

DRAFT

Arizona Democratic Party Regular Meeting of the ADP State Committee Saturday, May 30, 2020 Virtual Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona

Chair Felecia Rotellini called the meeting of the ADP State Committee to order at 10:00 am. Parliamentarian Jeanne Lunn provided an overview as to how to use the GoTo Webinar platform. The video “Why I am a Democrat” was shown; Rotellini then led the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced several guest speakers.

Muthoni Wambu Kraal, DNC Political Director, talked about how the party is working together to elect strong leaders and is building one of our strongest inter-generational benches. She said that Arizona is a true battleground state and will be carrying much for the country. Currently the DNC has invested around \$1 million in Arizona through various programs for this election and is particularly focused on outreach and organizing.

New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham said that while all elections important, this one can help us change all the policies that are preventing us from supporting our families and communities, both in Arizona and across the country. She discussed the transformation that Democrats have made in New Mexico over the past decade or so – following the 2018 election, the entire Congressional delegation and every statewide office was won by a Democrat and more women were elected to statewide office and appellate courts. In one year, new policies regarding the environment, voting, the minimum wage, funding for education, and more have been put in place. Additionally, New Mexico has been a leader in terms of response to the pandemic. She believes that when a Democrat is in the White House, we will have the opportunity to shift all the current negative, regressive, and hateful policies.

Congressman Raul Grijalva talked about the how the pandemic has exposed the “open secret” that there are pre-existing conditions of discrimination, poverty, lack of health care, not enough investment in education, and more. We have a shared responsibility to act, not just talk; to get past discomfort and deal with reality. The fundamental issues with the current administration – lies, corruption, double dealing, almost childish behavior, ignoring rule of law, sabotaging democracy – can be solved by electing Joe Biden. Electing Mark Kelly can help eliminate gridlock in DC by gaining a majority in Senate and moving in the direction American people want. He also said there is no down ticket – every Democrat is part of a governance that will define recovery and look at where we need to be a generation from now.

Congressman Ruben Gallego noted that real momentum is on our side – he is looking forward to being able to say we have two Democratic senators from Arizona; he also noted that we will probably pick up another seat in Congress. While we don’t know what is going to happen in states like Wisconsin and Florida, we are fortunate to have people like Katie Hobbs and Adrian Fontes here to help protect our elections. He has been telling national reporters to watch the early returns here in Arizona. Gallego said he talks to reporters all the time and they have all mentioned how organized Arizona is right now and thanked everyone for their efforts in making that happen. He also stressed the need to stand by our under-represented communities and fight against institutional racism.

Secretary of State Katie Hobbs discussed her office’s efforts to make sure voters can vote safely, especially with the pandemic raging. They have focused on increasing enrollment on PEVL as well as options to receive an early ballot and how one can vote in other ways. Additionally, they have fast tracked online notary services, opened the online signature portal for candidates so authorized (county and city races), increased internet access in communities using CARES funds, and created a landing page at the Secretary of State’s website – azsos.gov/votebymail – so individuals can get on PEVL or request a one-time early ballot from one site. They also are working to make polling places as safe as possible, both in terms of having supplies like hand sanitizer as well as expanding options to include secure drop boxes or mobile vans where possible. They are pushing back on the enormous amount of misinformation being expressed, especially given that Arizona has had successful vote by mail for years.

ADLCC REPORT

ADLCC Executive Director Charlie Fisher noted that we have a historical opportunity to flip both chambers for the first time in 54 years, and that a Democratic majority means we will have a seat at table with budget negotiations and more. The ADLCC continues to make large investments in targeted districts resulting in growing numbers of staff in those districts. Polling shows that education remains the top issue among voters with jobs/economy second, and health care/COVID third – and these are issues Democrats have been leading on for a long time. In a generic Democrat versus Republican matchup, Democrats lead by 4 points, especially among persuadable voters. Fisher also noted that the ADLCC is working on engaging and contacting voters through a variety of programs.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

ADP Executive Director Herschel Fink noted that we are 157 days away from the election and that it will be a wild ride in Arizona. He thanked the staff for all it has been doing, noting that Human Resources Director Comesha Cunningham had already set up a telework plan before the pandemic started and the ADP staff easily transitioned to it when COVID hit. Some of the activities and accomplishments of the ADP since the last State Committee meeting include distributing \$100,000 in county party grants; partnering with Contest Every Race and with Mobilize; signing a joint fundraising agreement with the Biden campaign, which indicates just how much Arizona is considered a battleground state; and increasing activities to expand PEVL and vote by mail, with a goal of getting everyone on PEVL. He said that Voter File Manager Chris Kurent is working closely with the DNC to make sure our data are as robust as possible. Fink said that plans regarding the national convention are evolving and will follow guidelines from health officials. He thanked everyone for working so hard for so long and said we need to make sure Joe Biden gets our 11 electoral votes and that Mark Kelly and others are elected.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Senate Minority Leader David Bradley said the Senate recessed in March after passing the “skinny budget,” anticipating a return in May to resume session. After it became evident there was no way to reconvene safely, the Senate adjourned sine die on May 8. The House did not adjourn until May 21 and the Senate adjourned again May 26. Bradley said that Democratic leadership has been trying to get the governor to focus on COVID issues and that he anticipates a special session in June or July to talk about tax collections and the budget. He said we are fortunate to have “rainy day” funds, but that we have seen the impact of not using those resources appropriately. House Minority Leader Charlene Fernandez added that the session was full of unknowns, and it was difficult not knowing when session would reconvene or what bills would be heard when it did. Once back, the majority started changing rules as to how bills would be heard. She noted that it solidified the fact that Democrats are ready to lead from day one and we will get to the majority soon.

MISSION FOR ARIZONA REPORT

Director Emma Brown said that activities have pivoted due to COVID, but that has not changed Arizona’s status as a battleground state. Mission for Arizona (the Coordinated Campaign) has more than 50 organizing staffers on the ground and are building out other programs, such as voter protection working with county recorders, data management building on the current infrastructure, the digital team, and outreach to different communities. This weekend will be MFA’s first weekend of action and will be held entirely online with 35 events scheduled; 1,100 volunteers have already signed up to participate. She said that two of the campaign’s biggest priorities are PEVL/vote by mail and ensuring we have the infrastructure in place to compete.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Rotellini expressed support and sorrow for the Navajo Nation and all who have lost loved ones and suffered due to pandemic. She congratulated the AAPI Caucus for a successful application approval and thanked everyone for their patience during the delegate selection process. She also discussed what has been happening with the party and the state in terms of voter turnout, national media coverage, community outreach, and more, noting that we are closing the gap in voter registration in Arizona and making a true 15-county/30 district effort, leaving it all on the table. Rotellini noted that given our heightened status as a battleground state that we have to keep in mind that our staff is and will be doing things we have not done before.

Following an “In Memoriam” video commemorating recent losses in our Democratic family, Senator Jamescita Peshlakai addressed the meeting, thanking the ADP and the Native American Caucus and leadership in the House and Senate as well as tribal leaders throughout AZ. She reminded everyone that Arizona is the sacred homeland of 22 Native American tribes who have for hundreds of years contributed to this democracy while also being excluded and frustrated. The tribes work with Democrats to bridge gaps. She also noted that she lives on the Navajo Nation and described how hard hit it has been, and also how help has come from all over the world, including Ireland, Doctors Without Borders, and various celebrities. She asked State Committee Members to consider donations to the Navajo Nation Department of Health, Navajo and Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund, and Kidz 4 Causes.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Kurent reported that for the May 30 meeting, 409 of 780 members or 52% of the total membership were present (proxies had been suspended for the virtual meeting), indicating a quorum had been met for purposes of voting. Lunn explained how voting would proceed in the virtual format.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Secretary Anne Greenberg presented the minutes from the January 25, 2020, State Committee meeting. Rick McGuire (LD 15) moved and Michele Manos (LD 2) seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Rick McGuire noted that during the first quarter, fundraising went well and exceeded expenses. Thus far in the second quarter, due to the lockdown, cash on hand is down slightly and we are drawing reserves as the pandemic is suppressing fundraising. He noted, though, that staff is doing an excellent job keeping expenses down as much as possible. In total, though, in comparisons to previous federal election cycles, we are on our way to raising more than the 2012 and 2016 cycles combined.

RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

Rules Committee Chair Michele Manos presented the committee’s report in which the committee brought forth three proposed amendments.

The first proposed amendment, involving four changes to the bylaws, completed the Code of Conduct. Mary McCord Robinson (Mohave) moved and Anne Greenberg (LD 15) seconded to approve the amendment as presented. After discussion and a successful call of the question, the motion passed by hand count.

The second amendment provided for email notification of State and Executive Committee meetings. Mary McCord Robinson (Mohave) moved and Rick McGuire (LD 15) seconded to approve the amendment as presented. After discussion and a successful call of the question, the motion passed by hand count.

The third amendment provided the State and Executive Committees with the ability to meet virtually as well as in person and specify that proxy voting was available for in-person meetings. Mary McCord Robinson (Mohave) moved and Anne Greenberg (LD 15) seconded to approve the amendment as presented. After discussion and a successful call of the question, the motion passed by hand count.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Resolutions Chair Pat Burns thanked the members of the Resolutions Committee for their continued hard work, described the resolutions process, and presented the committee’s report. Three resolutions submitted for consideration were:

- Resolution to Endorse and Support the InvestinEd Initiative for the November 3, 2020 General Election
- Resolution on Contributions from Private Prison Companies
- Resolution for a More Balanced Israel/Palestine Policy in National DNC Platform

He noted that the Resolutions Committee met virtually on May 23 with the authors of the Israel/Palestine resolution, joined by many observers, and after discussed and an amendment to revise language, a majority of the committee voted to recommend rejection of resolution by the State Committee. The Resolutions Committee met virtually again on May 29 to discuss the other two resolutions, and after discussion and some amendments made to language, voted to recommend approval of these resolutions by the State Committee.

Janie Hydrick (LD 18) moved to accept the committee's recommendation to reject the Israel/Palestine recommendation; Maureen Salz (LD 11) seconded the motion. After discussion and a successful call of the question, the motion to reject the resolution was approved 66% to 34%.

Luci Messing (LD 11) moved to accept the committee's recommendation to approve the other two resolutions as presented; Ted Prezelski (LD 9) seconded the motion. After discussion and a successful call of the question, the motion to approve the resolutions was approved 98% to 2%.

PLATFORM COMMITTEE REPORT

Educational Coordinator Janie Hydrick, chair of the Platform Committee, discussed the process by which the 2020 platform was created and then provided a general overview of the platform as well as highlighted variances from the previous platform. Anne Greenberg (LD 15) moved and Lupe Conchas (LD 30) seconded to approve the platform as presented. The motion to approve the platform was approved 98% to 2%.

ADJOURNMENT

The video "Why I Switched" as well as remarks from Senator Elizabeth Warren were shown. The meeting was then adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Greenberg
ADP Secretary, 2019-2020
August 25, 2020