

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): *

Maureen Toms
.....

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? *

Pinole City Council

CA FPPC ID # *

1409274

Campaign Website *

www.maurentoms.com

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

self

.....

Social Media Handles *

<https://www.facebook.com/MaureenTomsPinole/>
.....

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

I have the knowledge and passion about my community to guide its growth.
I want to see 21st century policies adopted for Pinole at a manageable rate.
I want to represent the residents of Pinole in their desire to live in a safe and thriving community.
.....

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

Adopting the annual budget and policy plans for the city, as well as managing the city manager, city clerk and city attorney to carry out the administration of the city.
.....

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

I am a land use planner for a local jurisdiction for over 31 years, she deals with issues very relevant to those facing the City of Pinole, including:
-Infrastructure (streets, bike lanes, trails, bridges, sidewalks, storm drains...) development, maintenance and finance
-Commercial and housing development, including award-winning transit-oriented development and smart growth;
-Climate Change issues;
-Emergency Operation Center (EOC), including natural disaster preparation, resiliency planning and disaster recovery issues. She has served as a Plan Section Chief on EOC -activations for Public Safety Power Shutoffs, the COVID19 emergency, and several winter storms;
-Budgeting for infrastructure, housing, redevelopment, and various other projects;
-Regional planning
.....

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

I want to retain and improve the services to the residents of Pinole. We recently re-opened a fire station in the community and we need to make sure the future funding for the station is sustainable.

I want to implement the General Plan and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and those plans represent the goals, policies and actions that are important to the residents for our future.

I went to ensure that Pinole residents experience a high quality of life living in the city.

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

I will continue my monthly newsletter to the community and be available to residents to discuss their concerns.

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 value the platform of the Democratic Party. I will support other endorsed candidates through my own endorsement of their candidacy and will support them by including their material while I canvass for my own candidacy.

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

I have a history of community service and have been recognized for it in the past, including:

- Batter-up Award – Contra Costa County ARC, 1999
- You Make a Difference Award – WCCUSD CAC, 2000
- Community Service Award, Pinole Rotary Club, 2002
- Community Service Award-Pinole Chamber of Commerce, 2008
- Klobas Parent Award-Pinole Seals Swim Club, 1996 and 2010
- Woman of the Year – Congressional District 5 – Contra Costa County (Mike Thompson) 2015

Section 2: Democratic History

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

I have been a Democrat for as long as I can remember.

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? *

While they are all important to the community, the most relevant to city government include energy and the environment, economic justice and affordable housing; sustainable communities, and education.. These policies can be promoted through our budget priorities and plans adopted by the council.

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? *

The advancement of equity, anti-racism, justice, and belonging have been done through the regular recognition (through proclamations) and acted upon in through our daily work.

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? *

My 2020 candidacy was endorsed by the DPCCC

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

Pinole City Council 2015-2018 and 2020-2024.

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

I have attended events, and fundraisers, canvasses for candidates, and supported college students traveling out-of-state for the 2008 presidential campaign

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. *

Pinole Mayor – December 2023-present
Pinole City Council member 2015-2018 and 2020-present
MCE Clean Energy – Board Member and Alternate
ABAG Executive Board Member (Alternate)
Pinole Planning Commission for almost 18 years;
WCCUSD Citizens Bond Oversight Board for six (not all consecutive) years;
Pinole Seals (20 years);
Pinole Hercules Little League (Challenger Division Player Agent 10 years);
Special Olympics – 24 years (14 years as a coach);
Local Pinole Schools, including communications coordinator, site council, and reconstruction committees.

2.11 - Have you ever endorsed non-Democrats? *

- Yes
- No

2.11a - If so, what were the circumstances?

Possibly in non-partisan positions.

Section 3: References & Club Endorsements

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

Construction and Building Trades
 Sierra Club
 CCC Supervisor John Gioia
 CCC Supervisor Ken Carlson
 CCC Supervisor Federal Glover
 El Cerrito Mayor Tessa Rudnick
 El Cerrito Council Member Gabe Quinto
 El Cerrito Council Member Paul Fadelli
 El Cerrito Council Member Carolyn Wysinger
 El Cerrito Council Member Lisa Motoyama
 Hercules Council Member Chris Kelly
 Hercules Council Member Alex Walker Griffen
 San Pablo Mayor Patricia Ponce
 San Pablo Council Member Rita Xavier

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

CCC Labor Council, Congressional Members

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. *

We need to live in safe communities that respect the rights of all the residents. These values are important for a free and democratic society.

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. *

We need to live in safe communities that respect the rights of all the residents. These values are important for a free and democratic society.

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. *

High-quality affordable child care enables working families the support to earn a living and fully participate in the community. The younger generation need to be taught in an atmosphere that is welcoming and fully respects the individuals regardless of their sexual orientation, race, religion and economic condition. Historically accurate lessons are essential for all generations.

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 have supported programs for seniors and people with disabilities, in my community service work, professional life, and as an elected. We need to advocate for this segment of the population, since they can be vulnerable. I support quality services to veterans and their families. I have supported housing for veterans in both my professional work and my elected position.

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 support affordable housing in our community. I have worked in this area as a land use planner, a planning commissioner and city council member. I have extensive experience in land use policy, zoning and working in environmental justice communities. In West County, we are subject to environmental conditions that impacts community members, most of them in communities of color.

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 am an advocate of equal rights for women, people with disabilities, and all groups regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or age. We cannot have an inclusive community with out these rights.

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 support a woman's right to make her own decisions about her health. I also support more accessible and affordable healthcare for all. People should not suffer because they cannot afford care.

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. *

As policy makers we should make it easier for businesses we want, like grocery stores and banks, and make it more difficult for businesses we don't want, like liquor stores, check cashing places, etc.

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.

 resume-mat.202...

 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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