

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): *

Paul Chopra
.....

Preferred Name (if different than campaign name):
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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? *

AUHSD Governing Board Member

CA FPPC ID # *

Pending

Campaign Website *

Pending

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

Anita Embleton

Campaign Phone Number *

Pending

Campaign Email *

Pending

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Social Media Handles *

Pending

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

To uphold and enhance academic achievement opportunities
To foster an inclusive culture for all students
To ensuring fiscal stability and financial preparedness for the future

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

The Board members are the legislative body of a district and are responsible for establishing and overseeing policies over the district's operations, resources and educational programs, including:

- Setting direction
 - Establishing an effective and efficient structure
 - Providing support
 - Ensuring accountability
 - Providing community leadership as advocates for children, the school district and public schools
-

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

I am a CPA with over 25 years of experience in corporate finance across multiple industries. Prior to moving to Lafayette in 2017, I served as Treasurer and board member of a school in Oakland that my children attended. Since moving to Lafayette, I served on the local elementary PTA, the Community Revenue Study Committee, the District Budget Advisory Committee and volunteered for the Measure L parcel tax campaign. Currently, I serve as the Treasurer of the LMYA swim team, as well as Treasurer and board member of LPIE, our local educational foundation.

The blend of my business and non-profit background equips me with a distinct perspective and foresight that I believe could greatly benefit the board in addressing financial, budgetary, and resource management matters, as well as in evaluating different alternatives. I firmly believe that my extensive financial knowledge and business acumen would be an invaluable resource to the board.

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

- To uphold and enhance academic achievement opportunities
- To foster an inclusive culture for all students
- To ensuring fiscal stability and financial preparedness for the future

I am fully aware that serving on the board means setting aside personal agendas and recognizing that no single member has the power to bring any change alone. If elected, I will commit to maintaining an open mind, listening without bias, seeking consensus through collaboration, and fostering a cohesive and constructive approach to serve and benefit each and every student in the school district.

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

Apart from attending the AUHSD governing board meeting, I will aim to be available in the community by attending local events, festivals, and meetings. I will ensure that all voices are heard, especially those from underrepresented groups. I will promote safe spaces for dialogue and encourage participation from everyone.

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 believe the DPCCC endorsement will help me reach the constituents who support Democratic ideals. The endorsement can reinforce my commitment to issues important to the party as pertaining to my duties on the AUHSD board. I think the endorsement would inspire those who may not be familiar with me but trust the DPCCC to consider backing my candidacy
I will support other candidates and issues while engaging with constituents. We all benefit when we build connections and support one another.

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

My strength lies in being a quick learner who can hit the ground running and an effective listener who is empathetic and maintains objectivity. I am confident that my professional and personal background and commitment to community will serve as a valuable resource to the board

Section 2: Democratic History

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

I registered as a Democrat sometime in 2002 after becoming a naturalized US citizen as I believe my values align the most with the Democratic party,

2.2 - I have read and acknowledge the California Democratic Party's current platform (value statement) and will adhere to these values in the performance of my elected position. *

To learn about the CADEM Platform, please click [here](#).

Yes

No

2.3 - In your opinion, which elements of the CADEM Platform are most relevant to the position you are seeking? If elected, how do you plan to advance them? *

“Education - belief in a universally well-educated population” page 12 CADEM 2024 Platform

I concur that all students of our district must have access to world-class pre-K – 12 public education and other opportunities that will prepare them to live, work, and thrive in a multicultural, multilingual, and highly connected world.

Our district possesses all the essential elements for a thriving school system, ranging from actively involved and committed parents and local businesses contributing their time and financial resources, to a team of highly qualified educators and administrators dedicated to maintaining high educational standards and student well being. If elected, I will commit to maintaining an open mind, listening without bias, seeking consensus through collaboration, and fostering a cohesive and constructive approach to serve and benefit each and every student in the school district.

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 believe equity, diversity and inclusion means providing opportunities to serve and benefit each and every student in the school district. If elected, I will commit to ensuring each and every student has an opportunity for strong social and emotional learning and the we provide safe, engaging and inclusive school sites and classrooms that address the social-emotional needs of all 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. *

None

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

By voting for Democratic candidates and Democratic endorsed measures

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. *

Lafayette Partners in Education – Treasurer and Board member since 2020

Lafayette Moraga Youth Association Swim Club – Treasurer since 2021

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. *

Pending

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3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

CC Dems, Rossmoor Dems, former board members and key Walamorinda community members.

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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 support the DPCCC values as outlined above for Criminal Justice and Conflict Resolution.

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 support the DPCCC values for Criminal justice and Conflict resolution. I believe that our kids deserve a peaceful and inclusive future.

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 support the DPCCC values for Education and Child Support Services. I believe that all students of our district must have access to world-class pre-K – 12 public education and other opportunities that will prepare them to live, work, and thrive in a multicultural, multilingual, and highly connected world.

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 support the DPCCC values for Seniors and Veteran Support Services. The freedom we most cherish is due to our veterans' sacrifices and we owe them respect and dignity.

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 the DPCCC values for Affordable Housing & Environmental Protections.

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 support the DPCCC values for Equality and Human Rights. I believe in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal" and our fundamental right of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" as belonging to all people.

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 the DPCCC values for Healthcare & Reproductive Rights as I have always been a pro-choice.

DPCCC Value: Economic Justice & Business Development

- *Support for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship focusing on women, people of color, and those with limited entrepreneurship opportunities including veterans; Support the rights of employees to organize and Project Labor Agreements; Ensures a safe working environment free from harassment, intimidation, and retaliation; Advocates for the establishment of local banks and credit unions, limiting regressive financial operations like check cashing businesses and pawnshops; Promotes Project Labor Agreements to protect workers; Supports initiatives to counteract "food deserts" by developing local grocery stores and community gardens in underrepresented areas.*

Please expand on your stance and describe the potential impacts on the community that you seek to represent. *

I support the DPCCC values for Economic Justice & Business Development. My wife is a physician who runs her private practice in the Rossmoor 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.

 Paul Chopra Res...

 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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