

CALIFORNIA DNC PRESS DEMOCRAT

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DNC CHAIR NAMES TRANSITION ADVISORY TEAM

BY MICHAEL KAPP, DNC MEMBER

At the end of February, the DNC met in Atlanta for our Winter Meeting. Our main responsibility was electing new DNC officers.

For me, this meeting was a culmination of months of organizing and campaigning nationally for my candidate for DNC Chair (and the clear favorite of California Democrats): Keith Ellison, the congressman from Minnesota.

While the DNC elections did not turn out the way many California Democrats wanted (for the record, 18 out of 20 of California's elected DNC members voted for Ellison), I was pleased that the first act of new DNC Chair Tom Perez was to ask the membership to suspend the rules and appoint Keith Ellison as Deputy Chair.

In March, Chair Perez announced a 36 member Transition Advisory Committee that drew from Democratic leaders throughout the country. I was humbled to be appointed, along with current and former elected officials, labor leaders, and Democratic Party activists. This committee is charged with providing suggestions, feedback and advice on the following three priority areas:

- 1) Building a Party that reaches into and represents every corner of America;
- 2) Expanding and strengthening partnerships, identifying outreach opportunities and bolstering grass-

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California DNC Members in Atlanta

DNC DEPUTY CHAIR PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE

BY ALEX GALLARDO ROOKER AND KEITH UMEMOTO, DNC RBC MEMBERS

New DNC National Chairperson Tom Perez's first act was to get unanimous consent to have Rep. Keith Ellison named the DNC's Deputy Chair.

What does it mean for Rep. Ellison to be the DNC Deputy Chair?

The Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States do not include any language for this position. Furthermore, in examining other codified DNC officer positions except for the Chair, the Charter and Bylaws provide minimal to no specificity of officer roles and responsibilities, other than being members of the Executive Committee.

The Chair has specific duties outlined in Article Six of the Charter and Section 12 of the Bylaws. This includes calling and presiding over DNC meetings, serving as the DNC's Chief Executive Officer and carrying out the policies and programs of the National Convention and DNC. The Bylaws

specify that the Treasurer and National Finance Chair are members of the DNC Budget and Finance Committee, but that is essentially it.

Does this mean that Deputy Chair Ellison holds a simply ceremonial position? No, there is precedence for having a Deputy Chair of the DNC, or in another case, a Chair of the Voting Rights Institute.

These responsibilities and past examples are far from ceremonial, as they have strengthened the Democratic Party and the DNC.

In 2001, Terry McAuliffe was elected National Chair of the DNC. He recruited Mayor Maynard Jackson, who had dropped out of the Chair's race, to focus on national development and operate the Voting Rights Institute.

Following the 2000 Presidential election, Mayor Jackson's role was significant. Vice President Al Gore had conceded and W. Bush became the

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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 REP. BARBARA LEE, DNC MEMBER



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

Like you, since election night, I have been resisting this un-American Trump agenda.

On January 6th, I took to the House Floor to object to the certification of the Electoral College based on Russian interference in our elections, violations of the Voting Rights Act and massive voter suppression.

On January 20th, I boycotted Trump's inauguration and spent the day uplifting the resistance with Michael Moore, Ashely Judd and so many of our passionate allies.

On January 21st, I marched alongside the hundreds of thousands of women and allies gathered on the National Mall, and in solidarity with the millions more who unleashed the power of the resistance across the country and the globe.

In the months since, I have taken to the House floor and to the streets to resist the cruel, dangerous

and often un-constitutional policies of the Trump administration. We have fought tooth and nail against Trump's unqualified billionaire appointees, and his vicious attacks on the independent press, environment, immigrants, Muslims, women, and civil and human rights.

As we all know, one of the chief architects of the most insidious policies coming from the White House is Steve Bannon. In February, I introduced a resolution in Congress and at the DNC winter meeting calling for Steve Bannon's removal from the National Security Council. While I'm pleased the DNC adopted the resolution, and I am relieved that he was removed from the NSC, his continued presence in Trump's administration is a direct threat to our rights and our values.

As long as Steve Bannon is part of this administration, he will continue to inflict chaos on our country

with his extreme right-wing agenda and self-professed goal: "the destruction of the administrative state." Steve Bannon must go and we are building the bold and fierce grassroots resistance to make it happen.

We must stay woke in these upcoming battles and keep up the pressure. Grassroots efforts in places like Alameda and Berkeley, in my district, where city councils passed unanimous resolutions supporting an investigation into the possible impeachment of President Donald Trump, are an important tool for organizing and should be applauded and replicated.

Together we will continue to build out and execute our resistance roadmap: one that takes our fight to red districts and states across the country, and propels us to victory in 2018 and beyond.

I'm proud to be your partner in these battles. Our work together is creating a stronger, more progressive Democratic Party.

Stay Woke-
Barbara

DEMS NEED TO TALK AT STREET LEVEL, NOT COLLEGE LEVEL

BY BOB MULHOLLAND, DNC MEMBER



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

A staffer said this in November 1972, "I don't know how George McGovern lost 49 states. Everyone I know voted for McGovern." Even today when I give talks and state that no Democratic presidential candidate has won the white vote since LBJ in 1964, some activists will say "that can't be true because all my white friends voted Democratic." In 2010, Governor Jerry Brown beat Meg Whitman by 13 points, but he lost the white vote by 3 points.

Nationally, whites are 70% of the electorate; however, in 1992, whites were 87%. In California, whites in 1992 (Clinton,

Boxer & Feinstein won) were 79% of the electorate and last November for the first time were below 50% (48%). Secretary Clinton won by 4,269,978 votes or by 30.1 points.

In 1960, 43 year old Democratic candidate, John Kennedy, running against the incumbent 47 year old Vice President Richard Nixon, accused Nixon of a missile gap and not having a secret plan to invade Cuba. Both charges were absolutely "Fake News." Kennedy created his own campaign narrative. In 1992, Bill Clinton had his own narrative - "I'm a new kind of Democrat." It was a good contrast to the Democratic Party of the previous 30

years. In 2016, Trump had a "cause," which resonated especially with white voters without a college education. Trump's cause was stopping Mexican-Americans, Muslims and immigrants from moving into your neighborhood. The KKK loved it.

Modern Democrats, full of Ivy League graduates, think campaigns are like a classroom discussion, 50 students with above average IQ listening to your every word. Campaigns are cage fights. Many highly educated liberals want to believe that candidates can explain things. Romney summarized it best in 2012. "If you're explaining something, you're losing." Trump never explained things, just attacked.

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DEMOCRATS REFUSE TO ROLL OVER ON GORSUCH GOP SENATORS UPEND TRADITION AND CONFIRM HIM ANYWAY

BY LAURENCE ZAKSON, DNC MEMBER

Over 400 days after the death of Antonin Scalia and after having deprived President Obama of the opportunity to have his nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, even given the courtesy of a hearing, the GOP-dominated Senate confirmed Neil Gorsuch as the 113th Supreme Court Justice and, on April 10, 2017, now-Justice Gorsuch took the oath of office. To bring this about, the Republicans in charge of the Senate had to overturn the filibuster (60-vote threshold) rule that had governed such nominations.

Led by Senator Chuck Schumer, the Senate Democratic Caucus did not cooperate in this travesty. Democrats first refused to end a filibuster of Judge Gorsuch and, then, refused to make a deal allowing Gorsuch to be confirmed without a cloture vote, a vote that traditionally has required at least 60 votes.

Democrats used a number of powerful arguments

(including some refined in the DNC war room) in an effort to derail the Gorsuch nomination, but GOP Senators refused to consider any of them. Among these arguments was a call for the Senate not to hold a vote on Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee while his administration is under the cloud of an active FBI investigation into ties to a hostile foreign power. More fundamentally, Democrats pointed out that Gorsuch has a record of searching for new ways to benefit the rich and powerful over everyday Americans trying to get a fair shake. For example, Gorsuch dissented in a case against a truck driver who was fired for leaving his freezing trailer by the roadside to save his own life—siding with the driver's employer against 6 other judges. This case illustrates how Gorsuch's judgment can lead to findings that, according to the Associated Press, "appear to defy com-

mon sense and fairness."

Gorsuch also advanced a novel interpretation of federal law that would dramatically reduce the education assistance granted to parents of children with disabilities—a decision the US Supreme Court rejected during the confirmation process. Further, Gorsuch has pioneered a novel standard for judicial review that would allow corporations to escape regulation and impose significant new constraints on the ability of the government to protect workers, consumers, and our environment.

Another Democratic critique of Gorsuch pointed out that given President Trump's attacks on the judiciary and potentially unconstitutional actions, it was critical for Gorsuch to show he would be independent. However, through obfuscation, Gorsuch effectively refused to answer questions about his record, especially his record in the George W. Bush

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

DNC TRANSITION ADVISORY REPORT

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roots organizing;

3. Communicating effectively across all channels and spectra.

As the only elected California DNC member, one of the few Young Democrats and the only new DNC member on the Transition Advisory Committee, I know I carry an enormous responsibility to bring your voices with me. I shared this news online, asking for your input on what we could do better.

In early April, the committee met in-person at the DNC headquarters in Washington D.C. I was pleased to be selected to the working

group in charge of reaching out and mobilizing core Democratic constituencies.

We also spoke directly with Tom Perez about our initial thoughts, including new staff hires, changes to the DNC structure, reimplementing the 50 State Strategy, and supporting state parties. Throughout the entire conversation, there was an intense focus on the need to revamp our messaging and how we communicate with potential small-dollar donors and voters. I specifically raised ideas about ensuring a 50 State Strategy by bringing DNC staff back to the

states, rethinking how we message our core Democratic values, and improving the DNC's transparency.

As has been my mission since my election to the DNC last year, I continue to do my best to keep all California Democrats informed of how the DNC is working for all of us. More than ever, I am determined to bring a unified party to defeat Trumpism and the Republicans in 2018, 2020, and beyond. To stay informed, please visit

www.michaelkapp.com and sign up for regular email blasts! Please keep in touch and stay involved, and thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve you at the national level.



Michael Kapp is an appointed member of the DNC Transition Advisory Committee

DEMOCRATS REFUSE TO SUPPORT GORSUCH

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Justice Department, which demonstrated that he could NOT be counted on to reject executive overreach.

With Gorsuch on the Court, the right wing of the US Supreme Court is clearly back in control and with Justices Kennedy and Ginsburg at the age when many justices retire,

the outlook for a more fair and just Supreme Court is bleak. As former Senator Boxer used to say, "Elections have consequences" and they sometimes are not pretty ones, either. Democrats need to keep our eye on the ball in 2018 or the long term consequences could be even worse.

DNC PRESS DEMOCRAT NOW ON CDP WEB SITE

You can soon find the newsletter in living color at:

[www.cadem.org/our-party/dnc members](http://www.cadem.org/our-party/dnc%20members)

DEMOCRATS: MAKE ROOM FOR RESISTANCE

BY CHRISTINE PELOSI, DNC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

From the MLK weekend "Our First Stand" rallies to the Women's March to the Muslim Ban protests to the climate justice rallies to the multiple fights to "Protect Our Care," Democrats have been on the streets, at the airports, in town hall meetings and storming the US Capitol and White House to resist the dangerous Trump agenda.

This is a powerful moment of awakening: millions of Americans resisting Trump and advocating together for the common good.

Despite so-called "unified Republican government" Democrats have been able to wrest repeal from the jaws of victory over and over again.

The Congressional Resistance, consigned to the legislative minority, flexed its muscles as House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer led a massive coalition of progressive inside-outside organizers to strip 160 poison pills from a must-pass spending bill. Think about it: Republicans have the Congress and the White House - but

DEMOCRATS stood firm with a deal to keep government open from May to September with NO wall, no deportation force, no cuts to Planned Parenthood, increases to NIH, famine and disaster aid, no cuts to EPA staff, increases in science spending at Energy, increases in National Parks spending, opioids treatment and coal miners' health benefits, language to prevent DOJ from restricting the dispensing of medical marijuana in states where it has been legalized, help for Puerto Rico and the defeat of 70 anti-environmental policy riders among the 160 partisan riders.

The coalition of millions of progressive activists from all communities got this done: persistent engagement on the ground, in the courts, on the airwaves, in social media, and in harmony with each other.

The seeds of resistance we planted this spring can blossom into victory gardens if we continue to work hard, work smart, and work together. We must save our immigrants from deportation, our patients from dying without lifesaving care, our children from voucherized education, our

planet from pollution, our seniors from privatized Social Security and Medicare and our workers from trickle down economics that benefit Trump and his ilk at the expense of the people.

Working together isn't easy. We have wounds from the past - beyond the 2016 primary to the "what ifs?" from our "united Democratic government" of 2009-2011 - and fresh recruits entering politics for the first time asking/urging/demanding that we perform intersectional, indivisible, inclusive resistance that not only stops Trump but builds a better future. We should not chase "unity" because we have some areas where we genuinely disagree -- but rather strive for harmony where we can find common ground not conformity.

As I see it, the Democratic National Committee and the California Democratic Party have a choice: we can be humble and engaged -- or we can watch the movement march on by. People are marching with or without us - so it's time we welcome new people, share the power, and make room for resistance.

Ask yourself: "am I inviting new people to lead in my club, at my committee, for my coalition?" If not, ask



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

yourself "who is not here who should be here and how can I reach out?" And don't be afraid to let people kick the tires on old ways of doing things - we could all use fresh perspective and an honest reckoning about past mistakes and successes. The CA Democratic Party and the DNC "Unity Commission" (think of it as a Community or Harmony Commission) will have public transitions into new leadership and practices. The choices we make to open our hearts and open our party will define us.

Our families and neighbors facing existential threats of deportation, illness, despair and discrimination are counting on us to grow into this moment personally, emotionally, and politically.

SIGNIFICANT ROLE FOR DNC DEPUTY CHAIR

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43rd President of the United States after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the "official" result of the Florida election, shorting Gore by a mere 537 votes, while Florida's Secretary of State Harris purged 82,389 voters from the voter files prior to the election, and Ralph Nader received 97,488 votes in Florida. Clearly, every vote was important.

Mayor Jackson proceeded to lay the foundation for efforts to protect the voting rights of ALL AMERICANS, including having an army of attorneys defending voters' rights throughout the country.

The Democratic Party filed numerous voting rights/voter suppression lawsuits, winning many that impacted the 201 race. Therefore, Jackson truly played an instrumental role for the DNC in establishing the Voting Rights Institute.

Another example of the Chair establishing an officer's position occurred in 2003, when Rep. Mike Honda became the Deputy Chair.

The motivation was different, as the few Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) on the DNC recognized the absence of an AAPI officer of the Party, though the AAPI population was the fastest growing (by percentage) racial population in the U.S. (in 2016 it became the fastest growing population numerically).

Members of the AAPI Caucus, which had been re-established in 1998, met with Chairman McAuliffe in 2002, when they highly recommended that he appoint an AAPI as an officer of the DNC, since there was none. As a result, McAuliffe appointed Rep. Mike Honda as Deputy Chair in 2003.

The results were phenomenal. Honda crisscrossed the country, lent his supports to grassroots Democratic Party clubs, particularly, but not exclusively AAPIs and progressives. He recruited and supported candidates to run for office, and raised money from small donors to support the Party and these candidates. He was responsible for raising millions of dollars for Democrats and for the Party.

Honda's effort included support for Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), long before they became members of the U.S. Senate.

So there is a clear precedence for Deputy Chair Ellison to play a prominent role in the DNC. Furthermore, Perez announced that Ellison will be

charged with grassroots mobilization and fundraising, outreach to progressive and labor communities, coordination with the national campaign committees and online voter engagement, including Democrats Live. He will also serve as liaison to the DNC's Western, Midwestern and Black Caucuses, as well as the Ethnic, Native American and Labor Councils.

And incidentally, when Honda was Deputy Chair, one of those whom he supported was a candidate in his first run for the House of Representatives, now a well-known Congressperson from Minnesota, Keith Ellison.

DEMOCRATS NEED TO TALK AT STREET LEVEL

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you're losing." Trump never explained things, just attacked .

Democrats in 2018 and especially, our presidential nominee in 2020 better have a narrative that resonates with 270 Electoral votes. Otherwise, Trump will get a 2nd term. In 2020, it will be Trump's swamp with scandals, indictments, and former staff talking to the press versus us.

DNC TO MEET IN OCTOBER IN LAS VEGAS

By Mary Ellen Early

The DNC will hold its Fall Meeting October 18-21 in Las Vegas. The Agenda will include elections for Regional Chairs and DNC Executive Committee members.

Aleita Huguenin, pictured at right, is running for reelection as Western Regional Chair. In addition to being a member of California's elected DNC delegation, she also coordinates 13 states, in her capacity as Western Caucus Chair. Aleita travels across the west (on her own dime) to assist other states with their organizational and political needs.

We will also be electing four Executive Committee members from the Western states (two men and two women).

Garry Shay, who has served on the Executive Committee since 2009, will be running for reelection at the October meeting.

Christine Pelosi was elected to the Executive Committee at the February meeting to fill a vacancy, and will be running for a full term at the Las Vegas meeting.

Both Garry and Christine (as well as Aleita, who is also on the DNC Executive Committee), travel to meetings all over the country in between full DNC meetings.



DNC Western States Chair Aleita Huguenin with President Obama

CDP CONVENTION DELEGATES: WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

BY MARY ELLEN EARLY, DNC MEMBER



DNC Member Mary Ellen Early can be contacted at mee1@ix.netcom.com

As the founding editor of the California DNC Press Democrat, I'd like to welcome all of the delegates, proxies, and volunteers to the 2017 California Democratic Party (CDP) State Convention, especially those of you who are here for the first time.

If this is your first convention, you may be a little unclear about what our role as delegates is here at the State Party. My first convention was in 1985, and at that time we were referred to as the State Central Committee. That's because our structure was governed by the state legislature. A few years later the courts decided that the Party had the right to govern itself. That included making pre-primary endorsements (something we were not allowed to do until that time). This led to a major revision of the CDP Rules, which included changes in who makes up

the State Party Convention delegates, rules for pre-primary endorsements and how members of the Democratic National Committee are selected. These rules have been tweaked continually since then, thanks to the hard-working members of the CDP Rules Committee.

In order to get myself elected at the AD level, I had to pick up a petition at my Assemblyman's district office and get it signed by 20 registered Democrats living in the district. My BFF (who recruited me to run) introduced me to someone who was putting together slates for Tom Hayden's organization, The Campaign for Economic Democracy. I was told that there were already five people on their slate in my AD, but they would recommend me as an alternate. After attending club meetings in my area (where I met people only too willing to sign my petition), I turned in my petition. I found out when I got to the AD Caucus that not everyone on the slate had collected the required signatures, and I had been moved up to delegate on the CED slate. After making a brief speech, the ballots were counted, and I was elected as one of the five delegates from my AD.

Since we had no regions in those days, we were seated by AD, and I was very impressed by the elected who sat with their ADs and made themselves accessible to the grass roots activists. At a time when the CDP held a Saturday night dinner for \$125 a plate (a lot of money now, but a real lot of

money in 1985), Tom Hayden held a \$10 dinner not far from the Convention Center. The fare was simple (usually pasta and salad), but you couldn't beat the camaraderie.

I met a lot of people, but most of the other delegates were strangers to me. Like many people, I was disappointed to learn that my duties only included attendance at an annual convention. I soon started attending e-board meetings, where I was appointed to the Legislative Committee, and joined the Women' Caucus (there were a lot fewer caucuses than today).

My advice for those of you attending your first convention: don't be afraid to approach a stranger (especially someone standing alone), put out your hand, look that delegate in the eye and introduced yourself. Sure, you might get the brush off (I know I did occasionally), but most of the time they will be glad to make a new friend. Get yourself a business card with a union bug, and exchange cards with your new friends. Later that night, write on the back who they are and where you met them. Don't be afraid to reach out to me or any other party leader. Most of us really do want to meet and get to know you.

Lastly, don't write someone off if they happen to be supporting a different candidate for Party office, or in a pre-primary endorsement race. We cannot forget who our real opponents are. Your opponent in this race may be your ally in the next one, and vice versa.

You've heard the saying,

"You can pick your friends, but you can't pick your relatives." I like to think of all of my fellow Democrats in the CDP as family. Now I love my family, but I don't agree with them on all issues.

That being said, welcome to the Democratic Party Family!

FROM THE EDITORS:

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Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Early
Otto Lee
Garry S. Shay

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