



Questions for the DNC Chair Candidates - 2017
From Democrats Abroad

1) Why are you running for DNC Chair?

Throughout the 2016 campaign, I saw state parties and grassroots activists across the country that were not given the respect and support they needed to be successful. Calls were not returned, ideas were rejected, and feedback was ignored. Democratic leaders in all 50 states, DC, the territories, and abroad need a partner at the DNC, and I want to be that partner. I am running for DNC Vice Chair because I believe everyone has an important role to play in our success, and I am committed to empowering Democratic leaders in every corner of our Party.

2) How would you describe your management style? What is your relevant organizational management experience? Would you work as a full time or part time Chair, and if part time, how would you manage?

My management style is bottom-up. I seek input in decision making from everyone who will be impacted by those decisions. My philosophy is that while we must never be afraid to disagree, we need to make sure that everyone is heard. Whenever possible, I believe that communication, inclusion, and consensus should be achieved. I will take this approach when working with Democrats across the country and abroad.

I co-founded Ready for Hillary, which raised \$15 million and grew from two people to four million grassroots supporters. At Hillary for America, I oversaw staff members in 46 states and DC, and I served as National Field Director of the DNC as part of Donna Brazile's transition team. In this position I worked with DA and saw firsthand the incredible work that you do despite the lack of respect, funding and other much-needed resources. I was proud to fight for DA even when we were told no. I want to be in a position where I can make sure we get to "yes" and DA receives equal support.

The position of DNC Chair should be a full-time job and I am pleased that the candidates for this position have pledged to commit themselves full-time. Another full-time position at the DNC should be a staff member or staff members dedicated to empowering and engaging Democrats Abroad.

3) Do you think the position should be filled by a single Chair or by two Co-Chairs, as has sometimes been done in the past?

My preference is for a single Chair that is supported by the team of Vice Chairs. As Vice Chair, I hope to assist the next DNC Chair so she/he can be as successful as possible. My experience at the DNC and my institutional know-how will help the next DNC Chair hit the ground running to strengthen our Party in all 50 states, DC, the territories, and abroad. I want to see all candidates that are part of this process continue to be involved in a concrete way post-election in Atlanta.

With all of this said, I do support an “Honorary Co-Chair” position that would help support the DNC’s fundraising efforts in 2017 and beyond. For example, Former Vice-President Joe Biden would be an excellent candidate to be considered for such a role.

4) What lessons should we learn from the 2016 elections and what do they mean for our strategy going forward? How are we going to attract voters who did not turn out for Democrats in 2016?

There are too many lessons to count, but it boils down to this: the approach was top-down. Democrats outside of Brooklyn had ideas that were rejected and feedback that was ignored. Too often, the answer from the national campaign leadership was a simple “no.” I want to find a way to get to “yes.” State parties know best how to organize in their respective states. The same applies to Democrats Abroad. It is the job of the DNC to provide the respect and support that is needed to Democratic leaders in every corner of our Party. We need a bottom-up approach that gives Democrats Abroad the respect and support they need.

5) What changes should be made at the DNC to make it a more effective organization?

First and foremost, we must give state parties the respect and support they need. This includes Democrats Abroad.

We must integrate DNC members at every level of the DNC. This includes DNC staff in every department working with DNC members and fully utilizing members’ talent, experience, networks and ideas. DNC members are liaisons to the institution however they are not used as such and there is currently no structure to support this.

We must have a continual surrogate operation that doesn’t just appear six

months out from an election and then make its way to the presidential campaign. The DNC must run a continual surrogate operation that supports your needs on both the fundraising and organizing front. The DNC should fulfill surrogate requests and cover travel. I have heard the concerns from DA members that see so many individuals come in and fundraise abroad but the money never stays abroad or gets invested into DA. With a fulltime surrogate operation and the ability to utilize these surrogates, DA in turn would be able to hold events where funds stay within DA. This fundraising tactic would complement and be on top of the State Party Partnership funding which DA would be an equal member of.

6) Democrats Abroad members vote in all 50 states. What are your views on implementing a 50-State Strategy? What role do you see for Democrats Abroad?

We need not just a 50-State Strategy, but a strategy to make our Party vibrant in all 50 states, DC, the territories, and abroad. Engaging voters in Northern Virginia is just as important as engaging Americans in North Africa. Democrats Abroad must play a central role in helping increase Democratic vote totals in all 50 states. It is important for the DNC to support the 57 Party Chairs and Vice Chairs in this effort and not direct them what to do or give orders. DNC members know how best to organize the areas they live in both from a political and organizing stand point and the DNC should be the best resource possible to those that know their areas the most.

7) Concerning Democrats Abroad (DA):

- How would you plan to include Democrats Abroad in the DNC's resource allocations in future election cycles?

Democrats Abroad should be respected and supported just like the state parties for the 50 states, DC, and the territories. There must be full-time staff support for Democrats Abroad and there must be focus from the highest level of DNC leadership on how to support the efforts of Democrats Abroad leaders and maximize voter turnout among Democratic voters living abroad.

- Would you ensure that DA is allocated funding (like other state parties) under the State Party Program (SPP) to use for an Executive Director as well as Communications and GOTV initiatives abroad?

Yes. There should be no distinction between the way the DNC supports and respects Democrats Abroad and the way the DNC supports the state parties of the 50 states. I also support DA having the ability to determine how best to use those funds given current DA priorities. For example, DA might want

to put a majority of funds received through the SPP towards staff located abroad, however, based on my previous work with DA I also understand that a budget for digital advertising is something that was important and a priority to DA leadership this past election. In addition to fully funding and supporting the SPP, I think it also important to recognize that DA does not receive other basic resources and access to other existing assets such as but not limited to VoteBuilder and lists requested to make the organizing job of DA easier. The DNC must also keep in mind at all levels of the organization the obstacles such as calling from abroad that DA has faced in the past and tackle those head on in partnership with DA.

- Would you agree to designate a point person within the DNC for Democrats Abroad, allowing us easy and effective interface with the Party?

Absolutely. The DNC missing out on opportunities to reach Democratic voters abroad because it is not adequately supporting and respecting Democrats Abroad and its leadership. Additionally, I will continue to take a very hands on approach with DA to ensure you not only have a dedicated staffer, but an Officer of the DNC that you can go to at any time.

8) Like voters in all states, Democrats Abroad members have concerns specific to overseas Americans. What is the best medium for state parties like us to raise these issues within the Democratic Party and see them addressed?

The best medium to raise concerns is through the point person referenced above, but it is my hope that Democrats Abroad will also communicate its needs and concerns directly to DNC leadership, including to me as Vice Chair. This is why I want to continue to be hands on, join your regular calls and be part of your regular communications.

9) What other remarks would you like to make to Democrats Abroad?

I urge members to look more at the priorities I have gone into specific detail on at www.AdamforDNC.com

Thank you for the opportunity to answer these questions, I appreciate your consideration and I hope to earn your support.

All my best,

Adam