



Questions for the DNC Vice Chair Candidates - 2017
From Democrats Abroad

1) Why are you running for DNC Vice Chair?

I'm running for DNC Vice Chair because I know that a new year, new Congress, and new Presidency all Demand New Commitment from the DNC. We must listen more, inspire new voters, nurture existing party structures, and offer leadership that is both accountable and successful. It is imperative that we reverse Republican Party control of state legislatures and governorships, block anti-democratic redistricting efforts, and oppose poor policy proposals put forward by the next Administration. We can do all of this, but only if we do it together.

I believe it is imperative that the DNC:

LISTEN.

- Engage in a national listening tour of voters, local party leaders, activists, and supporters.
- Host regular coordinating meetings between the DNC, DCCC, DSCC, DGA, and DLCC.
- Survey the needs of state parties and local organizations.
- Implement new ways for elected officials to relay concerns and observations.
- Provide the public an opportunity to submit comments at democrats.org.

INSPIRE.

- Create a permanent surrogate program similar to that in place during a presidential cycle.
- Identify new candidates and ensure that a Democrat runs in every race.
- Share all talking points, graphics, and notable news in a manner suited for social media.
- Increase voter turnout by developing county, as well as state, based strategies.
- Involve supporting organizations such as labor more directly in decision-making.
- Pursue new opportunities to reach new voters through non-English media outlets.

NURTURE.

- Fundraise, and then invest in state and local parties, as if America's future depends on it.
- Deploy DNC staff to strategic areas of the nation long-term, as requested.
- Dedicate specific DNC staff to specific communities of interest.
- Prioritize field, GOTV, and training spending.
- Disseminate best practices to interested organizers, fundraisers, and candidates.

LEAD.

- Register more Democrats than ever, and oppose all anti-democratic redistricting efforts.
- Challenge voter suppression and lead voter protection efforts.
- Develop more user-friendly and affordable canvassing platforms and polling services.

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- Generate accountability metrics for every DNC department and staffer.
- Create new in-house capabilities for polling, fundraising, and media consulting.

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?

N/A

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?

N/A

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?

So many people felt like they were ignored this past election cycle, especially our Democratic party members in the South and Midwest. This is why I'll establish a permanent surrogate program that will activate local and state electeds who will have the platform of the national party.

The diversity of our party must be represented in this outreach, allowing the Party to communicate in rural and suburban areas and in a large variety of languages. Keeping a permanent program is an important tool in standing up to Trump.

Additionally, a coordinated and collaborative approach between Vice Chairs and the Chair helps our party's message reach a broader Democratic audience. This is how we will register more Democrats than ever. I have done this work with the AAPI community this last election cycle where we had record early voter turnout in some regions. It's time to magnify those efforts across the party and across communities.

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

In addition to the permanent surrogate operation and expanding our candidate recruitment and training programs, we need greater transparency, with the budget and with the new programs services the party provides. We demand accountability in our campaigns with daily and weekly reports from the Finance, field and message teams. We need that same accountability at the DNC, so I am proposing a transparent structure that includes weekly reports to the executive officers, monthly reports to all DNC officers and a quarterly report for ALL DNC members.

The membership of this organization must demand accountability and this type of the structure is the essential first step in allowing the party to increase investment in the states.

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?

The DNC must implement a true 50-state strategy. From 2006 – 2008, we worked hard to expand the reach and impact of the Democratic Party through the state parties and it paid off. Yet, since 2008, we have failed to invest in our state and local party infrastructure.

When I ran for office in the state legislature, I ran without formal support or infrastructure, and I truly know how difficult that can be. I understand the important need of cultivating a bench of talent and investing in state legislative and local races--because these are the people that eventually run for statewide office or Congress.

We need to create a formal link between the DNC's political department and candidates, and provide a baseline of training and support. We must also broaden the scope of our engagement, and investments, to reverse the electoral backslide in statehouses and localities over the past 6 years. I've engaged in local races across the country, and we need the increase that role exponentially.

Democrats Abroad plays a critical role in building this infrastructure. As margins of victory get narrower and narrower, absentee and international voters will play a critical role. With a strong and robust Democrats Abroad, we'll have the infrastructure in place to work towards increasing engagement from international voters, and give us an edge when in increasingly close elections.

7) Concerning Democrats Abroad (DA):

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

N/A

- 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?

N/A

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

N/A

8) Like voters in all states, Democrats Abroad members have concerns specific to overseas Americans. What is the best medium for state parties

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like us to raise these issues within the Democratic Party and see them addressed?

I believe the role of the DNC Vice Chair is to listen to the needs of democrats everywhere and work to address those needs. I believe this so strongly that I made listening the first plank of my platform. Once re-elected, I plan on going on a listening tour to talk to democrats in every corner of our party and would absolutely include Democrats Abroad as an important part of that tour. Additionally, I'm planning on regularly surveying the needs of state in order to make sure we are hearing the unique issues and needs state parties are facing.

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