

Hello to all Democrats living in Korea,

I moved to Korea in 2008, in the months leading up to the election of Barack Obama. At the time, I was excited to join a large and active Democrats Abroad, with events regularly attended by 50 or more, in support of the election of our first African-American President. Unfortunately, the years that followed that election saw our activities become less frequent, and our attendance drop off. By 2013, only 13 people had any involvement with Democrats Abroad Korea, and I was one of just 3 regular attendees at our meetings.

In 2014 I took over an almost non-existent Democrats Abroad Korea. I was able to rebuild our membership, and by the end of 2015 I was running events with 20-30 regular attendees. During this time, I learned about a fundamental problem in the Democratic Party. Democrats in Korea overwhelmingly want candidates who represent working class Americans, and in 2016 over 90% of us voted for Bernie Sanders. Meanwhile, much of the Democratic Party leadership had been bought out by corporate donors and they advanced an agenda that overwhelmingly supported corporate interests.

I am proud to have represented Democrats living in Korea by supporting Bernie Sanders for President, and by supporting Keith Ellison for Chair of the Democratic National Committee. Unfortunately, corporate interests still influence the Democratic Party leadership, including Democrats Abroad. Both of these elections went against my efforts, and I believe this corporate influence ultimately led to the election of Trump in 2016. I also believe this has caused many Democrats living in Korea to become disenfranchised with Democrats Abroad, thereby leading to our decline in sustained membership.

I have more experience working with Democrats Abroad than almost anyone in Korea. I am looking forward to advocating for the interests of Americans living in Korea, and I will fight to prevent corporate influence from thwarting our civic rights. I am running for Vice-Chair of Democrats Abroad Korea, and I hope to see you on November 30.