



Democrats Abroad Italy 2021 Elections

DA Italy Country Candidates

Country Chair: Nancy Fina

Country Vice-Chair: Bob Vallier

Country Legal Counsel: Adriano Romano

Country Secretary: Patty Howard

Voting Representatives: Helenka Kinnan
Alessandro Marra
Anthony Mitzel
Patrick Soricone



Name: Nancy Fina

Position running for: DA Italy Chair

City: Piacenza

I am the current Country chair for Italy. Every day I am more excited and motivated to get people involved, voting, thinking, caring and acting to promote the Democratic party and the desires of Americans living abroad. Democratic values have permeated my life, actions and belief system.

The last 2 years have been tremendous, we came together, our activism, teamwork, fundraising, reaching out & thousands of calls, paid off! We helped Americans and about tripled the vote! We did it together! We changed history!

The job is not over. I am dedicated to work even harder in the next two years with passion, creativity and integrity to lead the team of extraordinary volunteers to continue to make a difference. My desire is to create community and reach out to more regions in the north and south of Italy creating subchapter/precincts in order to connect, serve more Americans and help them vote. Another favorite part of my job is to understand each volunteer's special talents, bring them out and piece them together to create a successful team. It is of utmost importance that we help all Americans in Italy support our Democratic party especially now with a razor thin margin and with the upcoming midterm elections in 2022.



Name: Bob Vallier

Position running for: Italy Vice-Chair *

City: Florence

*** Also running for Chair – Central Italy Chapter**

I am seeking re-election as DA Italy Vice Chair because while the work we did leading up to the 2020 election was very successful, it is not yet complete. In the past two years, we managed to rewrite our by-laws, clean up our database, conduct a primary election under extremely adverse conditions during the height of the pandemic, raise money to spend on a successful get-out-the-vote effort, and increase our membership.

In the next two years, I would like to build our community, expand our membership further, develop our connections—in Italy, internationally, and in Washington, improve our communications, prepare for the 2022 election and leave DA-Italy in a strong position for the 2024 elections.

*The “administrative” work we undertook was necessary to help maximize the vote from abroad to get Tr*** out of office and win the Senate, but now we have to grow and expand our local organization — and that means engaging more Americans in Italy, fostering small local action committees and new precincts within our three regions, and building volunteer networks throughout the peninsula so that we retain control of congress in 2022 and keep the White House in 2024.*

My first two years was about making sure our skeleton was strong and healthy, but now it's time to build muscle so that the body is healthy, harmonious, and ready for the future



Name: *Adriano Romano*

Position running for: DA Italy Counsel

City: Rome

DA Italy played such a relevant role in gathering US citizens living in Italy, that we need to grow support now more than ever. It is a time when all efforts of any volunteers are vital to both ensure and expand participation into the values of our democracy, knowing we do so even from abroad. Our efforts are an investment into democracy, for our generation and the next.



Name: *Patty Howard*

Position running for: DA Italy Secretary

Region/City: Padenghe Sul Garda, Brescia

As current secretary, I have learned so much about our organization. Should I be re-elected, I would like to continue furthering some of the projects and tasks undertaken as part of the current executive committee. I especially would like to increase our outreach to current members and to potential new members. A second term would also allow me to set up best practices and a training guide for a successful transition to a future secretary.

How will your skill sets and experience contribute to DA's success?

Some of the skills I gained in my marketing career were easily transferable; i.e. helping develop a communication strategy. My experiences with fundraising and working with keynote speakers were also helpful. Previous work with communication systems (WebEx, Microsoft PowerPoint, Word, etc.) enabled me to learn our technical systems so I could communicate with our members (updating webpages, creating announcements, newsletters and sending emails).

DA Italy has some wonderful leaders and members and I feel lucky to be a part of the team.



Name: *Helenka Kinnan*

Position running for: Italy Voting Representative *

Region/City: Rome

*** Also running for Southern Italy Chapter Vice-Chair**

As candidate for Voting Representative you acknowledge the duties of Voting Representatives and undertake to participate in person or by teleconference in Democrats Abroad meetings at which Voting Representatives are expected to participate or to cast votes

I am dedicated to making our democracy work and to promoting the activities of Democrats Abroad. I will do everything I can to make that happen. Being a Voting Representative for DA Italy is one way to make sure that our voices are heard.



Name: *Alessandro Marra*

Position running for: Italy Voting Representative

Region/City: Rome

*** Also running for Southern Italy Vice Chair**

I have recently relocated back to Italy after spending almost half of my life in the US, where I earned a Master Degree in International Business, and pursued a career as an IT management consultant. In addition to Italy and the US I have lived and worked in Paris, France, and Brussels, Belgium.

I have decided to run for this office to spread the democratic values represented by Democrats Abroad; to contribute to the best of my abilities to make a difference within the local US community; to give back as a way to demonstrate gratitude to a country which has allowed me to pursue an education and a rewarding career; and to engage in positive change after events that have occurred in US politics that have damaged its reputation.

My intentions are to provide my available time and energy for this cause. I am confident that my international background, management work experience, organizational skills, and positive attitude can be a valuable asset.

As candidate for Voting Representative I acknowledge the duties of Voting Representatives and undertake to participate in person or by teleconference in Democrats Abroad meetings at which Voting Representatives are expected to participate or to cast votes



Name: Anthony Dion Mitzel

Position running for: Italy Voting Representative

City: Cesena

As candidate for Voting Representative you acknowledge the duties of Voting Representatives and undertake to participate in person or by teleconference in Democrats Abroad meetings at which Voting Representatives are expected to participate or to cast votes.

Though many of us live and work outside the United States of America, we must always keep an eye out on what is happening within the U.S. proper. It is our obligation as citizens, some of us citizens of both countries. We must also take it upon ourselves to repair the social compacts that propagate progression in society, whether in the U.S. or closer to home here in Italy.

Since I cannot participate directly in the US domestic political process, I would like to contribute in whatever way I can within this organization with the skillsets I possess. As a citizen of both countries, I have lived in Italy, from which my ancestors emigrated to the US, since 2005. While this is not a qualification in and of itself, I have been able to use my experience from both the US and Italy in my graduate research at University College London, in which I work on the connections between Italians, Americans, and Italian Americans through a shared diasporic experience. I believe that my personal skillset and background as an adjunct professor of linguistics, language and culture can be a positive to Democrats Abroad Italy.

If elected, in addition to accepting the duties outlined by the international, national, and local organizing committees, I will endeavor to make our collective voice louder and heard by our elected officials in Washington, D.C., so that they know just because we have left the country, we have not ceased participating in the U.S. democratic process.



Name: Patrick J Soricone

Position running for: Italy Voting Representative*

City: Bologna

* Also running for Precinct Secretary - Bologna

It would be an honor to have your vote. I will bring enthusiasm, hard-work values, commitment to community engagement, and an eagerness to hear from our broad and diverse membership.

Democrats must deliver on improving the lives of working people. Otherwise, our Congressional majority ends in 2022. I will support the Biden admin getting things done, and done well.

Recently retired from 35+ years in nonprofit community/economic development in Seattle, San Jose, and internationally; I am ready to serve DA Italy -- locally, regionally and beyond. I believe in 'servant leadership' which puts listening above all other duties. Skills I gained in my career can benefit DA Italy: organizational development, fundraising, public affairs, and strategic planning.

I'm familiar with the responsibilities of Voter Reps, having served similarly with NASW (National Association of Social Workers).

In Bologna, I organized our "personalized postcards" outreach effort -- successful and great fun; providing ways for new and long-time Dems to get involved -- especially for those not excited to join us for phone-banking or voter registration/support efforts.

Despite setbacks, I've never lost faith that decent and caring people, working together for the common good, can make the USA a more just and equitable country.