

**Special Meeting**  
San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee  
January 11, 2012  
5:30 p.m.  
Local 2, 209 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco

**Minutes**

1. Roll Call

Roll was called at 5:39 p.m.

Present: John Avalos, David Campos, Matt Dorsey, Mary Jung, Leslie Katz, Hene Kelly, Rafael Mandelman, Milton Marks, Carole Migden, Jane Morrison, Aaron Peskin, Wendy Phillips, Alix Rosenthal, Arlo Hale Smith, Debra Walker, Scott Wiener, Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder), Jackie Speier (proxy Margo Rosen), Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild), Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka), Fiona Ma (proxy Bob Twomey)

Excused, with Proxy: Bill Fazio (proxy Mary Jung), Sandra Fewer (proxy Hene Kelly), Gabriel Haaland (proxy Aaron Peskin), Tom Hsieh (proxy Scott Wiener), Melanie Nutter (proxy Connie O'Connor),

Excused: David Chiu

Absent: Nancy Pelosi, Leland Yee

The Recording Secretary announced a quorum was present.

Tom Ammiano (proxy Kim Shree Maufas) arrived at 5:44 p.m., after the roll was called.

Eric Mar arrived at 5:54 p.m., after roll was called.

2. Ratification of Chair's appointment to DCCC seat formerly held by Michael Goldstein

Chairman Aaron Peskin provided details of the Memorial Service for Michael Goldstein scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 3-5 p.m., at Local 1021. He said that his meeting would be adjourned in his honor.

Peskin announced that Matt Dorsey, a friend of Goldstein's, was appointed to Michael's seat subject to ratification by the DCCC.

Moved by Scott Wiener to appoint Dorsey to Goldstein's seat; seconded by Leslie Katz.

Passed without objection.

Kim Shree Maufas arrived at 5:44 p.m., carrying Sandra Fewer's proxy for Hene Kelly.

3. Discussion and possible action on recommendation to California Democratic Party (CDP) proposal to reflect Democratic population disparity between San Francisco portions of the proposed 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly Districts in election of San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC) membership.

Peskin provided background information on this agenda item, noting that in December 2011, Arlo Smith alerted DCCC members about legislation that would be introduced in January that could affect the CCC's throughout the State.

At a minimum, such legislation would require that in San Francisco County Assembly District 12 and 13, be changed to 19 and 17 respectively.

Peskin stated that he met with Assemblymember Fiona Ma three weeks ago to discuss legislation she is carrying on behalf of the Assembly Speaker to amend the Elections Code. Peskin described many of the changes as virtually ministerial, aimed at reducing costs in the 58 counties – such as eliminate write-ins for County Committee elections, eliminate providing certificates of election, and no longer provide a registrar to administer the oath of office to newly re/elected members.

Peskin reported that the CDP requested that all 58 DCCC submit input including if they wished to change their composition. Arlo Smith, as chair of the Top 2 Subcommittee, met with subcommittee members Debra Walker and Hene Kelly and had recommendations to provide to the SF DCCC. Peskin stated he also had a couple of alternatives and wanted to suggest a process for narrowing down the options and coming to a recommendation. Peskin said he would inform Ma, Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, and the CDP of the outcome of the meeting whatever it may be.

Peskin stated that currently, in San Francisco County there are two Assembly Districts, and each have 12 elected DCCC members, that Arlo Smith's Committee has two proposals, the Chair (Peskin) has a proposal, and the Chair (Peskin) also has a process for reaching a decision on this issue.

Smith provided the background leading up to the meeting, reminding everyone of the Secretary of State's letter asking for a reply by January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Because of Top 2, the Presidential and County Committee races are the only ones that have Party ballots. All the Legislative races will get the same ballot, regardless of Party affiliation. If the DCCC doesn't come to a decision, the status quo would remain at 12 elected members for each assembly district. In San Francisco, the east side currently has 58% of registered voters who are registered as Democrats, and the west side has 42%.

Eric Mar arrived at 5:54 p.m.

Connie O'Connor asked about the percentage difference. Smith replied that in 1990, the split was 50-50. In 2000, the split was 47 (west side) / 53 (east side). The DCCC at the time decided to keep the representation at 12/12.

There was discussion by Wiener, Peskin, and Walker regarding proportionality of democratic registration. Walker expressed concern there would be no future opportunities to change the proportion if the DCCC doesn't act before the January 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline. Wiener pointed out that this is a serious policy issue that has been around a long time and a snap decision should not be made. Peskin replied this is simply about the number of democrats in each Assembly District and noted that if this was about Supervisorial or Congressional Districts, we would not be having this conversation because it would be mandated by law. Peskin pointed out that there are @ 70,000 residents per Supervisorial District, and asked if we want Democrats to have proportional representation – 1 vote for 1 person.

John Avalos was excused from the meeting at 5:58 p.m. and gave his proxy to Jane Morrison.

Bob Twomey stated that Assembly member Ma's legislation will have two different components and suggested the items be voted on separately – recommending that the DCCC vote on the

easier part (renumbering the districts) and put that to rest – and then consider and discuss the second component regarding proportionality, which is much more complex.

Peskin stated that while the SF DCCC does not control what the Legislature does, it was nonetheless important for the DCCC to make a decision and go on record with its recommendation to the Legislature. Twomey reiterated that it would make more sense to handle the two components separately.

George Broder posed a question about the resolution and the population calculations. He asked if there was a voter registration report for the current assembly districts and the new districts. Broder left the meeting at 6:04 p.m. John Murray took his place as Senator Feinstein's proxy for the remainder of the meeting.

Smith said the Top 2 (Smith) Subcommittee has two proposals: (1) Increase east side representation so there are 12 elected members on the west side, and 17 elected members on the east side (42% - 58%); or (2) Remain at 24 elected members, with a split of 10 on the west side and 14 on the east side.

Peskin suggested two additional proposals: (3) Everything remains the same – 12 elected members on each side of town; or (4) request that the state law be amended in such a way that the DCCC seats are automatically adjusted every 10 years based on the census without amending state law or a DCCC vote.

Katz expressed concern that in the calculation method, the DCCC is not counting immigrants. Peskin pointed out that as a body, the DCCC is only looking at registered Democrats.

Kelly reported that the SF Department of Elections web site states the proportion on registered democrats is 39% (19<sup>th</sup> AD) to 61% (17<sup>th</sup> AD).

Peskin asked for public comment on this matter. Wendy Aragon, Alex Walker, Annie Chou, Suzanne Ruecker, and Kevin Bard all spoke in favor of proportionality. They all stated they lived on the west side, except Ruecker, who lives in the east side.

Richard Hansen stated he is a democrat of longstanding and believed in proportional representation and supported the proposal to change the number of seats in the 2 assembly districts.

Public comment closed at 6:16 p.m.

Morrison asked if the decision would be good for 10 years. Peskin replied in the affirmative, except on Proposal No. 4. Alix Rosenthal spoke in favor of proportionality – noting how competitive the DCCC race is. She said this would open up the race and help train others to run for public office. Walker expressed interest in a hybrid of proposals 1 and 4 – perhaps increasing the body, but then changing the proportions.

Twomey pointed out the incongruity of increasing our membership when we proxy among ourselves instead of bringing in and training other democrats.

Peskin proposed organizing the discussion in tiers.

The first discussion will be on Proposal 3 – whether to keep the membership the way it is now with 12 elected representatives from each assembly district.

Twomey stated that making changes based on the census makes sense, and that as a proxy, proposal 4 is reasonable. Wiener opined that the DCCC has been configured this way for a

long time and that it is difficult to make this type of change with only three days notice. Peskin reminded everyone that the committee is facing a January 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline. Wiener continued that it is odd to change now when things were always done this way. There were plenty of opportunities to discuss such a significant change. Peskin replied there was a subcommittee established to deal with this and that larger powers were urging the DCCC to provide an opinion.

Rafael Mandelman pushed for 1 vote per person and said it was a basic premise of American voting rights and that every vote will count, regardless of district. He said the east side of San Francisco has been underrepresented for a some time. He pointed out that there are no elected African Americans and no Latinos with a city-wide profile. Higher representation would change this, but he thought there were a lot of good arguments against increasing the elected members to 29. It was pointed out that Dennis Herrera, George Gascon, and Jose Cisneros are all Latino and hold City-wide offices.

Keith Baraka said that Senator Mark Leno supports 1 person - 1 vote, but is concerned about the rush to push this through. He thought reapportionment should have more people involved in the decision-making process.

Peskin asked if we should recommend to the CDP and State Legislative delegation that we change from 12/12 to proportional representation. Katz replied she thought more discussion was needed. Peskin said some sort of legislation will go through and this affects the 2014 primary. Twomey responded that this legislation affects the 2012 primary and that changes for 2014 can be made later – such as in 2013. Carole Migden disagreed with Twomey's assessment on these dates and when legislation had to be implemented to affect change.

Walker said this is not complicated and it should be a simple 'yes' or 'no' vote.

In order to move the process forward Peskin asked for a vote on keeping the DCCC membership as it now stands (Proposal No. 3) – 12 elected members per district; Kelly seconded.

The motion to keep the DCCC as it is now configured failed – 17 no, 11 yes

No – Avalos, Campos, Dorsey, Fewer, Haaland, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar, Marks, Migden, Morrison, Peskin, Phillips, Rosenthal, Smith, Walker, Ammiano,

Yes – Fazio, Hsieh, Jung, Katz, O'Connor, Nutter Wiener, Feinstein, Speier, Harris, Ma

Abstain – Leno

Peskin pointed out that the larger the body is, the more people won't feel a need to attend meetings and other events.

Walker opined that expanding the numbers will allow for new members and that she supported the larger number.

Wiener pointed out that because this is a special meeting, a vote of 2/3 of the present voting members is needed to pass anything. Peskin looked this up in the by-laws and confirmed this.

There was a discussion regarding who can be a proxy. It was agreed that a proxy did not have to live in the same assembly district as the member, and that ex-officios can only hold one proxy.

Mar left the meeting during this discussion without tendering a proxy.

Peskin stated that if the DCCC wants input into the state legislation, the DCCC can have another meeting on January 22nd – and this would meet the DCCC;s 10-day notice criteria and only 50% +1 vote would be needed to pass a resolution.

Wiener tendered his proxy to Zoe Dunning.

Moved by Peskin to vote on Proposal 1 as advisory to increase the DCCC to 29 members, with the east side receiving 17 of the votes; seconded by Walker.

The straw vote to increase the DCCC by 5 members failed – 14 yes, 12 no

Yes – Avalos, Campos, Dorsey, Fewer, Haaland, Kelly, Marks, Morrison, Peskin, Phillips, Rosenthal, Smith, Walker, Ammiano

No – Fazio, Jung, Katz, Mandelman, Migden, Nutter, O'Connor, Wiener, Feinstein, Speier, Harris, Ma

Abstain – Leno

The next motion to be voted on was to increase the number of members to 29, with the split being proportionate to the democratic registration per district. Rothschild asked if this was a straw vote. Peskin replied that it was the actual resolution. If this does not pass with a 2/3rds majority, this would be placed on the agenda for another meeting to be scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The regularly scheduled meeting of January 25<sup>th</sup> would then be cancelled.

This was moved by Peskin and seconded by Morrison.

The motion fell short of the 2/3rds majority and failed – 15 yes, 11 no

Yes – Avalos, Campos, Dorsey, Fewer, Haaland, Kelly, Mandelman, Marks, Morrison, Peskin, Phillips, Rosenthal, Smith, Walker, Ammiano

No – Fazio, Jung, Katz, Migden, Nutter, O'Connor, Wiener, Feinstein, Speier, Harris, Ma

Abstain – Leno

Peskin announced a meeting for January 22<sup>nd</sup>, to be held after the Michael Goldstein Memorial. Mary Jung pointed out that this was also at the same time as the Region 4 Preconvention Caucus and also Chinese New years. Peskin changed the date to January 21<sup>st</sup> at 4 pm, at Local 2.

#### 4. Adjournment

Peskin announced that the DCCC annual gala is at the Fairmont Hotel on March 7. He urged members to help obtain sponsorships.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m. in memory of Michael Goldstein.