, State Board at Large, President; Commission for Women and Girls (County) approximately 15 yrs, Treasurer, Chair, Vice Chair(currently), ; Recreation and Parks Commission (Richmond) approximately 8 yrs, Vice Chair, Chair (currently); NAACP(Richmond Branch) approximately 6 yrs, E-Board(1st term currently); Sierra Club approximately 3months (current)

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. \*

Lesa McIntosh (Incumbent); John Gioia (CoCoCounty Supervisor); Andy Katz (EBMUD Dir); Marguerite Young (EBMUD Dir.); Doug Linney (EBMUD Dir.); April Chan (EBMUD Dir.); AFSCME Locals 444, 2019, 2428; AFSCME Council 57; Lynn Mackey (CoCoCounty Superintendent of Schools ); Rita Xavier (San Pablo City Council); Diana Becton (CoCoCounty D.A.); Florence Wedington (CoCo County Central Sanitation District); Rebecca Saltzman (BART Dir); Mark Foley (BART Dir) to date.

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

Contra Costa Central Labor Council; De Saulnier; Garamendi; IFPTE 21; Stationary Engineers L39; CDW; Doria Robinson; Cesar Zepeda; Federal Glover; Boilermakers L549; UA L342...

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. \*

Employment and/or promotion at EBMUD can be hampered by those who choose to harshly judge employees/potential employees on small offenses that have no direct connection to the position being sought, possibly denying the applicant, EBMUD, and community an opportunity for success in domino effect. Labor and Management at EBMUD regularly need to use conflict resolution to ensure the rights of their employees to be free of harassment and have reasonably harmonious working conditions, regardless of differences of opinion about conflicts in USA or abroad.

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

Employment and/or promotion at EBMUD can be hampered by those who choose to harshly judge employees/potential employees on small offenses that have no direct connection to the position being sought, possibly denying the applicant, EBMUD, and community an opportunity for success in domino effect. Labor and Management at EBMUD regularly need to use conflict resolution to ensure the rights of their employees to be free of harassment and have reasonably harmonious working conditions, regardless of differences of opinion about conflicts in USA or abroad. I agree with this.

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. \*

EBMUD has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) resource to support employees with challenges revolving around dependent care, concerns for student safety and much more. It is very important to provide such benefits to acknowledge staff humanity, and make getting information for their specific situations straight forward and confidential, so that they can think more clearly and be less distracted at work and also be able to better enjoy their time with loved ones outside of work. I agree with this.

### 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. \*

EBMUD celebrates and honors our employees who have reached "senior" status and choose to continue to learn new tasks and methods for completing their work. When thoughts turn to considerations for retirement there is support to get better understanding for planning for retirement throughout employment years and additional options as you get closer. We also acknowledge and revere our employees who are reserve and get called to active duty and our military veteran staff. I agree with this.

### 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. \*

Many staff commute more than 25 one way miles to get to work due to over-priced housing, it is good to see zoning changes and opportunities for people to have more and better housing options helping employees get out of their commute quicker and home earlier without giving up more than half their monthly wages. I agree with this.

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. \*

EBMUD has multiple "affinity groups" including Black Employee Network (BEN), Asian Pacific Employee Association (APEA), Raining Pride, Disability Advocacy Rights Team (DART), Fuerza Latina, and Women's Employee Resource Opportunity and Collaboration Community(WE ROCC). Employees have events internally as well as out in the community and some collaborations with outside group events/causes. All employees are welcome to join and participate in any or each of the affinity groups. Also, during the last contract negotiations, we worked to neutralize pronoun use in the contracts. I agree with this.



### DPCCC Value: Healthcare & Reproductive Rights

- *Advocates for the preservation of rights under Roe v. Wade, guaranteeing confidential and unrestricted access to reproductive services without the need for consent or judicial intervention, ensuring continued coverage of all healthcare options; Works toward implementing a universal, single-payer healthcare system, while in the interim, seeking reforms to make Medicare Part D more affordable and accessible, including the ability for Medicare to negotiate drug prices.*

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

A co-worker shared about complications regarding a pregnancy that did not come to term and shared that she felt ever so supported by co-workers, and even experienced compassion from management when the leave from work needed to be extended, also the gratitude that the medical billing was able to be handled because of her salary and didn't know if she would have been able to cope if she worked elsewhere. No one should have to worry about having to figure out how to pay for surviving a health situation. I agree with this.

### DPCCC Value: Economic Justice & Business Development

- *Support for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship focusing on women, people of color, and those with limited entrepreneurship opportunities including veterans; Support the rights of employees to organize and Project Labor Agreements; Ensures a safe working environment free from harassment, intimidation, and retaliation; Advocates for the establishment of local banks and credit unions, limiting regressive financial operations like check cashing businesses and pawnshops; Promotes Project Labor Agreements to protect workers; Supports initiatives to counteract "food deserts" by developing local grocery stores and community gardens in underrepresented areas.*

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

I was recently invited to the 25th anniversary celebration of a women owned business that is on the EBMUD Contract Equity Program list. When I first meet her she had just secured her contract with EBMUD (almost as many years ago), their business' first "corporate" contract ever, now the business has grown and has several contracts and the company credits EBMUD for the opportunity to earn and keep their business, while also choosing to share a good thing via local philanthropy. I agree with this.

**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.

 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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