



# DAMON CONNOLLY

MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - DISTRICT 1

**Dear Friend,**

I'm honored to be writing to you today for the first time as a member of the Marin County Board of Supervisors representing District 1. Below you will find my remarks from my official swearing in ceremony on January 6.

As we move forward together with a new approach to county government, I'm looking forward to engaging all of my constituents, friends and neighbors in a variety of new and exciting ways.

It is important to me to keep community members informed and up-to-date on all of our work towards a better Marin –and even more important that I hear from community members on a regular basis, so that I can stay as aware and ahead of the issues facing our District and community as possible.

Establishing a strong, ongoing dialogue is critical to our success in serving the people of District 1. I'm committed to engaging our community using a range of channels to build and promote a vibrant exchange of ideas.

Please join me in this spirit by liking my new Facebook page at [facebook.com/SupConnolly](https://facebook.com/SupConnolly).

*Damon*

## **Remarks from Official Swearing In Ceremony, January 6, 2015**

Thank you Judge Beverly Wood.

With 7 long months since the election, I've certainly been looking forward to this day! I've put the 7 months to good use by reaching out to constituents, meeting with community groups, and receiving briefings on the issues. Now it's time to hit the ground running.

I'd like to acknowledge some special people, starting with my family:

My in-laws, Wally & Sylvia Chipman, are 50 year residents of District 1 in Marinwood/Lucas Valley. I admire their dedication to the community and their vision. Like many of their generation, they teamed with neighbors to buy open space and preserve what is beautiful and unique about Marin. It's gratifying that new generations have picked up the mantle.

My Daughters Brette and Darin are both back from college so the timing really worked out, and I couldn't be prouder of them for their accomplishments and the young women they've become.

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Damon Connolly being sworn in by Judge Beverly Wood

## District 1 Newsletter

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My wife Dawn – her birthday is today – and I wouldn't be sitting here without her, as she's the reason I moved to Marin. We met 28 years ago while both living in Berkeley.

On one of our first dates showed me a "special building" – the Civic Center. Maybe she knew something I didn't at the time.

For the last 18 years I've enjoyed every minute of living in this community and raising my family here.

I'd like to acknowledge my colleagues from the San Rafael City Council and the Dixie School District. The skills and experience I gained while serving with them are why I can hit the ground running in this new role, and I look forward to strengthening the relationships between the County and our cities and schools on behalf of the residents we serve.

I want to acknowledge the many friends and supporters here today and those who are here in spirit. And for the residents of District 1, thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me the privilege to serve.

I will not soon forget the message delivered by one voter shortly before Election Day, when he drove up next to me in his pick up truck, rolled down his window and said: "we want a change. Don't forget why we're voting for you." Message received.

In hindsight I ran on a fairly simple platform: I'll listen, I'll be responsive, and I'll engage all segments of the community in a meaningful way in making decisions. Marin is unique because of the level of passion and because citizens demand to be involved. What I heard loud and clear is that the old model of simply electing officials to go off and make decisions with little input is no longer acceptable. Our community is more engaged than ever and our elected officials must be too.

I have a good relationship with my new colleagues and we have worked together – but both they, and all of you, expect an independent voice. And I look forward to ultimately being judged on delivering results.

The stage is set to deliver on some major issues facing our community. And, putting aside issues of war and peace at the federal level, the county level of government is where the action will be. I wanted to outline a few areas where I'd like to lead and where I think we can be bold:

1. St. Vincent's/Silveira – an issue that my predecessor Supervisor Susan Adams led on in preventing large scale development. Development pressure still exists and the fate of these lands is still uncertain. They should be preserved given the environmental and cultural significance of these lands to our whole County. I will make this fight a priority.

2. Transportation is an issue that affects us all in our daily lives – and gridlock is a major environmental and quality of life issue:

(A) Take immediate steps to open up a third lane on the eastbound direction of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge – the time for unnecessary delay is over and this should be a stand-alone priority project. I'll lead on working with my colleagues and regional and state representatives to make it happen.

(B) Local bus transit needs to be improved. This includes service levels and routes, and we should pursue transit options for getting kids to school.

(C) Effective implementation of the SMART train is critical. We must keep it fiscally sound, get it to the Larkspur ferry, and make the downtown station in San Rafael a gateway and world-class destination.

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3. Transparency and efficiency at the Civic Center is at the heart of public trust:

(A) The Community Service Fund is a series of discretionary outlays to specific organizations made by individual supervisors. I acknowledge the improvements made since it was labeled a “slush fund” by the civil grand jury, but reforms have not gone far enough though. This issue resonated clearly with the public during the campaign and is chipping at public trust. Worthwhile projects should be made grants as part of the ordinary budget process. I will continue to oppose the Community Service Fund but remain open to finding alternatives with my colleagues.

(B) Regarding government operations, I believe the best asset we have is our County employees. I want to engage them early and often directly where they work by asking how can we be doing things better and more efficiently. I Welcome their input and ideas, and expect an honest two-way dialogue about whether things can be done better in their own departments. I will recognize and be open to where change is needed.

We live in an extremely innovative and technologically savvy County – can we be doing more in this regard in the government? I’m interested in exploring this, and again I think we can tap into the public for ideas and solutions.

I’d like to conclude my remarks with a phrase I used in the campaign: “Keeping the promise of Marin.” What does it mean?

It means making decisions based on local values, including our commitment to strong schools, a healthy, natural environment and public services that meet the needs of our community.

It means making decisions informed by community-based, collaborative dialogue, leading to responsive and effective local government.

I look forward to working with all of you in the coming months and years to fulfill the promise of Marin.



Newly sworn Supervisor Damon Connolly greets well-wishers

# District 1 Newsletter



2015 Board of Supervisors, from left to right: Steve Kinsey, Judy Arnold, Katie Rice (President), Kathryn Sears and Damon Connolly



From left to right: Damon Connolly, Judy Arnold, Katie Rice, Kathryn Sears and Steve Kinsey

## **Board-related Meetings:**

The following are websites related to the positions Supervisor Connolly holds. You can go to these sites and find meetings schedules, agendas and board packets for upcoming meetings:

### **Board of Supervisors Meetings**

The cyberagenda is available online the Thursday before Tuesday meeting date: <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/bs/meeting-archive>. The cyberagenda will also advise dates, times and agenda for **Marin Housing Authority** meetings.

### **Marin Transit District Meetings**

See website for Marin Transit District agenda and to confirm meeting times: <http://www.marintransit.org>

### **Transportation Authority of Marin Meetings**

See website for TAM agenda and to confirm meeting times: <http://www.tam.ca.gov>

### **Marin LAFCO (Marin Local Annexation Formation Commission):**

<http://lafco.marin.org/index.php/commission-meetings>

### **ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments):**

<http://abag.ca.gov/meetings/>

### **Check out the Master Calendar on the County website:**

<http://www.marincounty.org/main/calendar>

**Also, check out our press releases and library of videos about County programs, services and initiatives:**

<http://www.marincounty.org/main/newsroom>

District 1 Newsletter

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All County publications are available in alternative formats (Braille, Large Print, or CD), upon request. Requests for accommodations may be made by calling (415) 473-4381 (Voice) 473-3232 (TDD/TTY) or by e-mail at [disabilityaccess@marincounty.org](mailto:disabilityaccess@marincounty.org) at least four work days in advance of the event. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon request.