

Access4Bikes Votes - Candidate Questionnaire

Introduction and Understanding:

- **How familiar are you with Access4Bikes' mission and initiatives to maintain and expand mountain bike trail access in Marin County?**

I am very familiar with and share Access4Bikes core focus of being the voice for the mountain biker community and ensuring that mountain bikers have fair and reasonable access to our public trails. I also appreciate how difficult these goals can sometimes be with various competing interests. I am proud of my track record of being able to bring key stakeholders together when contentious issues arise, as Supervisor I will actively listen to and seek input from Access4Bikes and the mountain biker community.

- **What are your general thoughts on outdoor recreational activities like mountain biking?**

My wife and I chose to move to Marin and raise a family in large part because of the County's beautiful open spaces and parks, and ability to experience these public amenities in a variety of ways.

Do you support mountain biking as a way to promote community engagement and a healthy lifestyle?

Yes.

Support for Inclusive Access:

- **Access4Bikes is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, aiming to make trails accessible to all. How do you plan to ensure that your policies and decisions align with this commitment?**

Marin County in general values, diversity, equity, and inclusion but falls short in living up to these stated principles too often. My campaign is focused on reaching out to all voters and as Supervisor I will lead by example and be a voice for communities that are too often overlooked by decision makers.

- **Are you open to supporting initiatives that promote inclusivity and diverse representation in outdoor recreational activities, including mountain biking?**

Yes.

Collaboration with Stakeholders:

- **Access4Bikes emphasizes collaboration with different trail user groups to share the trails. How would you facilitate constructive dialogue and cooperation among various stakeholders to achieve this goal? As an elected official, would you work with us to bring trail user interests that are in conflict together to find ways to equitably share the trails amongst all users?**

I have always been proactive when it comes to forming coalitions to work on solutions to challenges. I know from experience the importance of ensuring that all members of a community are being heard by their elected representatives. As Supervisor, I will encourage and foster a constructive dialogue between the biking communities and other interested parties in order to make sure all are welcomed and heard. In particular, I believe as Supervisor I can play a constructive role in furthering community conversations exploring evolutionary uses of the trails in Marin for multiple uses.

- **Are you willing to actively participate in community events, such as trail work days and group rides, to better understand the needs of mountain bikers and ensure their interests are considered?**

Yes.

Sustainability and Trail Maintenance:

- **Maintaining and expanding mountain bike trail access is a key focus of our organization. How do you propose to allocate resources and work with volunteers to ensure the sustainability and proper upkeep of our public trail system?**

Maintaining trails is critically important for accessibility and the safety of bikers. Closely collaborating with volunteers and matching this with effort with adequate financial investments will be a top priority of mine.

- **What strategies do you have in mind to balance the preservation of natural habitats with the increased need and usage of trails for recreational purposes?**

Too often a false dichotomy is presented, pitting conservationists against advocates for the general recreational use of public lands. I believe all sides are at their core stewards of the land and multiple uses for areas such as trails can be achieved while at the same time preserving habitat and preventing damage to undeveloped areas.

Public Engagement and Education:

- **Access4Bikes encourages responsible trail usage. How would you support educational initiatives that promote trail etiquette and safe riding practices to reduce conflicts and ensure public safety?**

Public outreach that highlights best and safest practices is an area where the County could, and should, finance and support.

- **Do you have any ideas for innovative ways to engage the community in discussions about trail access, while also addressing concerns from various user groups?**

Community engagement is best achieved by meeting the public where it is at. This means holding community meetings in the evening, ensuring participation is available in person and on Zoom, and publicizing opportunities for the community to make their voices heard.

Legislation and Advocacy:

- **Are you willing to advocate for the development and revision of local ordinances that support responsible mountain biking while ensuring the protection of natural resources?**

Yes.

- **How would you collaborate with Access4Bikes and similar organizations to lobby for state and federal funding to support trail development and maintenance?**

I am proud to say that through my work with different regional agencies like the Transportation Authority of Marin and former President of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers, I have a great working relationship with Marin's federal and state representatives. In fact, one of my key endorsers is Assemblymember Damon Connolly. As Supervisor, I would leverage these connections to advance funding priorities for the bike community.

Personal Connection to Mountain Biking:

- **Do you have any personal experience with mountain biking or outdoor recreational activities that influence your perspective on trail access and conservation?**

I will always remember the incredible feeling of independence and freedom I experienced when I first learned to ride a bike as a child. I have been an active mountain biker since I attended college. I have fond memories of biking across the

Bagan, the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Myanmar. Since moving to Marin in 2011, I have frequently used the mountain biking trails, often with my 13-year-old daughter.

• How would your personal experience contribute to your ability to support and advance the goals of Access4Bikes?

My love of biking is especially informative when I engage in sometimes challenging conversations with stakeholders. My personal experiences provide valuable perspective when trying to balance the needs of the various present and past stakeholders that use the trails and outdoor spaces in Marin. I appreciate that Access4Bikes focuses on maintaining and expanding mountain bike trail access in Marin County to benefit the entire community of bikers. I also appreciate Access4Bikes' focus on diversity and inclusion.

Closing Remarks:

• Is there anything else you'd like to add regarding your commitment to promoting inclusive access to trails and supporting the mission of Access4Bikes?

I would like to close by focusing on my approach to bicycle policy in the broadest sense. My campaign is focused on enhancing Marin's quality of life, promoting economic vitality, addressing climate change, and building community. Bicycle policy is uniquely at the center of all of these goals.

By investing in and futureproofing our bike infrastructure, we can create a transportation network that connects communities throughout the county with bike and pedestrian friendly greenways.

Such an active transportation network would foster walkable, bikeable neighborhoods that are key to thriving and sustainable local economies.

All the while reducing the negative externalities car-centric transportation produces.

Communities where bikes safely take children to school and adults to a nearby local business are healthier and more inviting.

I have the local government experience and proven ability to work with diverse stakeholders to implement the meaningful changes needed to align Marin's policies with Marin's bike-friendly culture.