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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

June 10, 2019

Assemblymember Kevin McCarty
California Assembly District 7
State Capitol, Room 2136
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

RE: DP/SFV Supports Assembly Bill 646 [Free the Vote]

The Honorable Kevin McCarty:

On behalf of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DP/SFV), we are pleased to report that our Executive Board voted to support Assembly Bill 646, which, in conjunction with Assembly Constitutional Amendment 6, would restore voting rights for all Californians on parole.

DP/SFV was founded in 1978 and is chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee. Our organization is the coordinating body for a coalition of twenty-one Democratic Clubs located in the six Assembly Districts (38, 39, 43, 45, 46, and 50) which are wholly or partially in the San Fernando Valley.

The DP/SFV Political Action Committee met last month to discuss Assembly Bill 646 and voted to recommend that the DP/SFV Executive Board support this vital piece of legislation. The Political Action Committee noted that millions of people nationwide are barred from voting because of a felony conviction, part of a centuries-old legacy of disenfranchising people of color through racially discriminatory laws. In the last few years, states like Florida, Louisiana, and Alabama have re-enfranchised thousands of formally incarcerated citizens, and it is time for California to join this national movement. Our state is home to nearly 50,000 parolees, who work, pay taxes, and contribute to society, but are denied their right to vote. Assembly Bill 646 is a vital step in righting the wrongs of centuries of racial oppression and moving towards a more inclusive democracy.

Thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation and for your hard work on behalf of all Californians. Please feel free to use this letter confirming our official support for Assembly Bill 646 in any way you deem applicable or helpful. Your office is always welcome to contact DP/SFV if our organization may be of any further assistance in supporting this bill.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Shanna Ingalsbee
Chair of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley
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cc: Assembly members Bonta, Gonzalez, Kalra, Kamlager-Dove, and Weber