Q1

Please enter your contact info here

* Name:Vallie Brown
* Email:hello@votevallie.com

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)

I often wonder why it is that over 30% of registered voters in San Francisco have consciously chosen not to affiliate with a political party. I believe the vast majority of those folks are liberal and that that they hold Democratic values, but feel the Party isn’t courting them. We need to meet folks where they are and bring them into the party. We must go into their communities - to community meetings, cafes, bars, and other places they are meeting. We need to help them to understand they are Democrats, and the party that represents their values. Current leadership of the Party is missing out on opportunities to bring those folks into the fold. Many current members of the DCCC resist new and young ideas about how to organize and also resist engaging folks who are not members of the small circle of people engaged in local party politics. That may be because a deep ideological slant prevents them from engaging with other Democrats who are not 100% in alignment with them. We must reject that thinking and welcome newcomers to the City and the Party. As a member of the DCCC I will meet folks where they are and speak with them about how important it is for them to join the Party and make a difference.

Q3

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

On the macro level - San Francisco’s most pressing environmental issues are climate change and sea level rise. As a city surrounded by water, we face catastrophic, but slow-moving disaster that will impact low-lying communities and our beautiful waterfront. While there are major global forces at that must be brought to heed in addressing climate change, there are local solutions as well, from rebuilding our sea walls to reducing our own environmental impacts that contribute to climate change. We must remain on the forefront addressing critical local environmental issues like air and water quality, energy use, waste reduction, and our urban forest. On the micro level - we need to fight to build our green canopy, maintain and grow our green open spaces and support alternative and micro-mobility infrastructure. From maintaining and improving parks to installing more sidewalk gardens to installing protected bike lanes, every small bit we do now helps combat the broader environmental concerns in the future. I did so as an activist, Aide, and Supervisor and will continue to advocate for the micro and macro when on the DCCC.

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 main functions of the DCCC is to set priorities for the SF Democratic Party, recruit new Democrats, and foster new leadership. Currently, the DCCC is not living up to its potential on all three fronts. First, the does not have a clear environmental platform and has failed to push local and state leaders on environmental policies. As a member of the DCCC I intend to change that because threats to the environment are the biggest crises we face today. Second, current leadership has not registered new Democrats in SF in relation to the number of new residents in the City. The Party is not making it clear to liberals why it is important to be members of the Party and has failed to empower the 38 Democratic clubs chartered by the DCCC to register new Democrats. Finally, the DCCC should be a body made up of experienced leaders and up and coming grassroots activists who were elected to serve. The elected members of it should not be comprised of current elected officials who lack the time to dedicate to the Party. In 2016, several former and current elected officials ran for and won seats on the DCCC, only to resign within a year of winning their seats. As a result, over half the DCCC is made up of folks who were not elected, but were appointed by the Chair. That is neither democratic nor does it represent the values of the Democratic Party. If I am elected I commit to serving a full term and will do my very best to mentor younger members of the DCCC in the hopes that they will represent me later in life in Local, State, or Federal office.

Q5

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

Environmental protections and quality of life are overwhelmingly intertwined. We live in one of the most beautiful cities on earth, yet San Franciscans feel the quality of life is going or has gone done. Much can and should be done to change that perception. First, leadership must get better at explaining why big environmental infrastructure projects are important and how they will improve quality of life. For instance, the Central Subway is a great project that will not only benefit folks living in Chinatown (the poorest and densest neighborhood in SF), but will also benefit the quality of life for folks riding MUNI across the city. However, the City has failed to make that connection clear to residents. On the micro level much can be done to create environmental protections while increasing the quality of life in the City. For example, as Supervisor I funded the planting of trees in all 16 neighborhoods in District 5 and the installation of over 10,000 sq. ft. of sidewalk gardens. Both of those actions created protections while producing tangible improvements to the quality of life in the city. I also pushed for the rebuilding playgrounds across District 5 to make our parks more livable and vibrant. We should be expanding that to all of our city parks and open spaces. I also believe we should be working to make our parks and open spaces more ecologically in tune with California’s climate and the changes it is undergoing. That means more drought-resistant, native plants in our parks and open spaces. During the Alamo Square renovation many trees, bushes, and lawns were replaced with native, drought resistant species. In addition, through a partnership with the Alamo Square Neighborhood Association and the City Alamo Square will see a net increase of over 200 new native trees planted over the next five years. The approach taken at Alamo Square is one to replicate in other parks and open space in the City.

Q6

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

I was honored to earn SFLCV's endorsement for my Supervisor campaign in 2019 and would be honored to earn it as a run to make the DCCC a body that represents all Democrats. Before I ever became involved in politics, I was an environmental activist. I moved to San Francisco in 1985 and I was an art teacher at the Hunters Point Boys and Girls Club. We were routinely warned to close our windows due to toxic leaks from the old Naval Shipyards and PG&E power plant, and it was easy to see the negative health effects on those living in Hunters Point. I couldn’t sit back and let that happen so I rallied with parents and neighbors to address the environmental issues at Hunters Point. When you see how much good you can do by starting small at the local level, it’s hard to stop. Back in Lower Haight where I lived, I began picking up trash in my spare time. Along the way I met my neighbors, learned about the issues on our streets and fought to address them: working to address the violence plaguing Lower Haight/Western Addition, preventing a neighborhood school from closing, and planting trees to beautify our neighborhoods. I fought for a decade under two different Supervisors to create our renewable energy provider CleanPowerSF. As Supervisor, I improved streetscapes, bringing 200 new trees to District 5, and curbing our plastic use with my Plastic Ban 2.0 to get us closer to Zero Waste. I have always been and will be an advocate for a cleaner, greener San Francisco — it’s in my DNA as an environmental activist for over 25 years.