

# CALIFORNIA DNC PRESS DEMOCRAT

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## PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES: WHO IS YOUR CHOICE?

BY DNC MEMBER MARY ELLEN EARLY



Mary Ellen Early  
is founding editor of  
the  
California DNC  
Press Democrat

At last year's Summer DNC meeting in Chicago, members voted to pass some changes to the way presidential candidates will be selected at the 2020 National Convention.

Automatic unpledged delegates (formerly known as "super delegates" in the media) will not be able to vote for a presidential nominee on the first round of convention balloting.

These delegates include Democratic governors, U.S. senators, members of congress and DNC members.

The only exception is in the case of a deadlocked convention, where no candidate has enough delegate votes to secure the nomination on the first ballot. This hasn't happened since 1952.

Nonetheless, like you, I have watched the first two sets of presidential debates with great interest. All of the candidates have qualities that would make them good leaders, and indeed, any would be preferable to the current occupant of the White House.

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DNC Delegation Members at CDP Convention in May of 2019

## STAYING UNITED AFTER CONTESTED NOMINATION PROCESS

BY DNC MEMBERS KEITH UMEMOTO AND ALEX ROOKER

In 10 months, we'll know who our Party's nominee will be and in 14 months, we'll know the White House occupant.

Tremendous forces are going against us: unimpeded Russian intervention; voter ID, purging voter files, inconvenient or inaccessible polling locations in Democratic precincts and other voter suppression tactics; Citizens United/billionaire spending; RNC's prolific fundraising; a motivated Trump core of believers; Trump lies suffocating the air waves; and forbid the thought - a US Supreme Court decision.

If we lose, you know the consequences will be horrific; our core Democratic Party issues will be further diminished. Trump has only begun.

The general electorate is starting to focus on 2020. We have our Delegate Selection Rules and states are submitting their delegate plans. Twenty one Democrats are vying to replace the current White

House occupant, and 2 of the 12 debates are finished.

In examining the Delegate Selection Rules, there is a real possibility of unanticipated consequences.

When a candidate has to get at least 15 % of a state's vote to receive any delegates, a long standing rule, there conceivably could be only one candidate getting delegates with far less than 50% of the vote in some states, or very few candidates getting delegates. What will our response be as Democratic activists if this occurred?

This could result in a brokered convention with no candidate having a majority of delegates, which last occurred in 1952 with Adlai Stevenson being the Democratic nominee.

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CDP Vice Chair Alex Rooker is Treasurer of the Association of State Democratic Chairs and Vice Chair of the DNC Women's Caucus



Keith Umemoto is a Co-Chair of the CDP Credentials Committee

## WESTERN STATES DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND TRAINING IN OCTOBER

BY DNC MEMBER JESS DURFEE



Jess Durfee is Chair of the DNC Western States Caucus and a member of the DNC Executive Committee

Please share with other Democratic Party leaders in your community:

Western States Democratic Leaders Conference & Training Renaissance Downtown Hotel Phoenix, Arizona October 11-13, 2019

To RSVP for the Conference, use this:

<https://tinyurl.com/y6xorjmn> or email me at [jess@jessdurfee.com](mailto:jess@jessdurfee.com)

Make your hotel reservation here:

<https://book.passkey.com/event/49956097/owner/2302/home>

For your planning, registration will begin at 1:00 PM, Friday, Oct. 11 with the opening session at 2:00. The closing session will end at 1:00 PM Sunday, Oct. 13. The conference, being held at the Renaissance Downtown Hotel (a union venue), will include workshops and presen-

tations on messaging, digital organizing, grassroots outreach, state-to-state and cross-organizational support, targeting & other topics to lead to victories in 2020 in the Western States.

Please consider spending a day or two in Phoenix volunteering with the Arizona Democratic Party either before or after the conference. Arizona offers an opportunity to flip a US Senate seat and to move this key state from red-to-blue for the 2020 electoral college count.

## DEMOCRATS NEED ASSAULT WEAPON-FREE ZONE AT OUR NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

BY DNC MEMBER BOB MULHOLLAND

This is the letter I sent on 8/8/19 to the Wisconsin Governor, the Mayor of Milwaukee and to DNC Chair Tom Perez:

Last weekend saw two massive killing disasters (El Paso & Dayton), with assault weapons. I had hoped that our 2020 National Convention would not be in a state that allows people to walk around with loaded guns. I understand that Wisconsin is an Open Carry state, like Texas, but one cannot carry a weapon in the open, near police stations, Court Rooms and of course not in our Convention facility. Well, can we make sure there is a one mile radius Gun Free Zone around the Arena? Declare an emergency or pass some new legislation for a two week Period of No Guns at or near the Democratic National Convention.

The Trump Convention will be 98% white. The Democratic National Convention could be over 50% minority and thus, the exact type of facility that could attract the thugs that killed 31 over the weekend. And of course, if Trump is attacking Mexican-Americans

or African-Americans or immigrants in early July, with many media reports about the Democratic Convention being the week of July 13, it could be a tipping point for one of those neo-Nazis, the ones that have "fine people" involved.

I fully understand the devastation of assault weapons. In the picture below, I am about to lead a convoy out of Phuoc Vinh in Vietnam (1967-68). The M-60 machine gun can put out 300 rounds a minute.

### NEXT DNC MEETING

The DNC does not usually meet during presidential election years, other than a brief business meeting the day after the Democratic National Convention ends.

For this reason, we do not expect to have another General Meeting of the DNC until Friday, July 17, 2020, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



DNC Member Bob Mulholland resides in Chico and can be reached at [chicobob@msn.com](mailto:chicobob@msn.com)



## LGBTQ UPDATE

BY DNC MEMBER LAURENCE ZAKSON

One of the major differences between our Party and the GOP is that we celebrate diversity and seek to make our Party and our nation stronger by inclusion--rather than exclusion. In 2018, Democrats made major gains in federal, state and local races by reaching out and including traditionally disenfranchised communities. The LGBTQ community is one such community--and our efforts bore fruit in 2018.

LGBTQ DNC members, including Western States Regional Caucus Chair Jess Durfee, Western States Executive Committee Member Garry S. Shay and I have been working on replicating the recent mobilizations to Arizona and Nevada in conjunction with LGBTQ Pride events for 2020. New California Democratic Party LGBTQ Caucus Co-Chair Lester Aponte and California Young Democrats President and San Diego County Democratic Party Chair Will Rodriguez-Kennedy have joined that conversation/effort with gusto. And I hope to have news to share on that score in the near future.

Meanwhile, efforts are underway to improve LGBTQ representation in state affirmative action plans for the National Convention. And messaging efforts are similarly being assembled. On the messaging front, a survey of participants at the 2019 Victory Fund/Institute revealed the top three issues for LGBTQ leaders and organizations are:

- **Passing the Equality Act**
- Opposing Conversion Therapy and advancing conversion therapy bans at the state and national level
- Protecting LGBTQ people abroad

In 2018, there were a total of **682 LGBTQ elected officials nationwide. And we had significant pick ups in getting to those numbers.**

- **Federal Officials**

Rep. Sharice Davids (KS)

Rep. Angie Craig (MN)

Rep. Chris Pappas (NH)

Rep. Katie Hill (CA)

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (AZ)

- **State officials**

Gov. Jared Polis (CO)

State Rep. Lisa Bunker (NH)\*

State Rep. Gerri Cannon (NH)\*

State Rep. Brianna Titone (CO)\*

State Rep. JD Ford (IN)

State Rep. Megan Hunt (NE)

State Rep. Susan Ruiz (KS)

State Rep. Brandon Woodward (KS)

Democratic Gubernatorial Nominee Christine Halquist (VT)\*

State Senator Nickie Antonio (OH)

State Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta (PA)

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara (CA)

State Senator Jeremy Moss (MI)

Dana Nessel (MI)

State Rep. Neil Rafferty (AL)

State Rep. Lamont Robinson (IL)

Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio (Guam)

State Senator Mary Washington (MD)

State Rep. Jennifer Walsh (FL)

*\*Trans identifying*

While this is a small fraction of all elected officials, it shows what hard work, a focus on training and outreach inside the community and to the public at large can accomplish. The DNC LGBTQ Caucus is working to improve on these results in 2020.



*California DNC Member  
Laurence Zakson is Secretary  
of the DNC LGBTQ Caucus*

### DNC REDESIGNS WEB SITE

We have something exciting to show you!  
**We just redesigned the Democratic Party's website --** and although we may be a little biased, we think it looks pretty cool. See for yourself!

**The Democratic Party is proud to be the party of the people, which is something we took to heart when designing our new site.** The new Democrats.org is a place to learn more about who we are and what we value, read up on what we do, and figure out ways to get involved in your own community -- plus, we have a full Spanish version of the site, too.

The team here at HQ worked tirelessly to get the new website up and running, but it wouldn't have happened without the support of loyal Democrats like you. So, what are you waiting for? **Take a look at what you helped make possible:**

**Visit Democrats.org**

Of course, creating a new website isn't the only thing you're helping us do. We've been hard at work building the critical party infrastructure our eventual presidential nominee and candidates up and down the ticket will need to win in 2020. This includes hiring and training field organizers in key battleground states, investing in new technology and cyber security, and improving our voter file to help candidates nationwide reach volunteers and voters.

**All of these programs are essential parts of our 2020 strategy -- and all of them require support from now until Election Day.** That's why we hope we can count on you to power the good work the DNC is already doing to make sure we elect candidates from local office to the Oval Office next year.

Thanks for all you do,

## CONDUCT COMMISSION AMENDMENTS UP FOR VOTE

By DNC Executive Committee Member Garry S. Shay

In his campaign for Chair, Rusty Hicks promised to bring forward changes to provide greater protections for both delegates and CDP employees against sexual harassment, assault, and bullying. He is bringing that promise to fruition by presenting bylaw amendments to create a Conduct Commission.

These amendments would provide for a Conduct Commission (hereinafter "the Commission") composed of five (5) members who must be registered Democrats, with at least two experts

in the prevention of sexual harassment, and one who has represented complainants. These members would be nominated by the chair and ratified by the Executive Board for a two-year term beginning, and ending, at the first meeting of the Executive Board in odd numbered years with any vacancies filled by the same process for the remainder of the term.

The Code of Conduct (hereinafter "the Code") was adopted at the last convention. The Rules Committee may recommend changes and also promulgate procedural rules for the Commission.

The Commission would: work with an Independent Ombudsperson selected by the Chair, receive reports of alleged violations of the Code from an Investigator selected by the Independent Ombudsperson from a list prepared by the Chair in consultation with the Statewide Officers of This Committee and approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board, review such reports, including those where the recommendation is for denial or revocation of a Charter, upon recommendation of the Organizational Development Committee, and, recommend discipline to the Statewide Officers which may include, but are not limited to: Private Admonishment; Public Admonishment; Suspension of Rights not to exceed 180 days; Removal from Office; and/or Removal from Membership.

The Statewide Officers will consider and follow the recommendation unless they vote to do otherwise, by a

two-thirds (2/3) vote, in which case they are to provide a written explanation for the departure. When the Chair or a Statewide Officer is accused, the Commission shall prepare a report to the Executive Board, with disciplinary recommendations, which shall implement those recommendations unless they vote to depart from a recommendation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Additionally, the Commission can recommend removal of an officer via a Statement of Charges filed by them, and, if it is on the basis of sexual misconduct, call a Special Meeting of the Executive Board.

Finally, the following must agree in writing to abide by the Code: DSCC members, those who vote or run for ADEM, or seek an endorsement or run for DNC. Chartered Organizations and Caucuses must adopt, as part of their bylaws, that each member is bound by the Code. Charters of Organizations and Certifications of Caucuses can be revoked for willful, intentional, or repeated failure to address violations of the Code, or failure to adopt them.

### CANDIDATES

*Continued from Page 1*

For this reason, I am seeking your opinion on who is best suited to take on Donald Trump in 2020.

Please respond by emailing the name of the candidate you are supporting to:  
mee1@ix.netcom.com

If you run into me at a Democratic Party meeting (but please, not with your vehicle), I am always happy to hear your opinion, but if you want to be counted in this unofficial survey, please send me an email. I will publish the results of your submissions in the next edition of this newsletter.



Garry S. Shay  
is Co-Lead Co-Chair of  
CDP Rules Committee

### STAYING UNITED

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However, had Robert Kennedy not been assassinated, there may have been another one in 1968.

As the rules only establish goals for delegate diversity and not a mandate, we could break diversity records either way, including the least diverse in recent memory. If the least, how would many core constituency groups respond: youth, people with disabilities, LGBTQ, African American, Latinos, Native Americans and AAPI when not being delegates?

Furthermore, how would the additional thousands of activists respond who wanted to be a delegate, but couldn't as their candidate didn't get enough votes or they were vetted?

Let's make sure that we Democrats unite behind our nominee after the convention. The stakes are too high to wake up the morning after and be unsuccessful in evicting the current White House occupant, nor retake control of the US Senate, nor continue to have a majority in the House.

### FROM THE EDITORS:

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Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Early

Otto Lee

Garry S. Shay

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