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)

I’m running to continue my work on the committee and build a pipeline of young, diverse progressive activists to continue advocating for a more just San Francisco. Since being appointed in 2017 to serve the remainder of Eric Mar’s term, I’ve authored and passed resolutions including demanding we make Pacific Gas & Electric a publicly owned utility, sponsored a statewide resolution to support California’s high speed rail, and authored a resolution urging the Democratic National Committee to host climate debates. I was born and raised in the Bay Area, and the future of the region and San Francisco matter deeply to me. The region will be severely impacted by climate disaster, and the main reason why I first became involved in local politics was because I wanted to elect leaders who would be climate champions and enact bold, progressive policies to ensure hundreds of thousands in the area would not become climate refugees. Additionally, I have organized and worked with dozens of young activists in their communities who are just as passionate about addressing the largest fight in our lifetime, and see it as a connecting issue to other socioeconomic issues facing the area. I want to continue uplifting their voices to the SF Democratic Party, California Democratic Party, and beyond.

Q3

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

The top environmental issue facing San Francisco is the Bayview/Hunters Point Shipyard. The botched clean up job and reassurance from the state that it’s a safe area to live is alarming. Life expectancy in Bayview/Hunters Point is 14 years less than other city residents, and city and state officials downplay this fact as residents living in a “stressful” area. The community has widely been ignored and their complaints have often been dismissed by city and state departments. While several community meetings were held around the shipyard clean up, the community felt their demands for a more in-depth scanning were dismissed by the government. The community should be allowed to work hand in hand with the government on the retesting and scanning of the soil — blocking the community out of the process and reassuring them that data shows the soil is safe does nothing to build community trust. Climate adaptation and resiliency planning is also a huge issue facing San Francisco. In planning for climate mitigation and adaptation, the city must prioritize communities that are most vulnerable. Once again Bayview/Hunters Point is a prime example of a community that faces environmental racism: lack of transportation options, food deserts, placement of the wastewater treatment plants near residential areas, and so forth. These areas should not only be prioritized, but also have a robust community input process and be awarded a significant amount in federal, state, and local bond funding to implement these projects.

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)

I see the County Central Committee as a platform for community advocates and activists — a way these folks can deliver their message loud and clear to the California Democratic Party. As a member of the DCCC, I’ve organized and co-sponsored resolutions with fellow California delegates up and down the state, including a resolution to abolish ICE. The resolution was eventually watered down to call for more humane practices from ICE, which demonstrates how much further we have to go in bringing more activists into the party. Beyond the California Democratic Party, the local County Central Committee is a place for activists to introduce and pass resolutions around issues facing the city, bringing awareness to these causes to elected officials and providing the activists an opportunity to urge their electeds to take action and ask for their support in addressing the issues. For example, when the scandal at Hunters Point Shipyard broke, Member Sophie Maxwell asked for a presentation on the matter from Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office. As an advocate, I was able to ask her chief of staff what steps were being taken to ensure the soil was cleaned properly and safe to live. As an environmental justice advocate, I understand those opportunities to directly ask a Congressmember’s staff about local environmental issues are extremely rare, and I appreciated the opportunity to share my doubts with her office. One weakness of the DCCC is that there are no contribution limits to candidates, so activists are often outraised and outspent. The tens of thousands of dollars raised could be spent on so many other things, I firmly believe in contribution limits to the DCCC.

Q5

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

San Francisco will see several changes to its environment and quality of life due to climate disaster, and the city needs to be readily prepared to mitigate its impacts and adapt. Sea level rise threatens San Francisco’s transportation, public health, wet and dry utilities, and loss of open space. Additionally, climate change is bringing about more wildfires and flooding in California, which have displaced whole communities and towns, in addition to affecting the health of surrounding areas. San Francisco should be leading the effort on adapting to climate change and protecting the environment, while also protecting the most vulnerable communities. During the Camp Fire, the city did little to bring unsheltered and unhoused populations indoors or provide them with N95 masks to protect them against the smoke and particulate matter. Elderly populations and other sensitive communities were also affected, as air filters were quickly snapped up across town. The city can also continue its mission to protect the environment and reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the city and surrounding areas. Banning plastic straws and bags isn’t enough to stop climate disaster — the city needs to look towards incentivizing less driving in the city, improving public transportation to be more effective and accessible, making bicycle infrastructure safer and more expansive, and potentially working with the San Francisco International Airport on how to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

Q6

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

Having the San Francisco League of Conservation’s endorsement would be an honor, as I’ve championed issues including environmental justice, just transition to 100% clean energy, democratic ownership of public utilities, and electoral activity in support of candidates who will enact bold and progressive climate action. While on the DCCC, I helped co-author and sponsor a resolution to make Pacific Gas & Electric a publicly owned utility, sponsored a statewide resolution to support California’s high speed rail, and authored a resolution urging the Democratic National Committee to host climate debates. I earned my Masters’ Degree in Environmental Sustainability from the University of Oregon in 2013, and after graduation I went to work for NextGen Climate (now NextGen America), a nonprofit focused on electing candidates who would work to prevent climate disaster. While in graduate school, I canvassed neighbors living in low-income communities — surrounded by highways, industrial corridors, and a creosote factory — who were experiencing high asthma rates and other health issues in Eugene, Oregon. I worked with a local environmental justice nonprofit to create the survey and map out where neighbors self-reported asthma or cancer, and overlaid it with poor air quality conditions and smell complaints. Locally, I’ve served on the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Citizens Advisory Committee and advocated for CleanPower SF while serving on the Power Subcommittee.