

## DRAFT

**Arizona Democratic Party  
Regular Meeting of the ADP State Committee  
Saturday, September 21, 2019  
Prescott Mile High Middle School, Prescott, Arizona**

Chair Felecia Rotellini called the meeting of the ADP State Committee to order at 1:06 pm. After a musical performance by the Visibles, John Lutes, Yavapai County Chair, led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed State Committee members to Yavapai County.

Chair Rotellini acknowledged the ancestry of Yavapai and the Yavapai people. She then recognized elected officials, candidates, ADP staff, and members of the Executive Board.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Rotellini discussed the launch of the ADP Academy, the progress of the rural county tour, the creation of the Copper State Business Advisory Board and its inaugural event, and meetings and discussions with representatives from the African American and Latinx communities. She also noted that the ADP is building field staff with our participation in Organizing Core 2020 and said that ADP is getting staff in place to ensure Arizona truly is the battleground state discussed in the media; new staff members include Kurt Velock, Field Director; Zoe Stein, Training Manager; and Matt Grodsky, Communications Director. She further outlined the party's messages and strategies.

Chair Rotellini introduced Andrea Young, DNC Deputy Director of Voter Protection and Community Engagement, who said her efforts are to make sure every eligible voter can cast a ballot and have it be counted, noting that she needed everyone's help to make sure voters are registered and voting. Her goal is to learn more about Arizona and voter protection issues specific to our state.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Herschel Fink said that people can see what open positions are available on the web site and asked for everyone's assistance in getting good people to apply. He also was enthusiastic about the Organizing Core program, noting that Wave 2 will entail 1 week of training in January and Wave 3 will be a 5-week paid internship.

He and Chief of Staff Kelly Paisley had been in Milwaukee to review logistics for the national convention and said that unlike many state delegations, Arizona will be located relatively close to the convention center.

He urged everyone to come to the Hall of Fame Dinner October 11 where the party would honor great Democrats for their service. Fink said an announcement regarding the keynote speaker would be made this week. Vice Chair Brianna Westbrook then launched a fundraising ask that raised \$8,060 for the party.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Rick McGuire presented the report for second quarter of 2019, noting that revenues have been just under \$500,000 while expenditures were ~\$663,000. He said staff was doing a great job keeping expenses down and although the net currently is in the red, cash on hand remains healthy. He also presented off-election year budget comparisons.

**PLATFORM AND DELEGATE SELECTION REPORT**

Educational Coordinator Janie Hydrick outlined two activities for State Committee member participation. First is to rewrite the platform; she asked that anyone who has any revisions should email her by midnight November 30 with the suggested changes. The Platform Committee will then review and consider all input and present the 2020 Platform to the Executive Board per schedule. She further noted that if any State Committee member considering running to be a DNC delegate, then they should start thinking about how to run a successful campaign now. Her presentation about delegate selection will be available online and she and others are available to present workshops as well.

**CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Voter File Manager Chris Kurent reported that for the September 21 meeting, 352 State Committee members were present in person and 233 by proxy, for a total of 585 (of 811) members or 72% of the total membership, indicating a quorum had been met for purposes of voting.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Secretary Anne Greenberg presented the minutes from the April 13, 2019, state committee meeting. CJ Briggie (LD 18) moved and Janie Hydrick (LD 18) seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Bylaws Committee Chair Michele Manos discussed bylaws and presented the committee's report. Any approval requires a two-thirds vote of the members of the State Committee present.

The first proposed amendment was to change the name of the Bylaws Committee to the Rules Committee and included additions in duties the committee has been doing. The Bylaws Committee recommended passage. Karyn Lathan Thornton (LD 18) moved and Michael Dues (LD 9) seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next proposed amendment was to change the number of required Executive Committee meetings. Ann Heitland (Coconino) moved and Ruth Levin (LD 18) seconded to table the amendment. The motion was approved unanimously.

The third proposed amendment was to codify a policy approved by the Executive Board in July 2019 that members of the Executive Board shall not serve concurrently as an officer of any political action committee. The Rules Committee recommended passage. Lupe Conchas (LD 30) moved and Missa Foy-Jentoft (Navajo) seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next proposed amendment, which would require the ADP to remain neutral in contested primaries, codified a resolution passed by the Executive Board in July 2018. It also clarified language when a vote of no candidate support is taken. The Rules Committee recommended passage. Cathy Hozian (LD 4) moved and Jeannie Flug (LD1) seconded approval of the amendment. There was a discussion whether this applied to lower-level races and it was explained that it only applies to actions by the ADP, although county and LD parties could model bylaws and actions after this. Brian Bickel (LD 9) noted that by state law, political party committees cannot support anyone but nominees. The motion passed unanimously.

The final proposed amendments related to the formation of caucuses and councils. Rules Chair Manos discussed the former structure as well as the new structure in place as of January 2018 thanks to the passage of SB 1516 that eliminated political organizations as a recognized committee structure and instead allows only for political party committees (state, county, and legislative district committees) or political action committees. Smaller changes have been made to the bylaws since then to accommodate that revisions, but more extensive changes are needed because the status quo in the bylaws is no longer compliant. Rules Chair Manos noted that the committee had spent countless hours working on the revisions, getting guidance from the DNC and other state parties, receiving feedback from 11

of 13 current caucuses, preparing numerous drafts of potential revisions, and obtaining conditional approval of relevant policies and procedures from the Executive Board. ADP Legal Counsel Jim Barton also provided guidance and support throughout the process.

Rules Chair Manos said the proposed changes would allow for coalitions of State Committee members to form for advocacy and outreach efforts either as an identity group (caucus) or issue group (council) that would operate completely within the ADP. The process would be overseen by the Executive Board. Rules Chair Manos reviewed the proposed changes, which the committee had revised further during its morning meeting and had been emailed to State Committee members mid-morning. Vice Chair Deedra Abboud, a member of the Rules Committee, presented Legal Counsel Barton's legal perspective on the changes because there had been comments made throughout the process that if the bylaws did not change, then the current structure would not change. She noted that was not an option; the legal changes compel groups formerly considered political organizations to operate as PACs or to find a way to re-integrate into the party. Nonaction, however, removes the ability to re-integrate. The proposed system also helps create a wall between PACs and newly formed caucuses or councils (and the ADP) to ensure there is no coordination between groups. The Rules Committee recommended passage. John Lutes (Yavapai) moved and Lupe Conchas (LD 30) seconded approval of the proposed amendments.

There were several questions about what the new caucuses and councils could and could not do. Additionally, there were different proposed requirements to form caucuses and councils because identity groups have been historically under-represented while councils are for broader issues that have typically had more widespread support. When asked how it would be determined what are inherent and immutable traits, Rules Chair Manos said this was taken from the DNC definition and civil rights law. Caucus membership will remain open to all State Committee members. When asked what happens to funds raised by caucuses and councils, it was noted that these will be managed by the ADP in a separate ledger and that each caucus or council should maintain its own ledger as well.

The question was called but was not approved and discussion continued. In terms of the roles of the caucuses and councils in the party, Rules Chair Manos noted that both should help elect Democrats; caucuses also will help build greater representation of their constituency groups within the party while councils will build greater awareness of their issues. There were some procedural questions and Rules Chairs Manos said that appropriate changes will be proposed to the final policies and procedures to be approved by the Executive Board. When asked about what level of control a caucus or council would have over its funds if the account is held by the ADP, Vice Chair Abboud said many caucuses currently operate like this so that the ADP is responsible for reports not the group; thus it is a coordination process, not an approval process.

The question was called and the main motion to approve the proposed bylaw amendments passed unanimously.

#### **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Doug Ballard and CJ Briggie presented the Resolution Committee report. The committee received and reviewed eight resolutions and was recommending approval of five, tabling of two, and rejection of one. They presented the following recommendations and asked for a motion from the floor to adopt the report:

- Resolution in Support of the "Arizona Fair Lending Act" – recommend approval
- Resolution Condemning the Appointment of Bill Montgomery to the Arizona Supreme Court – recommend approval
- Resolution in Support of the Green New Deal – recommend approval
- Resolution to Request Sen. Sinema Abandon Operation Safe Return (as amended in the Spanish text) – recommend approval
- Resolution in Support of Gender-Neutral Restrooms as amended – recommend approval
- Resolution regarding Disability – recommended tabling due to a lack of title and issues in the resolved clause
- Resolution to Censure Sen. Sinema – recommended tabling as the resolution submitted on time was not the resolution the submitters intended for consideration

Jason Smith (LD 18) moved and Kathy Kinsella (Yavapai) seconded to accept the first five items. During discussion, Bryan Neeley (LD 23), Vice Chair of the LGBTQ Caucus, offered a friendly amendment to the Resolution in Support of Gender-Neutral Restrooms. Andrew Gardner (LD 3) proposed a substitute motion; Jason Smith then withdrew his motion. Adrian Fontes (LD 24) then moved and Bryan Rasmussen (Yuma) seconded to accept the first four items as well as tabling of censure. After discussion and a request to vote on the items separately, Adrian Fontes withdrew his motion.

Brian Bickel (LD 9) moved and Laurie Nerat (LD 18) seconded to approve the Fair Lending resolution; the motion passed unanimously. Ellen Torge (LD 18) moved and Karyn Lathan Thornton (LD 18) seconded to approve the Montgomery resolution; the motion passed unanimously. John Lutes (Yavapai) moved and Korey Hjelmeir (LD 23) seconded to approve the Green New Deal resolution; after discussion, the motion passed on voice vote. Andrew Gardner (LD 3) moved and Eva Osuna (LD 21) seconded to approve the Sinema Abandon Operation Safe Return resolution; the motion passed unanimously. Bryan Rasmussen (Yuma) moved and Patricia Jones (LD 24) seconded to approve the Gender-Neutral Restroom resolution. Bryan Neeley (LD 23) offered a friendly amendment, seconded by Adrian Fontes (LD 24). Karyn Lathan Thornton (LD 18) said that she wanted the resolution not only to be inclusive but provide for the safety of all. The friendly amendment passed unanimously; the overall motion passed on voice vote.

Ann Heitland (Coconino) moved and Brian Bickel (LD 9) seconded to table the Disability resolution. Celeste Pettijohn (LD 20), co-chair of the Disability Caucus, said the title of the resolution was Resolution to Ensure Total Inclusion of the Arizona Disability Community. Patricia Jones (LD 24), co-chair of the Disability Caucus, said that people with disabilities have a right to participate in every activity of the ADP and it is important to ensure everyone can participate at the level they want. CJ Briggie (LD 18) said the Resolutions Committee agreed this was very important, but the language needed revision and that it could be elevated and voted on at the next State Committee meeting. The motion to table passed with 317 yes votes. Eileen Fein (LD 4) moved and Kathy Kinsella (Yavapai) moved to table the Sinema Censure resolution; the motion passed on voice vote.

The committee recommended rejection of the final Resolution in Support of Opening the 2020 Democratic Presidential Preference Election to Independents because it requires the party to expend funds that could grow to a substantial amount in an attempt to get the relevant statute declared unconstitutional. The committee felt that there is a process in place to allow independents to vote by changing their registration and if it is desirable to change the statute, that people could pressure the legislature to do so. Korey Hjelmeir (LD 23) moved and Randall Holmes (LD 30) seconded to reject the resolution.

There was extended discussion on both sides of the issue of opening the PPE to independents. Adrian Fontes (LD 24), Maricopa County Recorder, said he had been elected to advocate for all voters and wanted to have one set of rules for all voters. Other arguments for opening the PPE that were presented included the need to be inclusive to individuals who are not necessarily taught what a political party is; that it is welcoming and will make independents more likely to vote Democratic in the general election; that it is difficult to get people to change their registration; and that not allowing independents to vote in the PPE is exclusionary and unacceptable from the party that supports voting rights. Arguments for rejecting the resolution included concerns that a tremendous amount of money could be expended for an effort that could be rejected by the courts while the money could be spent winning House and Senate seats and get the statute changed; that independents do not necessarily believe in the Democrat Party's principles so why allow them to participate in selecting a nominee; that the party should not be asked at the last minute to do something like this and it is a distraction from the work of electing Democrats; and that opening the PPE will move the party in a direction that could put protections for people of color in jeopardy.

When discussion concluded, Chair Rotellini called for division of the house. With 462 voting, the motion to reject the resolution was approved 285 to 177.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

After a motion and second from the floor, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Greenberg  
ADP Secretary, 2019-2020  
November 3, 2019