

Fall State Committee Meeting

General Session

Arizona Democratic Party

November 21, 2009

. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Don Bivens.

. National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Tucson City Councilman Rodney Glassman.

. Welcoming Remarks

Thank you to Mohave County Democrats for hosting fall meeting. Acknowledgment of elected officials in attendance.

. Elected Officials' Reports

Report from the Attorney General – Debra Boehlke and Tom Reade

Tom and Debra spoke on behalf of the AG. AG's office has been busy. AG office can not sue federally chartered bank, supreme court just tossed that out, now banks are fair game. Multiple outreach forums including in Bull Head City and Nogales. Senior anti-crime sessions in Tucson, Phoenix, and Prescott. AG still prosecuting. AG has been fighting for consumers for his entire term and continues to do so. Debra: We need leadership that works, and Terry is that leadership. He has filed for exploratory committee, is collecting \$5s. We will win races this time around thanks to the organization of our state and county parties.

Report from the State Legislature - Representative Pat Flemming

Special thanks to Mohave County Party. Pat is a freshman rep from district 25, covering 5 counties. Arizona democrats are engaged and ready to work. Is speaking to the committee on behalf on minority leader who was unable to make it. On his behalf, this has been a chaotic legislative session, we still do not have a budget, currently in 4th special session, face 2 billion dollar budget and 3.3 billion next year, house democrats are just as frustrated as we are with the governorship, a bipartisan solution is needed, Governor Brewer broke her promise to work with both sides and we will be having a republican only solution. A comprehensive approach is needed. Arizona has the second worst budget deficit in the nation, 2nd only to California. Pat gave potential solutions to how to raise revenue in Arizona. Arizona democrats are ready to work for a bipartisan legislature.

. Chair's Report

New Legislative Director is Doug Mings and he will begin November 23, 2009.

Don is pleased with current staff, doing very well in that sense. The state party has a good relationship with the democratic elected officials, including regular meetings with the current legislative leadership. Even in a tight budget we have not had to lay anyone off, we are still very operational and have programs going. We are a very strong state party. We have some musical officer chairs, one election today and three resignations expected. These are all due to rule that officers can not simultaneously run for office or support a contested candidate.

Matt Capably spoke about his resignation.

Next state committee meeting we will be elected three vice chairs. Days of do nothing officers are over, this is a commitment including once a month meetings. Talk about finance: we are still out raising our republican counterparts, even though we are down substantially – everyone is down substantially. Luis has been ensuring we remain financially sound. We have two assets: money and volunteers. If we stand together we can turn Arizona blue in 2010.

Vice Chair Vince Rabago spoke to the state committee as a point of personal privilege from the Chair. Vince is preparing to serve Arizona in another capacity.

Vice Chair Ruben Gaellego will be running in his legislative district.

. Executive Director's Report

A written director's report is available to the state committee, there is a lot of information in the report. Thanks to executive board. DNC Vice Chair of Western Caucus – Carolyn Warner. Welcome Doug Mings as Legislative Caucus Director. Recognition of ADP staff.

Outline of priorities in report, a lot to be said about voter contact activity in 2009. In 2007 we had 98K voter contact made in off year election. In 2009, with less money and staff, increased by 150% - 256K.

. Credentials Report – David Lelsz

Need 40% of total state committee (272) for quorum, we have 152 in person and 300 in proxy. We have quorum.

. Vice Chair's Election

Don opens the floor for nominations

Lois Pfau nominates Sharon Covey for ADP Vice Chair.

John Michael seconds the nomination of Sharon Covey for ADP Vice Chair.

No other nominations, motion made to vote by acclamation.

Sharon Covey elected ADP Vice Chair by voice vote.

. Officers Report

Secretary's Report – Approval of Minutes

Brittni Storrs presented the minutes from the Summer 2009 meeting. Minutes approved with amendment to add resolution of scenic park that was presented at the Summer meeting.

. Treasurer's Report

Judy Kennedy presented the Treasurer's report.

. Statewide Reports

National Update

DNC Update – Edward Espinoza, DNC Western Political Director

From the west, worked in Arizona in 2006 for the coordinated campaign, was a DNC member. Spoke about current healthcare legislation and other accomplishments in the last year. Ed is currently working on 2 priorities with the DNC: building democratic majorities in the West and re-electing Obama in 2012. Arizona is a big point in the strategy. To get to 2012, we need a strong 2010. Phoenix has been notified that it meets the requirement to host the 2012 DNC Convention.

OFA Update – Jessica Jones, OFA State Director

OFA has now been in Arizona for 9 months. Arizona has been great at engaging independents and even some republicans. Fight for healthcare reform has helped engaging voters. Also working to strengthen grassroots campaigning including various trainings. Currently 8 full time staffers, comparable to California; Arizona is a priority for OFA.

The Grassroots Data – Paul Eckerstrom, Strategic Planning Committee

Postponed

The Next Step Forward – Judy Kennedy, Democratic National Committee Woman

Postponed

Affirmative Action, Gerald Richard, Affirmative Action Moderator

Affirmative Action committee is running well.
Clubs and Caucuses, Patricia Atlee, Chair of Clubs and Caucuses

About 116 democratic clubs across the state, more coming on board and in different stages of development. Patricia Atlee can be contacted through the ADP website and has helpful resources for new clubs.
Election Integrity Report – Carol Corsica

The third in the set of three election protection and integrity meetings is coming up and upon completion participants receive a certificate. Ted Downing is serving on a committee with AZ SoS for elections manual.
. New Business

Bylaws Committee Report
Report given by Jo Kelleher. 2 bylaws proposed changes.

Change to Article III, Section 3E)

Add: “A written record of all meetings shall be kept on file at the ADP Headquarters, with the exception of executive sessions.”

No discussion of the proposed change.

Proposed change passes by acclamation vote.

Change to Article VIII, Section 1

Change the language from “The State Committee shall meet at least one each quarter.” to “The State Committee shall meet at least three times per year.”

Question: Does this affect state law? Jo: Every two years we are required to meet in January before a certain date. We would still need to adhere to this deadline. As far as we know, no.

Discussion:

Con: Bob Bland: As chair of Cochise County would like to bring state committee to his county. Would like respect for the rest of the state, outside of Phoenix.

Con: Tom Prezelski: This is what we signed up for. We talked earlier about expanding the roles of chairs, and we have resignations. It is important to keep 4 meetings in the bylaws so that we can fill our roles in a timely manner.

Con: Paul Durham: Issue was discussed during LGBT caucus. Simple rationale for opposing – there is a new caucus and they barely have enough time to meet as is.

Call to question. One pro speaker, allowed in fairness.

Pro: Phil Hettmansberger: Secretary of bylaws committee. This meeting was moved to accommodate state committee members who wanted to work on campaigns before election, however we only have 150 people in attendance even after the meeting was moved. If people won't physically attend then we should not have 4th mandatory meeting.

Chair not in doubt of voice vote, proposed change defeated.

Resolutions

Jimmie Munoz presents the Resolutions Committee Report. No vote on the resolution as it is not being presented as required, it is just being read.

Resolution:

WHEREAS Elections with the honest counting of all votes is the bedrock of any democracy and is

fundamental in Arizona's Constitution,

WHEREAS all Arizona's votes are counted with computers,

WHEREAS it is unlawful to count the actual paper ballots in Arizona in any recount and whatever the computer reports must be accepted,

WHEREAS our election computers can be easily rigged to falsify which person or which issue actually won any election,

WHEREAS the Arizona Secretary of State is prohibited by law from looking inside an election computer database to check what any county has done with its computers,

WHEREAS the Arizona Secretary of State is prohibited from looking at election computers from the outside to see if they are safely protected,

WHEREAS Maricopa County's "Sequoia" system was recently de-certified by the State of California and then re-certified with special security procedures not required in Arizona (see note1),

WHEREAS our courts claim they do not have jurisdiction to consider cases about cheating, let alone do anything about future cheating,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Arizona Democratic Party urges the people of Arizona to elect Democratic legislative candidates who are pledged to see that the sanctity of the vote is protected.

Be it further resolved that the Arizona Democratic Party urges each county to use a graphic scanning system that would allow all political parties and persons to examine all the ballots cast in any election and would prevent election rigging by fatally flawed computers

Bill, sponsor of the resolution explains it.

Resolution is opened up to questions to be considered and then the resolution will be presented at the January meeting. The following taken from the floor:

Question about clarification of what is meant by graphically scanning ballots.

To keep record of each ballot

What are other states doing, specifically states more progressive

What about people who use electronic voting machines, how do we certify that

Concern about possible inappropriate language, specifically the word "cheating," it comes off as accusative. Also "fatally flawed" language.

Would the scanning expedite the process of finding errors

Seems to be relative benign resolution, why hesitation to present to the state committee?

Wanted a deeper understanding from the floor

Does this only pertain to paper ballots?

Is there an opportunity to provide these questions online, with the whole resolution to give the state committee the opportunity to view.

. Old Business

No old business
. Announcements

Amanda Simpson will be resigning from the state committee and is accepting a job with the secretary of commerce in Washington DC

Seth Sweeden with the Young Democrats announced the “Yo Mama” After Dark event following the Hall of Fame dinner.

. Adjourn