SF League of Pissed Off Voters 2020 DCCC Questionnaire

Hello candidates! Thank you for filling out the League's questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire by 5pm on Sunday, December 1st if you wish to be considered for the League's endorsement. Please use this form rather than formatting it into a Word document or PDF. If you have any questions, you can contact us at TheLeagueSF@gmail.com.

Candidate Info

Need to see the other questions before you get started? Just fill this in. It's the only section with required answers.

Name *

Peter Gallotta

Campaign Contact *

Email Address *


Tell Us About You

Why are you running for this office?

I’m running for SFDCCC because I still believe in the countercultural, progressive San Francisco that inspired me to move here a decade ago. San Francisco has always been a beacon of hope and resistance, a place that has challenged the status quo to do what is right. I believe our local Democratic Party should reflect those values and continue to stand up to moneyed special interests to do what is right for the future of our city.

I have been a part of the progressive political movement in San Francisco since getting involved in my first electoral campaign back when Rafael Mandelman ran for District 8 Supervisor in 2010 (remember that?). Since then, I’ve supported dozens of progressive candidates for elected office and fought back as we saw the city that we love overtaken by big tech money and developer greed. I’ve stayed in the movement, despite some crushing losses, because I’ve always believed that politics is a means of creating social change.

I’m running because I want to continue to serve the city that I love and fight for a more affordable, equitable, and just San Francisco that puts the needs of everyday San Franciscans first.
What are the top three issues you will work on and how will you implement solutions in a timely manner?

If elected in March of 2020, my first priority will be working to ensure that we take back the White House and send Donald Trump packing as a one term president. In 2018, San Francisco Democrats helped flip the House through our work to open the San Francisco Red to Blue Headquarters in the Castro, which saw hundreds of volunteers make calls and sending texts to swing district voters. I believe re-opening the Red to Blue HQ should be an immediate priority of the newly elected DCCC. I also think it’s imperative that the San Francisco Democratic Party push for greater actions to address the climate crisis. I strongly support San Francisco’s offer to buy PG&E’s assets and municipalize our power services, and, if elected, I will make sure the Party continues to push our local and state elected leaders, including the CPUC, to take decisive action on the future of PG&E that puts people over profits. Lastly, I’m running because I believe we need a local Party that is not beholden to corporate or moneyed special interests. I am committed to endorsing candidates for that reflect those values so that we can continue to have a veto-proof progressive majority on the BOS and a policy agenda that delivers change for all San Franciscans.
What three endorsements are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my endorsements from former Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, former Supervisor Jane Kim, and the San Francisco Tenants Union. As an unabashedly queer progressive first-time candidate for elected office, Tom Ammiano’s endorsement means so much because he’s paved the wave for someone like me to even consider running for office in San Francisco. I am grateful to call Tom a mentor, a friend, and my progressive touchstone — where Tom is on the issues, you’re likely to find me, too. Tom is someone who represents the best of San Francisco politics — he’s consistently true to his values, he’s never been bought by special interests, and he refuses to cow-tow to power, even if politically expedient or personally beneficial.

I am also honored to have the support of former Supervisor Jane Kim, who, much like Tom, is someone who has been willing to go up against the Goliath that is the establishment and put forward a vision of a city rooted in compassion and equity. Jane is community-focused, she's an organizer, and she brings an intersectional, social justice lens to crafting policy. Most importantly, she lifts up leaders and builds community in her political work. She is someone who embodies “not me, us.”

As a renter for the past 10 years, I know that I would not still be living in San Francisco, nonetheless running for this office, without rent control. I live everyday with the reality that my housing situation could change tomorrow under the Ellis Act, which is why I will always stand with tenants and tenants advocates in San Francisco. Having the endorsement of the San Francisco Tenants Union is something I don’t take likely, because, let’s be real, the Tenants Union doesn’t fuck around. They are fierce advocates for renters like me and for a more affordable and just San Francisco that we so desperately need. The Democratic Party should be the party of renters, not big real estate, and I’m particularly proud to have the Tenants Union’s support in this race.
What for-profit or non-profit boards do you serve on, including political organizations?

I currently serve on the board of Mama G’s Thanksgiving Street Dinner, a community based organization I helped found in 2009 that addresses food insecurity and hunger in the Tenderloin community. We are a “Robin-Hood” style organization that leverages resources from those who have them to serve those who do not. We serve over 2,000 meals a year and host an annual Thanksgiving Street Dinner in addition to bi-monthly Burrito Projects.

I’m also a big public transportation nerd and advocate, and currently serve on the board of Walk San Francisco, San Francisco’s pedestrian safety advocacy organization. There are too many pedestrian deaths on our streets and we need to ramp up action and investment if we’re going to achieve Vision Zero by 2024. I believe all San Franciscans deserve safe streets and healthy neighborhoods.

What local and state commissions or policy bodies do you serve on?

I was appointed to serve on the Francisco Democratic County Central Committee by Chair Cindy Wu in February 2017. I currently serve as the Corresponding Secretary for the Party and also the Chair of the Communications Committee, where I help manage and implement the Party’s communications and community engagement strategy.
Do you pledge to support San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS) fully divesting from fossil fuels within three years and holding SFERS accountable at the ballot if they do not divest?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to support San Francisco purchasing PG&E assets to create public power in San Francisco?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to support the closure of 850 Bryant, jails #3 and #4?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to vote to endorse only those candidates that support Abolishing ICE?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to vote to endorse only those candidates that support decarceral criminal justice reform?

- Yes
- No
Do you support the expansion of charter schools? Yes/No (Please explain your answer.)

No, I do not support the expansion of charter schools. In fact, I currently support a moratorium on the establishment of new charter schools in the state of California. With the full support and partnership of UESF, I was proud to sponsor a resolution at the SFDCCC earlier this year that got the San Francisco Democratic Party on record supporting a statewide moratorium on new charter schools and calling for charter school reform. Before we allow any new charter schools to operate in California, or even San Francisco, I believe we need real reforms, such as giving local communities a say in the authorization of any new charter schools in their districts, instituting a cap on the growth of charter schools, and closing the loophole that allows a charter school to operate outside of its authorizing district.

Did you support SB 50 (Senator Wiener’s zoning bill) as written?

☐ Yes

☐ No
If not, what amendments would make you support SB 50?

While I support greater density in our city, I do not support SB 50's approach as proposed. I agree with the Housing Rights Committee's position that SB 50's residential upzoning of housing near transit would effectively impact all of San Francisco by exacerbating real estate speculation and inflating property values (and surrounding rents), leading to greater displacement of working class communities of color and LGBT communities. SB50 adds no additional affordable housing than what is already required under our local inclusionary zoning law, and the tenant protections included in the bill would not be enforceable in San Francisco. If amendments were made to address these issues, would I support SB50? Frankly, given that Senator Wiener is backing this bill and he's backed by big real estate developers, I find it hard to believe that SB50, even if amended, would still be the right approach to addressing our housing affordability crisis throughout the state. Even if improved, it's still a blanket, market-based approach to housing development, which overrides local control and is inherently a giveaway to for-profit developers. If the intent here is to incentivize affordable housing development in areas that are not building their fair share, then Assemblymember Bloom's bill, AB 1279, is a much more targeted and effective proposal to incentivize affordable housing development in areas of the state that have a history of exclusionary housing policies.

Do you pledge to endorse only candidates committed to ending homeless sweeps?

- Yes
- No

Do you support the City funding community land trusts?

- Yes
- No
Do you support congestion pricing for the downtown core?

- Yes
- No

Do you support and would you vote to endorse a Public Bank in San Francisco?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to vote to endorse only those candidates that support Medicare for All?

- Yes
- No
- Other: ____________________________

Do you pledge to only endorse those candidates that support a full repeal of the Ellis Act and Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?

- Yes
- No

Do you believe the number of real estate contributions to a candidate impacts their fitness as a progressive candidate?

- Yes
- No
If Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act is repealed, would you work to enact vacancy control in San Francisco?

- Yes
- No

Do you support a baseline percentage of 40% of affordable housing in developments when negotiating the number of housing units?

- Yes
- No

Do you support requiring 100% affordable housing on public land?

- Yes
- No

If not, under what circumstances would you support allowing a percentage or all market-rate housing on public land?
Do you support contribution limits for DCCC races?

- Yes
- No

What are your ideas to avoid a corporate takeover of the DCCC?

Well, for one, I believe legally enforceable contribution limits for DCCC races is necessary. When the “Reform” Democrats were elected to the DCCC in 2016, one of the first things the progressive majority did was adopt a by-laws amendment instituting a $500 contribution limit from individual donors for all DCCC campaigns. While that was an important first step, the policy is otherwise legally unenforceable from a campaign finance and government code standpoint. We actually need to change state law to make this an effective policy and to create an even playing field across the candidate pool, otherwise the door continues to remain wide-open to corporate and special interest influence. I’d like to see candidates either publicly commit or pledge not to accept over $500 so we know who is committing to play fair. To avoid a corporate takeover of the DCCC, I would argue that we also need to support candidates who are committed to standing up to corporate interests and are explicit about their refusal to accept donations from developers, the real estate lobby, and tech CEO’s and also get commitments from DCCC members to only endorse candidates for elected office who do the same.

Do you support limiting DCCC ex-officio member voting rights for endorsements?

- Yes
- No

Do you support banning elected politicians from running for DCCC?

- Yes
- No
Do you pledge not to resign your seat before the November 2020 endorsement vote?

- Yes
- No

If not, please explain why:

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November 2020 Election

Do you pledge to vote to SOLE endorse Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer in District 1?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to vote to SOLE endorse Supervisor Aaron Peskin in District 3?

- Yes
- No
Do you pledge to vote to SOLE endorse Supervisor Dean Preston in District 5?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to vote to not endorse Karim Salgado or Joel Engardio for Supervisor in District 7?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to vote to SOLE endorse Supervisor Hillary Ronen in District 9?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to vote to SOLE endorse Former Supervisor John Avalos in District 11?

- Yes
- No

Do you support restrictions on Prop 13 in the November 2020 and future elections?

- Yes
- No
Do you support the proposed commercial vacancy tax?

- Yes
- No

Do you support the Fair Elections charter amendment to prohibit mayoral appointments of candidates 90 days before an election?

- Yes
- No

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March 2020 Election

Which candidate will you support in the March 2020 Presidential Primary?

Bernie Sanders. I supported Bernie in the primary in 2016 and am proud to support him again.

Do you support San Francisco Balanced Development Act which seeks to update 1986’s Prop M?”

- Yes
- No
Which candidate will you support for Congress in District 12?

- Agatha Bacelar
- Shahid Buttar
- Douglas Deitch
- Tom Gallagher
- Nancy Pelosi

Which candidate will you support for SF Superior Court Seat 1?

- Pang Va Ly
- Maria Evangelista

Which candidate will you support for SF Superior Court Seat 18?

- Dorothy Chou Proudfoot
- Michelle Tong

Which candidate will you support for SF Superior Court Seat 21?

- Kulvindar "Rani" Singh
- Carolyn Gold

November 2019 Election
### Who did you support for District Attorney?

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<th>1st Choice</th>
<th>2nd Choice</th>
<th>3rd Choice</th>
<th>Unranked Endorsement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Suzy Loftus</td>
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<td>Leif Dautch</td>
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<td>Nancy Tung</td>
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<td>Chesa Boudin</td>
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### Who did you Support for D5 Supervisor?

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<th>2nd Choice</th>
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<th>Unranked Endorsement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dean Preston</td>
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<td>Vallie Brown</td>
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<td>Ryan Lam</td>
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<td>Nomvula O’Meara</td>
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**November 2018 Election**

Need a refresher of what was on the ballot? Use this link: [https://sfelections.sfgov.org/november-6-2018-election-results-summary](https://sfelections.sfgov.org/november-6-2018-election-results-summary)
Who did you support for Board of Education? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

I personally endorsed Alison Collins, Faauga Moliga, Gabriela Lopez, and Mia Satya.

Who did you support for D2 Supervisor? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

I did not endorse in this race.

Who did you support for D4 Supervisor? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

Gordon Mar (sole)

Who did you support for D6 Supervisor? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

Matt Haney (sole)

Who did you support for D8 Supervisor? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

Rafael Mandelman (sole)

Who did you support for D10 Supervisor? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

Tony Kelly (sole)
Did you support November 2018’s Prop C - “Our City Our Home” tax on gross receipts of businesses to fund homeless services?

- Yes
- No

June 2018 Election

Need a refresher of what was on the ballot? Use this link: [https://sfelections.sfgov.org/june-5-2018-election-results-summary](https://sfelections.sfgov.org/june-5-2018-election-results-summary)

Who did you support for Mayor in June 2018? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

Jane Kim (#1) Mark Leno (#2)

Did you support June 2018’s Prop C, Tax on Commercial Rent for Child Care & Early Education?

- Yes
- No

Did you support June 2018’s Prop F “Tenant’s Right to Counsel”?

- Yes
- No
Did you support June 2018’s Prop H “Arm Police With Tasers”?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

Past Elections

Did you support 2016’s Prop D "Let's Elect Our Elected Officials" to have special elections to fill vacancies on the Board of Supervisors?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Did you support 2014's Prop G, the anti-speculation tax?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Short Answer Questions

Short Answers Please
Do you identify as an activist?

- Yes
- No

If so, please describe specific accomplishments in your activism. What did you get done, and what was your role?

I see myself as a political activist and most of my work has been focused on electoral organizing and winning community victories at the ballot box. In my mind, it’s been the accomplishments of the progressive movement that I am most proud to have been a part of. Most recently, I was proud to support Chesa Boudin for District Attorney and Dean Preston for Supervisor by knocking on doors and helping to turn out the vote for their candidacies. As President of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club in both 2015 and 2016, I was proud to be a part of a number of electoral victories that led to getting Aaron Peskin back on the Board of Supervisors, a progressive majority of “Reformers” on the SFDCCC in June of 2016, Supervisors Fewer and Ronen elected, and Prop W (free City College!) passed. That year, the Milk Club also joined the Justice for Mario Woods Coalition calling for the ouster of then Police Chief Greg Suhr and demanding systemic reform of the SFPD in response to multiple shootings of unarmed black and brown people. In 2017, I was proud to have helped organize a progressive effort to democratize the Assembly District Delegate Meeting (ADEM) elections and helped organize and run a slate of progressive candidates representing a coalition of progressive organizations and labor. Despite pouring rain and going up against Assemblymember Chiu’s hand-picked slate, we were able to get a majority of reform delegates elected which in turn helped infuse grassroots activists into the California Democratic Party to push the Party further to the left, particularly on issues of housing, healthcare, and the environment.
What communities do you feel you represent in SF and how do those communities hold you accountable?

I identify as a queer progressive and feel most connected to the queer/LGBTQ community of San Francisco as well as the progressive, social justice community. As an able-bodied white cis male, I recognize my privilege within these communities. However, I am deeply committed to a politics of solidarity and intersectionality and consider myself an ally to communities of color, women, the transgender community, and people with disabilities. I seek to be held accountable by these communities and all communities, organizations, and individuals fighting for justice in San Francisco. In my time on the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, I've never felt that I have only represented myself or my point of view on the issues — I have always considered my votes through the lens of the movement. Where is the progressive movement on this issue or candidate? I know that I was offered the opportunity to serve on the SFDCCC because the queer progressive community lifted up my leadership, giving me the opportunity to serve as President of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club. So I will always be accountable to that base and the progressive left of San Francisco because of all of the organizing work we have done together over the years.
Please list specific ways you have shown up for immigrants at risk of deportation.

San Francisco is a city of immigrants and we must defend our status as a Sanctuary City now more than ever. I have supported efforts to strengthen our City’s Sanctuary City policies, including Supervisor Avalos’ “Due Process for All” ordinance in 2013. And I have strongly opposed any efforts to weaken our policies, including Angela Alioto’s proposed xenophobic ballot measure that would have allowed law enforcement to report undocumented immigrants to ICE on suspicion of a felony, or even if they were booked on a lesser crime but had a previous felony conviction. At a time when Donald Trump is scapegoating all immigrants as felons and violent criminals, a fellow Democrat in San Francisco attempted to do the same, and it was unbelievably offensive to our immigrant communities. As SFDCCC members, we pushed back, releasing a public statement defending our Sanctuary City policy and expressing our solidarity with the immigrant community. We also held a hearing on Alioto’s proposal at an SFDCCC meeting and invited immigration policy experts and community leaders to publicly repudiate her falsehoods. It was important to us, in that moment, as leaders of the San Francisco Democratic Party to be unequivocal in our message to fellow Democrats, to the city, and to the nation about our values and where we stood. In addition, I am proud to have supported a resolution brought before the SFDCCC in support of abolishing ICE and when the Trump administration announced ICE raids in a number of cities, I joined a solidarity rally at ICE offices at 630 Sansome St. to denounce the planned raids. I have supported and will continue to support expanding funding so that undocumented immigrants are guaranteed legal representation in court, particularly in potential deportation proceedings.
Please list specific ways you have fought against racism and white supremacy.

As a white person who experiences the daily benefits of white privilege, I feel that it is my responsibility to work towards dismantling white privilege in our society and here in San Francisco. There are so many ways in which institutionalized racism continues to play out in our city. The gentrification and displacement of longstanding communities of color is one example of economic racism that we must continue to fight against. Given that San Francisco has the fastest growing income inequality in the country, we are continuing to see the outmigration of working class people and people of color. That is why I have strongly supported efforts led by communities of color to push back against mega market-rate development projects in their neighborhood, such as the Plaza 16 Coalition. I have supported the creation of community land trusts, the development of 40% on site affordable housing in projects like Mission Rock, and increasing the City's inclusionary zoning requirements to build higher rates of affordable housing across the city. I continue to say that I do not want to live in a San Francisco that becomes a boutique city for rich white people. We've got to address our housing crisis if we're going to address the capitalist forces that further white supremacy when it comes to where people live and work, and who has “the right” to live here and who doesn't. I was proud to support Chesa Boudin for District Attorney because we need to address the rampant racism in our criminal justice system. In San Francisco, our black population is less than 3% and yet our jail population is over 50% black -- that is unacceptable and must change. I have supported the closure of 850 Bryant and do not believe we need to rebuild a jail, but we need alternatives to incarceration and restorative off ramps for people in our jails. I support closing Juvenile Hall for the same reasons. We also have to address racist policing in San Francisco. I strongly supported the ouster of Greg Suhr in 2016 and supported the Frisco 5's hunger strike in protest of the fatal police shootings of Mario Woods and Luis Gongora, both men of color. And lastly, we need to address economic opportunities. I supported Supervisor Kim’s “Ban the Box” legislation in 2014, which is a major barrier to employment for many people of color, and I continue to stand in solidarity with the members of SEIU1021 who are challenging the Department of Human Resources over the rampant discrimination many black City workers are currently experiencing.
Please give us some examples of situations you've encountered where gender and LGBTQ inequity was evident, and what you did or would do to address it?

There are so many ways in which gender and LGBTQ inequity show up, and there are particular ways in which gender inequity shows up within the LGBTQ community. I think one example of where I see unequal power dynamics is the lack of transgender and gender non-conforming elected leadership in San Francisco. We have a number of “out’ LGBT leaders serving in elected office in our city, but we have no transgender or gender non-conforming individuals who were elected and we have very few out queer women of color in elected office. It remains the case that San Francisco has never elected a transgender or gender non-conforming person to a major office. And what’s disappointing is that we have not always rallied behind queer and trans progressive candidates who have run. I was disappointed that more community leaders and organizations did not get behind Mia Satya’s run for San Francisco School Board in 2018. I was also disappointed that progressive leaders on the DCCC did not endorse Kimberly Alvarenga, a queer woman of color, when she ran in 2016. I was proud to support both of their candidacies, but I believe we do need to address the fact that our progressive movement is still largely represented by cis white men and cis gay white men, too. We need to recommit to lifting up the leadership of women of color and queer, trans, and gender non-conforming people of color in our movement and in San Francisco electoral politics. I am committed to that work.
In the midst of a homelessness crisis, how can the City and County of San Francisco improve the effectiveness of our city’s homelessness and supportive housing services?

Well, for one, we need to build more housing. It’s why many of us worked so hard to get Prop C passed in 2018, and what’s disappointing is that if the Mayor had supported it, it likely would have passed with a 2/3 majority and would not be held up in legal proceedings. Funding is key to addressing the housing supply that we need in order to build a true housing pipeline in our city. I strongly support the expansion of navigation centers in every district of San Francisco, but I also believe we need to be adding more supportive housing units so that we can get more folks into permanent housing faster. I recently heard about a potential local housing voucher program similar to Section 8 that could help people meet the cost of housing within existing available housing stock so that we can get more people housed more quickly, and I completely support that idea. Ultimately, if we want to improve effectiveness we need to be more innovative and we need to get behind larger scale, higher impact efforts. I do support Supervisor Haney’s proposal to change the City Charter to establish a Commission to oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing as I think public oversight will help improve the department’s work and the community, in turn, will be better able to hold the Department accountable.

How would you expand checks and balances in regard to Mayoral appointments?

Folks like Tom Ammiano have been calling for it for years, but we need charter reform! While we have a strong Mayor form of government, I believe we should have greater checks on Mayoral power. I strongly supported “Let’s Elect our Elected Officials” when it comes to Mayoral appointments and I also supported the creation of the Public Advocate so that there would be an additional check on city services and departments that fall under the Mayor’s direction. I also support Supervisor Mar’s proposed ballot measure that would disallow the Mayor from making an appointment to fill a vacancy within a certain proximity to an election.

Do you work for the City and County of SF?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
Are you a member of a union?

- Yes
- No

If so, how will you balance accountability to union leadership, workers, and constituents?

I hope to have the support of my union, IFTPE Local 21, in this race. And if I do have their support, then I would welcome my union leadership holding me accountable just as much as my fellow workers and registered Democrats in San Francisco might. However, that doesn’t mean we may always agree on everything. I will say this: given how much unions are under attack right now in light of the Janus decision, I feel strongly that the Democratic Party continues to be the Party for labor in San Francisco and throughout the country. As a Party, we need to balance the needs of our constituents and find the opportunities where we can also lift up labor and support good paying union jobs as we look at pushing progressive policies such as mental health service expansion and a Green New Deal for San Francisco.

Last questions...we promise.

What do you for fun in San Francisco?

Handing out League Guides on bar crawls! Eating tacos and talking politics. Volunteering in the Tenderloin community with Mama G’s Thanksgiving Street Dinner. Doing 13 mile cross-town hikes in support of pedestrian safety in SF. Foodie things and finding new 2-for-1 happy hour spots. Oh, and coffee. Lots and lots of coffee. :)


Why do you want the League of Pissed Off Voters’ endorsement?

The League's endorsement is one of those endorsements you don't take lightly and you don't take for granted. I’d like the League's endorsement because I believe we have shared values. I’m running as a candidate who is willing to take on the establishment, who has a record of standing up to corporate and moneyed interests, and who will be a consistent, reliable vote for the candidates and issues that the League supports. I would be honored to have the endorsement of a group that continues to speak truth to power in San Francisco politics and that does such an incredible job every year of educating and engaging voters about why local elections matter. I’ve passed out a lot of League lit over the years and it is hands down my favorite guide in San Francisco politics. From the substance and perspective of the guide, to the grassroots engagement that fuels it, I've always had an immense respect for the League and have been proud to join you all on many a GOTV bar crawl over the years. To think that my name might appear in a League Guide is almost too surreal for me to even contemplate. Like, how did I get here?? Whoa.
Is there anything else you want to tell us?

I just want to first say, thank you to the League for all of your incredible work. For keeping it real, keeping progressives honest, and getting voters engaged, educated on the issues, and motivated to turn out to vote. The League’s support of the Reform Democrats slate in 2016 made a huge difference. I believe it’s played a role in delivering a progressive majority on almost every elected body in San Francisco, with the exception of Room 200 (next time!!). As a current member of the SFDCCC, I cannot tell you what a progressive majority means to the day to day operations of the Party, but it matters. I know that our focus is often on the endorsement votes alone, but having a progressive majority has been instrumental in pushing a broader progressive agenda both within San Francisco and throughout California. When I think back to the days when the real estate lobby owned the San Francisco Democratic Party from 2012-2016, I shudder. I don’t think any of us want to go back to those times. Which is why I feel strongly that we need to come together as a progressive movement to keep our progressive majority on the DCCC in 2020.

I wanted to take a quick moment to elaborate on a couple of my responses:

For the Superior Court Judge candidates:
I have officially endorsed Maria Evangelista. I have not met with the candidates for Seat 18 or Seat 21 and am unfamiliar with their records so I do not yet know who I will be supporting.

On elected officials running for the DCCC:
I don’t believe we could limit someone’s legal right to run for an elected office. I do think we need to even the playing field so that elected officials are not the only viable contenders for a DCCC race, which is why I support changing state law to limit campaign contributions to $500, so that grassroots activists and elected officials can compete under the same rules. If ex-officio elected officials are able to have a vote on our local Party, then I believe other elected officials should have the opportunity to serve and be represented on the DCCC as well. Our local elected officials are often more in touch with the issues facing San Francisco Democrats than our state and Congressional ex-officio leaders are. While I believe we need a balance of representation, I don’t support an elected officials ban.

On my support in Congressional District 12:
Like many San Francisco Democrats, I have a complicated relationship with Speaker Pelosi. I have fundamental disagreements with her on policy, from the Iraq war, to Medicare for All to the Green New Deal. At one of my first SFDCCC meetings I brought forward a resolution urging the then Democratic Leader to support Medicare for All, which ended up being quite controversial because I was told that DCCC resolutions typically don’t call out elected officials
by name (well so much for that, ha!). I believe in holding the Speaker accountable and I also support candidates jumping in and challenging the Speaker from the left. For me, when I think about the electoral map and the districts that we need to flip and prioritize in 2020, CD-12 is not one that I feel strongly about prioritizing.