

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): *

Laura Patch
.....

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? *

Walnut Creek City Council

CA FPPC ID # *

1469998

Campaign Website *

<https://www.laurapatch4wc.org/>

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

None

Social Media Handles *

Instagram: @laurapatch4wc, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LauraPatch4WC>

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

I want to be a Council member because I believe that change starts at the local level. I want to see my city, a community that helped form me into the person I am today, address climate change by producing more clean energy as a city, improving public transportation to decrease traffic, and preserving our open spaces. I also believe that if we're building a Walnut Creek for the future, it's time for the city council to have a voice from those future generations.

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

City council is the policy-making body of a local government. They are focused on both short and long term goals of the city, how to make improvements, and infrastructure projects. A primary responsibility is to approve the city budget.

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

I serve on the Walnut Creek Transportation Commission. I also volunteer with several community organizations in the city: Walnut Creek Community Cleanup Crew, Walnut Creek Downtown, and Sustainable Walnut Creek. I am the External Vice President of Contra Costa Young Democrats and the Vice President of Diablo Valley Democratic Club. I was previously the secretary for both of these clubs. I am also an inaugural board member of the University of San Francisco's Women in Leadership Program. My education is also in politics; I received my B.A in political science from University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and studied media and politics at Georgetown University from which I received my Master's in Communication, Culture & Technology.

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

- Improve the walkability of Walnut Creek, especially around downtown. This means better public transit, more trees, safer intersections, and strategic adding of bike lanes.
- Encourage sustainable buildings by incentivizing electrification and adding solar or wind to commercial buildings or high-density residences. Half of Walnut Creek lives in multi-family complexes, yet most of the changes in the Sustainability Action Plan focus on actions individual homeowners can take.
- Support better responses for those who are unhoused or living with mental illnesses by working to publicize the Contra Costa County Mobile Crisis Response Team and expanding Walnut Creek's Mental Health Evaluation Team (there is only one officer and one clinician assigned to this team).

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

I will have "office hours" once a month at Bondadoso Coffee and Tea Collective where folks can come and chat with me. I will also be available via email to folks.

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've been a registered Democrat since I could first vote. It would mean a lot to me to have the support of the Democratic Party as I align with many of its values. Since I am the youngest candidate, having the Party endorsement would help in demonstrating to voters that I have credibility with traditional establishments. I am willing to do co-canvassing with other endorse candidates and appear at events if that will help their campaigns. I will also be tabling at the Farmers Markets in Walnut Creek, and I am happy to share my table.

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

- I'm a union member.
- This year is my second attempt to win a seat. I came in third in 2022, after the two incumbents.
- I am an expert in accessibility, and I believe that I will bring a unique perspective around people with disabilities to the council.

Section 2: Democratic History

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

I've been a registered Democrat since I could vote. I was raised in a Democratic household and support the party's stances on social and human rights issues.

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? *

- Fighting climate change because we are in a climate crisis and cities need to make changes to protect the future. I will support and introduce initiatives to build a sustainable Walnut Creek.
- Access to education, including pre-K. I will work with the school districts to address any issues they have and try to establish free, public pre-k programs.
- Support a diverse California by addressing systemic racism, supporting unions jobs, and qual access for those with disabilities.

2.4 - Have you actively supported policies and initiatives that prioritize and protect reproductive healthcare and freedom, and can you affirm your commitment to continuing this support if elected? *

Yes

No

2.5 - If elected, what would you do to advance equity, anti-racism, justice, and belonging? *

I would work with Stop Moms For Liberty to ensure our educational environments continue to be safe and inclusive. I will support policy initiatives that ensure equal opportunities for minorities. As a young queer woman, I would support efforts to ensure that the city council is working on behalf of all.

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 - in 2022 for Walnut Creek City Council. I received the endorsement.

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

Campaigned for Walnut Creek City Council in 2022. I'm currently a commissioner on the Transportation Commission.

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

I was an intern for Barack Obama's campaign in 2008. I frequently volunteer to register voters. I've also volunteered on several campaigns over the years to text, call, or write to voters in support of Democratic candidates. External Vice President of Contra Costa Young Democrats and the Vice President of Diablo Valley Democratic Club. I was previously the secretary for both of these clubs. I am also an elected member of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County and represent District 4 at conventions. I most recently was the co-chair of the Annual Solidarity Gala.

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. *

Contra Costa Young Democrats - member since 2021; secretary 2022-2024; External VP 2024-current
Diablo Valley Democratic Club - member since 2022; secretary 2022-2024; VP 2024-current
Diablo Valley League of Women Voters - member since 2018
Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Area Chapter - member since 2012
Walnut Creek Cleanup Crew - member since 2021, help with website
Sierra Employee Alliance, a unit of the UAW - union member since 2018
Walnut Creek Transportation Commission - member since 2024

2.11 - Have you ever endorsed non-Democrats? *

- Yes
- No

2.11a - If so, what were the circumstances?

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Section 3: References & Club Endorsements

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

Rebecca Barrett - Board Member, Contra Costa Community College

Devin Murphy - Council Member, Pinole

Jamin Pursell - President, West County Democratic Club; Board Member, West County Sierra Club

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

Contra Costa Labor Council, UAW, Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, 350 Contra Costa Action, Democrats of Rossmoor, Lamorinda Democrats, Diablo Valley Democratic Club, Contra Costa Young Dems, Contra Costa Building & Construction Trades Council, Teamsters 856, League of Conservation Voters, Indivisible ReSisters of Walnut Creek, LGBTQ+ Victory Fund, Jane Fonda Climate PAC, Equality California

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. *

Many of these issues require state or federal action, but I believe in the principles behind them. We must have community services, common sense gun laws, and improved law enforcement training. For a city like Walnut Creek, we need to continue speaking out against hateful speech and creating a community that where everyone can thrive. For example, Pride Month activities were limited in the city, ending halfway through the month. In Fall 2023, the WCPD began engaging in Georgetown’s Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement Project, which helps train officers how to intervene when they see fellow officers misconduct. We need more trainings like this.

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. *

Isn't this the same question as the previous page?

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 love the idea of programs that support access to parks; this falls within my advocacy for disability rights and a walkable city. Again, I think working with Stop Moms for Liberty would be a great group to work with to keep our schools' education materials accurate. I am an advocate for open gender expression, which is why I always introduce myself with pronouns.

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. *

Given that a third of Walnut Creek's population is over 65, it is important the city continues to ensure services for seniors are available. We offer many medical facilities and should continue to work with the industry to champion those locations. I have also heard from a few constituents that veteran services are not available, hard to find, or otherwise inaccessible in Walnut Creek. I'd like to work with these veterans who have reached out to me to see how the city can offer more.

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 think the most pressing issue is balancing the need for housing and protecting open spaces. We need to determine which areas of land can support additional residential development, without sacrificing natural landscape. I support high-density housing built in infill areas that offer a certain percentage of affordable units. New construction should also include sustainable efforts like low-flow toilets and electrification. Right now, only high-income individuals and families can afford a complete switch to clean energy. I want Walnut Creek to incentivize builders of high-density housing to add elements that produce clean energy like solar panels and wind structures so that everyone can benefit from cleaner air. I also believe that increasing the walkability of Walnut Creek's downtown and concentrating high-density housing in areas around BART because reduce sprawl reduces greenhouse emissions.

I support a form of rent stabilization. I think it is fair for property owners to increase rent each year to keep up with inflation and support their business, unlike rent control which freezes the rent entirely. That yearly increase, however, must be a small and reasonable amount.

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 will support policy initiatives that ensure equal opportunities for minorities. As a young queer woman, I would support efforts to ensure that the city council is working on behalf of all. I am expert in accessibility, and I bring that lens to everything I do. This approach will include passing ordinances and asking questions on various city projects.

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. *

Many of the health care issues need state and federal action, but I will support any initiatives here in Walnut Creek to lower healthcare costs and support nurses. I am also a staunch feminist and always advocate for reproductive rights. I am glad CA voters passed Prop 1 in 2022.

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. *

Small businesses are essential for Walnut Creek. I look forward to helping owners establish their businesses throughout the city. I am a union member and understand the importance of collective bargaining, PLAs, and worker protections. Part of a walkable city is also addressing zoning laws to decrease the dependence on private vehicles to get to essential shopping like grocery stores, pharmacies, and community spots.

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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