

# CALIFORNIA DNC PRESS DEMOCRAT

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## DNC TO ELECT NEW CHAIR

By Mary Ellen Early, DNC Member

One of the most important things we do as DNC members is to elect our chair when Republicans occupy the White House. When there is a Democrat in power, the President appoints the DNC Chair.

My first experience with this election occurred in 1989, during the first Bush administration. While several candidates vied for this position, we elected Ron Brown, who implemented the Coordinated Campaign, and Democrats prevailed in the 1992 presidential election.

My next experience followed the 2000 election, when George W. Bush took the Oval Office, and we elected Terry McAuliffe, a masterful fundraiser.

When "W" was reelected, we chose Howard Dean, who implemented the 50 State Strategy, and we won again in 2008.

Once again we have a chance to select our Chair. At this writing, both Howard Dean and Rep. Keith Ellison have expressed an interest in this job. Others may jump in.

One of the main issues we have wrestled with is the following: Do we want a leader with another full time job, or do we need a full-time Party Chair in Washington?

Let us know what you think. The Winter Meeting (originally scheduled for January 21) has been postponed, and we will be seeking your input in the near future.



California DNC Members with Interim Chair Donna Brazile in Philadelphia

## LATINO AND ASIAN VOTERS SUPPORTED CLINTON

By Alex Gallardo Rooker and Keith Umemoto, DNC RBC Members

Latino and Asian-Americans gave Clinton approximately a 9.5 million net popular vote advantage, 7.5 million and 2 million respectively, based upon preliminary findings extrapolated from Latino Decisions and Asian American Decisions data, both community based polling organizations that have conducted their community's polling for the past several Presidential elections

Latino Decisions and Asian American Decisions polls show a substantial difference in their 2016 poll results compared to the national media's poll. The national media exit poll on Latinos and Asian-Americans lack the methodology to accurately reflect the sentiments of these two constituencies. Having fewer bilingual survey takers and a smaller sample size skew the national media polls. Without enough bilingual survey takers or none for each of the Asian- American subgroups, the national media polls cannot get quality responses from limited

English speaking Latino and Asian-American voters, thus excluding them from their poll. Asian American Decisions poll employed survey takers who spoke six different Asian languages.

Both Latinos Decisions and Asian American Decisions polls had more than twice the sample size than the national media exit polls. There were 5,600 Latino voters surveyed by Latino Decisions compared to approximately 2,600 by the national media poll. Similarly, Asian American Decisions had a sample size of 2,400, compared to approximately 960. In addition, both targeted their respective communities in their survey, using culturally sensitive survey takers.

Latino Decisions found that 79 percent of Latinos voted for Clinton compared to 65 percent by the national media poll. Similarly Asian American Decisions found that 75 percent of Asian-Americans voted for Clinton

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



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

## POPULAR VOTE vs. ELECTORAL COLLEGE

BY MELAHAT RAFIEI, DNC MEMBER



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I was a refugee, who became an immigrant, who became a citizen. They say converts are the most devout; maybe that's one reason many immigrants are the most eager to show their patriotism by trying to find ways to make our country better.

To me, Democracy has always meant one citizen equals one vote. When I learned about the Electoral College in high school, the system I was learning about didn't seem to fit with what I always believed or imagined Democracy to be, but I assumed that if our founding fathers could come up with the Constitution, they knew a LOT that I didn't. Then again, they didn't have to live through the George W. Bush administration! Hindsight is

20/20, and we can only assume that a President Gore might have gone into Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks, I think it is doubtful that he would have gone into Iraq. But we will never know.

I can understand that there was a time when Electoral College made sense. Communications were so different then -- a person of that time would probably have no idea what George Washington looked like or what his voice sounded like. They got their news in newspapers and conversations, sometimes weeks after it happened. But their Electors were people from their state, people they knew and trusted -- people who were "like them." I understand that the idea was part of making sure the big states didn't

take over the process.

Times have changed. Now we need to evaluate how the "little" states are holding voters in the "big" states hostage. For the fourth time, because of the Electoral College system, we will inaugurate a President who didn't get the most votes. The system is flawed and badly outdated as far as I can see.

I want to commit to figuring out the best way of fixing it, if possible, or phasing it out. I don't know where to start and I can't do it alone. But I do know I'm part of a group of very smart people known as the DNC! As members of the DNC, what can we do? Should challenging this system be a goal of the DNC? Or should we first consider what, if anything, should replace it. It's time to start a real national dialog about this, and it can start with us.

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## THE PASSING OF TOM HAYDEN

BY BOB MULHOLLAND, DNC MEMBER



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I went to Vietnam (101st Airborne, 1967-68), as the son of a father who served in Patton's Army in the Battle of the Bulge. I was supportive of the war, but after being wounded and realizing all the lies told and the folly of the war, I left Viet Nam very disillusioned.

I saw Jerry Brown in the early 1970s as a politician who understood the New World -- one where colonialism was over and sending the U.S. military everywhere would not work (the DC power structure still has not accepted that). He knew that we needed to improve the economic conditions for everyone.

I met Tom Hayden in the summer of 1975 and like so many others saw him as an American with so much courage to risk his life against an establishment that wanted the War in Vietnam to continue for decades (like today's wars). Tom went to the South to report on civil rights and was beaten and jailed. He broke the story at the University of Michigan, where he was the editor of the campus newspaper, that some deans were calling parents of white female students who were seen dating minority men.

I ran Tom's first two campaigns for Assembly and worked for him for 15 years. In 1977 he received

18,000 pages from the FBI. One page really caught my eye. FBI agents went to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover with a request to notify Tom that some extremists were planning to kill Tom. Hoover ordered that Tom not be told.

Martin Luther King Jr., Muhammad Ali, and many others like Tom opposed the war in Vietnam and demanded civil rights for all. All of them were targets of some government officials. That is the price many paid.

I lost a good friend when Tom passed away. There will be a memorial for Tom in Los Angeles on Sunday, February 19, 2017. If you would like details, e-mail me at [chicobob@msn.com](mailto:chicobob@msn.com).

## DEMOCRATS COMBAT VOTER SUPPRESSION

BY LAURENCE ZAKSON, DNC MEMBER

It may be weeks, if not months, before we know what role the GOP's ongoing efforts to make voting harder played in Democrats' challenges in this month's elections. However, what we do know is that Republicans worked hard to make it difficult for voters, especially voters of color and those with disabilities, to cast a ballot. They did this through passage of voter identification laws, closing early polling places and curtailing early voting opportunities. Trump and his allies also called for efforts to police polling sites, especially in big cities where people of color and Democrats tend to live.

On the eve of the election, Democrats went to court to try to combat some of these voter suppression efforts—with mixed results. The Ohio, Pennsylvania, Nevada and Arizona Democratic Par-

ties each went to court seeking an injunction against phony exit polling that could chill voters exercising their right to vote. The DNC also sought to enforce its consent decree against the RNC for voter intimidation.

In Ohio, the Ohio Democratic Party was initially successful in getting a temporary restraining order against the Trump campaign, longtime Trump adviser Roger Stone and a group called "Stop the Steal," that was formed by Stone. The TRO was reversed on appeal. Similar efforts in Pennsylvania and Arizona were unsuccessful. In Nevada, after the lawsuit was filed, Stone sent out a notice to all of his cronies directing them to cease and desist. Based on that, the Court felt no order was necessary. In the DNC ef-

fort to enforce its consent decree, there was no contempt order, but the RNC did clarify what it was and was not doing. Overall, the litigation brought to the forefront the efforts of Trump and his allies to try to intimidate voters. And by shining the light of day on those efforts, the litigation likely deterred them, at least to a degree.

Now that we know that a TrumpRepublican majority on the Supreme Court is unlikely to facilitate vigorous enforcement of voting rights, resort to the courts in future elections will be even harder. So, we must redouble our efforts to shame the GOP whenever it tries to curtail voting rights through legislation, administrative steps or intimidation efforts by GOP campaigns and their allies. I fully expect that the DNC and state parties will continue to take an active role in these efforts.



*Laurence Zakson is a labor attorney and a legal consultant to a number of Democratic Party organizations.*

## FORGET THE POLLS: ITS ALL ABOUT GOTV AND FIXING RULES

BY OTTO LEE, DNC MEMBER

So many national polls got it wrong, and some wonder if history repeated itself (as with Tom Bradley), where the polls showed that he had the lead before the 1982 election, but it turned out that some respondents were not truthful, as they refused to disclose that they wouldn't support a black candidate for governor, or this year, that they would support a severely flawed candidate like Trump, to avoid being called a racist.

As so many of us who care and study the polls, we should spend less time "believing" the polls, and more time actually moving the polls. In this case it means getting out our supporters to vote.

Trump is a firebrand and was able to get *his* voters to the polls, and many hoped that he would also be getting *our* voters to the polls as well. Based on increased Democratic registration for the past few months, the number of new registrations in California, the numbers in California clearly showed such enthusiasm. Even early voting in various states showed that Latino voter turnout was significantly higher than previous elections. For example, Nevada, which polled a slim advantage for Democrats, was called early on because early voting basically gave more opportunities for all of our voters to vote. Nonetheless, on Election Day, the actual numbers of our supporters

in many crucial swing states had actually decreased, much less than 2008 and even 2012.

Many of the states do not allow early voting, which suppressed voter participation. These include Pennsylvania, Michigan and Virginia, which would have affected the election outcome, with the last minute FBI back-and-forth investigation announcements.

This gets back to the importance of GOTV and how we must fight against efforts for voter suppression. Voter ID laws, lack of early voting, shorter voting hours, are all barriers that must be taken down to ensure every voter that has the opportunity to vote. With the Supreme Court recently overturning a crucial part of our Voting Rights Act, these



*Otto Lee is the former mayor of Sunnyvale, and a patent attorney.*

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## LATINO AND ASIAN VOTERS TURN OUT FOR CLINTON

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compared to 65% in the national media poll. Trump garnered 18% of the Latino vote and 19% of the Asian vote in Latino and Asian Decisions polls, compared to 29% from both constituencies in the national media poll.

Latino Decisions and Asian American Decisions found that Latinos and Asian Americans increased their proportion of the total popular vote by one percent each, compared to the 2012 election. A total of approximately 13.2 million Latino voted compared to 12 million in

2012, 11% of the electorate. About 4.6 million Asian-Americans voted, up from 3.6 million, representing nearly four percent of the vote in 2016.

Latinos and Asian Americans also increased their support in 2016 of the Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, compared to their respective support for President Barack Obama in 2012. Latinos increased their support from 75% to 79%, or over one million more votes, while Asian-Americans increased their

support from 72% to 75%, or slightly less than a million more votes for Secretary Clinton.

Since both Latinos and Asian-Americans are the fastest growing racial groups, and the continued support for Democrats, it is both important for the Democratic Party to nurture its relationship to both communities, like others. From the discrepancies of the national media poll compared to Latino Decisions and Asian American Decisions polls, it is critical to also make sure the Democratic Party uses reliable information for its campaigns.

## DEVASTATING LOSS AND DNC REFORM

BY SUSIE SHANNON, DNC MEMBER

Like many of you, I am devastated over the outcome of the election. Secretary Clinton won the popular vote, but Donald Trump will take the helm in January and his plan for the first 100 days plays out like a draconian nightmare. I am not exaggerating when I say that this is a potential death sentence for single homeless individuals who will lose their Medi-Cal if the ACA is repealed. This includes people currently getting treatment for AIDS, diabetes and cancer. It will also potentially roll back workers' rights, affordable housing and reproductive choice once Trump's Supreme Court nominee is affirmed. While many people will be horrified at the policies coming out of a Trump presidency with a Congress ruled by Republicans, their day-to-day lives may not change much if they make a good, stable income and are white. But this is a checkmate on the poor, the disenfranchised and many in minority communities, as well as immigrants. We can no longer be defined as a Country that roots for the under-

dog when a billionaire celebrity with no experience and no compassion can become president.

We lost the Midwest partly because our candidate couldn't take a strong position against the TPP. We gave up a future historic presidency because the Democratic Party didn't want to embarrass our current President on a trade deal that most in our Party opposed. The issues should drive the Party, not the other way around, and, like many of you, I will be recommending reforms at the DNC level to address this problem. We are through the looking glass and who knows what is going to be rolled off the Republican policy production line in the next two years.

Here are my recommendations for fighting back:

- 1) Work to get Congress back in two years.
- 2) Reform the DNC to make it both transparent and responsive to the grass roots.
- 3) Denounce every draconian policy coming out of the Republican-led Congress and Administration.

- 4) Get good people who want real positive change and to empower those who are disenfranchised involved in politics.
- 5) Eliminate the "superdelegate" system. We don't need an extra layer of people deciding who gets the Democratic Party nomination. It's embarrassing, it's wrong and it's time to turn our nomination process back to the people and the communities where it belongs. What we have now is a system that creates a false barometer of who has the ability to win an election. And too many people get hurt when we lose. Let's end this once and for all.

### FORGET THE POLLS

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measures will be fought state by state, and we should channel our anger, disappointment and frustration to these efforts to assure that the draconian voting rules do not alter our election outcome again.

### FROM THE EDITORS:

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Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Early  
Otto Lee  
Garry S. Shay

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