

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.

Email *

[Redacted]

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): *

Don Freitas

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? *

Antioch City Council, District 3 - 2024

CA FPPC ID # *

1470390

Campaign Address *

[Redacted]

Campaign Website *

[Redacted]

Campaign Consultant/Manager *

[Redacted]

Campaign Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Campaign Email *

[Redacted]

Candidate Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Candidate Email *

[Redacted]

Social Media Handles *

[Redacted]

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

1. Bring immediate stability to City Government. Presently, we have an acting City Manager, an acting Assistant City Manager, an acting Chief of Police, an acting Community Development Department Director, an acting Public Works Director and a part-time Economic Development Director and a Park & Recreation Director.

This is absolutely not the way to manage our City. Functionality, accountability and decision making are lacking at all levels. Recruitment for a City Manager has been a disaster. Given the current political situation, qualified candidates refuse to apply for the position.

2. The ongoing FBI investigation, the racist text messaging scandal and indictments have plagued the Police Department for too long. Decisive actions need to be taken immediately. Terminate officers guilty of misconduct. Speed up the recruiting and hiring of a diverse police workforce by supplementing HR personnel with additional resources. Hire a permanent Chief of Police.

3. The unhoused situation in Antioch is probably the most difficult issue to address in the community. Recent actions by the current City Council has had some improvements - Mental Health Response Team, proposal to build supportive housing, rent control, etc. The challenge is how to continue financing and expanding services and programs once the current funding is exhausted. There needs to be a dedicated source of funding so long term actions can continue unabated. Acting in unison with all East County cities is critical.

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

The dual responsibility of a City Council member is to generally represent the entire community, but specifically the district on all policy matters concerning the City of Antioch. A Council member must avail him/herself to all interested parties on any matter under consideration by the City Council. Listening to all points of view is an absolute necessity. Once data has been presented by the community, staff and interested parties then the Council member should decide what action to take that would be in Antioch's best interest.

Understanding how Antioch is organized, how it functions, what mandates are required by law, comprehend current and future budgetary obligations, sources of revenue and costs; and, all other legal requirements is important to be an effective member of Council. Working collaborative with all members of the Council, staff and public is an absolute must.

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

Professionally : UC Davis, Bachelor of Arts Degree - Political Science/Public Service

CoCoCounty Public Works Department (33 years + years)

Administrative Services Division- Senior Analyst responsible for personnel; disciplinary actions; union negotiations; preparation, implementation and oversight of multimillion dollar budgets; training, Affirmation Action and liaison between Citizen Advisory Committees and Contra Costa County.

Created the Contra Costa Clean Water Program comprised of all nineteen Cities and Towns, Contra Costa County and the Contra Costa Flood Control and Water Conversation District (21 public agencies) implementing the Federal Clean Water Act addressing urban runoff pollution and mandating improvements to water quality. Served as its Manager for the first nineteen years of the Program.

Politically : Contra Costa County Democratic Central Committee District 5 representative, Secretary and Chairperson, served ten years), Contra Costa County Fair Board of Directors (appointed by Governor Jerry Brown, served five years), Contra Costa Water District - Division 5 (elected at 24 years of age; served 16 years), Antioch City Council (1989 to 2000, served two years) and City of Antioch Mayor (2000 to 2008, served eight years) Delta Diablo Sanitation District (served eight years), Contra Costa Transportation Authority (served eight years) and many other appointed postions.

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

Immediately hire a permanent City Manager mandating the recruitment and hiring of all Department Heads. Consult with the Contra Costa Public Managers' Association for assistance, advice and recommendations to quicken the process.

Conduct Budget workshops for the City Council detailing all revenues, expenditures, legal obligations and mandates, possible liabilities, capital improvement plan, staffing, etc. Then immediately begin a "goals setting " process with our residents outlining immediate, near term and long term goals and objectives.

Conduct subregional (East County) workshops with our adjoining cities, special districts, schools, County, addressing collaboratively issues such as homelessness, transportation. crime, business retention and expansion, etc.

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

Social media, District 3 public involvement workshops, newsletters, publicize my cell number and email address (and respond in a timely manner).

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 a lifelong Democrat. The endorsement of the DPCCC is an official public statement that I embody the beliefs and goals of the Democratic Party and am willing to fight for those beliefs. The endorsement would be listed on my campaign material, social media, stated in my speeches, included in my conversations when canvassing, etc. I would share resources, information, do joint activities, fundraise with other endorsed candidates.

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

I think I've said enough, but would gladly respond to any question from members.

Section 2: Democratic History

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

Always have been a Democrat starting on February 10, 1955 (Vietnam, Civil Rights, Voting rights, etc. February 10, 1973).

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 have read the "Preamble" of the CADEM Platform and DPCCC's "About Us" section and agree with the views expressed in each statement.

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? *

Ensure the City's hiring, promotion and retention policies adequately addresses equity and anti-racism language as the approved policy of Antioch. Immediately investigate and take appropriate actions when necessary.

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. Antioch City Council and Antioch Mayor.

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

CCWD, Division 5 - 1979 to 1995
Antioch City Council - 1998 to 2000
Antioch Mayor -2000 to 2008

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

Helped form the Antioch Democratic Club.

Served on the Contra Costa Democratic Central Committee as a District 5 (then) representative, Secretary and Chairperson.

Endorsed and helped elect Melody Howe Weintraub as President of the CA Young Democrats.

Participated in the VIP Program which was a fundraising program started by Bert Coffey in the 1980s and 1990s.

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. *

Rotary Club of the Delta

Antioch Kiwanis Club

Antioch Historical Society

Antioch Sports Legends.

Delta Learning Center

2.11 - Have you ever endorsed non-Democrats? *

Yes

No

2.11a - If so, what were the circumstances?

Ron Bernal for Antioch Mayor (registered NPP)

Mike Barbanica for County Supervisor (NPP)

Section 3: References & Club Endorsements

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

Have not focused on getting endorsements.

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? *

Mark Desaulnier, Member of Congress
 Federal Glover, CoCoCounty Supervisor
 Diane Burgis CoCoCounty

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. *

Support DPCCC Value.

Currently, low level offenses drain resources from major police protection activities. This impact actually harms communities instead of helping them.

I am the grandson of immigrants who fled persecution I know understand what it means not to live in a free, democratic society.

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. *

Support the DPCCC Value.

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. *

Support DPCCC Value

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. *

Support DPCCC Value

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. *

Support DPCCC Value

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. *

Support Value

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. *

Support DPCCC Value

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. *

Support DPCCC Value

As a CCWD Director, the publicly approved Los Vaqueros Reservoir Project in 1988 was one of the first major project with a PLA. It was a very difficult fight at the time. Labor used this project as an example for other publicly funded capital projects. The lesson learned was that it simply made sense to have a project built on time, on budget with no labor strife.

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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