

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): *

Olga Cobos-Smith
.....

Preferred Name (if different than campaign name):

Olga
.....

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? *

Antioch School Board Trustee-District 4

CA FPPC ID # *

1471726

Campaign Website *

pending

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

self

Social Media Handles *

Instagram- @reflectionsbookstore/ FB- olga smith

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

I believe leadership change will be the catalyst to improving educational outcomes for our children. I also believe new leadership would have the opportunity to increase compassion satisfaction which would help mitigate some of the burn out we are seeing from district staff.

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

The major responsibilities are strategic planning for the district, financial oversight, recruitment of senior managers, implementing federal/state programs and reviewing/approving contractual agreements.

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

I have excellent executive decision making skills. I am diplomatic, notably so, when the stakes are high. I have project managed for research projects in the past and recognize the importance of fiscal responsibility. I am confident I can draw on past experiences working in elite teams caring for critically ill children to help move some of the schools districts more crucial initiatives forward (e.g., setting district goals).

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

1) Create a more cohesive board by listening, making sure each board member feels valued and respected while tapping into our individual "why". 2) Prioritizing the children by improving literacy scores, build after-school programs, and embracing technical training not just college preparation. 3) Ensure the students, teachers and support staff feel safe and valued in our schools by providing opportunities for community engagement, reviewing and amending code of conduct policies as necessary.

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

If I am elected, I plan to remain engaged with the community by hosting listening sessions in the community, at schools and being responsive when constituents reach out to me.

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 running against an incumbent and need all the help I can get. I will utilize the endorsement on my website, in mailers, on flyers and any other promotional opportunities for my candidacy. I will openly endorse and be present for other candidates and issues to which I am politically aligned.

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

My passion for public education and literacy began long before I took note of the challenges our beleaguered school district Antioch has had. As a bedside nurse and masters candidate in public policy, I focused a lot of my course work on health literacy. Going upstream to K-12 education has felt like a natural fit for me.

Section 2: Democratic History

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

2004- when I registered to vote.

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? *

Childcare and Education system- I plan to advance them by building out the after school programs. I would also like to improve community engagement in schools so that parents, caregivers and teachers feel more connected.

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 filter all my decisions through an equity lens. As a researcher, my focus was on racial comparative studies in the hospital setting. My work is peer reviewed and published. Articles can be supplied upon request.

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, this is my first time running for elected office.

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

none

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

In addition to voting, I have donated to campaigns that I feel are politically aligned to my values.

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. *

American Association of Critical Care Nurses- 2014-current

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. *

none

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

Labor, CSEA

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. *

Opposing the criminalization of low level offenses and taking an antiracist stance is profoundly imperative for the demographic I seek to represent. Black children make up 24% of our student population and Latino/Hispanic children make up 48% of our student population. This is the classically "underserved" population the peer reviewed literature discusses. With the dismal reading and math scores, these children are being primed for the school to prison pipeline. It is imperative that as a society we work to strengthen the social safety net and discover other ways to deal with societal challenges than the carceral system.

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. *

Properly funded and staffed U.S. foreign services that promote democracy and human rights around the world would help our school system more than one would think. The U.S. has meddled in the economies of many of our Central and South American neighbors- Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Mexico to name a few. A principal driver for both unauthorized and authorized immigration from these countries occurs when their home economies begin to fold under regimes or policies often supported by the United States government. Many of these families who migrate bring their children to our schools. Many others birth children who are United States citizens and attend our schools. Approximately 20% of our student population are English Language Development (ELD) learners.

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 am ideologically aligned with everything stated under the header Education and Child Support services. Strengthening the social safety net through policy is fundamental to my reason for seeking a position on the Antioch Unified Board of Trustees. The children are our future, we must invest in them wisely. Right now they have been left to their own devices. We must provide the structure to ensure they can reach their full potential. Policies aligned with the presented value would do just that.

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. *

Creating policy that will develop well educated, civic minded children who can critically think will be the best support we can give to our veterans and elders. We are all interconnected. In our multi-generational home, we have actively shown our children to care for their elders in the ways that are feasible and appropriate. We live the California Master Plan for Aging including dignified living at home. These policies show the compassion in our society and will hopefully be a beacon to the children of AUSD. In addition, promoting equitable treatment and benefits in the military will positively impact our scholars who choose a military track post high school.

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. *

Housing is a human right. Coming from a family who were once campesinos, this strikes a nerve for me. My mother lived in tent with her large family as a young girl, while her father and older siblings worked the fields. They were often sprayed with pesticides and zoning restrictions almost prevented my grandparents from buying their property. Many years later, we have experienced six cancer related deaths in my family since 2012. The personal is political. I would work diligently to support any policy that would protect the children in Antioch Unified School District to ensure they do not find themselves in similar circumstances.

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 intentionally filter all my decision making through an equity lens. I read books that expand my reality from a range of diverse authors speaking authentically to their experiences. I work daily to identify and overcome my own biases so as not to induce harm. The tenets of the Equality and Human Rights value as presented by the DPCCC is pertinent in that about 75% of our student population is made up of Black and brown children who, while not the minority, are often minoritized, marginalized and underserved. We see that in our very own school district at present with the metric that only two out of every ten 3rd graders are reading at grade level. This is the imbalance in our society that I seek to overcome.

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 believe it is the right of each pregnant person to self determine when, where and if to become a parent. As a health care professional, I am a proponent of single payer health care and abortion rights. The population I seek to represent (children in the Antioch Unified School District) experience the most sensitive cases and would benefit greatly from the freedom and discretion afforded them under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The fact that politicians aligned with some health care professionals try to carve out abortion care and negate the fiduciary responsibility of health care providers should be challenged at every opportunity.

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. *

Creating a thriving local community through economic justice and business development would increase the probability that our children that leave to further their education may see returning home with their talents as a realistic option. I would like to see the community gardens be brought into the school system. Schools with gardens could then harvest the vegetables they grow. Our youngsters would learn food safety, preparation and sharing by creating a meal with what they created farm to table style. This is done in other districts in the Bay Area.

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.

 Olga's CV update...

 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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