

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FULL TRANSPARENCY
IN DARK MONEY FUNDED RECOUNT**

WHEREAS on April 5, 2024, Assemblymember Evan Low and County Supervisor Joe Simitian tied for second place in the Congressional District 16 (“CD 16”) primary election, both earning spots in the November 2024 general election, along with Former Mayor Sam Liccardo; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2024, an individual, not residing in CD16 and who is a former policy and finance director for Liccardo’s 2014 mayoral campaign and a current donor of at least \$1000 to Liccardo’s Congressional campaign, requested a recount of the CD16 primary election votes (“Recount Requestor”), claiming to have done so on behalf of Low, despite Low’s objections that he neither knew about nor consented to have his name on the recount request, and on the same day, the Recount Requestor’s attorney established “Count the Vote,” an independent expenditure-only political committee (Super PAC), to pay for the recount using funds from unknown, undisclosed contributors, possibly special interest groups, AKA “dark money”; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Democratic Party (“SCCDP”) believes hiding the identity of these dark money donors and hiding behind legal deadlines erodes trust in our democratic processes, threatens having a fair functioning democracy, and raises serious concerns about why these donors’ identities are held in secret, keeping the public in the dark for months; and that the public deserves to know immediately who’s funding this recount and deserves leaders who fully support a transparent process, who aren’t associated with withholding information from the public, and who will demand immediate disclosure of information to the public without delay, excuses or distraction;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SCCDP calls for the immediate full disclosure of all donors and amounts already contributed to the “Count the Vote” Super PAC, and future contributions to “Count the Vote” within 24 hours of receipt; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SCCDP:

1. agrees with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo: “The voters deserve to know who and how much, and should not have to wait for a mid-July report.”;
2. believes every vote matters and should count and supports a transparent and fair recount process;
3. appreciates the tremendous time and energy that the public servants at the Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties’ Registrars of Voters dedicated to this recount process; and
4. calls on Liccardo to urge his supporters to disclose immediately the identities of the dark money donors and the name of the individual on whose behalf this recount is being requested.