

Candidate Statement

Name: Kate Sawyer

Chapter: Frankfurt

Position: Chair

Gender: Female



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My Background: I have been an active member of Democrats Abroad (DA) for the past two years, assisting Barb Chap with the administration of the Frankfurt Chapter (officially as treasurer), supporting Taunus area outreach efforts) and spearheading GOTV efforts during Wisconsin's 2020 judicial and congressional special elections. During the 2020 election, I was heavily involved with both the DA Germany voter assistance and DA Global legal voter protection efforts, efforts that included frequent contact with stateside local election officials. I also volunteered during Obama's 2008 campaign, served as an attorney poll watcher for the 2012 election, and canvassed for Congressman Antonio Delgado (NY-19) during his 2018 campaign. My professional experience includes working for 3 years in finance and for 14 years as an attorney in a New York law firm.

Chapter Goals: I view the Chapter as having two primary obligations: (a) to Get Out the Vote (GOTV) by growing our database of members and mobilizing them to vote and (b) to engage active members in our GOTV efforts and provide them other meaningful opportunities to engage politically. To meet these obligations, the Chapter must: (i) be a dependable resource for overseas voting assistance and encouragement, (ii) provide engaging social opportunities that draw in new members and activate existing members and (iii) connect active Chapter members with each other and DA globally to provide meaningful opportunities to affect political change.

To achieve the latter, I strongly support the DA Germany level initiative to organize highly motivated volunteers into teams organized by states and, in some cases, Congressional districts to energize overseas voters in those states and districts, thereby increasing overseas participation in midterm, special and down-ballot elections while increasing DA's stateside profile.

Looking Forward: Our Chapter has a wonderful diverse group of committed and politically sophisticated members. The strength of the Chapter lies in these volunteers and their support of each other. A critical component of future efforts will include serving members who live outside of Frankfurt proper.

My candidacy for the role of Chair is rooted in my commitment to ensure that this position is filled and the Chapter continues to build on its momentum. In any capacity, I am eager to continue my work with Democrats Abroad – work that has not only brought me immense personal satisfaction, but has also brought me connections and friendships made especially strong by the common goal of striving for a better world.

Endorsed By:

Endorsement 1: Jennifer von Estorff – DA Germany, Secretary

I have had the pleasure and privilege of working closely with Kate in the time leading up to the November election until now. As the need arose for DA Germany to provide support for our members as they dealt with difficulties exercising their right to vote, Kate was one of the first volunteers to answer the call for help. Not only was Kate actively involved with the Global Voter Protection Team, assisting voters worldwide with difficult cases of voter suppression, she was always willing to help voters here in Germany who were struggling to receive or cast their ballots.

Kate wrote hundreds of emails and made countless phone calls to local election officials to follow up on the individual situation of each person and ensure that everyone could vote. Once the November election had passed, she dove into the efforts to win the Georgia Senate seats. Even up until the final days before the election, she was helping voters get their ballots back on time.

Now that the elections have passed, Kate has turned her attention to future efforts in order to inspire volunteers to engage on state and local levels. As Chapter Chair, she would no doubt be an asset to the Frankfurt Chapter and DA Germany. With her knowledge of DA structures and strong relationships to other volunteers, she can take the momentum built by Barb Chap and help grow and shape the chapter, giving the members opportunities to take action and have a clear sense of purpose.

Endorsement 2: Barb Chap, Frankfurt Chapter Chair

Having worked with her for two years and seen her dedication, professionalism, and enthusiasm, I fully support Kate Sawyer for Frankfurt Chapter Chair. She has contributed greatly to the Chapter and meticulously carried out her duties as Chapter Treasurer.

Kate has the organizational ability and commitment needed to guide the momentum of the Chapter. Her warmth and emphasis on membership inclusion will help build an even stronger Chapter team and encourage the members to engage not only in Frankfurt proper but also in the developing areas of Aschaffenburg, Gießen/Marburg, and Darmstadt.

Voter participation, assistance, and protection are Kate's passion. She has concrete ideas to further tap into the potential of the Chapter and the American citizens who are not yet aware of their right to vote.

At the same time, she is willing to hear and incorporate others' suggestions so that members can contribute to activities according to their talents and interests. Her demonstrated ability to delegate will help members initiate projects of their own that support the Democrats Abroad objectives.

The social aspects of membership cohesion will not be neglected. Kate has organized and supported several Frankfurt events and has given generously to make them accessible and enjoyable to everyone in the Chapter.

Kate Sawyer is an excellent choice for Frankfurt Chapter Chair. For those members who do not know her, I would encourage them to reach out to Kate to learn more, experience her friendly manner, and decide for themselves.