



July 18, 2012

Assemblymember Nathan Fletcher
[REDACTED]

Dear Assemblymember Fletcher:

As Chair of the San Diego County Democratic Party, I am writing to invite you to join the ranks of hundreds of thousands of San Diegans who identify as Democrats.

Your leadership in the military and in the legislature demonstrates a genuine commitment to public service. Now that the Primary Election is behind us, I hope you'll take the opportunity to continue that record of service as a Democrat.

You left the Republican Party earlier this year, tired of their extremism and rhetoric, and yet you said you didn't want to start a third-party movement. I believe that you share many of the values that make the Democratic Party strong, and that you would find a big tent and a welcome home here.

During your time in the Assembly, you've voted to support numerous Democratic priorities. You authored bills to help homeless youth, to assist our aging veterans, and to let workers who have lost their jobs keep their health insurance. You showed an ability to work with local labor leaders in your recent efforts to help avoid a janitors strike and your vote to support the Homeowners Bill of Rights. And when you worked to close a corporate tax loophole and provide relief to small businesses and the working poor, Democrats applauded while Republicans criticized your position.

In your campaign for Mayor, I also noticed that your positions on key issues like a woman's right to choose, LGBT equality, environmental protection, good-paying local jobs, and fairness to immigrants were in line with the Democratic Party. Throughout the campaign, Democratic leaders and elected officials who supported you spoke highly of your intelligence, dedication, and principles.

Political parties and people evolve. In recent years, many of us have watched the Republican Party move farther and farther from the values that most Californians hold. At the same time, we have watched you grow as a leader by making the bold move of leaving the Republican Party. It seems only natural for that evolution to continue.

Our party is broad and diverse, encompassing many different and even independent viewpoints. I believe, as do many others, that you would fit very well in the Democratic Party, and I know we would offer you a warm reception if you chose to join us.

Sincerely,

Jess Durfee
Chair, San Diego County Democratic Party