

DRAFT

Arizona Democratic Party Regular Meeting of the ADP State Committee Saturday, September 26, 2020 Virtual Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona

Chair Felecia Rotellini called the meeting of the ADP State Committee meeting to order at 10:00 am. Parliamentarian Jeanne Lunn provided an overview of the GoTo Webinar platform being used to conduct the meeting.

Pinal County Chair Holly Lyon led Pledge of Allegiance and DNC Member Debbie Nez Manuel recognized tribal lands statewide. Rotellini then discussed voter turnout efforts for the upcoming election. Video messages from Joe Biden and Mark Kelly were shown as was a video from Jeff Smith, voter protection director for Mission for Arizona. Smith told the State Committee meeting attendees that his 15-member team of lawyers has been working with all counties in Arizona, particularly to expand the number of vote centers and drop boxes that will be available for the general election, as well as working on voter education and poll observer programs.

In Memoriam photos were shown to recognize the passing of John Lewis, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Arizona activists lost since the last meeting.

Rep. Greg Stanton then addressed the meeting in person, first acknowledging Justice Ginsburg and her contributions, and noting that she was the first Jewish American to lie in state at the Capitol. He then talked about how Arizona is definitely **the** battleground state in the United States. He reiterated that Democrats are focused on building a better future for the state and the country, and that we are going to fight for every inch, compete in every county. Stanton said that two years ago, the House did exactly what we said we would do – such as restore the Voting Rights Act, pass the For the People Act, pass the background check bill, pass the Equality Act, and more – but none were passed in Mitch McConnell’s Senate. He added that he is excited to work with everyone to not just elect Joe Biden President and Mark Kelly Senator, but also to win the state legislature.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Rotellini noted that it’s “OK to be exhausted when you are making history,” and that we are in our generation’s worst crisis imaginable. But we will use our strength and grit as Arizonans and Americans to pull through. She discussed how the legislative districts and counties are working with partners throughout the state for training, organizing, GOTV activities, and more because we know that every county and every candidate counts.

To make sure every vote counts, Rotellini reinforced the message to vote as early as possible; these will be part of the first votes announced election night. She noted that in the 2012 election, 61% voted early; in 2018, 79%; and in the August 2020 primary, nearly 88% voted early. Rotellini stressed getting ballots in the mail by October 20 to assure that one’s vote is counted. She also said that poll observers are needed around the state and these positions offer a good opportunity for people to volunteer who do not necessarily want to phone bank.

Noting the unprecedented enthusiasm being seen in Arizona, Rotellini described how the Biden team folded in seamlessly with Mission for Arizona. The one bump currently being overcome was getting Biden signs into the state. She ended by saying we need to leave it all out on the field.

Jessica Mejia, state director of the Biden campaign, then thanked everyone for all the work done cycle after cycle to turn Arizona into a battleground state. She talked about building diverse coalitions in Arizona and noted that Arizona is included in a national \$280 million ad buy. Mission for Arizona and the campaign have been working with more than 15,000 volunteers and have added more than 60,000 registered Democrats to the voter rolls while training volunteers to phone bank and support candidates around the state.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Voter File Manager Chris Kurent reported that for the September 26 meeting, 363 State Committee members were present in person and 7 by proxy, for a total of 370 (of 775) members or 48% of the total membership, indicating 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 May 30, 2020, State Committee meeting. Rick McGuire (LD 15) moved and Michele Manos (LD 2) seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 248-0 with 6 abstentions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Rick McGuire noted that the "official" report remains open through the end of June, but unofficially, grassroots fundraising has been doing phenomenally well and that receipts have about doubled, saying that we have raised more money this cycle than the two previous presidential cycles combined. Not only has the ADP outraised the AZGOP in fundraising, the Maricopa County Democratic Party has nearly outraised them. McGuire also discussed digital fundraising overall and email list growth.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Herschel Fink said that when he started at the party in 2014, he would go to Washington to raise money and talk about how vital we will be – and people would be condescending. Since 2016, people have been saying we can't take the White House without Arizona. Now we are here – ready to elect Joe Biden, a second Democratic Senator, and three Democrats to the Corporation Commission, and take the state legislature. He thanked everyone at the meeting, noting that we are here because of what we have been doing for a long time. With ballots going out in 11 days, he said that we are at the sprint stage and urged everyone to do whatever they can over the next 38 days. He also thanked the staff and asked that everyone be patient with each other and staff.

ADLCC REPORT

ADLCC Executive Director Charlie Fisher talked about the momentum our legislative candidates are building across Arizona. Candidates are really doing well in terms of fundraising, celebrity endorsements, ads, and more. Thus far in this cycle, the ADLCC has raised the same amount as its entire 2018 budget and was on its way to achieving its goal of >\$3 million. The biggest investment has been in people, with 32 staff members deployed across the state. Almost 400,000 calls had been made and the work continues because the job of protecting so many of our freedoms fall to state legislatures.

ENDORSEMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

Rotellini said that by law, the chair of a political party has the authority to present the presidential electors and she noted that those chosen reflect the diversity of Arizona. Per bylaws, the State Committee is then asked to endorse the presidential electors. Vice Chair Garrick McFadden moved and Navajo County Chair Eric Kramer seconded the motion to endorse the presidential electors by acclamation. The motion passed 288-2, with 2 abstentions.

RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

Rules Committee Chair Michele Manos presented the committee's report in which the committee brought forth two proposed amendments. She noted that she and the committee have been providing ongoing governance support to ADP as well as counties and LDs. She also said that in addition to the items on the agenda for today's meeting, there is a need to address the state chair's responsibilities and roles prior to the reorganization meeting.

The first proposed amendment, applying to Article III, Section 5, established guidance for elections for State Committee officers after a vacancy occurs. Jeanne Lunn (LD 15) moved and Doug Ballard (Coconino) seconded to approve the amendment as presented. With 77% voting, there were 271 yes votes and 2 no votes; the motion passed with 99.3% of the vote.

The second proposed amendment, applying to Article VI, Sections 2 and 3, established which committees would serve as standing committees and which as special and was done to better optimize use of ADP committees. Brianna Westbrook (LD 22) moved and Doug Ballard (Coconino) seconded to approve the amendments as presented. After discussion and with 80% voting, there were 279 yes votes and 13 no votes; the motion passed with 95.5% of the vote.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Resolutions Committee Member Doug Ballard presented the committee's report. A single resolution was submitted for consideration:

- Resolution of the Arizona Democratic Party Recognizing the Practice of Aid in Dying as a Desirable Medical Choice for Many Terminally Ill, Mentally Competent Adults.

He noted that the resolution had been submitted by Resolutions Committee Chair Pat Burns on behalf of a coalition of physicians and others supporting this practice. The Resolutions Committee recommended its approval. Sierra Yamanaka (LD 9) moved to accept the committee's report; Steven Slugocki (LD 15) seconded the motion. After discussion, Brianna Westbrook (LD 22) moved and Marian Hill (LD 11) seconded to table the motion. The motion to table passed 219 to 47.

ADJOURNMENT

Rotellini thanked everyone who participated and for all everyone is doing to get us across the victory line to turn Arizona blue. The meeting was then adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Greenberg
ADP Secretary, 2019-2020
December 21, 2020