

Marjan Philhour

Meet the candidates, week 18: “From your conversations with District 1 residents, is there anything that they expect you to do as a supervisor that isn’t within your purview? Explain what it is and why.”

I knock on doors in the Richmond every week. The top issues **I hear most often pertain to public safety, homelessness, and drug use. SF Supervisors can do a lot to address** these issues, and unfortunately not enough has been done over the years.

There is nothing that a resident would ask me that I won’t work to accomplish.

I have found that **residents are not clear on what the role of the Supervisor is, so when they are feeling frustrated on ANY issue**, the Supervisor many times is the first person they will talk to about it. We have district elections to ensure that each neighborhood is represented and that their interests and concerns are addressed — no matter what they might be.

All too often, we hear from supervisors that a particular issue “does not fall under their jurisdiction” and the neighbor will either be referred to a huge City department or just be told that nothing can be done by the supervisor. **People are tired of the politics of “not my job, “ and expect local supervisors to at least be able to refer them to a proper solution** and utilize their position to help and advocate along the way.

Our **local government’s role is to ensure that the basics are covered** — whether it be a full-staffed police department, a functioning water and sewer system, or roads that are paved. As supervisor, one can’t affect the outcome of international events nor can a supervisor pass legislation outside of the SF jurisdiction, however in these cases, supervisors can do the work that they were elected/hired to do which is to help residents navigate the system and take action where they can.