

Candidate Statement

Name: Jonah Otto

Chapter: Munich

Position: Vice Chair

Gender: Male



Candidate Statement:

My name is Jonah Otto and I would be honored to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Munich Chapter of Democrats Abroad (DA). Having been an active DA member and volunteer since early 2019, I have been able to witness the grass roots strength of DA in empowering Americans abroad to find their political voice and become agents for positive change in the US, Germany and the world. This was particularly evident in the run-up to, and duration of, the 2020 elections. Now I am driven to sustain, continue and expand that momentum through the next two years as we approach the crucial 2022 midterm elections, and I believe I can best pursue that goal through a position in local DA leadership.

Being located in Augsburg, myself and other Americans in my city were able to band together and become a productive sub-unit within the operations of the broader Munich chapter; driving new levels of engagement throughout western Bavaria that had previously been untapped. This resulted in unprecedented numbers for our voter registration efforts and participants in our locally hosted Global Presidential Primary. These events were not only successful in their primary purpose, but also served to recruit many new members for the DA Munich Chapter, which will result in easier mobilization for future elections and initiatives. This was a local example of the wider success realized by the Munich Chapter, DA Germany and DA worldwide in getting out the overseas vote, which proved to be a true difference-maker in bringing the White House and both chambers of Congress back to the Democratic Party, promising a better future for all Americans.

With this experience from the last two years in mind, I understand how important it is that 2020 is not a flash in the pan. We must maintain the energy displayed in the last election cycle so that this is not a one-time, “anti-Trump” response, but rather an overall signal from our diverse constituency that exploitation, inequity and injustice will not be tolerated from any politician and that 2020 is only the beginning. Americans overseas must remain active and engaged, and the work of DA is essential in that effort. That is why I believe in DA and why I would be honored to serve in a leadership role.

My prior experience in international relations, US foreign service, academia, volunteerism, consulting etc., can be found on my LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonah-otto-mpa-30339249/>.

Endorsed by:

Endorsement 1: Candice Kerestan – Chair, DA Germany

In 2019, DA Germany launched a call for volunteers in the Augsburg area, and one of the first people to put their hand up was Jonah Otto. After connecting with Mr. Otto, it became clear that he not only had a genuine interest in politics, but a talent to organize, bring people together, and mobilize behind a cause.

Over the past two years, I have seen Mr. Otto do just this. He has helped develop a strong Democrats Abroad community in Augsburg, inspired people to act, and provided them with the tools to do so. Under Mr. Otto's direction, Democrats Abroad held numerous voter registration drives, debate watch parties, and info stands in areas that were previously largely unreached in our chapter. His steady organizing resulted in the highest voter engagement DA Germany has ever experienced in Augsburg.

Based on my numerous positive working experiences with Mr. Otto as DA Germany Chair, I am certain that he would excel in the role of Munich Chapter Vice Chair. The combination of skills, interests, and ambition that Mr. Otto offers is invaluable to us as an organization. For these reasons, I endorse Mr. Otto for the position of Munich Chapter Vice Chair without reservation, and I strongly encourage you to support his candidacy.