

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): *

Luz Gómez
.....

Preferred Name (if different than campaign name):
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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 2

CA FPPC ID # *

1469145

Campaign Website *

www.luzgomezforEBMUD.com

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

Doug Linney/Next Generation

.....

Social Media Handles *

Luzgomezforebmud (FB, Insta, X)

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

As a long-time public health professional, environmental steward, water conservationist and community advocate, serving on the Board of EBMUD has been a natural next step. I am running to keep the seat I was appointed to in April.

EBMUD needs a visionary leader who will prioritize fiscal responsibility while addressing the pressing concerns of climate change and aging infrastructure.

I am ready to lead having served as Supervisor Gioia's Chief of Staff, as Chair of the County's Sustainability Commission, as a manager at the Air District, and having earned the endorsement of every EBMUD Board Member and County Supervisor, among many others.

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

In my view, the most critical role of the Board of Directors, besides hiring an excellent General Manager, is setting the strategic direction and policies for EBMUD. Equally important is ensuring that the organization operates effectively and efficiently to fulfill its mission.

Not only does the Board approve budgets and rates, but it also ensures fiscal responsibility to ratepayers. It provides oversight and tracks compliance with all relevant laws, regulations, and permits governing water and wastewater utilities.

Directors bring the voice and interests of customers and constituents to the table, not only in each Ward, but for the entire service area. I believe engaging with the community to gather feedback, respond to concerns, and communicate initiatives and accomplishments is also an important role of the Board.

EBMUD would not be what it is without its most important resource besides water – its employees. Directors collaborate with internal stakeholders such as staff and unions to ensure effective communication and alignment with the board's vision and goals.

The Board also works to ensure that the District is meeting the needs of our most impacted communities, and that staff reflect the communities they serve.

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

I have served as an EBMUD Board member representing Ward 2 since April. This makes me the ideal candidate this November since I have hit the ground running and have already made consequential decisions for water resilience in our region.

My background as a Public Health professional is ideal for a policy maker. My experience serving as a Chief of Staff for a County Supervisor gives me an understanding of governance, government, and policy-making. As Chair of the County's Sustainability Commission, I know how to set effective agendas, build consensus, and get things done.

As an immigrant from Colombia I understand first-hand the precious nature of water. I have lived experience of water service interruptions and undrinkable water.

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

Aging Infrastructure: Some of EBMUD's 4200 miles of water pipeline are over 100 years old and about 20 of those miles fail each year. I would prioritize replacement of the highest risk miles first and gradually accelerate replacement. I would advocate for smart technologies to identify the weakest pipes and prioritize engaging the public, so they support this investment.

Climate Change is here, and adaptation will be critical to maintain reliability. I applaud the District's carbon neutrality goal by 2030 and as a Board member I would strongly support this direction. I would also want to explore natural carbon sequestration on EBMUD lands.

Natural disasters: I believe strengthening facilities to withstand earthquakes, landslides, wildfires, and power outages is a top priority to protect public health and safety. I would multiply emergency preparedness education, especially for Low English Proficiency (LEP) communities and for our most vulnerable communities first.

Affordability: The District's Customer Assistance Program is a great way to help low-income households afford water but we need to improve access to it. I would be a voice for making sure that those who are least able to afford rate increases are least impacted by such increases. For customers who have not transitioned to drought-tolerant landscapes, I would advocate for continued and increased incentives to do so.

Emerging regulations: We are likely to see regulations limiting forever chemicals and microplastics, as well as changes around recycled water use and direct potable reuse. As a Board member I would prioritize EBMUD's legislative outreach to stay on top of what's being proposed, as well as active participation in key industry organizations that can advocate for workable regulations.

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

I am already engaging them as EBMUD Director. I have held multiple community meetings in Walnut Creek and Lafayette.

I was successful as the Air District's Community Engagement Manager for 5 years and managed constituent services for Supervisor Gioia for 10 years.

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 I have been a lifetime Democrat, and my values align with the party's. I will use the endorsement to communicate to democratic voters in Ward 2 through my website and printed materials. I will support other candidates by canvassing and donating as appropriate.

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

Thank you for considering this endorsement

Section 2: Democratic History

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

Since I became a naturalized citizen in 1996, I have been registered as a Democrat.

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? *

Equity, protecting the environment, water rights, addressing climate change. Please see my previous responses.

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? *

As a member of the HR Committee at EBMUD I evaluate hiring practices and our DEI strategic plan. I will ensure our efforts yield results.

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 San Ramon City Council race in 2020. I was endorsed.

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

Candidate for San Ramon City Council (2020)
Director, EBMUD (4-2024 to present)

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

Member of TVDC, SRVDC, donated at all levels, attended multiple events

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. *

Chair, Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission (2021-present)
AAUW, 2020-22 and 2024
Dougherty San Ramon Rotary (2020-22, President Elect)
Others

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. *

Please see www.luzgomezforEBMUD.com/endorsements

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

DVDC, Lamorinda DC, Rossmoor Dems, DeSaulnier, Bauer-Kahan, Labor Coincil, Building Trades

Some of the Democratic Clubs use this questionnaire in their endorsement process. If you would like to be considered for Democratic club endorsement(s), please contact the club(s) directly by going to our DPCCC website club's page:

<https://contracostadems.com/clubs/>

Part 2: DPCCC Values Section

Please proceed to fill out the 2nd section of the Candidate Questionnaire on the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County's Values.

DPCCC Value: Criminal Justice & Conflict Resolution

- *Opposes criminalization of low level offenses, advocates for Community Support Services, funding for prompt rape kit processing, gun violence prevention measures; Opposes scapegoating, racial profiling, religious profiling, bigotry, vigilantism, exploitation, and any xenophobic conduct that polarize communities and denounce actions by the government or individuals that keep undocumented immigrants in the shadows of our society; Supports Law Enforcement Training, Civilian Oversight Committees, independent investigators for cases involving the use of deadly force or in-custody deaths, restorative justice;*
- *Supports a properly funded and staffed the U.S. foreign service that promotes democracy and human rights around the world; Supports candidates who work to de-escalate tension especially in areas of conflict like Israel/Gaza, Sudan, Haiti, and other parts of the world through good faith negotiations and work for world peace; Endorse candidates who support the Democratic Party as it works to counter aggression by countries that violate the sovereignty of other countries and that fund and implement physical, cyber, and financial attacks on democracies and developing countries.*

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

As a candidate for a Water Board, my sphere of influence on these topics is limited. However, as an individual, my values align with these and I advocate, donate and/or volunteer with causes aligned with these 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 agree with these values

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 agree with these values

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 agree with these values

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 agree with these values

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 agree with these values

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 agree with these values

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 agree with these values

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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