

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.

Vision Statement: Democratic Party of Contra Costa County

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): *

Abel Pineda

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? *

City of San Pablo, City Council _____

CA FPPC ID # *

Pending

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

- a. **Housing:** Housing continues to one of my main priorities. I believe we need to continue investing and protecting housing access and affordability. I am proud to have supported the construction of various housing projects in San Pablo over the 6 years that I have served in office. I personally led the effort during the pandemic which created a temporary rent and eviction moratorium and prevented the displacement of residents. I also led in creating a \$500,000 local housing grant assistance program to help eligible San Pablo families impacted by COVID-19 receive financial aid to help pay their rent, mortgage, and utilities. In addition, I recently led with creating the city of San Pablo rent registry and worked with city staff to make sure residents are informed of the rental protections granted by AB 1482 and the newly enacted bill by Assemblymember Haney which prevents landlords from charging more than one month's rent as a deposit if certain conditions are met. I am also closely watching ongoing statewide efforts to help with the financing, construction, and protection of affordable housing.
- b. **Economic Development:** I know that to protect financial viability of San Pablo, we must look at alternative ways to diversify our revenue stream and wean our dependency on casino revenue. I have supported local businesses by helping create a San Pablo Back-2-business grants, invested in our San Pablo Economic Development Corporation that helps provide guidance and support to our businesses, and worked with various partners to recruit and retain professional workforce development training and employment opportunities. I plan to continue identifying new revenue streams for our community and make sure we have a strong and healthy budget for years to come.
- c. **Health:** The need for access to healthcare institutions and services are not lost on me. I believe that after losing Doctors Medical Center, we lost a gem that provided key services to already-vulnerable populations in our city and region. Even though the hospital has closed, I am proud that we have been proactive in recruiting and retaining various medical services. That includes having Lifelong Medical Center providing Urgent Care, primary care, and dental services for the undocumented, underinsured, and noninsured patients. We also have the Rotacare Clinic which moved from Richmond to San Pablo that provides care and services to people in our city and region. Additionally, we have Women Infants and Children Center and the West County Mental Health Center that opened all within walking distance. We are also partners with the County A3 program and will be deploying mental health services to our region from San Pablo. While I recognize that these providers may not replace a full-service hospital, I do appreciate that we have made efforts in the right direction. I believe we need to continue to create pathways for people to have access to vital health resources and opportunities. I will continue to support efforts that assist our residents in having greater access to health-related services.

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

Attending and voting in City Council meetings, representing my community, advocating for issues impacting my community, creating and supporting change.

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

I am a lifelong San Pablo resident and a first-generation college graduate of UC Santa Cruz with a B.A. in Sociology. My path to public service was significantly shaped by a tragic event in 2007 when I lost my best friend to gang violence in San Pablo. Motivated by mentors who recognized my potential, I used my personal experiences into advocating for informed and impactful public policy changes. During my time at Richmond High School, I was elected by my peers to represent them on the School Site Council. I also played a pivotal role in establishing both the City of San Pablo and the West Contra Costa Unified School District Youth Commission, both of which are still active to this day.

In the realm of state politics, I have had the privilege of serving the constituents of Assembly District 15 as a Principal Field Representative for former State Assemblyman Tony Thurmond, spanning his two terms in the state legislature. In 2017, I ran for California Democratic Party Delegate, emerging as the youngest candidate and securing the highest number of votes among male candidates. Subsequently, I continued my public service as Principal Field Representative with State Assemblyman Rob Bonta of District 18 in 2019, focusing on crucial issues such as public safety, education, health, insurance, social services, and transportation.

In 2020, I reached another milestone in my career by being sworn in as the Northern California Regional Field Liaison for State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond.

I have also made history as City of San Pablo's youngest elected official at age 26, Vice Mayor at age 29, and, at age 30, assuming the role as Mayor. I stood amongst the youngest Mayors to ever serve in California and the United States.

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

Supporting the construction of housing in my community, helping diversify our revenue stream, and supporting access to greater health-based resources for my community.

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

By inviting them to our council meetings and having them speak on the issues that are important to them, meeting with them in the community, attending events, etc...

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 have previously attained the endorsement of the Contra Costa Democratic Party when I ran for City Council in 2020. I also served as an elected CA Democratic Delegate Representing then-Assembly District 15. While all the incumbents are running unopposed, I would appreciate the continued support of the Contra Costa Democratic Party. I have supported other Democratic candidates locally, regionally, and across the state of the years. I continue to do so to this day and will continue to fight for democratic values.

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

While I don't plan on seeking support from the party in the form of funds, mailers, and precinct walkers, I would still appreciate the opportunity to maintain a strong relationship with my party.

Section 2: Democratic History

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

Democrat- I registered as soon as I was eligible to vote. My family are all democrats and hold strong democratic values.

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? *

I believe the 3 issues I mentioned which include my efforts related to housing, economic development, and health align well with the CADEM platform. I provided examples of policies I personally pushed and passed on these areas, and will continue to fight for.

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? *

This is something I think about often, and it is why I pursued a higher education and public office. I am proud to have supported diversity policies in San Pablo, successfully pushed for joining the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, passed a temporary eviction and rent increase moratorium, covid relief funds for both residents and business, am in the process of implementing a law enforcement divergence program, support community schools, small business grants, created a San Pablo scholarship program for residents pursuing a higher education and joining the trades, support mental health crisis response by trained mental health clinicians, etc...

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, and I got it in 2020.

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

City of San Pablo City Council. I have served on the council for the last 6 years.

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

I attend Democratic Party meetings across the state and the state convention. I have supported various democratic candidates. I have also served as an elected CADEM delegate for then-AD 15.

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 served on the San Pablo City Council since 2018 and continue to do to this day. I have also previously served as a San Pablo Board representative on the Recyclemore Board of Directors. I have also served as a Board member for the Richmond RYSE Center for 3 years from 2019-2023. I also served a CADEM delegate from 2017-2019. I was sworn in as the Northern CA Field Liaison for the CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2020 and still serve to this day.

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. *

Tony Thurmond, CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction
 Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council
 Contra Costa Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Patricia Ponce, Mayor, City of San Pablo
 Arturo Cruz, Vice Mayor, City of San Pablo
 Rita Xavier, Councilmember, City of San Pablo
 Genoveva Calloway, Former Mayor and Councilmember, City of San Pablo
 Alex Walker Griffin, Former Mayor (Now Councilmember), City of Hercules
 Devin Murphy, Former Mayor (Now Councilmember), City of Pinole

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

More elected officials from my party

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. *

San Pablo is in the process of constructing a brand new Police Headquarter that houses a regional law enforcement training facility and the Contra Costa County's A3 Mental Health Crisis Response Program. Our city has been nationally recognized for our community policing efforts and the great relationships law enforcement has fostered with our residents and businesses. A couple of months ago I amended our priority workplace to help San Pablo implement a divergent program that keeps low-level offenders out of the criminal justice system and connects them with resources that can support them and their needs. San Pablo is a Sanctuary City and we will not do anything that puts our residents in harms way. I was also the leading person that introduced and passed the City of San Pablo Diversity Policy and membership in Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Cohort.

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. *

San Pablo is in the process of constructing a brand new Police Headquarter that houses a regional law enforcement training facility and the Contra Costa County's A3 Mental Health Crisis Response Program. Our city has been nationally recognized for our community policing efforts and the great relationships law enforcement has fostered with our residents and businesses. A couple of months ago I amended our priority workplace to help San Pablo implement a divergent program that keeps low-level offenders out of the criminal justice system and connects them with resources that can support them and their needs. San Pablo is a Sanctuary City and we will not do anything that puts our residents in harms way. I was also the leading person that introduced and passed the City of San Pablo Diversity Policy and membership in Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Cohort.

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 initiatives that have the potential to bring in revenue for resources and opportunities important to our community and public. I also supported the creation of the San Pablo Back to Business (B2B) Grants that provide financial relief and assistance to San Pablo businesses. I have been an ally and advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and have supported resolutions while on council. In addition, during the pandemic, I helped create a \$500,000 local housing grant assistance program to help eligible San Pablo families impacted by COVID-19 receive financial aid to help pay their rent, mortgage, and utilities. I have also previously supported, and will continue to support, programs and efforts with the goal of assisting our local businesses and residents to remain and thrive in our community. We have the San Pablo Economic Development Corporation which helps residents and businesses alike thrive in our community.

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. *

San Pablo is nationally recognized for our strong support for our elders and our most vulnerable. We have significantly invested in creating affordable housing in our community and are looking into greater ways

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 efforts to keep our residents housed and keeping cost of living low. We are actively doing a lot of affordable housing construction, previously approved a temporary rent increase and eviction moratorium. I am greatly concerned about the topic of just cause protections and believe our city can do more. This is why I plan to raise this issue back up with my city to make sure we can continue to identify and pass policy that meet the needs of our residents. I don't believe people deserve to be priced out of the community they call home.

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 absolutely support this value. This is why I have introduced and passed policy on this subject since being in office.

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 this value and believe we could all benefit if we stand together on these values. My mother worked as a CNA for her entire working career and raised me with these values.

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. *

We have the San Pablo Economic Development Corporation which helps residents and businesses alike thrive in our community. We help them get job training, host job fairs, and partner with employers to help our community get jobs. I also supported the creation of the San Pablo Back to Business (B2B) Grants that provide financial relief and assistance to San Pablo businesses. We work closely with our small business community to help them thrive. We are a city of mainly small businesses. We have a prevailing wage and local hiring ordinance, but I am also revisiting the conversation related to PLA's in San Pablo. I am also proud to have helped push and create the San Pablo Education and Workforce development scholarship where we help give financial assistance to our residents for them to pursue jobs in a trade or pursue a higher education.

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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