

Dr. Craig DeVinney

f o r W a l n u t C r e e k C i t y C o u n c i l



WE ARE FACING A GREAT EPISTEMOLOGICAL CRISIS

While reflecting on our Constitution, Alexander Hamilton posed this question to our newly formed country: Are we “really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice or are we forever destined to depend... on accident and force” I believe we are still trying to answer that question.

People have reached information overload while misinformation is becoming more and more available. It is difficult to know what to believe. I feel bad for our children, sometimes I think that they believe finding the truth is not possible.

How can we address the growing problems of our times if we can't find common ground? I want our kids to know that we can create a better society, one in which truth, reason, and rational decision making are again elevated and we limit emotional decision making, anger and extremism. The road to progress lies down the middle of the political spectrum. I want to be part of that change. My moral compass no longer allows me to sit on the sidelines.

EMERGENCY MEDICINE HAS PREPARED ME FOR LEADERSHIP

I have spent the last 23 years practicing medicine. My experience in the ER is not just about medicine, it is about empathy, listening, digesting large quantities of information in a relatively short period of time and solving problems. **These attributes are fundamental to good leadership.** In addition to patients' immediate health concerns I may also have to address family, social, financial, potential criminal and logistical problems. Healthcare is a team sport which can only be effectively implemented by working well with nurses, physicians, specialists, and all of the hospital staff. No place is this more important than the ER.

The training I have received in critical thinking through my medical training and experience translates well to the public political realm. These patient experiences mirror the problems we face in the political arena which require a similar approach - thoughtfulness, empathy, listening, and working well with others.

THE WAY FORWARD IS THROUGH THOUGHTFUL, WELL REASONED SOLUTIONS

I believe this same approach makes for good government. **The complex problems we face in Walnut Creek require thoughtful and well reasoned solutions.** Whether we are addressing housing, homelessness, safety, mental health or transportation and traffic, we are served best by leaders who carefully listen to all voices. Leaders who craft thoughtful, reasonable solutions based on all the information available. Otherwise, we've seen how a small fringe can hold sway in other cities and the chaos that thinking brings. The reasonable middle is how we make sure our community of Walnut Creek continues to be a wonderful place to live.

SOME PERSONAL FACTS ABOUT ME

Family, Medicine, and sports are my passions

I was born and raised in the Bay Area. Sports was an early focus of mine and I was elected team captain and MVP of my lacrosse teams in both high school and college. That same drive found an outlet in my mid thirties when I began competing in triathlons, completing a full ironman triathlon in 2010, 25k run up Mt. Diablo and Escape from Alcatraz swim the following year.

My two biggest academic achievements are earning an Academic Distinction in the field of Biopsychology from UCSB in 96' and graduating in the top 10% of my class at USC/Keck School of Medicine in 2001. After completing my residency at LAC/USC, I served as medical faculty in the emergency department at LA county Hospital.

I married my wonderful wife Jennifer in 2003. After the birth of our first son we moved back to the bay area to be closer to our families. Our parents currently live in Rossmoor and our boys ages 18,17 and 12 are attending local schools. While raising my three boys and working full time I also coached them in soccer, basketball and lacrosse.

I have been working at John Muir Walnut Creek Emergency Department and living in Walnut Creek for the past 17 years. For two of those years I served as chair of the Disaster Preparedness Committee at John Muir Hospital Walnut Creek.

My wife and I are long time contributors and supporters of the Walnut Creek Education Foundation and Sustainable Contra Costa. I am a member of American College of Emergency Physicians, Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society and member of the Walnut Creek Rotary Club.