**2024 Election Year Endorsements**

**OFFICE-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS for Jacob Brown**

Provide your responses to the following questions in **Part Three, Question I**. Candidates may attach additional pages as needed.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

1. What skills or experience will you bring to understand and improve the County’s finances?

My educational background, with a bachelor’s degree in management from SIU Carbondale and over a decade of experience managing department budgets in private industry, provides a solid foundation for overseeing county finances. As the General Manager of MetalFx, I was responsible for the company's profit and loss, which honed my financial management skills. While I may have less experience in public administration, my leadership abilities and willingness to collaborate across diverse skill sets equip me to set and achieve clear, decisive financial goals for the County.

1. What actions would you take to restore the public’s faith in the ability of the Board of Supervisors to govern?

I will prioritize increasing transparency by ensuring open communication about board decisions and operations to restore public faith in the Board of Supervisors. I'll advocate for independent oversight to monitor financial management and operations, enhancing accountability. Engaging regularly with our community is critical to incorporating diverse perspectives in decision-making. I'm committed to ethical leadership, prioritizing public interest over personal or political agendas. Addressing the consolidation of power within the CEO's office is crucial to maintaining checks and balances and upholding democratic governance. Additionally, I'll focus on educational outreach to improve public understanding of the roles and responsibilities within our local government, fostering trust and informed participation in our County's democratic processes.

1. What steps would you take to improve morale and reduce turnover among County staff?

A comprehensive strategy focused on employee well-being and effective management is essential to address the morale and turnover issues among County staff. Firstly, I will prioritize active listening and valuing employee input. Regular town halls and feedback sessions will be instrumental in understanding and addressing staff concerns, making them feel valued and heard. Tackling work environment issues is also crucial, as is managing any toxic elements in department cultures and ensuring a safe system for employees to report issues. Leadership training for department heads will be pivotal in fostering a positive work environment.

Career development opportunities are vital for long-term employee satisfaction and involve creating clear career paths, offering regular training and development programs, and recognizing and rewarding achievements. Additionally, addressing staffing shortages by streamlining hiring processes and offering competitive compensation packages will reduce the workload of existing staff and attract new talent. Respecting and utilizing the institutional knowledge of experienced staff through mentorship programs will help retain valuable insights and practices within the County. Transparent communication and decision-making are essential, especially for decisions impacting employees significantly. I am committed to ensuring that these decisions involve input from various stakeholders and are communicated openly. By implementing these measures, I aim to restore morale, reduce turnover, and establish a supportive and productive work environment for all County staff.

1. What do you see as the main drivers of homelessness in the County? What approaches do you believe should be implemented or enhanced to promote stable housing for County residents?

The main drivers of homelessness in Mendocino County include:

* Economic disparity.
* The high cost of housing relative to income.
* A need for affordable housing options.

Compounding these issues are mental health challenges and substance misuse, prevalent among the homeless population. The county's rural nature further exacerbates these problems due to limited resources, treatment facilities, and personnel. Additionally, a sense of community among the unhoused, with many preferring street-life due to communal bonds and shared experiences, hinders efforts to provide stable housing.

An integrated, community-based approach has been developed, but must be successfully implemented. Our county leadership should consider the development of a collective solution to reach the recidivist homeless population effectively. These facilities would offer comprehensive services, including substance abuse treatment, counseling, and work programs, ensuring inclusivity, and addressing the communal aspect of the unhoused population. This approach would not leave anyone behind and encourage participation in rehabilitation and recovery programs.

Furthermore, collaborative efforts are crucial in enhancing the capacity to deliver essential services. Programs like PATH can provide vital behavioral health and housing services, especially for those diagnosed with severe mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders. Overcoming rural-specific barriers, such as complex treatment systems and lack of mental health services, is critical. Focusing on comprehensive treatment options, including medication-assisted treatment, behavioral therapy, case management, and telehealth, can significantly improve service delivery. By implementing these strategies, Mendocino County can make strides toward breaking the cycle of homelessness and supporting its residents toward stability and self-sufficiency.

1. What steps can the County take to protect our environment, manage our resources, and mitigate the negative effects of climate change, including droughts and wildfires?

Mendocino County has the opportunity to address climate change and resource management by leveraging our redwood forests for carbon sequestration through a carbon credit exchange, encouraging conservation and incentivizing future preservation. Simultaneously, we must ensure water security and manage river basin resources effectively, advocating for the Two-Basin Solution for the Russian and Eel River Basins. This comprehensive plan, estimated to cost up to $400 million, balances the needs of both river systems while ensuring sustainable water use and environmental preservation.

In terms of wildfire prevention and resilience, our approach must be well-rounded. Enhanced collaboration with state and federal agencies is crucial for securing funding and technical support for home retrofitting, landscape redesign, and stringent fuel-management programs. I support updating county ordinances for fire safety in new developments and prioritizing wildfire prevention as a critical concern for our community's safety and economic stability.

I am committed to supporting the "Mendocino County Strategic Plan 2022-2027," focusing on developing Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils and comprehensive wildfire management plans. Strengthening partnerships with organizations like the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, securing sustainable funding for emergency services, and exploring long-term financial strategies like dedicated parcel taxes or public safety assessments will be critical. I aim to ensure our county is prepared, resilient, and proactive in facing these environmental challenges.

**Mendocino Women’s Political Coalition** Updated 12/9/2021

**CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

*You may provide longer answers on a separate page and attach any relevant campaign materials.*

Phone: (707) 535-9002

Name: Jacob S. Brown

Email: jacobbrownforsupervisor@gmail.com

Election Date: 3/5/2024

Office Sought: Board of Supervisors, Second District

As a lifelong Mendocino County resident, Marine Corps veteran, and experienced manager, I'm running for County Supervisor to bring transparent, accountable leadership to our community. My deep local roots, combined with a disciplined approach honed in the military and a track record of effective management in various industries, uniquely qualify me to address our county's challenges. I'm committed to enhancing public safety, ensuring fiscal responsibility, and fostering economic growth. My focus is on practical solutions, community engagement, and ethical governance to improve the quality of life for all residents of Mendocino County.

Campaign Name: Committee to Elect Jacob Brown 2nd District Supervisor 2024

Website: jacobbrownforsupervisor.com

Campaign Email: jacobbrownforsupervisor@gmail.com

Campaign Committee ID Number\*: 1464498

Campaign Treasurer: Amy C. Brown

\* California campaign committees may obtain a committee ID number by filing Form 410, Statement of Organization, with the California Fair Political Practices Commission. Form 410 must be filed within 10 days of raising $2,000 or more. For more information go to <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn.html>.

**ELEVATOR PITCH:** Why you are the best candidate for this office? Please provide a concise introduction that can be communicated in 30 seconds or less (one short paragraph).

**PART ONE - MWPC Core Principles**

**Reproductive Choice:** In recent years there has been an orchestrated effort to chip away at women’s right to reproductive choice by dividing the issue into sub-issues including parental consent and public funding of family planning and abortion.

Do you unequivocally support a woman’s right to reproductive self-determination? Yes

Do you support public funding of abortion? Yes

Please state any reservations: My stance on reproductive rights, informed by a personal story where my mother considered aborting me, acknowledges the complexities of abortion. This experience shaped my commitment to a holistic approach that includes family planning, sex education, and contraception, aiming to reduce unintended pregnancies and support comprehensive women's health. Upholding reproductive self-determination, I advocate for equitable access to all health services, including abortion, while ensuring our policies reflect shared values of dignity, autonomy, and fairness.

**Child Care and Dependent Care:** Do you support increased access to childcare and other dependent care programs funded from all available sources? Yes

**Support of Ending Discrimination:** Will you make a commitment to ending discrimination based on race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, marital status, socioeconomic status and disability? Yes

Do you support Marriage Equality? Yes

**Elimination of Sexual Harassment:** Will you work to ensure that laws and educational programs are in place to eliminate sexual harassment? Yes

**Comparable Worth:** Comparable Worth is the effort to bring wages in female-dominated occupations to a level of pay equal to other jobs (often male dominated) that require comparable skills, responsibilities and education. Do you support the concept of Comparable Worth? As a centrist valuing equality and economic pragmatism, I would likely endorse Comparable Worth for its potential to enhance equality and quality of life while considering its economic feasibility and advocating for transparent and balanced policy implementation.

**PART TWO – Campaign Information**

1. What are your qualifications for this office?

As a Mendocino County native with a bachelor’s degree in management from Southern Illinois University and extensive leadership experience from my eight years in the United States Marine Corps, I bring a unique blend of local understanding, disciplined decision-making, and strategic management skills to the role of County Supervisor. My tenure as General Manager at Metal FX in Willits, where I oversaw substantial operations and a large team, coupled with my diverse experience across industries like insurance, manufacturing, and education, equips me with a broad economic and community development perspective. Committed to safety, efficiency, and community engagement, I am dedicated to transparent, accountable, and ethical governance, aligning closely with the needs and aspirations of Mendocino County's residents.

B. What campaign experience and training have you had? Since announcing my candidacy on October 17th, my campaign journey has been a dynamic learning experience. As a first-time candidate in local politics, I have immersed myself in understanding the intricacies of campaigning, from strategizing and community engagement to policy development and public speaking. I have sought guidance from experienced political advisors and campaign managers and engaged deeply with community members to understand their concerns and expectations. This hands-on, real-world experience has been invaluable in preparing me for the role of a County Supervisor, equipping me with practical skills and a deepened understanding of local political dynamics.

C. List your major endorsements.

* Shari Schapmire – Former Treasurer/Tax Collector – Mendocino County
* Anderson Valley Advertiser
* Barry Vogel
* Susan Sher
* Corina Edwards

D. Where do you expect to get your main political, financial and volunteer support?

* Small donors
* Veterans

E. Describe your campaign organization (staff, consultants, volunteers.)

F. Describe your campaign strategy (mailers, forums, walking, phone banks, etc.)

G. List your opposition:

* Maureen Mulheren, Incumbent

H. What are the demographics and political affiliation of your district?

**PART THREE – Office-Specific Questions**

Please answer the specific questions for each election office and year (see attached) in the box below. List the question number next to each response, and attach additional pages as needed.

I. Office-specific responses:

**PART FOUR – Personal Information**

J. Please tell us something about yourself, (occupation, education, family, community involvement, etc.) You may attach your resume if you wish.

I am a substitute teacher with the Ukiah Unified School District and a youth wrestling coach, which allows me to invest in the youth of Mendocino County deeply. My roles in education and coaching will enable me to give back to the community, shaping the next generation just as my mentors did for me. This dedication to education and youth development is at the heart of my commitment to our community's future.

My family life is a source of joy and inspiration. My wife and I are proud parents of six children, ranging from a recent University of Nevada graduate in Public Health to our youngest son in second grade at River Oak Charter School. We cherish our busy family life, often traveling for our children's sporting events and leading a fitness-focused lifestyle. This blend of professional dedication and family values underscores my candidacy for the Board of Supervisors, reflecting my commitment to fostering a healthy, educated, thriving community.

**PART FIVE – Financial Information *(Confidential)***

K. What is your projected budget? How much have you raised at present? How do you intend to raise the balance? *(This is for our information only, and will not be posted on the MWPC website.)*

Money raised to date: $2250.00

Additional Projected need for mailers and radio ads: $4,250

Total Estimated funds needed for election: $6,500

**SUBMIT**

By submitting this questionnaire, you give us permission to post your responses to Parts One through Four on the MWPC website at <https://mendocinowomen.org/endorsements/>.

Candidate's Signature: \_\_Jacob S. Brown\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_1/18/24\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

An electronic copy of this questionnaire is at <https://mendocinowomen.org/endorsements/> if you prefer to download a fillable PDF version.

**Return this completed questionnaire by the deadline to be considered for endorsement.**

Mail to: **MWPC ~** or ~ Email to: **kristana.arp@gmail.com.**

 **BOX 1140**

 **Ukiah, CA 95482**