Q1

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Q2

Why do you want to be a member of the County Central Committee of your party? If you are currently a member, why are you seeking another term? (Please Limit your response to 250 words)

When I was running for Supervisor I often said that the best way for a member of the Board of Supervisors to resist Trump was to make San Francisco a model of effective progressive governance for the country. And so, as a Supervisor, I have worked hard every day to solve homelessness, improve our public health response to mental illness and substance abuse, fix Muni and address the climate crisis. But long before I was a Supervisor, I sought and won a seat on San Francisco’s DCCC and served for thirteen years, because I recognized that solutions to many of our local challenges depend on political change at the state and national levels. I am proud of the work I have done as a DCCC member to build our party locally, support great candidates and causes in San Francisco, and win races across the country. I am running for the DCCC to support that work for another four years.

Q3

What do you see as the city's most important environmental issue, and why? (please limit your response to 250 words)

Climate change is the most important issue facing San Francisco, and the world. Earlier this year I worked with climate advocates to introduce and pass a resolution at the San Francisco Board of Supervisors declaring a climate state of emergency and directing the Department of the Environment to prepare an interim report (in advance of the 2020 Climate Action Strategy document) to describe San Francisco’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions so far and opportunities to further reduce emissions to zero. After that report was issued, I held a hearing at the Board to review its findings. That report and the hearing underscored that the two areas where we have the most work to do to reduce emissions are buildings and transportation. Since then, I have passed legislation at the Board to increase incentives for developers to build fully electric buildings, and am working with stakeholders in the environmental, labor and development communities to draft an ordinance banning natural gas in new buildings. On the transportation side, I am also proud to have pushed for establishment of a Muni Transit Performance Working Group, bringing together experts from across the country and local stakeholders to take a closer look at the operational and other challenges facing Muni and develop a set of short-term recommendations for the new Director. Participants from the MTA have expressed appreciation for the opportunity to receive feedback from the group, and I believe the recommendations will serve as a useful road map for the new Director as he establishes himself in the job.

Q4

What do you see as the function of the County Central Committee? What are its strengths and weaknesses? What role does it play with environmental issues? (please limit your response to 250 words)

The County Central Committee has multiple functions. It is responsible for Democratic voter registration and turnout to help ensure Democratic victories in statewide and national contests. When San Francisco Democrats mobilize, we can have an impact on elections far beyond San Francisco. Last year, the local Democratic Party played an important role in organizing volunteer efforts to flip key races elsewhere in the State and across the country to Democratic wins. We need to repeat our efforts next year to beat Trump, hold the House and win the Senate. The County Committee also takes positions on behalf of the local Party on various matters, and in that way can provide leadership on environmental issues. But of course the realpolitik relevance of the County Committee, and the reason local political actors care so much about the outcome of DCCC races, is that the County Committee makes the Party’s endorsements in a town with the Party’s endorsement is perhaps the most important organizational endorsement. Thus, anyone interested in advancing pro-environment candidates or ballot measures at the local level has an interest in ensuring that the people making the Party’s endorsements are sensitive to environmental concerns.

Q5

What relationship do you see between environmental protection and the quality of life in San Francisco? (please limit your response to 250 words)

The two are of course deeply intertwined. San Francisco is an amazing place, defined by its natural environment: its hills, its open spaces, the creeks running through it and the ocean and Bay that border it. Figuring out how to accommodate the growing demand for housing in this beautiful and economically thriving place, while protecting the qualities and characteristics that make this such a livable city, is one of the great challenges of our local politics at the moment. Of course climate change adds an extreme and fundamental threat to the livability of our City, and the entire planet. Without dramatic action to slow and reverse the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, there will be no quality of life for human beings in San Francisco or anywhere else.

Q6

Why do you want the SFLCV's endorsement? (please limit your response to 250 words)

From my years on the Democratic County Central Committee, on the Board of Livable City, as a member of the City College Board of Trustees and a Supervisor, I have a demonstrated record as an environmental advocate. As a member of the Board of Livable City, I supported that organization’s advocacy around livable streets, transit, pedestrian safety, bicycling infrastructure improvements, affordable housing, and good design. As a member of the DCCC, I have supported Sunday Streets, championed Muni reform, opposed additional parking, supported CleanPowerSF, and perhaps most importantly helped elect candidates committed to environmental values. As a member of the City College Board, I pushed for the implementation of the College’s Sustainability Plan and made sure that all new construction meets the highest LEED certification standards possible. And as a Supervisor, I have championed green buildings, improved public transportation and the expansion of our urban tree canopy. I have been grateful to carry the League’s endorsement in many (I am thinking all) of my prior campaigns, and I would be honored and grateful to run with the League’s support again this year.