

CALIFORNIA DNC PRESS DEMOCRAT

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DNC TO HOLD SUMMER MEETING IN ARIZONA

BY MARY ELLEN EARLY, DNC MEMBER

The DNC is invading Republican territory, by holding its 2013 Summer Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21 and Thursday, August 22.

On the agenda is the election of officers for the Western States Caucus, where Californian Aleita Huguenin has submitted her name for re-election as caucus chair. California delegation members Garry Shay and Roz Wyman are up for re-election as DNC Executive Committee members. Each of the four geographical regions elect two men and two women to represent them on the Executive Committee.

In other news from our delegation, Eric Garcetti, who sat on the DNC representing the Democratic Municipal Officials (DMO), has been elected Mayor of Los Angeles. I attended a DMO reception last summer in Charlotte, and learned just how highly regarded Eric is among city officials throughout the country, especially in red states where the largest cities are run by Democrats.

Due to the Summer Meeting being held in August, the DNC Western States meeting, originally scheduled for August 9-11 in Las Vegas, has been cancelled. The two meetings would be very expensive and labor intensive to hold in such close proximity. The Western Caucus has not been rescheduled.



Members of the California DNC Delegation with Congressman Mike Honda at the CDP Convention

DNC RULES AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

By Alex Gallardo Rooker and Keith Umemoto

The DNC Rules and Bylaw Committee (RBC) met in Chicago on June 8 to (1) review the effect of the 2012 Convention Delegate Selection Rules and Call to the Convention during the 2012 elections and (2) identify issues for consideration for future Democratic National Conventions, particularly the 2016 convention.

Review of 2012 Convention

The 2012 Democratic National Convention was the most diverse convention in the history of the party, achieving one of the party's goal of having a convention that looks like America. In contrast, the composition of delegates to the Republican National Convention was not representative of the country, but did resemble the Republican Party. At the Democratic National Convention, the youth contingency dramatically increased from 2008 to 2012. In addition,

there were more African Americans, Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders, Latinos, and Native Americans. Similarly, we Democrats saw an increase in the number of delegates representing the LGBT and people with disabilities communities.

There were 5,552 delegates, 4826 pledged and 726 unpledged for the 2012 convention, an increase of 1,138 delegates from 2008. Compared to 2008, this represented a reduction of unpledged delegates (also known as Super Delegates), a significant increase of pledged delegates, and a reduction in the proportion of unpledged delegates, significantly reducing the influence of unpledged delegates in the nomination process.

Another important change from the 2008 election cycle was the calendar of the state primaries and caucuses. The primaries and caucuses were dispersed more evenly

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CDP Vice Chair
Alex Rooker was recently re-elected Treasurer of the DNC Association of State Democratic Chairs.



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

DEMOCRATS: LEARN NEW EDUCATION STANDARDS

BY CHRIS STAMPOLIS, CALIFORNIA DNC MEMBER



Chris Stampolis serves in his fourth term on the DNC, and also serves as an elected governing board member for the Santa Clara Unified School District.

Democratic campaign leaders love election season. We walk and phone and strategize and get-out-the-vote. And when we celebrate on election night, we often turn our thoughts to the next election cycles, leaving the detailed work of governance to those we successfully elected.

In the realm of education policy, however, 2013 is a unique year because the Obama Administration has encouraged Common Core standards for public schools across the US. This policy brings such a potentially large impact on future elections that Democratic grass roots leaders must team with local school board members to become well-skilled in the details of Common Core. The new standards will impact every California student and family, at

school sites and for the amount of homework parents must help students track.

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and his national leadership team have pointed out repeatedly that our country has a large achievement gap between students who complete K-12 education ready for college or career, and young people who need significant remediation in basic skills. Often these gaps parallel ethnic and economic demographics. Employers from wide backgrounds express concerns about the need for well-prepared workers who can competently read, write, compute and analyze. We Democrats—state and nationally—have committed to foster a generation of learners who will become educated and prepared to participate successfully in the modern

workforce. Democratic governance leads to opportunity!

The website of the California Department of Education (www.cde.ca.gov) has posted the California Common Core standards, summarized in two documents of about 60 pages each. Rather than just focusing on how to elect our local officials, we activists also need to read these documents. We also should review the newly-released “Smarter Balanced” sample exams. As Democratic leaders, we need to know the details.

The Common Core standards expect that students will “attend to precision,” including “phonemic awareness,” beginning in second grade, and use a dictionary to check spelling. Every elementary student in California is expected to memorize their addition and multiplication tables, in addition to learning to do work problems, to graph and become proficient in

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FROM CRIME TO A US SENATE RACE: DARRYL ISSA

BY BOB MULHOLLAND, CALIFORNIA DNC MEMBER



Bob Mulholland resides in Chico and can be reached at chicobob@msn.com

Congressman Darryl “Joe McCarthy” Issa, as the chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has a staff of 90 people (a bloated government committee), and spends day and night (other than the hours he spends looking at himself in the mirror) attacking President Obama.

Why? For one reason, Issa wants to see himself on cable TV and in news stories. Several of his staff have just one job: looking everywhere for Issa’s name. Every day his staff gives him a media report, giving Issa a mental ejaculation. Joe McCarthy used to do the same thing. He ended disgraced, drunk and ostracized.

Issa reported an income of \$60 million dollars last year (it “pays” to be an insider and a committee chair), so

Issa is now worth \$350 million. He tells other insiders that he is running for US senate in 2016, if Boxer does not run. Issa ran for senate in 1998, but lost to Matt Fong, with Fong’s communication director, Steve Schmidt (yes, that Steve Schmidt), attacking Issa: “This is a man who makes \$7 million a year and he applies for corporate welfare programs.”

Actually, Schmidt was being kind to Issa by not mentioning Issa being arrested as a young man for car theft, being under investigation for arson of his own business (it was proved to be arson), using a gun to threaten a woman he was about to fire, and undertaking a financial scheme to take over an anti auto theft company, which he then used to make himself millions of dollars. This is only a partial

list. Issa always took the political Fifth and refused to take lie detector tests when he was under investigation.

So far, Democrats have treated Issa with kid gloves (a mistake), but in a US Senate race with a Democrat and the media coverage, we can beat him.

In the meantime, Democrats have to start politically attacking Issa. When he shows up at an event, let’s get some signs up: “Issa, What about the Maserati?” “Issa, Who lit the arson match where you collected half a million dollars?” (a few weeks before the arson, Issa had increased his arson insurance from \$100,000 to a half million), “Issa, Did you own the gun, etc?”

Get started now, because soon Issa will be coming to your town, promoting himself.

CALIFORNIA CONTINUES TO LEAD THE WAY

BY ALICE HOFFMAN, DNC MEMBER

We would like to praise California for its forward leadership in implementing the Affordable Care Act. Thanks to Governor Brown, California gets to show the nation how to deliver health care. In his budget, he expanded Medicare to include the many indigenous people needing insurance. The first phase is Covered California. The Education and Outreach program begins July 1, 2013. Open enrollment begins in October, 2013.

All of our 31 NAACP Branches and all of our Youth and College Division will be looking for the difficult to identify population (transient individuals), college age young adults (young individuals), mixed immigration households, and all other eligible, uninsured,

African American individuals, living between 138% and 400% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. Concretely, this translates to individuals living in households of one (1) person with a monthly income of \$1,300 to \$3,723 up to households of eight (8) persons with a monthly income of \$4,526 to \$12,963.

The entities contracted within the first segment of Covered California are diverse and located throughout the state. The California Health Benefit Exchange is serious about getting work done, and done correctly. Yes, we wanted universal health care but we believe this is the next best thing. This is a big job but we love Obama Care, (he gave us permission to use this at

the National Convention). Remember, many want this to fail and we cannot let that happen, so join us in this effort.

Now we must do everything within our means to get eligible people enrolled. Imagine the pride we will experience when all Californians can, with dignity, get insurance and proper health care. This is a huge undertaking. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Governor and his team for really caring about our citizenry.

For a list of the NAACP units geographically please visit <http://www.ca-naacp.org>. For other outreach organizations go to California Health Benefit Exchange (<http://www.healthexchange.ca.gov>).



Alice Huffman is President of the California NAACP

MARRIAGE EQUALITY AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

BY LAURENCE ZAKSON, DNC MEMBER

Thanks to the leadership of Democrats like President Barack Obama, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Governor Jerry Brown and California Attorney General Kamala Harris, Proposition 8 is effectively dead, the federal government must recognize same sex marriages legally performed in 13 states and the District of Columbia and DOMA is in its final death throes (or so it appears). The critically important decisions of our President not to defend DOMA and of our Governor and former and current California Attorneys General not to defend Proposition 8 sowed the seeds of victory. The involvement of Democratic activists, inside and outside the LGBT community, in the fight for equal rights for all Americans nourished those seeds. The prominent role of our President and the 2012 Democratic National Convention

in highlighting the service of those freed to serve in the Armed Forces by the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell--and the call for marriage equality in our Party platform--provided some of the sunlight needed to help those seeds grow. And the change in public opinion that grew from those seeds may have been the trigger for the historic victories for equality we saw on June 26, 2013.

These victories are but a milestone on a long road toward justice. In evaluating how far along that road we have traveled, it is important to remember that it was just 27 years ago that the Supreme Court in *Bowers v. Hardwick* ruled that states could legitimately control the private sexual activity of two consenting adults and it didn't matter that, by making us outlaws, lesbians and gay men were largely excluded from the protections of the U.S. Constitution. And it was

just 17 years ago that Congress passed the so-called Defense of Marriage Act (or DOMA) over the objection of both of our great Senators here in California and a host of civil rights leaders, including a memorable speech by Congressman John Lewis.

Remarkably, it was not until 2003, only 10 years ago, that the Supreme Court finally, in *Lawrence v. Texas*, overturned state sodomy laws and recognized that the purpose of such laws was to demean, control and criminalize a disfavored "personal relationship."

And it was as recently as 2008 when a majority of California voters went to the polls and affirmatively voted to write discrimination INTO our state Constitution by adopting Proposition 8.

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Laurence Zakson is a labor attorney and a legal consultant to a number of Democratic Party organizations

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

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That vote in 2008 was particularly jarring for Democrats and other progressives because the election of Barack Obama as our 44th President was a watershed moment for equality.

The fight for equal rights took a turn for the better when President Obama became the first sitting President to embrace marriage equality and, then, directed the Justice Department to stop fighting DOMA and to join the fight to overturn Prop. 8. And, finally, last month, on June 26, 2013, urged on by the Obama Justice Department, the U.S. Supreme Court held in *United States v. Windsor*, that DOMA imposes legal restrictions on "persons who are joined in same sex marriages" so that all who "interact" with them--from federal officials to their own children--will regard them as "less worthy than" those in opposite sex marriages. And, as a result, the "statute is invalid, for no legitimate purpose overcomes the purpose and effect to disparage and to injure those" couples. As a result, the federal government must cease its discriminatory refusal to recognize the marriages of same sex couples who are legally married under state law. The Supreme Court also effectively upheld an injunction against the enforcement of Proposition 8. Within hours, our federal government was hard at work trying to figure out how to recognize the legitimate same sex marriages it had, just a few hours before, been legally precluded from recognizing. Governor Brown and Attorney General Harris, equally promptly, issued an order that marriage licenses be issued to same

sex couples who are legally married under state law on a non-discriminatory basis as soon as the judgments became final. By the end of that same week, same and opposite sex couples were equally eligible to wed here in California--and same sex couples were availing themselves of that right.

VISIT THE CA DNC WEB SITE!

To view the California DNC Press Democrat in living color, see our on-line edition at the web site created by DNC member Becca Doten:

<http://www.cadnc.org>

EDUCATION STANDARDS

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fractions and exponents. Even Kindergartners will have proficiency standards to achieve! The new 11th grade statewide mathematics exam requires all public school students in California to be evaluated for knowledge of trigonometry, geometry and advanced algebra.

Every school board now has remarkable flexibility to make locally-based curricular choices, while recognizing California students will take the same standardized tests as students across the country. In many ways, the testing stakes will be higher than in past years, as California's students will have results compared to other states.

Please take a few moments to visit the CDE website, to read the Common Core Standards and to dialogue with local Democratic school board members to ensure that those

who make our local education policy are aware of the details of these new guiding documents.

FROM THE EDITORS:

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Sincerely,

Rachel Binah
Mary Ellen Early
Garry S. Shay

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DNC RULES AND BYLAWS

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throughout the cycle, with more states opting to hold their primaries and caucuses later and in clusters (three neighboring states or more held their presidential elections/caucuses on the same date). States received a bonus for having a later primary/caucus and/or a cluster, which was a percentage increase of their base delegates. By having a later presidential primary election/caucus, California was the largest beneficiary of the bonus for having a June primary, increasing the delegation by about 170 delegates.

In 2012, there were three sets of cluster states: (1) Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota, (2) Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Kansas, and (3) New York, Pennsylvania and

Connecticut. The Obama campaign reported that cluster saved the campaign valuable resources. Clustering provided a better use of time for a candidate and his surrogates and was more efficient in utilizing mass media.

2016 Convention Rules Considerations:

For the 2016 Convention and beyond, the RBC will be considering (1) the timing of the presidential primaries and caucuses, (2) the extent and method of penalizing states that violate the delegate selection rules, (3) strategies to avoid front-loading state primaries and caucuses, (4) utilization of clusters, and (5) bonus delegates for having later primaries/caucuses and clustering.

Congratulations to Eric Garcetti, who served on the DNC as Chair of Democratic Municipal Officials (DMO), on his election as Mayor of Los Angeles.

Eric is highly regarded by Democratic city officials across the nation, especially in red states, where he increased membership in DMO and organized city elected officials to support the Democratic Party.