

SAM LICCARDO for Mayor

www.SamLiccardo.com

January 24, 2014

Ms. Darcie Green
Director of Endorsements & Candidate Recruitment
Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee
2901 Moorpark Avenue #110
San Jose, CA 95128

Dear Ms. Green,

I write with serious concern about the Democratic Central Committee's lack of integrity and open process to allow for early candidate endorsement. The county party rule stipulates endorsement proceedings cannot take place until the close of the filing period for races, which is March 12 for the primary happening in June. The rule exists to allow for open and fair participation by all candidates in the SCCDCC endorsement process – values that are intrinsic to the Democratic Party. Our campaign certainly agrees with the other Democratic candidates that to preserve the integrity of the process this last minute change of rules should be reversed.

The last minute change of endorsement rules by the Democratic Central Committee is only one area of concern surrounding the SCCDCC participation in this year's campaign for Mayor of San José. On May 31st, 2013, the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), ruled that county party committees may coordinate with candidate committees on member to member communication. The result of this ruling is that unlike candidates for Mayor who are limited to \$1,100 per person and potentially 794,000 if they accept spending limits, the County Party can receive unlimited donations, with no cap, to spend on their endorsed candidate.

This ruling highlights the need to follow all of the City's strict campaign finance rules. The Liccardo campaign feels that to remain true to the values of the Democratic Party, the Central Committee should also agree to abide by all of San José's election rules, particularly agreeing not to exceed the \$1,100 per person contribution limit and not taking contributions from card clubs and casinos. Will the SCCDCC agree to abide by San José's election rules?

In this age of Citizens United, we ask the Central Committee to adhere to its own positions and abide by San José's election law reforms.

Please let us know if you intend to abide by your original bylaws and the spirit of San José's election law. We would be honored to seek your endorsement once we can confirm you will be following your own original rules and San José's election finance regulations.

Sincerely,

Ragan Henninger
Campaign Manager

Cc: Steve Preminger, Chair
Bill James, Vice Chair