

# 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): \*

Jovita Mendoza  
.....

Preferred Name (if different than campaign name):

Jovita  
.....

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? \*

Brentwood City Council District 3 .....

CA FPPC ID # \*

1429666

Campaign Website \*

BetterForBrentwood.com

Campaign Consultant/Manager \*

Jovita Mendoza

Social Media Handles \*

Instagram: Jovita\_Brentwood FB: <https://www.facebook.com/JovitaForBrentwood>

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

1: Affordable Housing, 2:Environment 3: Equity in Brentwood for POC

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

Driving the agenda is KEY, ensuring that the agenda is resident focused and not special interest. I will continue to drive key issues to the council. Budget and staying solvent is also a key issue. Ensuring we can meet our pension obligations and continue to offer services to residents. Holding each other accountable is important as well, never rubber stamping items from staff. I have spent many hours learning as much as i can about each agenda item and will continue to do so to ensure i always have educated myself on all agenda items when voting.

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

I am a senior analytics manager during my day job, and with experience in finance and modeling. This has been helpful when reviewing the city budgets. I also have had to corporate retail experience that has been helpful with working with our economic development team. You can see the positive changes that have benefited the community. The last 3 years have been a great learning experience in the way government works and how to move resident focused items forward.

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

\* 20% inclusionary housing in all new developments, both single family and rentals (up from 13% which i moved forward). I have already brought it forward as an agenda item and will be working with staff to complete a nexus study as a next step.

\* focus on focusing on the youth. I pushed to earmark federal funds to invest a sports complex. I would like to see this completed and not pulled back by staff.

\* we have banned oil & gas in Brentwood and are working on shutting down a gas pipeline that is for private use. I will continue to make that a priority

\* i will work on protecting the remaining agricultural land in the Brentwood area to ensure that our field workers keep jobs and we maintain open space that is key for both food production and climate controlling.

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

I am very active with our resident. I actively do a council meeting recap after all city council meetings which provide residents the highlights and the votes. I also participate in many community events and engage with non-profits to understand what is happening in the community. I will continue to reach out to small businesses to understand what consumers are saying to gauge how to help.

#### 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 that believes in the party mission and am thankful for the big umbrella. I do not seek endorsements from any other organization, but this one is the one that means the most for me. I will use this endorsement as a way to ensure that Democrats in the area know that i am an ally and feel better about reaching out to a council person. Their input is important and i am happy to let them know i am here to represent them. I have always supported other candidates, and happy to align with Democrats not only locally, but state wide as well. I am a board member on the Cal Cities Latino Caucus and support my peers with social media, sharing information and most importantly being one phone call away.



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

I am so excited about what i have been able to accomplish. Against all odds i pushed to pass an oil & gas ban, are shutting down a gas pipeline, passed campaign finance to limit special interest campaign donations, budgeted for a youth space, evaded redlining by removing a GATE that would have divided a low income and new neighborhood and after years finally was able to fly the pride flag, and much more. This year my mom became a citizen after over 50 years in this country - i am so proud of the work around equity when it comes to city resources. We are embracing POC and lower income residents instead of continually funding the same special interest organizations.

## 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 as soon as i turned 18 in Alameda county - never looked back. Our party helps those most in need and is willing to help fund that aid. We also worry about what will remain after we are gone, by pushing for a climate action plan to help the environment.

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? \*

\* Affordable Housing: i take this one very personally, i feel that if i have the fortune to be able to have a home and understand the benefit it brings me today and for generations to come EVERYONE should have the same opportunity. Finding innovative ways to create affordable housing will always be on the top of my list.

\*Energy and Environment: We need to find alternate sources of energy that do not negatively impact the environment. I want other council people to understand that the risk is worth the reward when we ban drilling or pipelines. Our city is fully invested in solar panels, and i would like to find a way to subsidize panels for those who cannot afford them.

\* Culture and the Arts: Grants is a big part of what i do. I always try to ensure that the organizations that receive the grants represent a wide variety of the people the diversity we have in the area.

\*Business and Economy: it is important that we bring good paying jobs to the area, additionally partnering with the community college district to offer programs that prepare our residents for higher earning employment.

There is so much more, providing programs for the youth, ensuring we protect our immigrants regardless of status and more.

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? \*

Grants - the way local governments distribute local funds has to be targeted to programs and events that help those in the community that need the most, but do not ask. Going out to the community and making them aware of what is available. We now have staff go out to the community to educate and assist. Change is hard for many and we have to be strong enough to go against the status quo as we did when we finally flew the pride flag, hosted our cities first Juneteenth, funded a day of the dead festival in a lower income area. We have to keep it going and i'm not ready to stop educating and driving acceptance via that learning.

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, Brentwood City Council 2020 and i was endorsed (thank you)

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

2020-2024 Brentwood City Council District 1

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 DPCCC and attend meetings as often as i can. I am also an active member in the Marsh Creek Dems and have aided in increasing membership. I represent the DEM party as a board member of the Cal Cites Latino Caucus.

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 a member of the Marsh Creek Dems since 2018.  
Board Member of CalCities Latino Caucus since 2022

2.11 - Have you ever endorsed non-Democrats? \*

- Yes
- No

2.11a - If so, what were the circumstances?

I do not do endorsements, but except for DPCCC and MCD i do not ask for them.

### Section 3: References & Club Endorsements

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

None

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? \*

Marsh Creek Dems

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 &amp; Conflict Resolution

- *Opposes criminalization of low level offenses, advocates for Community Support Services, funding for prompt rape kit processing, gun violence prevention measures; Opposes scapegoating, racial profiling, religious profiling, bigotry, vigilantism, exploitation, and any xenophobic conduct that polarize communities and denounce actions by the government or individuals that keep undocumented immigrants in the shadows of our society; Supports Law Enforcement Training, Civilian Oversight Committees, independent investigators for cases involving the use of deadly force or in-custody deaths, restorative justice;*
- *Supports a properly funded and staffed the U.S. foreign service that promotes democracy and human rights around the world; Supports candidates who work to de-escalate tension especially in areas of conflict like Israel/Gaza, Sudan, Haiti, and other parts of the world through good faith negotiations and work for world peace; Endorse candidates who support the Democratic Party as it works to counter aggression by countries that violate the sovereignty of other countries and that fund and implement physical, cyber, and financial attacks on democracies and developing countries.*

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

I grew up in East Oakland where the Rough Riders were stationed. This was a volatile time that left an imprint on me and the way i see how people are treated by the justice system. I believe that POC and those of lower income are continually treated differently than people in nicer neighborhoods with higher incomes. While we have appointed attorneys, those with the means are able to hire top-notch representation. What happens is that two individuals that may have carried out the same "crime" will often times see different sentencing results. We need a justice system that treat everyone equally.

We need representation that also serves with compassion and holds others accountable for any type of discrimination, even that of the poor. Everyone should be treated with dignity and as a human. That would go a long way with helping others rise up when they need it the most.

We need a path to citizenship that will ensure fair pay and humane working conditions as well as an active program to help with education goals.

Global affairs, we need to be the beacon of democracy and ensure that our dollars are not aiding in the harm to anyone, as well as helping those in need whenever possible. We need to ensure that we respect differing cultures while promoting peace and acceptance.

## DPCCC Value: Criminal Justice &amp; 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. \*

Our community looks to us to ensure that we have a welcoming city. It is important, and i speak about it constantly, for the residents to understand where my family and i have come from and why my passion is around equality, in housing, in funding, in education. Having suffered discrimination and watched as my parents dealt with it i will also call out racism. My community has watched me do this and even receive the backlash from those not in agreement that i bring it up during council meetings. This is just one area where i have pushed the envelope and have had some come after me.

#### 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. \*

PARKS! I do not think you will find anyone that fights more for our kids and creating spaces for them than i do. While city staff would like to take in-lieu fees i have pushed for a park in each new development for the families to enjoy - parks create community and offer a low cost place of entertainment. I will continue to push for affordable housing and will review developer P&L's to show that the profit margins allow for it. I am currently on the inter-agency committee where i sit with Brentwood unified and Liberty union school districts as well as Los Medanos. We work together to ensure our children are being treated fairly and do not suffer from discrimination. We share information that has helped us at the city to develop programs such as the Youth Commission which has started hosting events and we have started to provide grants for.

### 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. \*

We have a very large senior population with large senior communities. As a city we have invested in our senior center where they have found resources and education. Currently i have heard of a decline in the offerings and have asked for a review of the programs by a third party to see how we can improve. We are working to ensure that we have affordable housing being built in Brentwood and would welcome a 100% affordable housing development.

Our veterans are a big part of the community who have always been supportive. I attend all their events and meet with them to ensure that any challenges in the city are being addressed. We are currently reviewing a project where the county would like to encroach on their property to build a fire house. We need to look at all sides of this project and ensure that the community are protected. Protecting their space will protect the services they are receiving close at home.

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. \*

Brentwood is well positioned to provide thousand of units. Before 2020 the city was not building affordable, the staff would recommend that the developer be allowed to in-lieu out. Our ordinance now requires the units be built at 13% of all new units, and i am working toward 20%.

In Brentwood we have banned Oil & Gas drilling which was being sought after by Reabold in Europe due to the abundance of oil & gas in Brentwood.

I want to take a moment to thank the Sunflower Alliance at the Center for Biological Diversity for all of their help.



### 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 is part of my everyday dialogue. As council members we must always speak out against inequalities in all areas. We have fought for equability in funding, housing, parks and more. We welcome all residents to come to meetings and speak. We are one of the few remaining cities to allow zoom comments. This helps us gain more resident feedback.

The raising of the pride flag brought backlash, but i was happy to do it and be the voice of my neighbors that have faced discriminations that i can only imagine.

### 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. \*

Health care is KEY. I am happy to say that i advocated for healthcare for all. In Contra Costa undocumented residents will not be able to receive health care.

A woman's right to chose must be restored, and as Californian's we have to continue to drive this message in hope that a woman's right to her bodily decisions is restored.

### 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 done so much in the arena. During covid a lot of our small businesses were suffering. We offered covid cleaning kits to keep them safe, invested in patio awnings. Our restaurants were able to stay afloat. We invested in the Downtown Brentwood Coalition which has transformed out downtown corridor into a thriving business center. Before 2020 would see empty store fronts and now we have a diverse business community. I'm happy to say that we give them a yearly grand for their executive director (ED). The ED is amazing and has embraced minority and LQTBQ establishments. The ED actively works with small business owners to help with strategies to drive sales.

As a daughter of a union member who i helped do his daily paper work because he did not read or write English, and a former member of SEIU i support our unions and believe in the work they do to provide fair pay, safe working conditions and so much more to employees.

**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](mailto: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.

 Mendoza, Jovita ...

 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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