

CALIFORNIA DNC PRESS DEMOCRAT

AUGUST 2017

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California DNC Members with Chair Tom Perez in Sacramento

GEORGIA 6 AND THE MINORITY VOTERS

By Alex Gallardo Rooker and Keith Umemoto, DNC RBC Members

The Democratic Party includes a coalition of many groups, including African Americans, American Indians/Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Latinos, Women, LGBTQ, youth, environmentalists, labor and progressives. In examining the Georgia 6, the Democrats have a solid chance of winning it next year. The pathway to winning must entail a comprehensive effort in the African American, Latino, and Asian American voter communities, including voter registration and growing the Party's relationship with each community.

Hypothetically, if a congressional district is 15% minority, and the Democratic Party candidate gets conservatively 60% of the minority vote, plus half the women's vote, this candidate only needs slightly

more than 33% of the remaining votes to win. Given these realistic goals with the addition of the youth and LGBT vote, and a solid performance from the other Democratic Party constituent groups, then why wouldn't the Democratic Party candidate win in a district with these demographics?

The Georgia 6 resembles these figures; however, in the June 20 runoff, Democrat Ossoff fell short to Republican Handel by 8,906 votes. Minorities represented about 15 percent of the vote in the runoff. Early voting data found three minority groups making up over 15%, with African Americans at 9.41%, Latinos 2.14%, and Asian Americans 4.6% of the early vote.

The outcome, however, was not that Ossoff and the Democratic Party did not do well, but Handel and the Republican Party did better, far exceeding primary turnout. And the Republicans spent \$23 million compared to \$27 million by Ossoff, significantly narrowing the earlier spending

gap. More than 67,000 more votes were cast, including a focused effort by a Republican Super Pac targeting 30,000 high propensity Republicans that did not vote in the primary.

Ossoff actually received 33,000 more votes in the June 20 runoff, but the overall turnout broke records for both Republicans and Democrats with over 260,000 voting, compared with 214,000 in the 2014 mid-year and 192,000 in the primary. Thousands more African Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans voted in the runoff, with Latinos (1.9 to 2.14%) and Asian Americans (4.2 to 4.6%) exceeding even their early voting percentages from the primary.

This means that Ossoff needed to compensate by registering a larger number of new voters. However, the Republican Secretary of State ruled to restrict voting to those who registered in the April primary, prompting the Democratic

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CDP Vice Chair Alex Rooker is Treasurer of the Association of State Democratic Chairs



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TRUMP: RESIGN OR BE IMPEACHED!

BY MARY ELLEN EARLY, DNC MEMBER



DNC Member Mary Ellen Early is the Founding Editor of the California DNC Press Democrat and can be contacted at mee1@ix.netcom.com

In July of this year, California Congressman Brad Sherman (D-30), filed Articles of Impeachment against President Donald Trump, based on obstruction of justice. This is a felony under U.S. Criminal Code Section 1512 (b) (3).

Among the charges: threatening an FBI agent or other law enforcement official (i.e., James Comey), firing Comey for the purpose of thwarting an ongoing FBI investigation involving the president himself, and comments made to the NY Times that were interpreted by many as threatening Special Counsel Robert Mueller to prevent him from investigating Trump's financial dealings. These charges are backed up by both video and audio tape.

When I interviewed Congressman Sherman on August 17 in his district office, I mentioned that many of my fellow activists feel that a President Pence would be worse than a President Trump, and that it is too early to begin impeachment proceedings. He pointed out that while Pence would not be good for the Democratic Party, he would be better for the United States, and that he (Sherman) had taken an oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution.

While Nixon faced a Democratic majority in the House, Trump enjoys a Republican majority. Because of this a higher level of public concern will be necessary to initiate impeachment hearings.

He reminded me that Articles of Impeachment

were filed in 1973 against Richard Nixon, and that it took about a year for the House Judiciary Committee to vote to report such articles to the House floor. At this point Nixon resigned.

Now Tony Schwartz, who co-wrote The Art of the Deal with Trump (translation: ghost wrote) is predicting that Trump will resign his office by the end of the year (maybe as soon as next month). This could be just ahead of a criminal indictment, which might well be quashed as part of a resignation deal.

When I asked Congressman Sherman what Democratic Party leaders could do to help further the impeachment effort, he replied without hesitation, "Help us take back the Congress." While I can't speak for the rest of the country, I assured him that California Democrats were already doing our part. Many of our party leaders are already working on targeted races. Go Dems!

WELCOME TO COLLEGE & GOOD LUCK

BY BOB MULHOLLAND, DNC MEMBER



Bob Mulholland resides in Chico and can be reached at chicobob@msn.com and @chico.bob

This is an open letter to college freshman - most of you were born in the last year of the 20th Century.

The year you turned two, almost 3,000 people (Christians, Muslims, Jews and others) were killed on 9/11. Republican President George Bush Jr. went into two wars (Afghanistan and Iraq) with no plans to end them, nor to pay for them.

Instead, the Republicans decided to give tax cuts mostly to billionaires (in WWII their tax rate was 92%). And Bush Jr.'s overall economic policies led to the Great Recession. And with the two wars at nearly 6,000 days (WW II lasted 1,366 days for the U.S.) the

country's (your) debt is more than \$20 trillion.

Bush Jr. decided not to restart the draft. In 1966, the year I was drafted, 46,000 young men were being drafted each month, the vast majority of us were barely through high school).

Instead, mostly National Guard troops (including Vietnam veterans in their late 50s) were sent to Iraq and Afghanistan.

So, as far as most Americans are concerned, including your parents, the wars were free and no bother to most Americans. Of the three million troops that served in the two wars, they are from only 1% of American families.

So for most of you, your greatest crisis may be tuition (join the military

and get the great GI bill to pay for it), not enough likes on Facebook, failed relationships or not graduating from college. For others, like Dreamers, they are looking over their shoulders to see if Trump will have them picked up and deported.

Since the DC power structure (Congress was neutered decades ago), will continue the wars for years and you will not be asked to pay for them or serve in the military, I would urge you to at least volunteer for campus groups that are helping others, and/or perhaps get involved in the Democratic Party. And just maybe your generation will decide to end the wars, but that's only if you get involved.

Good luck! And let's hope Trump does not start a war with North Korea, which will lead to the destruction of the Korean Peninsula and a worldwide Depression.

PELOSI DNC “WALK OUR TALK” RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION PROMOTING PEOPLE-POWERED POLITICS AT THE DNC BY BANNING DONATIONS THAT CONFLICT WITH OUR DNC PLATFORM

Respectfully submitted for consideration by the DNC in June 2017 by Christine Pelosi, DNC Executive Committeewoman; CA Democratic Party Women's Caucus Chair

WHEREAS, we Democrats have the opportunity to reform and revive our party by empowering diverse grassroots Democrats at the leadership table and in our communities including building on our recent successes with small donor fundraising programs; and

WHEREAS, the American people are looking to Democrats to PROMOTE people-powered politics in this era of resistance, revival, and reform but are rightly concerned that their voices are drowned out; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to President Obama's 2009–2016 ban on all corporate PAC donations to the DNC, our state parties have been drawing bright lines for years with respect to rejecting donations from various corporate interests that conflict with our Democratic platforms such as tobacco, pay day lending, and gun manufacturers to perpetuate what President Obama referred to in his Farewell Address as our efforts to “reduce the corrosive influence of money in our politics, and insist on the principles of transparency and ethics in public service;”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic National Committee acts to revive trust in our Party by banning donations to the DNC from corporations in violation of our 2016 Democratic Platform and 2017 Resolutions so that we empower Democrats to “Walk Our Talk” in harmony with our stated beliefs and convictions.



*Christine Pelosi can be found at
ChristinePelosi.com
and
PelosiBootCamp.com*

FRACKING, NATURAL GAS, AND OUR RUSSIAN DILEMMA

BY SUSIE SHANNON, DNC MEMBER

Russia's economy relies heavily on natural gas exports. In 2008, Russia was the largest exporter of natural gas to Europe, with European countries relying on 1/3 of their natural gas imports from Russia.

In January 2009, just weeks before Obama took office, a conflict which had been brewing for years between Russia and its neighbor, the Ukraine, escalated, with Russia accusing the Ukraine of siphoning off gas that belonged to several European countries through a pipeline which ran through Southern Ukraine. The conflict resulted in Russia reducing gas flow by 60% to Ukraine, causing shortages, and in some cases a complete shutdown, of natural gas to 18 European countries. The shortage led to a steep rise in European natural gas prices during one of its coldest winters.

Enter the United States, then the world's largest producer of natural gas through hydraulic fracturing (fracking). The U.S. was poised to provide a solution to Europe's energy crisis and in 2010 the administration unveiled its State Department Global Shale Gas Initiative. This program was designed to encourage European countries to crack in order to wean themselves from Russian natural gas, thereby reducing Russia's influence in the region. The U.S. provided educational programs, access to technical experts and formed alliances between European countries and top U.S. energy companies to promote fracking. The program would also prove lucrative for U.S. energy companies who were able to secure shale concessions to drill in sev-

eral countries, including 100 such concessions in Poland alone. The Obama Administration's ambassador for this program was Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Legitimate European environmental groups pushed back, making the case that contamination of wells and drinking water, along with earthquakes, were a likely consequence of fracking, not to mention the methane leaks and its impact on global warming. Some countries, like the U.K., began the fracking process only to institute a moratorium after environmental concerns were raised (they have since overturned the moratorium). Russia, in an effort to protect its economy and profits, encouraged and allegedly partially funded the European anti-fracking movement.

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*Susie Shannon is a
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Party to sue. Although the Democratic Party won in court to register new voters, there were only 17 days instead of 31 days to do so.

8,000 new voters were registered during this window out of the total 12,000 new voters since the 2016 General election. Compared with 15 percent of the total vote, 20% of these new voters were African American, Latino, or Asian American, clearly a positive trend.

Ossoff also needed to increase his GOTV effort from an already aggressive one from the prima-

ry. Ossoff experienced a lot of success by increasing early voting. Of the minority early voting, there were 7,000 more African Americans, 2,000 more Latinos, and 4,000 more Asian Americans who voted early compared to the primary. However, white early voting increased by over 60,000 votes, with exit polls indicated that 56% of their vote went for Handel.

Ossoff may have lost by 8,906 votes, but now with more than a year to register new voters the result next time can and should be differ-

ent, particularly since there are thousands of youth and minorities eligible to vote that are not registered yet. So, clearly the trend is in Ossoff's favor.

Nationally, trends also favor other Democratic Party candidates in 2018 and beyond, if resources can be raised and a comprehensive effort is implemented throughout the country.

With Republicans constantly engaged in some form of voter suppression that make it more difficult for Democrats to vote, from limiting polling places, purging voter rolls, instituting voter ID laws, promoting fake news, and establishing restrictions on voter registration, the Democratic Party must accelerate its effort now with both a 50 state strategy, and ALSO a strategy for its core constituencies - as each minority population is key to victory.

RUSSIAN DILEMMA

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In March, 2014, continuing tensions between Russia and Ukraine led to a successful referendum separating the Southern Crimean Peninsula, home to the largest natural gas plant and distribution center, from the Ukraine, annexing the region to Russia. The U.S. and EU decried the referendum as an illegal land grab and the U.S. imposed Russian sanctions. On a good note for environmentalists, the U.S. sanctions on Russia prevented Exxon Mobile from acting on its partnership with the Russian state-owned oil company Rosneft, to drill in areas of the Russian arctic.

Two years later, at the April 14, 2016 New York Democratic Party Primary debate, Secretary Clinton's answer to a question regarding her stance on fracking would encapsulate the Russia/U.S. natural gas debacle: "... so for both economic and environmental and strategic reasons, it was American policy to try to help countries get out from under the constant use of coal, building coal plants all the time, also to get

out from under, especially if they were in Europe, the pressure from Russia, which has been incredibly intense. So we did say natural gas is a bridge. We want to cross that bridge as quickly as possible, because in order to deal with climate change, we have got to move as rapidly as we can."

About six weeks later, on June 3, 2017, Russian operatives contacted Trump, Jr. and met with him to discuss Clinton's campaign, unofficially inserting itself into the U.S. presidential election. As Congresswoman Maxine Waters points out, Russia was partially banking on a Trump presidency to reduce or eliminate sanctions imposed during the Obama administration in order to open up profits for drilling in the Arctic.

Regardless of whether one attributes Russian influence to the eventual outcome of the U.S. election, it is clear that Russia's meddling led to the inevitability of Congress passing, and Trump, clearly backed into a corner, signing on to tighter Russian sanctions. The sanctions directly impact Russian energy production, most notably the

pipeline project between Russia and Germany, Nordstream II, designed to carry Russian natural gas under the Baltic Sea, bypassing several countries, including the Ukraine and Poland.

Russia's response to the new U.S. sanctions was to call for a reduction in U.S. embassy staff from 1,100 to 450 personnel. Various European countries have also reacted strongly, as the sanctions extend to any company that aids in the development or maintenance of Russian pipelines. Martin Schafer, spokesperson for the German Foreign Ministry, stated that, "Sanctions against Russia should not become a tool for industrial policy in United States interests.

In the meantime, President Trump appeared on Pat Robertson's talk show stating that the United States will increase its export of natural gas from fracking to Europe in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), which can be transported abroad without the use of a pipeline. The U.K and Poland received their first big shipments of U.S. LNG in July 2017.

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,

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Printing:

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