

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): *

Shelley Clark
.....

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? *

Board Member San Ramon Valley Unified School District

CA FPPC ID # *

1470608

Campaign Website *

shelleyforsrvusd.org

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

Jill Watson

.....

Social Media Handles *

Shelley Clark for School Board, Area 2 Facebook; @shelleyforsrvusd2024 Instagram

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

I am an incumbent and who wants to protect the rights of all students in our district and continue the work that has been done already to promote academic excellence, as well as mental wellbeing. It is imperative that we prepare our students for the ever changing world they will face when the leave us, and to give them the tools they need to be succeed.

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

Number one responsibility of a board member is to oversee the running of the school district and to ensure the fiscal health of the district. Our district has \$435 million dollar budget and 29,000 students. We are also responsible to setting policy in all areas, approving books as well as curriculum to name a few.

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

First, I have gained a huge amount of experience in the past four years. I have completed a Masters in Governance course put on by the California Schools Boards Association that many other board members don't have. In addition to that, my diverse professional background gives me a unique perspective. I am presently a CFO of a small tech company, but have also been a court reporter and worked in the retail business. I believe the experience and knowledge I have gained over the past four years combined with all the volunteer and service work I have done in the district in the past, plus my background makes me the best candidate

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

My top goals are to continue to make sure that every student has the tools they need to be successful , and that I protect their right to information, including the books they want to read. Also important is making sure our curriculum is diversified and all students are represented. My second goal to to ensure the fiscal health of the district when making decisions about where to spend our limited resources.

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

When I was elected, I was the first board member to institute regular office hours. Any parent or community member can email me and I will meet with them to discuss whatever is on their mind. I also attend our Student Senate meetings, where student representatives from all our secondary schools are present and I hear from them about their concerns and issues. I also attend many, many community events and committees where people have a chance to speak to me about 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 am seeking your endorsement because the DPCC reflects my beliefs, and can assist with getting the word out to more voters about the issues facing school boards. I want to use it to protect the rights of our LBGTQ+ community, who are under siege by the far right. I would support all candidates who have that mindset by tell all my supporters about other who are fighting for the rights of others.

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

I have worked tirelessly in the past four years to ensure that our students have more opportunities to succeed, by increasing career pathways; that they get the mental health supports they need to support their well being and that they are academically successful by improved systems of support.

Section 2: Democratic History

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

I first registered as a Democrat when I was old enough to vote and I am a Democrat today. The reason is the principles and tenets of the Democratic party resonate with my belief system.

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? *

Protecting the rights of the under represented. In this case, that would be the LGBTQ+ community of students in our district. I care for all our students, but those who have traditionally been discriminated against are especially important to me.

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? *

In the four years I have been on the board, we have adopted 6 strategic directions that are our North Star in our district policies. One of them is equity. We have endeavored to meet each student where they are and give them the tools they need to succeed. We have instituted policies against racism and paid for programs such as SLAM (Student Leaders Anti-racist Movement), that educate our students and staff about racism and how to intervene to stop it, how to examine our our biases and identify micro-aggressions. We have instituted a Restorative Justice program in our secondary schools, as well as Safe School Ambassador program. I have supported all of these.

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? *

I was endorsed in 2020 when I ran the first time for a seat on the Board of Education for SRVUSD.

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

I have held on other elected positions, but have a huge resume of serving the SRVUSD community and district in volunteer capacity over many years.

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

I am a member of the San Ramon Democratic Club and have been endorsed by them. I have honestly put all my efforts into the office I currently hold. School boards have become the political hotbed of the country and it has taken all that I have to fight for the rights of my students and to deal with the fiscal challenges facing sRVUSD.

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 have been President of the Autumn Creek Owners Association for 22 years. I currently serve on the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board for the County of Contra Costa, and I currently chair the FACT committee for the County. I am a member of the AAUW.

2.11 - Have you ever endorsed non-Democrats? *

- Yes
- No

2.11a - If so, what were the circumstances?

I haven't endorsed a non-Democrat, but I have a close friend who I believe does an exceptional job as a town council member in my town and I have supported her.

Section 3: References & Club Endorsements

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

SRVEA; Labor Council of Contra Costa; Rebecca Bauer-Kahan; Candace Andersen; Andy Li; Newell Arnerich; Robert Storer; Joan Buchanan; Kathy and Ed Chirverton; San Ramon Democratic Club; Brodie Hilp, president; Marilyn Lucey. There are more, but that's probably the highlights.

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

DPCCC , Mark DeSaulnier; Contra Costa Building Trades Council

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. *

Many of the issues outlined in that first paragraph I have actually dealt with as a board member. bigotry, racism, discrimination against groups who are different happen in schools on a regular basis. They affect those groups on the receiving end in a very negative way and make learning difficult. When those issues come to our board, I have consistently voted to uphold and protect the rights of those on the receiving end of any of those behaviors.

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. *

All of these issues affect the youth of this country and certainly our school district. As a board member I have dealt with the negative effects of racism, bigotry and xenophobic behavior. I wholeheartedly support the party in the fight to combat injustice and support world peace. The students I represent are the leaders of tomorrow. Preparing them to be compassionate, caring and informed citizens of the world is part of the job of public education

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 have personally voted against the attempt to manipulate educational materials. It is imperative that our youth are taught an accurate inclusive and authentic history of our country and the world. I feel very strongly about gender expression and have supported our LGBTQ+ students in every way possible, even in the face of severe opposition. I have stood with our LGTQ+ community in supporting a "non-outing" policy in our district. It is important that our students feel safe at school. We have many programs that support low income families and English language learners.

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. *

Because I live in a fairly affluent area, I don't think many people think of some of these issues. The impact of a broken health care system, for example, has a devastating affect on everyone, but especially those who don't have insurance. Our veterans not getting the help they need has a negative affect on not only them, but their families and the community as a whole. I support the programs and changes we need to make to find solutions to these issues.

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. *

The affordability problem in our area is huge, and it affects all the teachers and classified personnel who work in the school district because they don't make enough to live here. We need to find ways to be able to build affordable housing so that people who work here can live here.

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. *

These type of issues show up frequently in schools. As a board we have instituted policies and procedures to properly deal with gender names and pronouns. We support our students in their exploration of who they are and want school to be a safe place for them to be. We have provided professional development for our teachers so they have the tools they need to be effective in supporting students. Our systems accommodate gender pronouns and name changes. I have done everything I could, including voting, to protect and include our LGBTQ+ students..

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. *

The effects of this ruling are devastating for women, as it takes away their choice. The result of this is that many women will go to extreme means to terminate a pregnancy. We're telling our young people that they have no control over their own bodies. That is a terrible message and the issue of reproductive rights is in the forefront of my mind in importance.

The other issue with Medicare and a broken health care system affects everyone, but especially low income families, the most. It is devastating because of the financial burden it puts on people who have a long term medical condition. It needs to be fixed, and I would support whatever it takes to do that.

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. *

My husband is an entrepreneur, and my son graduated from college with a business degree in entrepreneurship. i helped my husband start his business in 2003. I fully support more help for women and minorities to start their own business. I think it's important for our students to know that they too could start a successful business and would have the support necessary to do that. I am against any type of discrimination for any reason, it has a negative affect on not only those discriminated against, but those who come after them and get the same treatment.

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.

 (pg 1) ABOUT - S...

 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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