

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.

.....

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): *

Laura Bratt
.....

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? *

Governing Board Member, San Ramon Valley USD Area 3

CA FPPC ID # *

1470976

Campaign Website *

<https://www.votelaurabratt.com/>

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

Self

Social Media Handles *

<https://www.facebook.com/trusteebratt> <https://www.instagram.com/trusteebratt>
<https://www.twitter.com/trusteebratt>

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

I am a dedicated advocate for students and their education, running for re-election so that I can continue to help lead our great schools into an even brighter future and ensure that each and every student learns and thrives.

3 specific reasons to run for this 2nd term are...

- > Keeping student at the center: Our educational community is built for our students. I believe it is important to center students and their voice in the questions asked, the insight and perspectives gathered, and ultimately, the policy and decisions made.
- > Supporting SRVUSD's Strategic Directions: Having been a core part of its development, I will focus on continued implementation and accountability around SRVUSD's Strategic Directions, a comprehensive plan rooted in Deep Learning & Innovation, Social Emotional Well-being, and Equity.
- > Ensuring strong governance: As this year's President, I am proud to lead a strong governance team as we work together to build better policy, responsibly stewarding our limited resources, and ensuring strong District leadership as we transition to a new Superintendent.

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

Responsibilities include:

- > Development and approval of policy
- > Hiring, evaluation, and, if necessary, firing of the superintendent
- > Ensuring a balanced budget that aligns with the District's values and strategic directions
- > Provide leadership and be a role model for the educational community
- > Listen to and have dialogue with stakeholders, including, students, educators, administration, parents/caregivers, union partners, and community members
- > Ensure that the policies reflect the best interest of the students
- > Provide direction to staff

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

I am a parent of 4 incredibly individual students who each have experienced education in a different way. This allows me to better understand the concept of "each and every" student and the need to meet them where they are, with equity and empathy, so that they can truly thrive. I have 25 years experience being a small business owner, with an understanding of budget management. I have a background in marketing and communications, giving me expertise in effective communications and transparency. As an incumbent, including this year as Board President, I have 4 years of experience in this particular educational leadership position.

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

For this 2nd term, I will focus on the goals of:

--> Continued implementation and accountability of the District's Strategic Directions.

With reports throughout the year on the various priorities and goals, I will assess the implementation and ensure that we are accountable to the outcomes we projected and that they remain in the best interest of the students, further developing and adjusting the goals as necessary.

--> Increased shared leadership opportunities.

Continue to increase and support opportunities for a broad range of stakeholders, including students, staff, parent/caregivers, union partners, and communities members, to be an integral and authentic part of idea generation, decision making, and project implementation processes. This will be accomplished with liaison-ship on steering committees, dialogue with individuals and groups, connections with school sites and affinity groups, and relationships with union and parent-group partners.

--> Expanded pathways for authentic and supportive student success.

In high school, middle, and elementary, continue to develop and implement CTE opportunities, diverse curriculum, social and emotional wellness supports, diverse hiring, and innovative and deep learning as the educational foundation.

--> Thoughtful navigation of the future shifts in funding.

With Prop 98 projections, the end of one-time COVID \$\$, and declining enrollment, SRVUSD is looking at an additional reduction of \$16.5 million to next year's budget and further reductions in the following years. The Board will need to work closely with stakeholders to ensure equitable and responsible cuts that align with our strategic directions and the values of our community, maintaining the high level of academic and support standards and staff recruitment and retention.

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

I will continue to hold office hours, visit school sites and student affinity groups regularly, attend community events and school programs, engage with steering committees, have an active presence on social media, directly reach out to individuals and groups that have concerns, and provide a transparent, open-door policy for all.

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 proud, life-long Democrat. The values of the Democratic party align with my political and personal values. Having the DPCCC endorsement is an honor that I will take very seriously and be very grateful for, understanding that it is earned, not just given. In my 2020 campaign, the DPCCC endorsement was a catalyst for my campaign, with the Coordinated Campaign providing much needed connection, support, and mentorship. I will use slate mailers, the endorsement website, phone banking groups, PDI, fundraising opportunities, and any other support that is provided. With this collaboration, I will also invite my volunteers to support the slate, through phone banking, walking, etc. and as an incumbent will happily provide connections, mentorship, and support to others campaigning as an endorsed Democrat.

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

Since 2020, I have championed initiatives grounded in deep learning and innovation, social-emotional well-being, and equity to ensure that each and every student learns and thrives. My collaborative efforts, as part of a highly effective governing board, have yielded significant achievements, including the development of a comprehensive learner profile; a steadfast and strategic move back to in-person learning post-COVID; a unanimously approved Pride Month resolution in my first year, with the progress pride flag flown at all district buildings and school sites for the entire month of June; the renegotiation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents contracts to remove the "me, too" clause and cap salary increases; greater transparency, communication, and accountability; and increased student voice, including the addition of a student board member and student senate.

I believe there is still so much more work to be done. With a concerted effort to pull the Board back to the right and cede power to a loud minority, monthly book-banning debates, and years of targeted marginalization of our LGBTQ+ community by outspoken community members, my voice on the Dias, as a progressive, an advocate for our students, an experienced ally, and the mother of a transgender person, is more important than ever.

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 Democrat, born and raised. My parents campaigned for Hubert Humphrey when pregnant with me. My father worked on the establishment of the WIC program as a federal employee. My mother was very active in the ERA campaign, taking me to many demonstrations during my childhood. I first registered as a Democrat for the 1988 general election when I was 18 and living in Wisconsin. I voted for Dukakis on down the ticket. I have been a registered Democrat ever since.

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? *

So much of the CADEM Platform is relevant to a board member entrusted with the public education of our children. From ensuring access and wrap around social services for all children to healthy and free meal programs. From taking the climate crisis head on to environmental equity. From preventing gun violence to healthcare access and coverage. And the list goes on.

I think the most relevant for me in this platform is the threadline of Equity. It is SO important and a foundation within the entire Education platform. We must fully fund public schools and Special Education so that every student has the opportunity, and the support needed, to thrive. Every single child, regardless of where they live, how they look, their language, how they identify, the skills and tools they walk into a classroom with, or how they learn, has the right to and a need for a comprehensive education.

I plan to advance equity by continuing to push SRVUSD's goals within our strategic directions. We have a data-based accountability system that provides information specifically about our underserved communities. I will hold the systems accountable and change them as needed to ensure that each and every student has equitable opportunities. I will continue to speak with our affinity clubs, learning from them about their experiences, adjusting and supporting policy accordingly. I'll continue to work on our grade reform initiative so we have consistent qualitative assessment rather than quantitative. As a liaison to our Equity Steering Committee, I'll lift up and support our community stakeholders who must have a voice at the table in order for us to effect change.

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? *

Besides what I discussed in Q2.3, I will continue to direct Ed Services to diversify our curriculum. Students must see themselves, those around them, and those in the world, in the books they read and the subjects they study. Diversifying staff is also important. Having adults in the classroom who look like the students they teach and reflect the diversity of the world, confronts bias and nurtures a sense of belonging for all. Transformative justice is also important. Creating systems that level power dynamics and support all parties so that justice is based in learning rather than punitive discipline.

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. 2020 SRVUSD Board Area 3. I was endorsed.

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

Governing Board Member, San Ramon Valley USD Area 3 - elected Nov 2020

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

I am a member of the SRV Dems. In the early 2000s I did phone banking/precinct walking for local Dem candidates. I co-chaired two fundraising events for Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign that raised more than \$8,000. During the 2018 election, I hosted numerous postcard parties and volunteered with Eric Swalwell's campaign. In 2020 I supported Biden and donated to several Democratic candidates around the nation. I also phonebanked and walked. In the Gov recall I walked precincts in San Ramon, passing out literature, for a no on the recall vote. In 2022, I campaigned for Marisol Rubio for City Council and endorsed Dem candidates.

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. *

TRAFFIX Board of Directors - 2021-present
SRVUSD's Equity Steering, Strategic Arts, Parcel Tax Oversight, and Special Education Community Advisory Committees - 2021-present
LCAP Stakeholder Committee - 2017-present
Leadership SRV - Class of 2022
Contra Costa NOW 5 years
PFLAG 8 years
SRV Dems 7 years
BD (Blue Devils) Performing Arts 34 years

2.11 - Have you ever endorsed non-Democrats? *

Yes

No

2.11a - If so, what were the circumstances?

.....

Section 3: References & Club Endorsements

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

San Ramon Valley Education Association (SRVEA)
 San Ramon Valley Dems
 Contra Costa Building Trades

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

Contra Costa Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Lambda Democratic Club of Contra Costa County
 CC Young Dems
 Moms Demand Action
 PFLAG
 CoCoNOW
 RBK
 Mark DeSaulnier
 Joan Buchanan

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. *

The current criminal justice system is inherently inequitable and racist. Low level offense arrests force those with low socio-economic resources to sit in jail awaiting charges, having a huge impact on their ability to provide for and take care of their families and even make the money needed to simply communicate with the outside world while in jail.

When suspensions come before the board, we consistently work with the student, their family, and student services, to ensure a stipulated suspension, keeping the student in our district rather than sending them to a more punitive county educational system that puts undue cross-county travel burden on caregivers and does not have the same educational opportunities.

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. *

The current criminal justice system is inherently inequitable and racist. Low level offense arrests force those with low socio-economic resources to sit in jail awaiting charges, having a huge impact on their ability to make the money needed to simply communicate with the outside world while in jail.

When suspensions come before the board, we consistently work with the student, their family, and student services, to ensure a stipulated suspension, keeping the student in our district rather than sending them to a more punitive county educational system that puts undue cross-county travel burden on caregivers and does not have the same educational opportunities.

With a population of Muslim and Jewish students in our school district, we have coordinated and supported Restorative Circles in order for the students to come together and de-escalate the tensions they were experiencing on campus.

DPPCC 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. *

Creating an equitable experience for our children is so very important. Every child has the right to access and opportunity. The SRVUSD community is directly impacted educational and child support services. Ensuring that our policies and systems do not marginalize is step 1. We must go beyond that and provide the support needed to heal previous marginalization and trauma, and educate to avoid future marginalation and trauma.

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. *

Our seniors and Veterans must be supported. They disproportionately live in poverty. My community includes many seniors and multi-generational families as well as military and first responder families. Children in these households are SRVUSD students whose families need access to these services.

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. *

Housing insecurity creates undue burden on a student, whether due to multiple transfers and school year disruptions, in ability to get healthy sleep, and the worry and stress they experience which prevents them from focusing on learning.. Every person has a right to safe and affordable housing.

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. *

Every single person must have basic human rights. Our educational community must be free from marginalization in order for our students to have full access to education. Some examples of ways to ensure this are diversified curriculum, gender-affirming support systems, inclusive classrooms, full ADA compliance, increased wages for staff, and safety from violence.

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. *

Healthcare rights are human rights. When systems limit care for some, it creates inequity in a human being's ability to not just thrive, but at times, actually live. Our students must have supportive healthcare. They, and their families, have the right to gender-affirming and reproductive healthcare. free of marginalization and systemic barriers.

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. *

Inequities in the economy go back long before colonization came to the land we now call ours. The whole economy of the United States was built and maintained on the backs of this inequity. It is our job to work everyday to make it right - through affirmative action, anti-racist policy, equitable access to housing, nutrition, financial security, employee protections, transportation, and education. SRVUSD reviews our existing and new policies and systems through an equity lens, working hard to drive changes in education here at the local level.

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.

 Bio_ Laura Bratt -...

 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

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms