

Candidate Statement

Name: Daniela Vancic

Chapter: Cologne-Bonn

Position: Chair

Gender: Female



Candidate Statement:

Within months of arriving in Germany in 2017, I was immediately eager to get involved with DA. I worked for the Michigan Democratic Party in 2016 when we suffered a shocking and unexpected loss. As a person with an immigrant family background, coming from a union family, and the first to go to college, I couldn't fathom that Donald Trump was going to be President. Shortly thereafter I moved to Cologne, but I knew I had to stay involved.

2016-2020 was the biggest threat against our democracy, but it also inspired it: the Women's March, BLM as the biggest civil rights movement in history, Democrats taking back the House, a wave of progressive candidates elected, and the biggest voter turnout in US history. During my time as Chair I ensured the Cologne/Bonn Chapter was active in each of these historic milestones. I helped organize the annual NRW Women's March, assisted in the Racial Justice March, and helped organize phonebanking info-sessions where we ran some of the best phonebanking campaigns in Germany. I managed our annual 3-day Cologne Pride booth, where we raised nearly 800euros in 2019. We joined the yearly Cologne March for Science, and I helped push a March for a Lives protest in Bonn.

My personal favorite events have been Debate Night Bingo and inviting a local German police officer to tell us about the process of obtaining a gun in Germany. We then wrote letters about the process to our local American newspaper editors. Mine got published in the Detroit Free Press, so even Americans back home knew about DA. Additionally, I've helped get DA press coverage, with 2 national TV appearances, 3 local TV appearances, and numerous radio and podcast appearances. Professionally, I am a campaign manager at Democracy International, an NGO that strengthens citizens' participation, which perfectly complements my volunteer work at DA.

I would be honored to continue serving as Chair, continue bringing visibility to DA, continue our partnerships with like-minded groups/initiatives, and organize fun and meaningful events for members. My goals for our Chapter are to organize more advocacy-focused events that use our unique experiences as Americans abroad, and to restructure Chapter roles. I want to introduce a participatory system of event-planning so members can feel open submitting suggestions. I hope to foster our membership's creativity and activism so that being a DA member is fun and worthwhile.

Thank you for your vote!

Endorsed by:

Endorsement 1: Candice Kerestan – Chair, DA-Germany

I first met Daniela Vancic in 2017 at the Democrats Abroad booth at the Christopher Street Day Festival in Cologne. At the time, I was serving as Bonn Precinct Captain, and it quickly became apparent that having a point person in Cologne, too, would be beneficial for local members. Thankfully, Ms. Vancic, then new to the city, stopped by our stand and was eager to stay involved in U.S. politics from afar.

Shortly thereafter, Ms. Vancic not only began holding more regular events, but she also took the lead with numerous projects in the Cologne area, including organizing future Christopher Street Day festivals, marches, and postcard writing campaigns. During this time, we worked closely to better reach and serve members across the Rheinland. Our collective efforts resulted in greater sustained participation that ultimately allowed Cologne and Bonn, once only “precincts” (looser, more informal DA groups), to blossom into a full-fledged chapter with voting rights on the DA Germany Executive Committee.

Based on my numerous positive working experiences with Ms. Vancic, both as a regional leader in Bonn and later as DA Germany Chair, I am certain that she would continue to excel in the role of Cologne-Bonn Chapter Chair. Her ability to organize, unite, and mobilize people behind a cause has been invaluable to our organization. For these reasons, I endorse Ms. Vancic for the position of Cologne-Bonn Chapter Chair without reservation, and I strongly encourage you to support her candidacy.