OREB 2026 Endorsement Questions and Information

The first step to gaining endorsement from Our Revolution East Bay is completing the Endorsement Questions. Please answer **every** question; it is important to know your values. Most questions are Yes or No at the end of each section you may expand on any of your answers. Your explanation should be **CONCISE.** We may publish your answers to any question. **The purpose of the questionnaire is to ensure that endorsed candidates' values align with those of OREB. OREB continually monitors the actions of endorsed candidates regarding their questionnaire responses.**

If you have concerns or questions, please contact Carol Coyote and Michael Cheng.

Email *

lauraforconcord@gmail.com

Untitled Title

Campaign Information

1. Name (as listed on the ballot): *

Laura Nakamura

2. Preferred Pronouns: *

She/Her

3. Position running for *

Concord City Council District 5

4. Email *

laura@lauranakamura.net

5. Phone number *

(925) 948-1300

6. Campaign website *

www.lauraforconcordcitycouncil.com

Core Values

1. Do you pledge to take no money from Super PACs? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. Have you or will you accept contributions from AIPAC? *

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

3. Have you or will you accept contributions from police unions?: *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

4. Have you or will you accept contributions from landlord/real estate developers? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

5. Do you support the Fair Elections/Clean Money Proposition (SB42)? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

6. Do you support and will work for Universal Single payer Healthcare? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

7. Do you oppose genocide and military occupation? For example: Gaza? Venezuela? Ukraine? Cuba? Greenland? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

8. Do you support abolishing ICE? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

9. Do you support legislation to tax billionaires? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

10. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be brief)

Campaign finances and support (please be explicit)

1. Who contributed to your campaign? Other than individual donations, who have and who will you receive donations? List all groups, unions, businesses (especially those doing business with the entity in which you seek to hold office). *

As of August 7th, 2026, I have received donations from four unions: Bricklayers, Tilelayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 3, NUHW Committee for Quality Patient Care and Union Democracy, Sheet Metal Workers Local 104 PC, and Sprinklerfitters UA Local 483.
I will accept donations from organizations which align with my values: supporting equity, sustainability, and democracy, prioritizing the interests of Concord residents, and investing in Concord's future. I do not accept donations from any person or organization with any matter before or contract with the City of Concord.

2. Which candidates will/have you endorse/d and/or contribute/d? *

I support candidates that are aligned with my progressive values: candidates with strong climate stances, candidates who challenge the status quo, candidates who advance policies that will work to create equity and eliminate poverty.

3. Please list persons and organizations who have endorsed you. *

Unions -
Bricklayers, Tilelayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 3
NUHW Committee for Quality Patient Care and Union Democracy
Sal Rosselli, National Union of Healthcare Workers
Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 104 Political Committee
Sprinklerfitters UA Local 483

Other Organizations/Leaders -
350 Bay Area Action
Pablo Benavente, Concord City Councilmember
Logan Campbell, Trustee, Martinez Unified School District
Roxanne Carrillo Garza, Senior Policy Director, Richmond Community Fdn
Shanelle Scales-Preston, Contra Costa Board of Supervisors
Cindy Darling, Walnut Creek City Councilmember
Diana Honig, President, Contra Costa Community College District Governing Board
Dave Hughes, @thebeatofdiablo
Cherise Khaund, Walnut Creek Planning Commission
La Tanya Knight, Founder, Concord Juneteenth
Belle La, Councilmember, City of Pleasant Hill
John Mercurio, East Bay Regional Park District
Mariana Moore, Advocate & Program Director, Ensuring Opportunity
Judith Ortiz, Executive Director, Monument Impact
Sierra Club
Brianne Zorn, Mayor, City of Martinez

4. Please list PACs, and independent expenditure committees supporting you. *

The union donations listed above come from the registered political action arms of their respective organizations. I am not aware of any independent expenditure committees that support me.

5. List any/all industries, organizations and people that you will decline donations and endorsements from, please be inclusive. *

I will decline donations and endorsements from all of the following:
The California Apartment Association or other real estate interests
The oil and gas industry and their lobbyists
The tobacco industry and their lobbyists
Charter school associations
Corporate lobbyists
Corporate political action committees
Billionaires and oligarchs
Private prison interests
Any company that contracts with ICE

I do not accept donations from businesses, nor would I accept a donation from any organization or person that has a matter before the council or any City of Concord board or commission.

Crime and Law Enforcement

1. What do you think about the use of force by police? What and when is appropriate and what and when is not? *

I believe the use of force by police must be held to the highest standard of necessity, accountability, and proportional de-escalation. Power granted to law enforcement must serve to safeguard human life, protect community safety, and uphold civil rights—never to intimidate, suppress free speech, or endanger the public.

When Use of Force is Appropriate: Force should strictly be an absolute last resort. Under California standards (AB 392), force is only appropriate when objectively necessary to defend human life or protect officers and community members from imminent, serious bodily harm, and only after all reasonable de-escalation tactics—such as verbal warnings, distance, time, and tactical crisis intervention—have been exhausted.

When Use of Force is NOT Appropriate: Force is unacceptable when used punitively, for non-compliance, for property-only situations where no lives are threatened, or against non-violent demonstrators exercising their First Amendment rights.

I unequivocally oppose the use of tear gas, chemical irritants, and kinetic impact projectiles for crowd control. Chemical weapons are banned in international warfare, yet they are routinely deployed in domestic neighborhoods. Deploying chemical agents in public spaces escalates panic, causes acute respiratory and long-term health harms, and erodes community trust.

2. Do you support banning private prisons? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

3. Do you support installing surveillance cameras such as FLOCK, which stores individual information, at public areas? *

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

4. Do you oppose capital punishment? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

5. Should convicted felons and prison in-mates be granted the right to vote? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

6. Do you believe it is ever warranted to suspend due process? *

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

7. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise)

As a local elected official, I must first acknowledge that the City of Concord currently utilizes the Flock Safety Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system. In August 2022—prior to my election—the City Council approved a contract to install 65 solar-powered cameras across key fixed locations, and local police continue to operate this system as a tool for public safety and criminal investigations.

Surveillance cameras have both risks and benefits, and the benefits, when used for legitimate and controlled law enforcement activities, can be significant for police operations.

My position is this: I do not support the use of surveillance cameras unless that use is subject to rigorous controls, full transparency with any department that uses them, and clear oversight, all established in a process with substantial public input.

For example, as a minimum, I would require implementing comprehensive data protection policies that fully comply with California law (including SB 34), requiring:
- Clear Data Retention Limits; not building long-term tracking histories on innocent residents.
- Strict Access Controls & Mandatory Audits
- Robust Data Security & Compliance

But compliance with CA law is a necessary but not sufficient requirement.

Camera surveillance requires the highest level of professionalism and oversight, and compliance with policies covering the use, retention, and distribution of the recorded data must be reviewed and enforced when necessary, with public oversight.

Human Rights, Immigration, and Civil Rights

1. Do you support DACA? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. Do you support closing immigration detention facilities? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

3. Do you support increased funding for immigration assistance? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

4. Should immigrants without felonies be given a path to citizenship? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

5. Do you support DEI? (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

6. Do you support reparations? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

7. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise)

It is important to offer a concrete example of how it is possible to begin dissolving the impact of “status quo” thinking in policymaking. I believe policymakers must always be mindful of structural inequality and inequity to eliminate discrimination and bigotry. For my part, I supported the City of Concord taking part in a program from the Government Alliance for Racial Equity (GARE) in 2020.

In my role as a Councilmember, I am conscientious about how my decisions might impact racial equity. I actively consider whether a policy may create disproportionate benefits and burdens on different groups, and strive to mitigate these unintended consequences.

Infrastructure Issues

1. Do you support public banking? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. Do you think public transit should be free? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

3. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise)

Current Labor Issues

1. Do you support a California “living wage”? How? *

As a union member, I define a living wage not simply as a floor for basic survival, but as compensation that guarantees economic dignity. That means wages with real purchasing power that are linked to the local economic reality, along with comprehensive universal and employer-paid benefits.

In Contra Costa County, where high housing costs, transportation, childcare, and healthcare heavily impact working families, a baseline "minimum wage" ($16.90/hour) falls far short of a true living wage.

The MIT Living Wage Calculator, which inputs local economic data, estimates that a single adult with no dependents requires at least $33.00 per hour just to meet basic necessities, while a family of four with two working parents needs roughly $44.00 per hour per working adult to maintain financial stability.

I am committed to partnering with local leaders who support living wage policies — this includes labor councils and public sector unions. In the City of Concord, we need to benchmark our public salary scales against true regional living wage metrics, eliminating low-wage classifications across county operations and doing the work to set an example for Bay Area employers.

2. List 3 ideas to reduce the price of shelter in your community? *

- Tenant Protections, including Rent Stabilization and Just Cause for Eviction
- Supporting high-density infill housing so that more units of affordable housing can be built
- Working to ensure that 25% of the Concord Naval Weapons Station project will be affordable housing.

I want to point out that these are not just ideas, but actual policies that I have been able to enact during my first term as a Concord City Councilmember.

3. What do you propose to protect renters in your community? Please comment on laws/acts, such as Costa Hawkins and others, to be repealed, and added/legislated? *

It is important to note that I was the third vote that enabled the passage of tenant protections — including rent stabilization and just cause for eviction — in 2023. My goal is to ensure that Concord’s tenant protections remain in place and are not weakened — I was the lone vote against just such a change in 2025. I certainly support the repeal of Costa Hawkins and the Ellis Act.

On a more positive note, I would like to build on my tenant protections successes in my first term by building support for tenant opportunity-to-purchase (TOPA) policies in Concord. Renters should have the right of first refusal on the sale of the property in which their rent payments have been building equity.

4. Do you support the repeal of all laws that criminalize or punish homeless people? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

How do we provide/develop more affordable and low-cost housing? In your community and in California? *

Please see my response to question 2 above.

Education (How do we provide affordable and quality education and childcare?)

1. Do you support charter schools? *

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

2. Should charter schools be at no cost and unionized? Please use examples in your community.

While the Concord City Council does not set policy or hold governance over school districts—school governance falls under elected bodies like the Mt. Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) Board of Education and the Contra Costa County Board of Education—I stand firmly on the side of working families and educators when it comes to charter school accountability.

If charter schools are to exist at all, I unequivocally believe that they must be tuition-free, publicly accessible, and unionized. In our area, converted high schools like Clayton Valley Charter High School (CVCHS) and other authorized charters within MDUSD boundaries highlight the need for equitable labor standards. When charter schools operate without strong union contracts, it risks creating a two-tiered system that undermines the broader public education workforce represented by unions like the Mt. Diablo Education Association (MDEA) and Teamsters Local 856.

3. Do you support no cost public college and university? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

4. Do you support the cancellation of all student debt? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

5. Do you support free universal public pre-K? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

6. Do you support free universal childcare for children under 5? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

7. Do you support “strengthening” Title IX including trans rights? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

8. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise) *

I oppose Charter Schools and privatization of public education; I am a firm supporter of public education and public sectors. Privatizing or redirecting public resources to unaccountable entities erodes our community infrastructure and weakens organized public labor.

Environmental

1. How will you work to uphold environmental regulations in the face of the government's attempt to eradicate? Include and use example from your community. *

Climate change is an incredibly important issue. While the Concord City Council doesn't regularly feature climate policy on its active agenda, the past four years have still offered vital opportunities for progress. Although Concord has not yet adopted formal all-electric building requirements, I have consistently championed beneficial electrification through public education and my work on the MCE Board. MCE is a community choice aggregation power supplier.

As a first example, I would point to my vote to end the negotiating process for development of the Concord Naval Weapons Station with a group that included a criminally convicted developer who had a long history of repeated environmental violations. This is one way to uphold such regulations.

But I would also point to the value of fostering awareness and implementing real practices.
I will continue to advocate for all-electric building standards in our municipal policymaking. We have a premier opportunity to implement these standards over the next few years as we plan the development of the Concord Naval Weapons Station.

I regularly encourage residents to transition to smart, clean technologies like heat pump water heaters and induction cooking. These practical steps improve indoor air quality, curb emissions, and lower long-term energy bills. As these technologies mature and become even more affordable, I fully support the ongoing re-evaluation of our city's building electrification policies to match.

Serving as a councilmember and Mayor is a powerful platform for visible leadership on sustainability, and I seize every opportunity to lead by example. Locally, I work to weave climate action directly into Concord's daily operations and community culture:
- Concord Pedal Fest: During my term as Mayor, I launched this inaugural event to promote bicycling as a fun, practical mode of transportation and recreation.
- Climate Action Accountability Checklist: I designed this framework for organizations using City parks and facilities to encourage waste reduction, reusable materials, composting, food recovery, and active transportation.

What started as my personal initiative to make community events more sustainable has now transitioned from a concept into standard municipal practice, officially published as the City's "Helpful Tips to Hosting a Sustainable Event" guide.

Working to uphold environmental regulations starts by providing the leadership and example necessary for everyone to appreciate those regulations.

2. What do you think is the most critical environmental issue? In your community? *

The most critical environmental issue facing our community is climate change driven by fossil fuel reliance, and the solution lies in building-level and transit electrification. How we execute electrification determines whether it serves as a tool for economic justice or a driver of inequality.

Electrification—replacing gas-powered appliances, heating systems, and personal vehicles with efficient electric power—is essential for lowering carbon emissions and improving indoor air quality. However, electrification presents a significant equity challenge: For low-income homeowners, renters, and working families, the upfront cost of electric heat pumps, panel upgrades, and EV charging infrastructure is often prohibitive.

If policies mandate retrofits without adequate public subsidies, families with the least resources bear an unfair financial burden or are left behind in aging, pollution-heavy infrastructure.

In Concord, we have a generational opportunity to model equitable climate policy through the Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) Reuse Project. We can design the CNWS redevelopment as an all-electric, zero-emission community from the ground up. Building all-electric infrastructure on raw land is far cheaper than retrofitting existing structures, allowing us to implement modern clean-energy standards—such as rooftop solar, microgrids, and heat-pump technology—at scale. Pair this with the project's transit-oriented focus near the BART station and a 25% affordable housing target, and Concord can demonstrate how all-electric development directly expands access to clean energy and lower utility bills for working-class families.

3. Do you support community and government oversight in the approval of and the construction of data centers for corporations? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Election

1. Do you support the Constitutional amendment to repeal Citizens United? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

2. Will you uphold the Voting Rights Act? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

3. Do you support universal mail-in ballots? (such as was used for Prop 50) *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

4. Optional: explanation of your responses to questions in this section (please be concise)

I believe in the constitutional amendment process to correct gaps like Citizens United. But I also think that there are viable state law alternatives that would be much easier to enact legislatively. For example, corporations can be constrained in political spending by state-level corporate powers laws, and the problem of the Electoral College can be addressed by the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. I generally prefer tactically easier approaches to solving problems like these.

US Foreign Policy – National Issues Affect Local Positions

1. Do you support the international campaign of BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions)? *

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

2. What should the US policy be on Palestine/Israel? *

U.S. foreign policy must be anchored in international law, human rights, and strict accountability. The United States should never provide military aid, weapons transfers, or economic subsidies to any foreign government or military force that engages in war crimes, gross violations of human rights, or violations of international humanitarian law.

U.S. law—specifically existing frameworks like the Leahy Law and the Arms Export Control Act—must be strictly enforced without exceptions or double standards. The U.S. should immediately suspend or withhold military and economic support in any instance where a foreign government or military unit engages in:
- Indiscriminate or Targeted Attacks on Civilians
- Denial of Humanitarian Aid
- Unlawful Mass Displacement
- Gross Human Rights Violations
- Collective Punishment

By conditioning all foreign assistance on strict adherence to international law, the United States can ensure that taxpayer dollars never fund atrocities abroad. We should uphold international legal frameworks, domestic statutes, and global human rights standards and maintain moral integrity on the world stage. This is demonstrably not the case with current US policy.

3. Do you agree with the current economic sanctions? *

While I do not oppose targeted economic and financial sanctions that penalize violent individuals or extremist groups, these are minimal, incremental steps that avoid the central driver of U.S. involvement: military funding and arms transfers. They should be accompanied by work for structural changes to US foreign aid, an immediate permanent ceasefire, and a full weapons embargo.

4. What are your views on the tariff policy?

I strongly oppose broad, reckless, and chaotic tariff policies that function as hidden sales taxes on American families while destabilizing local economies and jobs.
While targeted trade enforcement can be a tool to protect domestic industries from genuinely unfair foreign labor practices, sweeping, unpredictable tariffs are an attack on U.S. residents. They drive up the price of everyday goods—from groceries and electronics to housing materials and vehicle parts—forcing working families and small businesses to foot the bill.

To build an economy that works for everyday people, trade policy must prioritize stability, fairness, and true worker protections.

Anything Else?

1. Thanks for your time and thoughtfulness. Is there anything else we should know? *

First, I'd like to offer a brief explanation of my position on BDS:
While I unequivocally support international law, human rights, and a durable peace that guarantees safety and self-determination for everyone in the Middle East, I am NEUTRAL on the formal BDS campaign. As a rank-and-file union member, I believe in the power of solidarity and targeted collective action; however, blanket boycotts are often blunt instruments that can inadvertently harm working people and sever constructive dialogue between labor movements.

More broadly, the BDS movement has proven deeply divisive, fracturing the core coalition of liberals, progressives, and organized labor at a time when our unity is essential to defending democracy, protecting workers, and advancing economic justice. Instead of relying on polarizing campaigns that alienate allies, I believe it will be more politically productive to focus on targeted, constructive accountability—such as conditioning foreign aid on human rights standards and fostering broad-based coalition efforts that actually advance peace and human dignity.

I fully recognize that my approach requires the collective political power of coalition-rebuilding rather than divisiveness.

Second, here is my submission for this question:
The members of Our Revolution need to know one thing: I have been deeply aligned with Our Revolution and the progressive movement since 2016. In fact, I got involved in local politics because that is precisely what Bernie Sanders asked us to do in 2016—to run for office, build grassroots power, and transform our communities from the bottom up. To turn that call into concrete local action, I helped co-found the Concord Communities Alliance as a local organizing effort to engage progressives aligned with Bernie's vision across every front, from housing justice to working-class empowerment.

Because of this background, I know firsthand that organizing is not just about isolated political battles; it is about building sustained power for working families, advocating for equitable health and housing policies, and fighting for environmental justice. I understand the tactics special interests and corporate developers use to undermine grassroots priorities and shift burdens onto everyday residents.

As a local official, I take Our Revolution's endorsement very seriously because my stances directly align with your priorities. I am a candidate who will openly refuse to back down to corporate power, oppose attempts to dilute community control, and leverage the platform of my office to support worker-centered policies, tenant protections, and environmental sustainability. You will never have to wonder where I stand: I bring an unshakeable commitment to the fight for working families, and I will actively partner with Our Revolution to turn our shared values into concrete progress in our communities.

Finally, there is one critical aspect of my public service: I am mindful every day that being visible as a progressive leader AND creating trust in government and between neighbors strengthens our entire movement. Progressive candidates—and electeds—who build credible, constructive records in office build credibility for this political revolution as a whole. I am not here simply seeking an endorsement, but a true organizing partnership.

My campaign taglines reinforce this vision:
- I listen. I lead. I get results.
- Promises made. Promises kept.
I stood up for Concord residents and against special interests when the future of our city was on the line. People in my district were thrilled that I stood strong against a corrupt master developer and got the Naval Weapons Station project back on track with a focus on 25% affordable housing, good union jobs, and open space. Whenever possible, I remind residents to associate this progress with someone who comes directly out of the Sanders movement. That helps our entire political revolution.

I want to continue being that steadfast progressive voice on the Concord City Council. As a councilmember, I will be a

trusted partner who listens, shows up, and stands with working people every day.

I humbly ask for your endorsement and commit myself to continuing to advance all those values we hold in common.

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