

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California
Milton Marks Auditorium
Wednesday, February 26, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting Minutes

Note: A majority of the members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and of one or more Board committees, currently serve as members of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC). The law is not clear as to whether the open meeting requirements of state and local law apply to DCCC meetings attended by these Board members. Out of abundance of caution, the Board members and the DCCC have agreed to comply with these open meeting laws.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call at 7:16 pm

Chair: Mary Jung. Members: Kat Anderson, David Chiu (arrived 7:40), Matt Dorsey, Zoe Dunning, Kelly Dwyer, Bill Fazio (left 8:26), Tom Hsieh, Leslie Katz (arrived 7:21), Hene Kelly, Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar, Trevor McNeil, Leah Pimentel, Alix Rosenthal, Arlo Hale Smith, and Scott Wiener. Ex-Officio Members: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder); U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier (proxy Brian Perkins); Attorney General Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild); State Senator Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka); Assemblymember Tom Ammiano (proxy Esther Marks); Assemblymember Phil Ting (proxy Jason Wong).

Absent-excused: Petra DeJesus; Bevan Dufty; Meagan Levitan; Carole Migden.

Absent: U.S. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; State Senator Leland Yee.

Proxies: John Avalos (proxy to Mandelman); David Campos (proxy to Mar); Malia Cohen (proxy to Mawuli Tugbenyoh).

Meeting called to order at 7:18 pm.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

M/S/C (Ting (Wong)/Anderson) to approve agenda as amended to withdraw item 8.

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

January 22, 2014 minutes withdrawn by Recording Secretary until March meeting.

4. **Public Comment**

Susan Pfeifer – OCA/Covered California update. FDR Democratic Club holds a pedestrian safety forum February 27th.

Alec Bash – Spoke in support of climate change resolution.

Jessica Closson – SF PTA. Spoke in support of sugary beverage tax.

Christina Goette – parent. Also works in Public Health Department. Spoke in support of sugary beverage tax. Sugar suppresses our ability to burn fat. Too much sugar alters our hunger response. It acts in our brain much like other addictive substances. It impacts all of our organs. Get a lot of sugar in one dose in a different way than food.

Todd David – SF Parent PAC. Works on campaign for the soda tax. Spoke in support of sugary beverage tax. UCSF says there is a direct correlation between drinking sugary drinks and Type II diabetes.

Dave Masson/Robin Cooper – Citizen’s Climate lobby. Spoke in support of carbon tax and dividend proposal. Climate change is the single biggest crisis in our time. We need aggressive action now.

Public comment ended at 7:41 pm.

5. **Reports**

DCCC member reports, including discussion and possible action, to offer updates on work assignments and discuss ongoing objectives.

- a) **Chair** (Mary Jung). Report on DCCC activities, including the California Democratic State Convention on March 7-9, 2014 in Los Angeles. Next meeting is March 12. Deadline for voter handbook is March 14. An interview meeting will be set in time. If you are not going to the Democratic Convention, please let Jung know who your proxy is, or you can have help getting a proxy.
- b) **CDP Region 6 Update** (Hene Kelly). Report on activities of the California Democratic Party from Kelly, Director of Region 6. The Convention is the time to have an endorsement of the Constitutional offices of the State. At the early endorsement meeting, a high percentage of people voting. As a region, we decided to let the people decide and there was no

endorsement. 39% endorsed Campos; 31% endorsed Chiu; and 30% voted no endorsement.

- c) **Issues** (Alix Rosenthal). Zoe Dunning chaired the Issues Committee and reported the Issues committee recommends the carbon tax be passed. There was no vote on whether to recommend how to vote on the Soda tax. Item 8, AB 1266 repeal, was withdrawn.
- d) **Voter Registration** (Trevor McNeil). He is interested in working with members to activate our clubs. It has been 2 years since we went to our clubs asking for their endorsements and it will be two more years before our next election. Matt Dorsey and Kelly affirmed that.
- e) **Club Chartering** (Leah Pimentel). Report on club-related activities, and update from the Presidents' Cabinet meeting. New Avenues Democratic Club (Peter Lauterborn) submitted an application for charter. This club is on the West Side. Kelly Dwyer is the interim president.

M/S/C (Pimentel/Leslie Katz) to charter this club. Passed by acclamation.

There was a successful Presidents cabinet meeting. Discussed how to streamline endorsement process, including setting questions.
- f) **Recording Secretary** (Kat Anderson). Attendance report on DCCC membership. Jung asked that this report be attached to the February minutes.
- g) **Finance** (Zoe Dunning). DCCC breakfast on April 11 at Hotel Intercontinental. Working on sponsorships. Congresswoman Jackie Speier will be featured speaker.
- h) **Treasurer** (Tom Hsieh). Finances are good. With fundraiser, we will have at least 3 months of cushion. Thanked our executive director for keeping to our budget. Thanked Chris Gruwell for free space at The Hatch.
- i) **Executive Director** (Ally Medina). As of this morning, we have registered 750 voters this year. She brought proxy forms for the Convention. Lunar New Year College Democrats fundraiser raised \$8,000. After expenses, that gives \$5,000 to support students' attendance at the Convention. Our volunteer effort was great for the Alvarez for Mayor campaign.

6. **Resolution: Carbon Tax** (Joni Eisen, President, Potrero Democratic Club/Avalos/Campos/Chiu/Cohen/DeJesus/Dorsey/Kelly/Mandelman/Pimentel/Rosenthal/Wiener/Noe Valley and Richmond Democratic Clubs/Katz/Dwyer) Proposed resolution urging the U.S. Congress to enact a tax on the CO₂ potential of fossil fuels for the purpose of reducing U.S. CO₂ emissions to 10 percent of 1990 levels by 2050.

Hsieh will vote “no,” on this because he can barely afford to pay for fuel. He does all that he can to keep his automobile costs down, bikes, carpools, etc. This is a complicated issue, but he does not believe that a tax that begins on the refinery level will filter down to the consumer. This is regressive. Bill Fazio will join with Hsieh. A lot of his clients will not file their income taxes and won’t be able to get their money back.

David Chiu called the question.

M/S/C (Rafael Mandelman/Rosenthal). This passed by acclamation, with Speier abstaining.

7. **Resolution: Sugary Beverage Tax** (Pimentel/Ammiano, Avalos, Campos, David Chiu, Malia Cohen, Matt Dorsey, Kelly Dwyer, Dunning, Katz, Kelly, Leno, Mandelman, Mar, McNeil, Rosenthal, Ting, Wiener.)

Proposed resolution supporting a sugary beverage tax for the purpose of decreasing consumption and enhancing public health and to fund recreation and nutrition programs; and urging the Board of Supervisors to submit to voters a ballot measure for the Nov. 2014 election to tax sugary beverages.

Eric Mar and Scott Wiener thanked Pimentel for bringing this to the DCCC. 30% of teenagers have pre-Diabetes. That is a healthcare catastrophe. This tax will generate over \$30 million in funding for school and Recreation & Park nutrition and physical education programs. This will improve public health. Wiener addressed the “Why are we voting on this now?” question. He answered there needed to be time to urge legislative action. It can only go on the ballot if the BOS votes to place it on the ballot. We know the beverage industry is going to come in and try to “big foot” this issue, spending millions of dollars. We need to help build a coalition.

Pimentel/Wiener amends the resolution by removing footnotes so it will fit on one page in compliance with DCCC rules. No objections.

Hsieh spoke in response. He agrees that obesity is a problem. He works with BMW which represents the American Beverage Corporation. This is complicated. It's about total food caloric intake. The legislation being presented stresses that a drink with 25 calories of sugar will be taxed at 2 cents per ounce. A gram of sugar is equal to 4 calories. Yes, this targets soda, but it also targets fruit drinks. Also, physical activity has been reduced because of our lifestyles. Must consider unintended consequences. Pointed at distribution point - a tariff - any 12-oz can of soda will be taxed at 24 cents. The merchant will have to raise prices. Many merchants are opposed to this. This has a regressive nature. It is intended to help low-economic families, but they are the ones most impacted by the higher prices.

Kelly stated she was a health educator. Sugary beverages introduce sugar into a body without letting the body know that it has eaten enough. Education is extremely important. Agreed that healthy foods need to be brought to the low-income neighborhoods.

Arlo Hale Smith stated this is another tax on the working class. He recalled the late Michael Goldstein and that he and Goldstein agreed to not support a tobacco tax. Democrats should not engage in more tax and spend. This is a step in the wrong direction, just like the war on drugs.

Wiener – All of Hsieh's arguments could be used to prohibit a tobacco tax. We've talked about legalizing marijuana, but we would also tax it. The tax in Arkansas was 2 cents per 12 oz. It was too de minimis – one would not expect it to affect consumption. Regarding the 700 businesses that allegedly oppose the tax, some of those may have not been gotten legitimately. See the article in the Bay Guardian.

Hsieh – responds to Wiener's comments. There was an expose' in the Bay Guardian. They found some inconsistencies, such as the wife of an owner signing something rather than the owner. There are paid canvassers going around and talking to merchants about whether they want such a tax. There were 4 or 5 mistakes found – that was a broad brush. He has been with the people who have real concerns. He has been with them at City Hall. They should not be demonized.

Jung does not believe in the nanny state. She is troubled by the regressive tax. She would like to hear more about this. She wishes the other side were present to address the questions.

Leslie Katz called the question.

M/S/C (Pimentel/Wiener) – resolution passed

In support of resolution (19 yes votes): Avalos, Campo, Chiu, Cohen, Dorsey, Dunning, Dwyer, Katz, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar, McNeil, Pimentel, Rosenthal, Wiener, Speier, Leno, Ammiano, Ting.

Against resolution (2 no votes): Hsieh, Smith.

Abstain: Anderson, Jung, Feinstein, Harris.

8. Removed **Resolution: Opposing repeal of AB 1266, which clarifies legal protections for transgender students in California** (Dunning/Dorsey)

9. **New Business**

Katz reported the Port of San Francisco held a ribbon-cutting for the Bay View Rise mural. It is spectacular.

10. **Adjournment** at 8:42 pm M/S/C (Rosenthal/Dunning)

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Kat Anderson

Recording Secretary