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 want to serve on the Democratic Central County Committee (from AD 19) as an activist and educator who remains true to the needs of ordinary San Franciscans because we need to stand up for a clean energy future, health care and education that’s accessible to all, the rights of those marginalized, and residents vulnerable to displacement. With market-based forces that drive office and housing construction, there is little consideration for the environmental impacts of development, displacement of residents that increases our carbon footprint, and the need for region-wide planning on transit and jobs. As a DCCC member, I will be a consistent vote for the needs of the people in our communities, and I will take a principled stand against those who put profits over people.

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 biggest issue. As a major metropolis (in influence if not in size), San Francisco’s natural and built environments, energy systems and transportation networks are deeply interwoven with that of the region and the state. The UN climate panel IPCC says that we must take significant actions in the coming decade to cut our carbon emissions, and a lot of the state’s political leadership is connected to San Francisco. We need to mitigate the impacts of climate change on our city from sea level rise, wildfire impacts on our power supply and air quality, climate patterns statewide (drought, snowmelt and precipitation changes, destroyed and dying forests) that impact our Hetch Hetchy water supply, as well as extreme weather that affects our natural and built environments. Along with these challenges, we are dealing with an investor-owned utility that has dominated our power system. The long-standing battle for greener energy and greater public oversight is playing out with PG&E, and besides the bankruptcy and costs of wildfires past and future, we have serious challenges ahead to maintain this aging infrastructure, harden the grid, as well as transition to more renewables in the energy portfolio. And if electrical power from green sources and improved battery storage are among the solutions, the infrastructure and innovation needed to make these a reality should be among our primary investments.

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)

With the majority of SF voters registered as Democrats, the endorsements from the SF Democratic Party matter tremendously in shaping the future of San Francisco. As the governing body which includes ex-officio members who are Congressional and state elected officials, the DCCC is influential on statewide priorities in housing, education, healthcare, the environment as well as energy, immigration and civil rights issues that impact the Bay Area. The County Central Committee has been effective in mobilizing grassroots action that turned Congressional districts in CA from Red to Blue in 2018, addressing issues around racial equality and social justice in SF, and bringing in young, engaged members who are politically astute. However, the DCCC is prone to the factional battles that exist in the Democratic Party. It’s important to see housing, office development, and transportation policy decisions as intricately tied to our environmental priorities given the impacts we have felt as a region from pressures wrought by economic growth as well as the changing climate. As a California Democratic Party DSCC delegate, I authored a resolution in May 2019 calling for PG&E accountability by prioritizing safety and ratepayer protections. This was co-sponsored by the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee and ADEM delegates around the state, and then adopted at the CA Democratic Party convention last June.

Q5

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

As a parent and environmental writer who has documented the health impact of pesticides, I want to ensure that our parks and open spaces are safe for residents. For example, there’s a troubling surge in use of the tier 1 (most toxic) herbicide Garlon, with 2018 levels of usage leaping back to what they were in 2013. To address this problem, I think that community and environmental groups should advocate for strengthening the city's Integrated Pesticide Management plan and hold the Natural Resources Division of SF Parks and Recreation accountable to a multi-year phase out of tier 1 herbicides. Their continued use poses a risk for people, animals and groundwater supplies. Also, while there has been some attention lately on a new map for the Priority Development Areas that would expand into the west side, I think that the Priority Conservation Areas should receive attention, as these provide not only recreation and respite for Bay Area residents but habitat for wildlife and diverse flora including many native plant species.

Q6

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

The SF League of Conservation Voters represents the values and priorities that have informed my work as an educator and freelance writer on environmental issues. Its members understand the intersection of natural resource conservation with energy and climate challenges, urban and economic development. SFLCV board members reflect a diverse, talented pool of professionals who can apply their expertise in technology, regional and global issues to the environmental challenges facing all of us, and an endorsement would reflect my desire to bring a collaborative, interdisciplinary perspective to solving our most challenging problems.