

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): *

Rebecca Saltzman
.....

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? *

El Cerrito City Council

CA FPPC ID # *

1469966

Campaign Website *

<https://www.rebeccaforelcerrito.com/>

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

The Next Generation, Doug Linney & Donald Lathbury

Candidate Email *

.....

Social Media Handles *

<https://x.com/RebeccaForEC>, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063830840614>,
<https://www.instagram.com/rebeccaforelcerrito/>

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

I'm running for City Council because all that I've learned on the BART Board and in my advocacy at Bike East Bay and the California League of Conservation Voters have prepared me to serve my city. My vision is an El Cerrito where everyone can thrive, everyone feels safe, and everyone knows that their city is doing its part to address the many challenges we face, from the housing affordability crisis to the climate crisis.

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

Many! Some of the key responsibilities including fiduciary oversight and budget approval, setting the strategic goals and priorities of the City, overseeing city management, being a liaison to labor groups and approving contracts, oversight and approval of some development projects, representing the City through appointments to outside agencies, and responding to constituent needs.

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

For more than 20 years, I have been a dedicated local policy leader, guiding El Cerrito and our region on numerous efforts to create more resilient and livable communities. My expertise is in building bridges and solving problems. I know how to secure resources for government agencies, know how to build and grow coalitions, and know how to manage organizations large and small, from multi-county government agencies to national issue-based non-profit organizations.

My work on the BART Board over the past twelve years has already done a lot to transform the city for the better.

At El Cerrito Del Norte BART, we modernized the station, brought beautiful mosaic artwork depicting El Cerrito to the station, and improved amenities across the board, including new restrooms and elevators. I was especially proud to champion the Safe Routes to BART grant program, which funded pedestrian and bicycling safety improvements in the station's neighboring community, benefiting people whether they ride BART or not.

At El Cerrito Plaza BART, thanks to my leadership, BART is moving forward with 743 new homes at the station, nearly half of which will be affordable. This project also includes significant new open space, and, I hope, El Cerrito's new public library. On the City Council, I'll work to complete this project and make the library a reality.

Serving on the BART Board has been a tremendous honor, and it's time for me to make a more comprehensive impact on the city that I love. I know how government works at the local, regional, state, and federal levels, and I will enter City Hall with a broad range of experience, expertise, and connections that will help me bring out the best of El Cerrito.

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

Fiscal Oversight

To preserve the services and staff that make El Cerrito such a great place to live, we need strong fiscal oversight. I will make sure that we responsibly invest in what matters most while preparing for future uncertainty.

New Homes for People of All Incomes and Backgrounds

Everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. I am committed to expanding access to housing for everyone. To forge the El Cerrito we want and solve our housing crisis, we need to build housing affordable to people of all incomes and backgrounds.

New Library

I have worked hard to bring housing to the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station, and the project will break ground next year. On the City Council, I will focus on seeing a new public library as part of the development to completion, serving as an anchor for culture and community in our city.

Helping El Cerrito Small Businesses Thrive and Making Our Town a Regional Destination

The small businesses that make our town unique will lead the charge toward making El Cerrito a destination for people around the Bay Area. We have incredible entrepreneurs in our town, ready to make the most of our big city infrastructure and small town feel, and our cultural and transit connections to much bigger cities. Let's make El Cerrito thrive!

Making our Streets Safer and Increasing Biking and Walking

El Cerrito is a small city with a lot of amenities and recreational opportunities, and it should be easier and safer to get around by walking and biking. To improve livability and to reduce our impact on climate change, the City needs to improve infrastructure to encourage more people to walk and bike.

Maintaining High Quality Parks and Recreation Opportunities

My family and I have taken full advantage of our wonderful parks and incredible scenic walks and bike routes. We are nestled between the Bay and public forests, and keeping these natural wonders accessible is a key commitment of my campaign. Protecting our parks, trails, and El Cerrito Swim Center and guaranteeing access to recreation programs like summer camps and senior programs are essential for a thriving El Cerrito.

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

I will be accessible to constituents as I have been as a BART Director. I will attend community events to engage with constituents, hold monthly office hours as retiring Councilmember Paul Fadelli has, and respond to constituent emails and other requests that are sent 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 an active and proud Democrat and would be honored to be endorsed again by the Democratic Party. If endorsed, I will prominently display the endorsement on my campaign materials. As I have for many years, I plan to support other Democratic candidates and issues by contributing money and volunteering for campaigns.

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

See answers to further questions below.

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 when I first registered to vote. It was clear to me at the time, and it is even more clear now that the Democratic Party is the party that stands for equity, civil rights, and opportunity for all.

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? *

The vast majority of the issues covered in the CADEM Platform are relevant to what I'd like to accomplish on the El Cerrito City Council. In previous answers to this questionnaire I've detailed how I plan to advance some parts of the Platform, including these issues: Sustainable Communities, Energy and Environment, Business and Economy, Children, Young Adults, and their Families, and Seniors.

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? *

Advancing equity, anti-racism, justice, and belonging has been core to my twelve years of service on the BART Board, and I would continue this focus as an El Cerrito City Councilmember. I would view all City decisions through an equity and justice lens. Some of the specific initiatives I would focus on include building housing and especially affordable housing to ensure people of all income levels are able to live in El Cerrito; helping local businesses thrive with a focus on businesses owned by people of color and women; making it easier to get around El Cerrito by walking, biking, and transit, recognizing not everyone can afford to own a car, especially as they become so much more expensive; and ensuring that policing is done equitably, as I have led on at BART by championing our Progressive Policing Bureau.

2.6 - Have you actively opposed LGBTQIA+ issues, which may involve voting against solidarity, supporting harmful or exclusionary policies, or publicly expressing opposition through statements or comments? (i.e. voting against or making disparaging remarks about the display of pride flags, marriage equality, trans-inclusive policies, or queer-inclusive curricula). *

Yes

No

2.7 - Have you previously sought the endorsement of the DPCCC? If yes, for what elected office? Were you endorsed? *

Yes, for BART Director, and I was endorsed.

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

BART Director, 2012-Present

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

I have been very active in the Democratic Party for most of my adult life. I served as president of the East Bay Young Democrats and am an active member in several Democratic clubs. I was an alternate member on the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee and I served as a delegate to the California Democratic Party for several years. In 2004 I managed a fundraising office for the DNC, and I have worked to elect dozens of Democratic candidates since then.

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. *

I am a member of dozens of Democratic clubs, progressive, and environmental organizations. I served as president of the East Bay Young Democrats and on the board of the East Bay League of Conservation Votes.

2.11 - Have you ever endorsed non-Democrats? *

- Yes
- No

2.11a - If so, what were the circumstances?

Section 3: References & Club Endorsements

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

Organization:

Equality California

Elected Officials:

- State Senator Nancy Skinner
- Assemblymember Buffy Wicks
- Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia
- El Cerrito Mayor Tessa Rudnick
- El Cerrito Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Wysinger
- El Cerrito City Councilmember Paul Fadelli
- El Cerrito City Councilmember Lisa Motoyama
- El Cerrito City Councilmember Gabe Quinto
- Former El Cerrito Mayor Mark Friedman
- Former El Cerrito Mayor Greg Lyman
- Former El Cerrito City Councilmember Rebecca Benassini
- Albany City Councilmember Preston Jordan
- Antioch Mayor Pro Tem Monica Wilson
- Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin
- Berkeley City Councilmember Igor Tregub
- Berkeley City Councilmember Mark Humbert
- Hercules City Councilmember Chris Kelley
- Former Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf
- Orinda Mayor Darlene Gee
- Richmond City Councilmember Soheila Bana
- San Pablo City Councilmember Rita Xavier
- AC Transit Director Sarah Syed
- AC Transit Director Jean Walsh
- BART Board President Bevan Dufty
- BART Board Vice President Mark Foley
- BART Director Janice Li
- BART Director Robert Raburn
- BART Director Lateefah Simon

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

Democratic Clubs, labor organizations, environmental organizations, elected officials, and community leaders.

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. *

Reforming the criminal justice system was the first policy issue I advocated on, starting in high school, and I've always been committed to reducing incarceration. On the BART Board I spearheaded BART Police Department's award winning Progressive Policing Bureau, which has added unarmed Ambassadors and Crisis Intervention Specialists. I also have worked with BART's Police Citizen Review Board and Independent Police Officer to improve and strengthen BART Police policies and practices.

On foreign affairs, I have strongly opposed wars of aggression. In college I actively opposed the war in Iraq and was arrested in an act of civil disobedience opposing the war. I strongly support a ceasefire in Gaza.

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. *

Reforming the criminal justice system was the first policy issue I advocated on, starting in high school, and I've always been committed to reducing incarceration. On the BART Board I spearheaded BART Police Department's award winning Progressive Policing Bureau, which has added unarmed Ambassadors and Crisis Intervention Specialists. I also have worked with BART's Police Citizen Review Board and Independent Police Officer to improve and strengthen BART Police policies and practices.

On foreign affairs, I have strongly opposed wars of aggression. In college I actively opposed the war in Iraq and was arrested in an act of civil disobedience opposing the war. I strongly support a ceasefire in Gaza.

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 strongly support this value on education and child support services. Education and supporting families financially is incredibly important, to ensure everyone has equitable access. El Cerrito has a large population of families with school aged children - including my own family - so this is hugely impactful.

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 strongly support this value on seniors and veteran support services. El Cerrito has a growing senior population, and we must provide services to support them.

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 have been a strong proponent of affordable housing and environmental protections for decades, including by actively working to advance these issues in my 12 years on the BART Board. We are in a housing crisis, and that is impacting El Cerrito. We must build more housing so everyone can afford to live here. We must make it easier to get around by walking, biking, and transit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. And we must protect open space.

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 value impacts all of the other values listed here. We must ensure that everyone, and especially historically marginalized and disenfranchised communities, have equitable opportunities. Especially as there is growing hatred in our country, we must ensure the County and El Cerrito are welcoming to all and free of hatred, discrimination, and racism.

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 absolutely support this value. We must protect and fight for wider rights for reproductive services, and we must towards a single-payer healthcare system.

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 this value and will support local businesses, especially those owned by women and people of color. As I have done on the BART Board, I will always fight for labor rights.

Reminders:

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

<https://contracostadems.com/donate>

* Please direct questions to the Endorsements Committee Chair Tamela Hawley or Vice Chair Cameron Sasai at endorsements@contracostadems.com

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

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

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

 Add file

Submit Questionnaire

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

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

Interviews will be scheduled by District Directors.

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

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