

# 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 \*

## 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): \*

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? \*

Brentwood City Council- District 3 .....

CA FPPC ID # \*

1471441

Campaign Address \*

[Redacted]

Campaign Website \*

[Redacted]

Campaign Consultant/Manager \*

Brian Oftedal

Campaign Phone Number \*

[Redacted]

Campaign Email \*

[Redacted]

Candidate Phone Number \*

[Redacted]

Candidate Email \*

[Redacted]

Social Media Handles \*

Instagram: @BrianOftedal Facebook: @BrianOftedalFD LinkedIn: @Brian-Oftedal X: @BrianOftedal

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

I believe that this is the opportunity to take my next step in public service. I believe in public service and civic involvement. I believe my common sense approach and consensus building will bring value to the council.

#1- Improved Public Safety #2- Support Economic Development #3- Collaborative Working Relationships  
Many of my priorities continue to fall in the public safety area. We have 2 fire stations that need to be built in Brentwood and an additional police beat that has been discussed for a decade. Fire insurance rates are out of control and neighbors have lost fire insurance. Improving our Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating and creating Firewise communities is one of the ways we reduce rates and make our businesses and residents more insurable. Working on Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is a priority for me that can be accomplished by working with our public safety partners. Bringing work opportunities to keep our residents off the road and in town is also very important to me.

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

Brentwood City Council is a 4 year commitment to the city and community members. It is an elected position, which provides policy and direction to the City Manager. The voice of the council has 2 employees, which are the City Attorney and the City Manager. I see our role as being both an ambassador and liaison. The responsibility that we assume is to ensure we arrive to our meeting prepared and ensure that we are speaking on behalf of our constituents. I have had the opportunity to serve in both elected and appointed roles and I take these positions and the trust that has been put into me, very seriously. The responsibility includes various standing and ad hoc committees, as well as working together with other elected and appointed officials.

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

For almost three decades, I have served my community in Public Safety. I have worked in the Fire Service and Emergency Medical Service industries and have build a reputation as a strong and dependable leader. As a public servant, I have been described a reliable, trustworthy and having a servant leadership style. I have worked in one of the most diverse communities in California during my career, which has helped educate me and make me the understanding person I am. I have had the opportunity to take a city leadership academy, earn certificates in governance and transparency and understand the Brown Act. Along with my wife and daughters, we are active members of our community. I watch Brentwood city council and planning commission meeting and have participated over the years. I have served as the Vice President of a local elementary school parents club and I currently serve as the Chair of the School Site Council. I attend Brentwood Union School District Parent Leader meetings and have brought youth preparedness education to East Contra Costa County. Over the years I have worked with our seniors and most recently have been involved with local CPR for Seniors outreach. I have attended National Night Out events for over two decades and frequently attend neighborhood watch or Safety/Security meetings.

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

**Public Safety:** Our city suffered from a lack of essential fire services for decades, and this is the number one issue that residents who are aware of the deficit still raise. As President of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District Board, I worked collaboratively with other elected officials, labor and the Chief to address the service deficit. Additional resources have been added by annexing into the neighboring Contra Costa Fire Protection District. I continue my service as an appointed member of the Fire Advisory Commission and serve as the Chair of the Fire Commission. While we were successful in achieving a path towards this goal, much work remains to be done to achieve full implementation, and the City of Brentwood must be an essential partner to the fire district to ensure that our objectives are met. We are close to bring 2 fire stations projects to the City of Brentwood planning commission. These fire stations will not only provide improved response times and bring us within industry standards, but will also help our residents and businesses reduce/retain fire insurance, by reducing our current Insurance Service Office rating.

**Traffic/Commute Times:** 70% of our commuting Brentwood residents travel between 45 minutes to 2 hours, each way, to work. This lessens our quality of life, making it harder for people, especially parents, to engage fully with their families and communities in the ways that they would otherwise like to. We need to create an environment, through thoughtful development and regulation, that induces more high quality job creation locally. Residents of Brentwood should have the ability to live where they work. At the moment, those quality jobs do not exist. Keeping residents in Brentwood will take our commuters off of Vasco Road and Highway 4, which have become incredibly dangerous over the years.

**Civil Discourse:** There's a sense among residents that our political discourse has gone off the rails and is in dire need of a course correction. Elected officials at all levels, including city government, have engaged in ad hominem attacks that encourage bullying, both offline and online. I believe it's incredibly important for elected officials to comport themselves in ways that demonstrate respect for the dignity of all people. That helps us recruit and retain the best possible staff, and it ensures the broadest possible participation by the public. Our city staff and residents deserve to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect. I will help eliminate some of the public theater behind the dais and help bring civility back to our community meetings.

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

In my appointed and/or elected positions I have been very successful interacting with my community. I created professional profiles on LinkedIn, Instagram, X and Facebook. Over the years I have made myself available to my 120,000 constituents via these profiles. I make my cellphone and email address available to our community and have been complimented on my responsiveness. I attend local events, visit local businesses frequently and join local meetings, such as the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce. I interact with the local media frequently and have been invited to do Podcast interviews a number of times. With this success, I plan on continuing in this fashion.

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? \*

1. As a career Professional Firefighter, member of the International Association of Firefighters and California Professional Firefighters, I/We have supported and voted almost exclusively along the democratic slate. We have worked closely with our Democratic partners on sponsored bills and budget priorities. As a blue collar worker and union member we value our relationship with our Democratic Representatives, that have worked to improved Firefighter safety and the safety of the communities that we have sworn to protect. After years of support, I am now asking for the endorsement and support of the Democratic Party. I have a record of collaborating and accomplishing goals, which includes traveling to Sacramento to work with our legislative representatives.

I will use the endorsement to continuing to improve public safety, influence public policy (once elected) and help support priorities of the Democratic Party.

I will support other endorsed candidates, but supporting their campaign. Whether that's interacting on their social media or walking with them through neighborhoods, I will work to help support their campaign.

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

In 2020, I received the EMS Legislative Advocacy award from the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT). To date, I have been the only EMS provider in California to receive the honor. In 2016, I received the Heart of EMS award from the Alameda County EMS District, which is presented to 1 EMS provider in the entire County for compassion, patient advocacy and volunteerism. In 2012, I received the Firefighter of the Year award from the Oakland Fire Department, which is presented to 1 member of our 500 member organization and acknowledged by the Oakland Kiwanis Club. In 2010, I received the Paramedic of the Year award from the Oakland Fire Department for exceptional care. I am hopeful that these acknowledgements will help demonstrate my character and dedication to public service.

## Section 2: Democratic History

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

Democrat in 1996. This is when we moved back to California and I was old enough to vote. I was told that Democrats support Firefighters, Police Officers and Union members, so I registered Democrat.

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? \*

Business and Economy, Child and Community Well-Being and Education are relevant. There are so many more issues, such as homelessness, which is taking a regional and state approach to address. I plan to advance them by continuing the conversations I am already having and making sure that all parties involved, have a seat at the table. This will also be accomplished by working with other fellow elected /appointed representatives in a collaborative approach.

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? \*

I will continue to be a proud ally. Within the last month I helped create a DEI position on our school parents club. Prior to that I helped ensure that our youth were able to participate in the black oratorical and worked with the local media to ensure the event was highlighted. When working with the local media, I have made my best efforts to ensure photos submitted represented the diversity of our school community.

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? \*

This is my first endorsement request with the DPCCC

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

East Contra Costa Fire Protection District- Elected Director 11/2018-07/2022

I served before and after that time frame as an appointed Director and/or Fire Commissioner.

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

Primarily my efforts have been in solidarity with the IAFF Locals and CPF, supporting the democratic process and policies. Most of that effort has been making phone calls, texting or knocking and talking.

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. \*

Ron Nunn Parents Club (VP and/or Room Representative) from 2021-2024, Ron Nunn Elementary School-School Site Council (Chair) with term from 2024-2026, East Contra Costa Fire Protection District-Appointed/Elected Director from October 2016-July 2022, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District-Advisory Fire Board from July 2022-Present (Chair). American Red Cross volunteer and Leadership Council (Alameda and Contra Costa County)- started volunteering in 1995.

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

Yes

No

2.11a - If so, what were the circumstances?

N/A

Section 3: References & Club Endorsements

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

Fiona Ma and currently recommended for endorsement by International Association of Firefighters Local 1230 and California Professional Firefighters.

3.2 - What other endorsements are you seeking? \*

Contra Costa Labor Council and 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. \*

I agree with the DPCCC values, regarding criminal justice and conflict resolution. One of my main priorities is to improve public safety. I support law enforcement training and civilian oversight. I believe with community support services, we can create/support programs to rehabilitate low level offenders. We have residents throughout the Bay Area that represent the majority of areas above. My priority will be to represent the residents of Brentwood in the City Council, but at the same time there are always opportunities for promoting democracy and human rights.

### 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. \*

This appears to be a duplicate, so I will copy and paste my previous answer:

I agree with the DPCCC values, regarding criminal justice and conflict resolution. One of my main priorities is to improve public safety. I support law enforcement training and civilian oversight. I believe with community support services, we can create/support programs to rehabilitate low level offenders. We have residents throughout the Bay Area that represent the majority of areas above. My priority will be to represent the residents of Brentwood in the City Council, but at the same time there are always opportunities for promoting democracy and human rights.

### 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 am in support of the above value statement. I have worked closely with School Resource Officers over the years and we have had very positive interactions in the City of Brentwood. When the program works correctly, the individuals act as role models and provide guidance. I'm very open to see what the alternate option is, while making sure that are children are safe at school.

### DPCCC Value: Seniors & Veteran Support Services

- *Supports the California Master Plan for Aging including dignified living at home housing options that are age, disability, and dementia-friendly; prioritize public housing initiatives over privatization for seniors and adults with disabilities; support retraining for those aged 55-65, and extend unemployment; oppose mandatory retirement; call for stronger oversight of reverse mortgage programs, rigorous prosecution of financial crimes against seniors; support comprehensive single-payer healthcare, with interim Medicare Part D reforms; support HICAP services, affordable mental healthcare including issues around isolation, quality caregiving, and increased funding for In-Home Supportive Services. Preserve programs like Adult Protective Services and home-delivered meals; advocate for the removal of the FICA income limit to strengthen Social Security and preserve pensions.*
- *Champions the needs of veterans and military families by promoting equitable treatment and benefits, access to education including tuition waivers and retraining, adequate healthcare funding including government assistance for those exposed to toxins; elimination of veteran homelessness, establishment of Veterans' Courts and justice programs and support independent investigations of claims of hazing, rape, sexual assault and harassment and that the military remove the chain of command from all investigations and prosecutions; support a path to citizenship for military service members, and protections against discrimination based on ethnicity, disability, gender identity, political affiliation, race, religion, or sexual orientation; oppose deportation of military personnel and limitations on citizenship for children of veterans who are born abroad.*

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

I support this Seniors& Veteran Support Services statement. I have been communicating with our active adult (senior) communities and frequently attend their Safety & Security meetings and other related community events (ex. National Night Out and CPR for Seniors).



### 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 agree with the above DPCC Value on Affordable Housing & Environmental Protections. I am all for infill projects, especially close to transportation. I love the idea of community gardens and healthy options for all.

### 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 also support the value above, regarding Equality and Human Rights. My twin sister has been married to a woman for over 2 decades and my male cousin to a man for roughly the same time frame. I have been an ally and have even attended events and parades. In regards to disabilities, I recently recommended a gentleman to join the Contra Costa Fire Protection District Fire Commission, based on his disabilities. I believed that he would be able to help represent the communities with access and egress challenges. In regards to promotion of women, I made a motion last month to nominate a woman to Vice Chair of the Fire Commission. When I was the President of East Contra Costa Fire, I went against a motion and was the deciding vote to bring the only woman on our board into the Vice President seat.

### 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 on Healthcare and Reproductive Rights. I believe woman should be able to make decisions for their own body and that the government shouldn't dictate their healthcare options. I also agree that drug prices are out of control and the costs definitely impact our residents. We need to be their voice.

### DPCCC Value: Economic Justice & Business Development

- *Support for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship focusing on women, people of color, and those with limited entrepreneurship opportunities including veterans; Support the rights of employees to organize and Project Labor Agreements; Ensures a safe working environment free from harassment, intimidation, and retaliation; Advocates for the establishment of local banks and credit unions, limiting regressive financial operations like check cashing businesses and pawnshops; Promotes Project Labor Agreements to protect workers; Supports initiatives to counteract "food deserts" by developing local grocery stores and community gardens in underrepresented areas.*

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

I am behind this DPCCC value and support Economic Justice and Business Development. I support PLA's and safe working conditions. I love the idea of increasing opportunities and also working with our veterans. I have had the opportunity to be part of discussions with elected leaders regarding Bridge Programs in Public Safety for our returning Veterans.

#### 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.

 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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