



CHAIR
Eric C. Bauman

Statement from California Democratic Party Chair Eric C. Bauman on Platform-Amendments Process Decision

“One of the most important actions we will take at our upcoming California Democrats 2018 State Convention is adopting our Party’s Platform. I want to commend our Platform Committee Co-Chairs, Howard Welinsky and Lyn Shaw, and all of the members of the Platform Committee, for their tireless dedication throughout a many months-long process that included multiple hearings throughout the state.

When the Platform Committee meets in San Diego, its members will consider a record number of amendments – yet another sign of the gathering Big Blue Wave.

In considering the amendments that were submitted, I was asked to review the wording of the rule that pertains to the qualification of submitted amendments, which some consider controversial or in error.

My plain reading and interpretation of the rule is different than that which has been the accepted interpretation in recent years. Because of the limited time available to us to adopt our platform and to consider these amendments, I discussed this matter at length with the Lead Chair of the Rules Committee and the Parliamentarian, as well as with a number of our grassroots activists and our staff who have long been engaged in the Platform adoption process. To this end, I held a meeting this weekend with the lead co-chairs of the Platform Committee and joined other key Party leaders in by conference call to share my opinion with them and discuss the potential ramifications of this change of interpretation.

Bylaws and rules must be fair and transparent to ensure the integrity of our process. Though I am generally averse to changing longstanding interpretations of our rules, I believe my review and reinterpretation of this rule requires immediate intervention. Though I can understand the rationale behind arguments for maintaining existing precedent, but in this instance, I believe the interpretation does not comport with the plain-reading of the language and therefore must be overturned immediately.

Following our meeting and conference call, our Platform Committee Chairs, along with our Parliamentarian and Lead Rules Chair are now also in agreement that we must update our interpretation to the plain reading of the rule, and therefore allow all amendments that were submitted in good faith and which include the signatures of five DSCC members or five Registered Democrats from five different districts to be heard and treated with all due and regular consideration.”