

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): *

Lisa Motoyama
.....

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? *

City of El Cerrito Councilmember

CA FPPC ID # *

1458510

Campaign Website *

www.lisaforelcerrito.com

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

Greg Lyman

Social Media Handles *

Instagram: lisamotoyama4elcerrito

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

I am running for City of El Cerrito Councilmember because I have served my first term and would like to continue the work I have started. My three primary reasons are 1) maintaining the fiscal health of the City; 2) promoting an equitable and welcoming City, especially through increased affordable housing opportunities; and 3) maintaining the high quality of life and community safety that is a priority for El Cerrito residents, especially through climate adaptive and resilience efforts.

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

The primary responsibility of an El Cerrito Councilmember is to pass a budget by the end of the fiscal year. The City Council is also responsible for setting the direction of policies and programs to be carried out by staff. These must be both responsive to all resident needs, fiscally prudent and have staff capacity to ably carry them out. Councilmembers are also the strongest boosters for the community to support community events, accomplishments, businesses and residents.

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

I am qualified to serve as City Councilmember of El Cerrito because I have now done so since 2020. I have worked very hard to bring the City back into fiscal health and institute greater transparency and involvement of Council and residents into the budget process, helping to bring the City's fund balance from -\$110,000 in 2020 to \$16 million in 2024. Prior to serving on City Council, I served two terms as a Planning Commissioner. Professionally, I have 30 years of experience in developing affordable housing and affordable housing finance in the nonprofit and public sector. I am also a 19 year resident of El Cerrito.

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

FISCAL PRUDENCE:

My top goal for my next term is to maintain fiscal discipline to ensure that the progress we have made in strengthening our fund balance, improving the budgeting process to allow for more and earlier community input, and implementing the State Auditor's corrective actions will keep going. To do this requires vigilance and at times making unpopular decisions. The work we did as a City to get into financial shape was hard, especially on City staff, and those sacrifices should not go to waste.

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY:

In addition, I want to support the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station TOD and the creation of a new library there. The development plan will bring 734 new homes to El Cerrito, one-third serving low income families and individuals, and one-third serving middle income households. The new library will be part of our critical infrastructure not only for library services, but also as a community hub and climate refuge providing cooling and heating as needed. This new, green and sustainable development will not only maintain our economic diversity, it will also strengthen small businesses and our El Cerrito Plaza retail center. Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure will also be enhanced as part of the development.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE:

To further encourage bicycling and walking, I will continue to press for a return of bicycle policing of the Ohlone Greenway to increase safety and encourage more users of the pathway. I will continue the work of the Fire Safety Alliance and continue to support fundraising and lobbying efforts for fire safety, especially in the Hillside Natural Area. As I also support fundraising for replacement fire engines and trucks, I will continue to push for the greenest options. I am particularly proud that the City has made the switch to renewable diesel this past year for all heavy vehicles.

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

I have been and will continue to meet with any constituent that wants to meet with me! I will also encourage City Staff to include more opportunities for community engagement and input whenever possible.

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 endorsement of the DPCCC because I am a lifelong Democrat and I feel that the values of the Democratic Party align with mine. I am also very excited for the opportunity to be on the same ticket with Kamala Harris at the top. If I should receive the endorsement, I will include it on my website and campaign materials. I will support other endorsed candidates and issues through my endorsement, walking materials and participating in calling for candidates.

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

I am very grateful to have had the privilege to represent the City of El Cerrito and would like to continue to do so. I continue to be impressed at the level of engagement of residents in so many volunteer efforts throughout the City from the arts to climate to trails and baseball. Being a City Councilmember has allowed me to participate on a regional level serving as the Contra Costa Mayors Conference representative to the ABAG Executive Board and serve on its Housing Committee as well as the East Bay Economic Development Alliance. I also serve on the California League of Cities Housing, Community and Economic Development Policy Committee meeting with other local government leaders state-wide.

Serving as City Councilmember has been one of the most interesting and fulfilling experiences in my life. I would love to continue to serve.

Section 2: Democratic History

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

Democrat. I have been a registered Democrat since I turned 18 in 1985 because I believe in the values of equity and a social safety net that is most strongly supported by the Democratic Party.

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? *

The most directly applicable elements of the Platform are Sustainable Communities and Law Enforcement Practices and Accountability. As Councilmember for El Cerrito, I have been supporting policies for sustainable and equitable community development as we have pushed for more affordable and infill development and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Also, the City Council directly oversees the City Manager, the direct supervisor of the Chief of Police. I have supported the recruitment work of our Police Department in attracting diverse, multilingual, and values aligning officers that reflect El Cerrito as well as funding for additional hours of the County CORE team so that we are not dependent solely on Police for addressing the needs of the unhoused.

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? *

If elected, I will continue to work for greater community participation in important decisions, like the City budget, especially from voices that we do not usually hear, such as youth and immigrant communities. I will support community events that support belonging and connection like National Night Out and our 4th of July Festival. I will encourage greater transparency in all of the work of City Council.

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. City of El Cerrito Councilmember 2020.

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

City of El Cerrito Councilmember 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 supported the work of the party through walking literature, donations, yard signs and encouraging family and friends to do phone banking.

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. *

Housing California Board of Directors, 2018 to Present, Treasurer since 2022; East Bay Economic Development Alliance Executive Board, 2020 to 2024; California League of Cities Housing, Community and Economic Development Policy Committee Member, 2021 to Present; California League of Cities Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee Member 2023; ABAG Executive Board Alternate, 2023; ABAG Executive Board Member 2023 to Present; and ABAG Housing Committee Member 2024 to Present.

2.11 - Have you ever endorsed non-Democrats? *

Yes

No

2.11a - If so, what were the circumstances?

Not applicable

Section 3: References & Club Endorsements

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

Contra Costa Building and Trades Council, Sierra Club, State Treasurer Fiona Ma, State Senator Nancy Skinner, El Cerrito Mayor Tessa Rudnick, El Cerrito City Council Members Paul Fadelli and Gabe Quinto, Former El Cerrito Mayors Greg Lyman, Ann Cheng, Norman La Force, Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto, Sandi Potter and Mark Friedman, Former El Cerrito Councilmembers Rebecca Benassini and Jan Bridges, Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Berkeley City Auditor Jenny Wong, Berkeley City Councilmember Igor Tregub, Lafayette City Councilmember Weitai Kwok, Pinole Mayor Maureen Toms, and BART Director Rebecca Saltzman.

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

Contra Costa Labor Council, Planned Parenthood and East Bay Times

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. *

El Cerrito is a sanctuary city and I continue to support that position. I also voted for the use of our cannabis community benefits for additional services from County CORE to serve the unhoused in our community, with additional funds for emergency needs for homelessness prevention so that our first response is not through law enforcement. El Cerrito has been the target of hate speech and antisemitism which as Councilmember with my colleagues have countered strongly with a united stand and a reaffirmation that we are a welcoming city.

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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. *

The El Cerrito Library is the most actively used library in West County. I strongly support the plan for a new, larger library that will expand access to materials and resources as well as provide a refuge for hot, cold and poor air quality days. The library, which we hope to include in the El Cerrito Plaza BART Transit Oriented Development, will also support the affordable and middle income housing that will be built there.

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. *

El Cerrito has supported seniors and veterans through the development of housing serving low income seniors and the formerly homeless, many of whom are veterans. El Cerrito is again able to provide more senior services since the end of the pandemic and we have restored CoCoCafe lunches in person, in addition to meal delivery.

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 have supported the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, as a Planning Commissioner in 2014 and the Update of the plan last year as a City Councilmember, which calls for higher density infill mixed-use development along El Cerrito's main commercial corridor. I also encouraged City Staff to apply for State Prohousing status which granted us \$600,000 to further our housing efforts, as well as supporting the El Cerrito Plaza BART Transit Oriented Development and proposed new library along with new plaza area that will be a community gathering space.

El Cerrito just completed and approved the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan that will guide us to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. I encouraged and supported the City to transition from diesel to renewable diesel for our heavy vehicles and greener procurement, including transitioning Police to hybrid vehicles.

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 believe it is the highest responsibility of an elected person to uphold our democratic freedoms. At the local level, this includes participating and supporting the United Against Hate program, honoring the myriad communities that make up our city, and working to insure equity and inclusivity in all of our programs. One new program that started last year is "Play Like a Girl+". This is a national program that the City adapted to add the "+" in "Girl+" to purposefully include cis, trans, non-binary, gender non-conforming, gender queer and any female-identified individuals.

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 am pro-choice.

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 our local chamber of commerce to promote local businesses, especially during my term as Mayor. I voted in support of the Project Labor Agreement that covers all of the construction work of 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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