

## **Pat CuvIELlo**

I'm running for City Council on an environmental platform and to preserve local democracy.

For the past 20 years, I've worked to secure Free Speech rights against corporate and government attacks seeking to dilute this founding principle of our Democracy. Without Free Speech, Democracy cannot survive.

After being falsely arrested and having my Free Speech rights violated on numerous occasions, I began my journey into the legal world. Despite having no legal training, I filed a number of successful lawsuits against private and governmental entities to protect our First and Fourth Amendment Rights; right to free speech and to be free from false arrest. My recent free speech victories include two court cases; "Park Management Corp. v. In Defense of Animals" and "CuvIELlo v. City of Vallejo."

Although judges have complimented my work and urged a career in law, instead I chose to make the world a better place by participating in Animal Rights and Environmental movements. I organized many educational demonstrations on various topics, including exposing Ringling Bros. Circus' animal abuse until its demise in 2017.

**Environmentalism Begins at Home:** I recently started the volunteer group "Friends of Water Dog Preserve" to protect and restore the natural, native wildlife habitat in the Preserve. The main cause of trail and habitat erosion in Water Dog is sport mountain biking. Limiting bikers to the fire roads will help protect the ecology and wildlife of Water Dog.

I will work to implement progressive environmental policies including improved building standards, ending the use of known carcinogenic pesticides and converting to clean energy.

**Local Democracy:** While Belmont is a welcoming community, we are also a representative democracy. Yet, our City's public comment policy weakens our representation by not distinguishing between residents and non-residents. This policy fails to prioritize the voices of Belmont's taxpaying residents over non-residents and special interest groups. Belmont residents' voices should be considered first and foremost.

Belmont citizens have a right to decide our local quality of life regarding housing density. Sacramento is trying to mandate housing density in cities like Belmont, yet our City has not pushed back. I'll oppose these attempts and work to maintain local control over our quality of life.

I ask for your vote to make Belmont a model of progressive policies, and one that preserves local democracy.

If you have questions or comments, send emails to [Pat4Belmont@gmail.com](mailto:Pat4Belmont@gmail.com) or visit [www.Pat4Belmont.com](http://www.Pat4Belmont.com).