RESOLUTION ENDORSING COPA
(COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ACT)

WHEREAS displacement has severely impacted our entire region, and some 1.5 million residents moved out of the Bay Area between 2010 and 2016, including primarily low-income communities and a disproportionate number of Latino and Black residents who were forced to move
https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showdocument?id=50333;

WHEREAS the COVID pandemic eviction moratoriums and rental assistance programs have expired, and thousands more families are now facing displacement or homelessness; and children in displaced households have more absences, a lower likelihood of finishing school, and a greater risk of educational delays or behavior problems, and people who have been evicted are more likely to experience job loss; and

WHEREAS displacement also increases commute times, costs, and environmental impacts, and displaced people are more likely to move into communities with higher rates of poverty and crime; and in 2020, the City of San Jose voted to adopt an anti-displacement plan and directed the Housing Department to work on a COPA policy to help keep people in their homes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee supports the enactment of a Community Opportunity to Purchase Act (COPA) policy in San Jose, that would give some of the tens of thousands of residents at risk of displacement the opportunity to stay in their community and have a voice in their housing options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SCCDCC supports a COPA policy because it would give a qualified non-profit (QNP) engaged with and supported by the current tenants the right to make the first offer to buy a property when it goes up for sale; encourage tenant organizing, education, technical assistance, and pathways to become owners of the property or of their units; and begin building a preservation infrastructure to help save thousands of affordable housing units in San Jose and keep our people in their homes.

Submitted by Jeffrey Levin and Sandy Perry