

# 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): \*

May Patel  
.....

Preferred Name (if different than campaign name):

May  
.....

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? \*

MDUSD School Board Area 5 .....

CA FPPC ID # \*

Pending

Campaign Website \*

Under Construction

Campaign Consultant/Manager \*

Aasim Yahya/Theresa Dowd Macias

.....

**Social Media Handles \***

Under Construction  
.....

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

I have been a MDUSD Parent for over 15 years and this is my way to "pay it forward".  
I am an immigrant who did not speak English when I came to this country. I would be able to relate to those families who were in a similar situation that I was in when I first arrived.  
I also feel it's important for students to know that they too have a voice and we as a community want to support them and see them succeed.  
.....

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

The school board is responsible for:  
Hiring and evaluating the Superintendent  
Establishing policies for governing the school district  
Adopting a balanced budget each year  
Having legal and fiduciary authority for the school district  
Serving as community representatives to the district and on behalf of the district.  
.....

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

My journey to this election is personal. In 1976, I moved to the US at the age of 7. Barely speaking English, I fell behind in the classroom—frequently attending ESL (English as a Second Language) sessions just to keep pace with my peers. My parents—both without a college degree—often worked long hours operating a small clothing store in Daly City.

In 1993, I graduated from San Francisco State University with a degree in Business Administration. My husband and I moved to Concord in 2002—ready to raise our three children, Zeenat, Azeema, and Aasim. All of three of them would go on to attend schools in Trustee Area 5 (Mt. View Elementary, El Dorado Middle School, and Concord High School). In many ways, this district helped me raise my children. The schools were a second home and the teachers were second parents.

Outside of my career running a local small business, I have spent thousands of hours volunteering in our schools. In 2011, I helped establish and operate a local non-profit that provided scholarships and school supplies to MDUSD students. And now, I'm ready to take the next step in serving my schools: running for office.

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

My priorities are:

Welcoming Schools: where every student and family feels accepted and engaged

Mental Health & Wellbeing: for students, teachers, and staff

Enhanced Career Pathways: to local apprenticeships and higher education

I am an immigrant who came to this country at the age of 7, barely speaking English with parents who did not have college degrees. There was a feeling of loneliness and fear that I experienced which is why I want to make sure that the families that are new to our district not only feel welcomed but are engaged in their children's education.

I want to be able to continue the work that is currently being focused on the Mental wellbeing of our students and teachers. I want to make sure we continue to provide support throughout the school year especially during the times where students and teachers are feeling the most stress. There are Non Profits in the Bay Area that will come in to provide training to students from Elementary to High School Students. District mental health and wellness teams can offer support to teachers as well. For example, teams could provide training during professional development days or create a referral list of mental health providers in the community.

We have a community where many small businesses have been thriving for years. We can introduce the different industries into the classroom exposing the students to different career pathways. A database can be created of local business leaders who are interested in coming into the classrooms and speaking to the students. Internships can also be set up for High School Students through these businesses.

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

As a Board Member it's important to build relationships with the schools the Area that your are elected for, what that means to me is that they need to know that you are accessible and that you are willing to listen to them. It is absolutely crucial that you make time to visit the sites and talk to students, teacher and the staff.

#### 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 Democrat who shares the values of the DPCCC. I hope to be listed on the slate card, and will help to distribute them in my area, while also supporting and coordinating with other DPCCC endorsed candidates.

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

The schools have been crucial in helping me raise my children , teachers have been second families to them. This elected office allows me to give back to the community.

### 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 registered as a Democrat my whole life, since I first registered to vote 1987. My values aligned with what the Democrats 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? \*

Education is the platform that is the most relevant to the position I am seeing . I want to make sure that we are focusing on our students to ensure that they get the support they need by creating an environment that is welcoming, focusing on their mental health and enhancing career pathways to include paid apprenticeship and small business exposure. I would also like to focus on having the students understand the A-G requirements that are necessary so that they have the opportunity to apply to a UC/CSU. They need to have options.

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 know the MDUSD superintendent and board have been focused on this, and I look forward to working with them to ensure we keep taking significant actions through the equity policy and the new LCAP focus on underserved students.

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? \*

No

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

N/A

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

N/A

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. \*

N/A

2.11 - Have you ever endorsed non-Democrats? \*

Yes

No

2.11a - If so, what were the circumstances?

N/A

### Section 3: References & Club Endorsements

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

#### MDUSD Teachers and Staff Endorsements

Jean Louise Sabolevsky (Office Staff)

- Mtn. View Elementary, May 2003 to February 2012 Office Staff
- El Monte Elementary, February 2012 to May 2022 Office Staff
- Purchasing of MDUSD, May 2022 to present Purchasing

Ernie Minglana (17th Year in the District)

- El Dorado Middle School Teacher 7 years
- Sequoia Middle School 10th Year Teaching

Leah Darby (19th Year in the District)

- Leadership Teacher at Concord High School 19th Year Teaching

Jodi Masongsong (20th Year in the District)

- El Dorado Middle School Math Department

Azeema Yahya (4th Year in the District)

- Concord High School English Teacher

Sam Gold (29th Year in the District)

- Mountain View Teacher
- Currently at Silverwood
- MDEA Rep for Silverwood

Rebecca Dell (15th year in the District)

- English & AP Teacher at Concord High School

Elected Leaders

Anamarie Farias, Contra Costa County Board of Education

Cherise Khaund, Mt Diablo School Board Erin McFerrin, Mt Diablo School Board Laura Nakamura, Concord City Council

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

MDEA Contra Costa Labor Council & Building Trades Union

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. \*

I oppose criminalization of low level offenses especially when we are quick to send kids to juvenile hall. There has to be alternative ways other than isolating them. I oppose youth being held in adult prisons and jails and the practice of trying juveniles as adults.

#### 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 oppose criminalization of low level offenses especially when we are quick to send kids to juvenile hall. There has to be alternative ways other than isolating them. I Oppose youth being held in adult prisons and jails and the practice of trying juveniles as adults.

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. \*

As a member of this community and someone who is running for School Board I am not in support of having SRO's on school grounds. We need to limit the use of Law Enforcement officers on campus. It is absolutely a must that our students feel that they feel safe. If you have undocumented students on campus grounds there will also be a sense of fear that they will carry with them, which will prevent them from thriving in the classroom. We need to always create a welcoming environment for our students, not one that creates fear.

### 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 am in complete support that our community of seniors are treated with dignity and respect and our veterans and military families' needs are prioritized. For this elected position there I don't see how it would have an impact on the community I seek to represent.

### 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 am in favor of rent stabilization and affordable housing. Looking at our school district almost 40% of our students are on free reduced meals which means housing can challenge basic needs met at home to succeed. In 2022-2023 we had 700 students that were homeless, which is an alarming number.

We need to also make sure that we are promoting green spaces in schools (ie. gardens).

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. \*

This is a very important value to demonstrate no matter what elected position you are in. We need to make sure that the students in school treat each other with respect no matter how they look, dress or identify as. We need to teach our students how important it is to accept each other even when we are different. When we do this we are creating a welcoming environment which in turn will lead to them being able to thrive, academically and socially.

### 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 have always been a supporter of a women's right to choose.

### 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 am a supporter of small businesses in our community, in fact I come from a family of small businesses, my parents and my husband. One of my platforms is enhancing career pathways and one way this can be done is through connecting our schools with local business owners.

**Reminders:**

\* After submitting this questionnaire, please go and pay your endorsement application fee at:

<https://contracostadems.com/donate>

\* Please direct questions to the Endorsements Committee Chair Tamela Hawley or Vice Chair Cameron Sasai at [endorsements@contracostadems.com](mailto:endorsements@contracostadems.com)

\* The DPCCC Code of Conduct: <https://contracostadems.com/about/code-of-conduct/>

\* The CADEM Party Platform: <https://cadem.org/our-platform/>

If you like, you may submit a biography and/or resume in the section below. Not required.

 Add file

Submit Questionnaire

By submitting this questionnaire, I attest that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and to uphold the Code Of Conduct. <https://contracostadems.com/about/code-of-conduct/>

Thank you and good luck with your campaign! We will be in touch with you to schedule your interview time.

Interviews will be scheduled by District Directors.

**By submitting this questionnaire, I agree to accepting the endorsement of the DPCCC if offered.** \*

Yes

No

I have paid my endorsement application fee: <https://contracostadems.com/donate/> \*

Yes

No

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