The DNC Executive Committee met on June 9, 2018, in Providence, Rhode Island. All representatives of the Western States Caucus were present, including Californians Jess Durfee, Garry Shay and Christine Pelosi.

After welcoming remarks by Rhode Island Vice Chair Grace Diaz, Karen Carter Peterson (DNC Vice-Chair of Voter Protection and Civic Engagement) and Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza, DNC Chair Tom Perez delivered his remarks. The Chair noted a need to rebuild trust in the Party, especially among new voters who register independent but lean Democratic. “We are winning across the country,” he asserted, “especially when we lead with our values.”

The report most eagerly awaited was that of the DNC Rules & Bylaws Committee (RBC), delivered by Co-chairs James Roosevelt, Jr. and Lorraine Miller. The Committee has been working long hours to revise DNC governing documents, including the 2020 Delegate Selection Rules, and the Call to the 2020 Convention. After reviewing the Unity Reform Commission’s recommendations line-by-line, RBC will present the following to the entire DNC at the August 23-25 meeting in Chicago:

1. New rules to ensure caucuses and primaries are more participatory, inclusive and transparent. Same day registration was supported as was absentee balloting in caucuses.
2. Rules to enhance the participation of non-binary members.

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We have witnessed some of the largest rallies in history: Me Too, March for Our Lives, Families Belong Together.

Will this translate into turnout? So far, yes. But we can’t be idle, as it can change quickly. The 2018 primary turnout in California was the largest this century, drawing 37.1%, compared to 34.6% in 2002 - the next highest, with progressively declining turnout until now. This increase is consistent nationally and the trend must continue to take back our country.

The DNC reflects this change through staffing and core constituency outreach. The staff is as diverse as it has ever been. Women and minority staff are represented in all areas of the DNC operations, from senior management to communications and organizing.

Furthermore, the DNC has similarly allocated resources. There is a renaissance in the 50 + 7 State/territory Strategy initially implemented during the Dean era: states are receiving DNC funds, working with the DNC on programs, including Alabama, where Democrat Doug Jones won the U.S. Senate race. A state grant program has also been implemented to fund strategic initiatives. The Party is not waiting until Election Day, but is organizing now.

Conversely, the DNC fundraising apparatus has raised a fraction of what our opponents have raised. Sheldon Adelson already committed $30 million of his $670 million annual tax cut haul for House Republicans. In past, this helped the RNC to be exponentially more advanced in social media. They also control more of the national message with their president.

Thus, the Democratic Party has a huge challenge in order to continue the momentum of the Me Too, March for Our Lives, Families Belong Together energy against the deep pocket contributions of Republican billionaires.

The Russians haven’t been stopped. Republican Secretaries of State

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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
WOMEN OF COLOR LEADING US TO VICTORY IN 2018

By DNC Member Rep. Barbara Lee

This year, I’m celebrating twenty years in Congress. It is the honor of a lifetime to represent the “wokiest” district in the country, in California’s East Bay. But this path to Congress was never guaranteed for me.

I grew up in segregated El Paso, Texas, in the days of Jim Crow. Back then, “separate but equal” was codified into law. I couldn’t even go to certain restaurants with my family - let alone dream of running for office.

Because of the trailblazers who came before me, our nation changed. One such trailblazer was Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

When I met Congresswoman Chisholm, I was a young, single mom on public assistance and food stamps. I was active in the community - serving as President of the Black Student Union, volunteering with the Party, and raising two boys. Despite my passion for social justice, I wasn’t registered to vote – I believed the system was rigged and voting was pointless.

Change occurs by getting on the inside and shaking things up. Congresswoman Chisholm stopped me in my tracks when she said “Little girl, you can’t change the system if you don’t get involved. Register to vote.” The more I thought about Congresswoman Chisholm’s words, the more I realized that the laws and rules of the game were not designed for women and people of color. And I must be a part of a movement for systemic and structural change.

Just look at the Hyde Amendment, which places severe restrictions on abortion coverage. This amendment prevents many women – especially women of color - from exercising their reproductive rights.

That’s why I have introduced legislation to repeal the Hyde Amendment for good. My bill - the EACH Woman Act - would ensure that all women can access their reproductive health options, including abortion care. But I need more women to join me in Congress to accomplish our goals. This year, women are running for office in unprecedented numbers, and we have an impressive slate of female candidates.

In November, we have the opportunity to elect Stacey Abrams as Governor of Georgia - Stacey would be the first African American woman elected to that position in our country’s history.

In New Mexico, we can send Xochitl Torres Small and Deb Haaland to the House. Deb would be the first Native American woman ever elected to Congress.

And Gina Ortiz Jones is running to become the first lesbian and first Filipina-American to represent Texas in Congress. I see the future of the Democratic Party in women like these. Congress is in dire need of the perspectives these candidates bring to the table.

Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was fond of saying, “If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.” It’s time that women across this country have brought their folding chairs; we’re sitting at the table and we’re here to stay.

THIS NOVEMBER IT’S ALL ABOUT TURNOUT

By DNC Member Bob Mulholland

On 6/28/18, President Obama gave a group of LA donors some advice for the everyday citizen and all of us active Democrats: “Get involved. And do not wait for the perfect message, and don’t wait to feel a tingle in your spine because you’re expecting politicians to be so inspiring and poetic and moving. Politics, like life, is imperfect. But there is better and there is worse.”

Unfortunately, most voters will not heed Obama’s advice because it didn’t tickle their spine. Americans have too much on their minds to pay attention to community/political issues whether nationally or locally. About 65% of Americans do not have a Passport. A few years ago, a national poll reported that 46% of Americans know for a fact that earth was created by God just 6,000 to 10,000 years ago and that humans and dinosaurs were on earth at the same time. Religion is important (even with contradictions like Trump’s moral failures) with many Republicans. Presidents Carter and Clinton understood the power of quoting the Bible on occasion.

In 2014, a statewide poll three weeks before the General election, 40% of likely voters did not know that Governor Brown was running for re-election. An LA Times poll (6/19/18) reported that only 14% of registered Latinos, but 41% of registered whites voted on 6/5/18. In June 2014, LA County had a turnout of just 17%, its lowest ever. This time LA County was 28%, with 51.2% of registered voters. Ocasio-Cortez got some media attention in winning the 14th CD in New York. There was so much “excitement,” but the turnout was just 17%.

Good long term GOTV efforts typically increase the turnout by just 1-4%. In small local elections it can be higher. My message: Gavin Newsom needs to barnstorm the state again and again the last several weeks of the campaign. This will help increase the turnout of Democrats. Locally, we need to better target (horizontally and vertically) those that with encouragement will more likely vote. Voters need to hear a “Cause.”
Progressive Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s win in New York’s Congressional primary election defied all polling and pundit predictions. Why? Because for decades the establishment has been guided by the polling of likely voters - those who vote consistently in a majority of elections in their district. It was the unlikely voter, people who don’t usually turn out for an off-year primary election, who put Ocasio-Cortez over the top.

But these unlikely, inconsistent voters are at risk of being purged from the voter rolls if Republicans get their way. Case in point: Ohio’s Supreme Court 5-4 decision which upheld the state’s voter purging policy of sending letters out to unlikely voters and then purging them from the list if they don’t hear back. Complaints were filed in the last election by voters who showed up to the polls only to find they were not on the roster, one of whom was a Navy Veteran. The ACLU filed suit, citing violations of the National Voter Registration Act. The Supreme Court disagreed.

This is the latest in Republican tactics to purge voters, disproportionately represented in low income areas, from the voter rolls.

So, it begs the question of what we, as Democrats, should do to protect our vote and fight back against this new iteration of voter disenfranchisement.

We already know that the DNC must consider embarking on re-registration programs, both in states where voter purging has been standard practice, and even in those states where a large percentage of absentee ballots are cast. It’s also difficult to walk some voters through the process of checking their registration with their local registrar of voters.

Re-registering can give us the peace of mind that voters will be on the list, and it also helps to update what may be old signatures on file that could lead to an absentee ballot being tossed out on Election Day.

With Justice Kennedy’s sudden retirement, the United States Supreme Court battle for women’s rights will take center stage. Our right to choose the size and timing of our families, our ability to access contraception and abortion services and our very autonomy are on the line.** Democrats must fight with every constitutional tool at our disposal.**

Already we know that the Trump Supreme Court, with Neil Gorsuch in Merrick Garland’s stolen seat, has upheld discrimination against Muslims, immigrants, LGBTQ Americans, labor unions, workers suing for sexual harassment and women seeking care at fake pregnancy centers.

The June Supreme Court decisions in *Roe v. Wade* overturned 41 years of labor law precedent in *Janus*. What can we do? First, we must explain to Americans that our future is at stake: that women will no longer have control over their bodies under a Trump Court.

Democrats - and indeed 7 in 10 of all Americans - support *Roe v. Wade* as the law of the land, because we believe that a woman, not the government, should have the power to make important decisions based on her own unique circumstances, and to consider all the options available to her, however little money she makes or however she is insured.

And let’s be plain: **Donald Trump’s Court takes a racist and classist approach to women’s health.** White women of means will be able to afford to travel to secure lawful abortions, poor women will not. Given the racial nature of the women’s wage gap, millions of women of color will be priced out of health decisions. We know this because statistics already reveal that **when politicians deny health coverage, the harm falls hardest on low-income women, women of color and young women.**

We must insist that all Democrats and all self-declared “pro-choice” Americans fight Donald Trump’s anti-choice takeover of the Supreme Court. Call, march, sit-in, speak out, and support Democratic Senators who need the call. Captivation is not an option.

We must fight this fight for ourselves and our daughters. We cannot afford to return to the bad old days when women died from illegal abortions and men controlled our autonomy. The Handmaiden’s Tale is for now a work of fiction: we Democrats simply cannot allow it to become reality. We have come too far to advance equality and autonomy for women - and we are not going back!
DNC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
Continued from Page 1

3. Recommendations for qualifications for candidates, delegates, and standing committee members.


[My note: A consensus is developing on not allowing Automatic Delegates to vote on the first ballot, but allowing participation in all other matters.] There was overwhelming support for NOT creating different classes of membership within the Automatic Delegates. (e.g., Members of Congress vs. DNC Members).

Pursuant to the Convention Resolution, the Unity Reform Commission will have the opportunity to put their proposals forward, if they are not satisfied with the RBC proposal.

Under New/Old Business: Christine Pelosi moved and Garry Shay seconded, a resolution to reject monetary contributions from the fossil fuel industry. This resolution was moved, seconded and passed.

After Q&A, and an Executive Committee “Town Hall,” the meeting adjourned.

NOTE: On June 15, DNC Secretary Jason Rae announced the dates for the 2020 Democratic National Convention: July 13-16. The convention city has not been selected, but site visits are being scheduled. Further details on the location will be provided at a later date.

SHOULD ICE BE ABOLISHED?
BY DNC MEMBER MARY ELLEN EARLY

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

The year was 1964. All new immigrants to the U.S. were required to have an individual interview with the Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS), the predecessor to Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), before entering the country, and children were separated from their parents and taken into a room and asked a series of very personal questions.

Seven-year-old Chris (now my brother-in-law) came out of his interview scratching his head. “Mutt, what is a homosexual?” he asked in utter confusion. In those days, homosexuals were considered national security risks.

Just when you thought it couldn’t get any worse, along comes the Trump Administration, separating children from their parents at the border, with no organized plan to reunite them. This cruelty and bureaucratic incompetence has led many Americans to ask the question: “Should we abolish ICE? Is it not a terrorist organization? Shouldn’t we just get rid of ICE, and come up with a better way to process people coming to the U.S., especially those fleeing persecution in their home countries?”

Can the current Congress possibly compromise on immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship, relief for Dreamers, but no plans for the U.S. to pay for Trump’s border wall?

The way Trump has treated our Canadian allies lately, perhaps they might want to build a wall on our border with Canada, and ask us to pay for it.

In 1994, with the help of Republican Governor Pete Wilson and his allies, California passed Proposition 187, which trampled on the rights of undocumented immigrants, until a federal district court overturned it in 1999. We all know what has happened since then: many of those targeted by Prop 187 have found a path to citizenship, and are now loyal Democratic voters.

Families harmed by Trump’s immigration policies today will eventually find their path to citizenship. As California goes, so goes the nation. Watch out xenophobes, your day is coming!

FROM THE EDITORS:
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Sincerely,
Mary Ellen Early
Otto Lee
Garry S. Shay

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