

# Candidate Statement

Name: Benjamin Cole

Chapter: Cologne-Bonn

Position: Vice Chair

Gender: Male



## Candidate Statement:

We did it! With our efforts, we won the Presidency, we flipped the Senate, and held the House. Our party is poised to hold a unified government for these next two years at least. We should take some time to celebrate and revel in that because our work in Democrats Abroad was instrumental in making this happen.

We should be hopeful and we should be excited to see what comes next. But we should also be ready to roll our sleeves up again and get back to work, the job of governing begins today. That is why I am running for Vice Chair of the Cologne/Bonn Chapter of Democrats Abroad Germany.

At our Juneteenth March Against racism I called our leaders to action, to embrace change, and to do the hard work to create justice and progress our country towards the dream of equality and justice for all Americans. As we inaugurated Joe Biden to the presidency, we also inaugurated the first woman who is also the first multiracial, Black and Asian, Kamala Harris to the Vice Presidency. We were instrumental in making that happen. We are continuing the trajectory of progress, and I hope to serve as Vice Chair of DA Cologne/Bonn so I can help us expand our contributions to that progress. I hope to help our chapter find new avenues of agency and activism to promote our party's platform and values to Americans in Germany and abroad. I want to work with our chapter leadership to expand our voter outreach campaigns by taking account of our successes and challenges from this past election so we can know what to replicate and what can be improved upon. But I also want to help develop citizen outreach and engagement mechanisms that will empower Americans living abroad to stay active and engaged with their representatives and policymakers stateside. I believe we can do this through coalitions and partnerships with other NGOs and activists, but also through educating and informing our members. We live abroad, but our voices and our input are just as important crucial to our democracy as those of our friends and families back home. This election was absolute proof of that.

I humbly ask for your vote for Vice Chair in our chapter elections and your support as we move forward to make change and create justice. We have an amazing opportunity to bring our party's platform to life. As private citizens living abroad, we have the opportunity to reach out to our friends and neighbors in our communities to be living examples and representatives of the values and principles of our party and our nation. That is my vision for our chapter and our organization!

Endorsed by:

Endorsement 1: Nina Tichman

I am very enthusiastic about Ben Cole's candidacy as Vice Chair for our Cologne-Bonn Chapter of Democrats Abroad. I first met Ben when we were both manning the polls for the Global Presidential Primary in March 2020. Since then I have seen him in action – being tremendously effective as the person in charge of "getting out the vote" as well as in terrific interviews both in the German and English speaking press. His experience and training in Political Science make him an eloquent as well as profoundly knowledgeable representative and his enthusiasm and inventiveness are contagious.

We will be lucky to have Ben Cole as a leader in our chapter.