

CALIFORNIA DNC PRESS DEMOCRAT

NOVEMBER 2018

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YOUR DNC MEMBERS HELP BRING IT HOME IN THE WESTERN STATES

BY DNC MEMBERS JESS DURFEE, GARRY S. SHAY, LAURENCE ZAKSON

For the 4th cycle in a row DNC LGBT Caucus Secretary Laurence Zakson, DNC Executive Committee Member Garry Shay, DNC Western States Caucus Chair Jess Durfee, and activists from the Stonewall Democratic Club, including Lester Aponte and Jane Wishon, helped organize a delegation of leaders, to assist in organizing activities in Arizona and Nevada, to help in both persuasion efforts and Get Out the Vote in Tucson and Las Vegas. This year Heart of LA, West Hollywood Beverly Hills Democratic Clubs, along with SFVYD's and CYD joined in, as well.

On a mission to elect Arizona US Senate candidate Kyrsten Sinema and congressional candidate Ann Kirkpatrick, a group of Southern California Democrats traveled to Tucson, September 28-30.

Braving the nearly 100 degree temperatures, your DNC delegation canvassed, phone banked and joined the Pima County Democrats for the annual Tucson LGBTQ Pride parade and festival. On Saturday night of our visit, our group met up with the Pima County Party Chair and others for a dinner celebration in anticipation of the victories ahead.

As of this writing, Ann Kirkpatrick had 53.3% of the vote and will be serving as the next representative from AZ-2 and Kyrsten Sinema was leading 49.5% - 48.2%.

If successful, Sinema will be the second LGBT U.S. senator (joining Wisconsin Sen. Tammy Baldwin).

Three weeks later, October 19 to 21, with nearly 50



WINNING IN 2020 - CONSTITUENCY GROUP INFRASTRUCTURE

BY DNC MEMBERS KEITH UMEMOTO AND ALEX ROOKER

Celebrate our victories, heal our wounds (US Senate). Our work has just begun. Our focus must be reversing 45's anti agenda: workers, environment, immigrants, women, public education, unions, civil rights, human rights, government, and ALL Americans, and his pro-corporate and self-dealing agenda.

2018 set modern day records in early voting (42% over 2014) and voter turnout (114 million voters up 37% over 2014 from 83 million) for a mid-term election. So, how was it done and how do we improve upon it? And, no, we should not re-elect 45 to be more enraged and fired up, as he was the biggest motivating factor. This means building a long term infrastructure that goes beyond 45.

The voting demographics are clear. Women, youth, LGBT, and minorities voted overwhelmingly for Democrats. Labor was solid, as Wisconsin retired Scott (Anti Union/ Worker) Walker.

In order to succeed in 2020, the Democratic Party infrastructure must continue to recruit and improve its efforts on the

millions of new eligible voters, from those turning 18 to naturalized citizens.

Nationally, there will be 1.6 million more eligible Latinos who turn 18 in the next two years. This figure increases dramatically by registering naturalized citizens and eligible Latinos who had not previously registered to vote.

Similarly, there will be about 1 million more registered Asian Americans/ Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) by 2020 (2 million more than 2016). A huge percentage of AAPIs decline to state a party preference, but also have increasingly voted for Democrats.

Inclusive in the above figures are an annual increase of about 3.8 million Americans turning 18 every year. Historically, only 50% register to vote. Again, a huge percentage of youth decline to state a party preference, and only 39% voted in 2016.

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CDP Vice Chair Alex Rooker is Treasurer of the Association of State Democratic Chairs and Vice Chair of the DNC Women's Caucus



Keith Umemoto is a Co-Chair of the CDP Credentials Committee

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SHIRLEY CHISHOLM LED THE WAY 50 YEARS AGO

BY DNC MEMBER REP. BARBARA LEE



DNC Member Barbara Lee represents California's 13th District in Congress

Fifty years ago, Shirley Chisholm became the first Black woman elected to Congress. On that day, she wasn't just running for office — she was running against history.

No one expected her to win her election, and after she won, many members hoped she would recede into the background. But that wasn't Shirley Chisholm's style.

Four years later, she made history once again — as the first African American and the first woman to seek the Democratic nomination for president.

I met Shirley Chisholm in 1972, when I was a student at Mills College. I invited her to speak to the Black Student Union about her historic election to Congress. When she spoke, I heard a candidate who understood my community. She understood the challenges I was facing to feed my kids, pay the bills and get an afford-

able, quality education.

Congresswoman Chisholm inspired me to register to vote, and eventually, to work for her presidential campaign. She taught me that the only way to fix a broken political system was by getting involved.

Shirley Chisholm didn't win the presidency. But she inspired a generation of women of color to reach for the stars — and to follow in her footsteps.

By running, Shirley Chisholm showed other Black women that there was a path for us. And by articulating a bold, progressive vision, she modeled a different, more inclusive brand of leadership.

Despite Shirley Chisholm's accomplishments, it's still an uphill battle for Black women in politics. This year could help change that.

Across the country, African American women have made history — in city halls, state houses, and in Congress.

But this election reminded us that these results were not

predetermined. The same disadvantages that Congresswoman Chisholm faced on the campaign trail as a Black woman persist today. It's an uphill battle — but it's one that we'll keep fighting until we achieve true equality and justice under the law.

Shirley Chisholm is often remembered for being the first. But she should also be remembered for what she accomplished once she got to Congress. She took on fights for hungry low-income families, for hungry school kids, and for single moms. She was instrumental in creating the national school lunch program, expanding the food stamp program, and establishing the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, commonly known as WIC.

50 years later, these programs are bedrocks of our communities and lifelines to some of the poorest families in America. I am confident that the women who made history this election cycle will build upon Shirley Chisholm's progress, and will join her name in the history books.



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PELOSI AND O'NEILL: GREAT DEMOCRATIC SPEAKERS

BY DNC MEMBER BOB MULHOLLAND

First, we all need to be grateful for future (and former) Speaker Nancy Pelosi. She single handedly got the Affordable Care Act through the U.S. House. Democrats did that for the American people and yes, like the Democrats who supported the Clinton Health Care bill, as well as the Clinton tax bill (raised taxes on the very wealthy, leading to a very vibrant economy and budget surpluses), some of those House members would not win re-election. In the 1994 and 2010 House elections, Democrats lost the majority.

Secondly, there was not

a Democrat in Congress that could have done what Speaker Pelosi just accomplished -- a majority in the U.S. House, after recruiting many very qualified candidates, especially women and raising a record amount of money.

The Founding Fathers were very concerned about even having a President (potentially like a King), so our system in the U.S. Government includes Yellow flashing and Red lights. Trump will need to be reminded that Congress is that Flashing Yellow Light and in the case of money, Congress can be the Red Light.

Former Speaker Tip O'Neill always privately met with newly elected Democrats to the U.S. House. He congratulated them, then said -- some of you won't be back, as you were elected by "accident," meaning their opponent was caught up in a scandal or a national tsunami against the Republican Party.

My Message -- we just elected a big number of congress members -- some by "accident," so State Parties across the country, including the CDP, had better laser in now to help those most vulnerable Democrats for 2020.



California Delegation at Western States Caucus at DNC Meeting in Chicago in August

SUPERDELEGATES LOSE CLOUT IN DNC VOTE ON NOMINATION SYSTEM

BY DNC MEMBER MARY ELLEN EARLY

So read the headline in the Chicago Sun Times on Sunday, August 26. Clout is a word traditionally used in Chicago politics to denote political influence. Today it is used universally in the political world.

What would the alternative headline read if the reforms were voted down? DNC to Berniecrats: get lost! DNC to Millennials: Who Needs You? What I have learned after many years as a Democratic Party activist is this: We are a family, where every member is needed to work on behalf of the whole.

What follows is a brief synopsis of how the vote came down that lessened the influence of DNC members as automatic unpledged delegates, known in media parlance as "superdelegates." At the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, there was a lot of tension between the traditional and Bernie Sanders' wing of the Democratic Party. In order to heal the rift that had evolved between these groups, the Convention voted to create a Unity Commission to suggest changes that would make the Party more transparent and democratic.

This Unity Commission took up several issues, in-

cluding the role of caucuses vs. primaries in selecting a presidential nominee. It was the role of automatic unpledged delegates that held the attention of the public as the Unity Commission met multiple times to take up these very serious issues.

What the Unity Commission did not take into account was that any recommendations had to be approved by the entire DNC, exactly the group that stood the most to lose if these reforms were voted in.

The ultimate recommendation of the Unity Commission was to reduce the number of so-called "superdelegates" to 60%, by keeping elected officials (Democratic members of Congress, the U.S. Senate, governors, etc.), and throwing DNC members under the bus. In other words, DNC members would have no role to play at subsequent national conventions.

These recommendations had to work their way through the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee (RBC). After many long and arduous meetings, the RBC hammered out a compromise, whereby all persons previously accorded the status of automatic un-

pledged delegates would henceforward become automatic delegates, with all of the rights and privileges that come with full delegate status, with one exception: they would be unable to vote on the first ballot at the convention, thus being unable to overturn the will of those elected by caucuses and primaries. There are two exceptions to this. If a clear front runner emerged after all caucuses and primaries had made their selections, and if there was no chance of overturning the will of the elected delegates (which by the way, had never happened in the past), automatic delegates would be allowed to cast a ballot on the first round. Otherwise, they would be forced to wait until a potential second round of balloting ensued. The last time this happened was in 1952.

It seemed a pretty good compromise. If the Unity Commission had its way, your DNC delegation would be watching the 2020 Convention at home on television.

At the Chicago meeting, there was a General Session open to DNC members only – no guests, and no

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Mary Ellen Early is the founding editor of the California DNC Press Democrat

DNC GOTV IN ARIZONA AND NEVADA

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southern Californians joining us, we continued the Western Pride-related invasion of neighboring states by joining the Nevada and Clark County Democratic Parties at the Pride parade and festival and in canvassing and phoning throughout southern Nevada.

The mobilization was the first weekend of early voting. Those working at the Pride festival on Saturday were able to help direct voters to early polling locations to vote.

In addition to promoting Jacky Rosen for US Senate (at 50.4% as of this writing), our California Democrats also campaigned for Steve Sisolak for Governor (leading at 49.4% to 45.3%), and Nelson Araujo, for Sec-

retary of State, (trailing at 48.9% to 48.3% with "None of the Above" at 2.8%). If elected, Nelson would be the first out LGBT candidate elected to statewide office in Nevada. We were also able to help elect what could be the first female majority legislature in the nation.

Saturday evening, several of us joined Artie Blanco, Nevada DNC Executive Committee member, for dinner and to share experiences and best practices. While many of our crew volunteered on Friday and Saturday, a few hearty folks walked again on Sunday.

We are proud to have played a part in increasing Democratic victories!



Californians Anticipate Democratic Victories in Nevada

KEITH ELLISON UPDATE

After winning his race for Attorney General in Minnesota, Keith Ellison resigned his office as Deputy Chair of the DNC. Since he will also be moving on from his Congressional seat, Keith wishes to concentrate on serving the people of Minnesota. Our loss is their gain. We wish Keith all the best in his new post.

FROM THE EDITORS:

The California DNC Press Democrat is published by members of the California DNC Delegation, and is not funded by the California Democratic Party. Opinions expressed by the authors of this newsletter's articles are not necessarily those of the California Delegation, the DNC or the California Democratic Party.

Sincerely,
 Mary Ellen Early
 Otto Lee
 Garry S. Shay

Thank you to our sponsors: Steven K. Alari, Eric C. Bauman, Becca Doten, Maria Elena Durazo, Jess Durfee, Mary Ellen Early, Alice Huffman, Aleita Huguenin, Michael Kapp, Andrew Lachman, Hon. Barbara Lee, Otto Lee, Sandra M. Lowe, Bob Mulholland, Christine Pelosi, John A. Pérez, Hon. Greg Pettis, Melahat Rafiei, Alex Rooker, Garry S. Shay, Keith Umamoto, Roz Wyman, Laurence Zakson

Printing:
 Independent Printers

Proofreading:
 Burt B. Belant

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In total, this means that there will be approximately 4.5 million more youth, Latinos, and AAPIs registered to vote in 2020, which is about 9 million more than 2016. A large majority will vote Democratic, but the percentage and actual vote means the difference between a Republican versus a Democrat in the White House. And it will take an investment by the Party, including an effort to get youth, Latinos, and AAPIs to identify as Democrat. Motivating efforts include the Parkland High School students, 45's vitriol against immigrants, public education, the environment, #MeToo/Women's March, Black Lives Matter, MoveOn and Indivisible. In one day, 65,000 youth registered to vote based on Taylor Swift's tweet.

The investment the DNC made in core constituency groups in 2018 needs to continue, along with the 50 State Strategy.

SUMMER MEETING IN CHICAGO

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press. This was an opportunity for all DNC members to debate the RBC proposals, and each member who wished to do so could have his or her issues heard.

The most moving opinions I heard from those opposing the RBC recommendations came from our brother and sister members from communities of color. These are people who remember how hard they and their forebears had worked (and are still working today) to combat voter suppression. To be told that after their years of loyalty to and toiling on behalf of the Democratic Party, that they would be prohibited from voting at the national convention (at least on the first round) brought out feelings of outrage and betrayal.

One big issue that those who opposed the RBC recommendations

brought up was whether these changes had to be preceded by a change to the DNC Charter.

At the General Session on the last day, open to both the press and invited guests, a written ballot was taken to determine what was the will of the body regarding the necessity of a change to the DNC Charter. Those who supported the RBC changes prevailed in this vote by a three to one margin, determining that no Charter change was necessary to approve the proposed changes.

Don Fowler, who led the party as National Chair from 1995 to 1997, had been leading the charge against the RBC recommendations. After the paper ballot, Mr. Fowler got up and asked for approval of the RBC recommendations by acclamation.

Finally, the General Session passed the Call to the 2020 Democratic National Convention, along with the 2020 Delegate Selection Rules.