

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California
Milton Marks Auditorium
Wednesday, March 16, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Endorsement Meeting Minutes - draft

1. Call to Order 7:05 pm and Roll Call 7:05 pm

Chair: Mary Jung. Members: Kat Anderson, Joshua Arce, David Campos (arrived 7:10 pm), Malia Cohen, Petra DeJesus, Matt Dorsey, Zoe Dunning, Joel Engardio, Tom Hsieh, Hene Kelly, Meagan Levitan (arrived 8:01 pm), Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar (arrived 7:28 pm), Trevor McNeil, Marjan Philhour, Leah Pimentel (arrived 7:13 pm), Rebecca Prozan, Alix Rosenthal, Francis Tsang, and Scott Wiener (later replaced by proxy Matthew Rothschild).

Ex-Officio Members: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (proxy FX Crowley); U.S. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (proxy Alex Lazar); U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier (proxy Brian Perkins); Board of Equalization Member Fiona Ma (proxy Genevieve Villafranca Jopanda); State Senator Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka); Assemblymembers Phil Ting (proxy Jason Wong arrived 7:13 pm) and David Chiu (proxy Catie Arbana).

Absent with proxy: Bevan Dufty (proxy David Campos 7:10 pm), Bill Fazio (proxy Mary Jung), and Carole Migden (proxy Rafael Mandelman).

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

M/S/C to approve this meeting's agenda.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

M/S/C (Hene Kelly/Zoe Dunning) to approve the minutes of the DCCC's meeting of February 24, 2016.

4. General Public Comment

1

The following people spoke in support of Superior Court Judge, Seat 7 candidate Sigrid Irias: Andres Orphanopoulos, William Veen, Martha Melendez, James Li, Julian Sanchez, Maciez Glodev, Claudia Lucatero, Morgan Simpson, Ike Kaludi, Michael Fevala, Shaana Rahman, Crystal Cole Matson, Sam Stafford (Irias' son), Phyllis Flynn, Abraham Andrade, Paulina Maldonado, Daniel Flores, Xochitl

Carrion, Mercedes Moreno, Yesenida Santacruz, Samuel Cheadle, Joe Salama and his children, Elena Asturias, Edgar Quezada, Josue Fuentes, and Erin Morgan (via email).

Irias asked for the DCCC endorsement.

The following people spoke in support of Superior Court Judge, Seat 7 candidate Paul Henderson: Patricia Hall, Dyanna Quizon, Amy Bacharach, Mattie Scott, and Alexis Hubbard.

Henderson asked for the DCCC endorsement.

The following people spoke in support of Superior Court Judge, Seat 7 candidate Victor Hwang: Greg Tanaka, Calvin Abe, Robert Uy, Jeremiah Jeffries, Eumi Lee, Linda Asato, Jackie Yep, Esther Leong (asked for a “no endorsement”), and Ivy Lee.

Hwang asked for a “no endorsement” vote.

The following people spoke in support of Item 9 (bylaws amendment re *Ex Officio* members): Amy Bacharach, Corey Smith, George Broder, Bruce Agid, Patrick Valentino, Donald Dewsnap, Rachel Norton, and Laura Clark.

Peter Gallotta spoke in opposition to item 9. Rafael Solari spoke in support of Prop C.

Jon Schwark spoke in opposition to Prop C and in support of the Affordable Housing Bonus Program.

Micah Catlin also opposes Prop. C.

Milo Trauss advocates a “no endorsement” of Prop C.

2

The following people spoke in support of the DCCC delaying consideration of Prop C: Sonja Trauss, Tab Buckner, Donald Dewsnap, and Austin Hunter.

Michael Nulty, co-founder of Central City Democrats (CCD), spoke in support of the AHBP and advocates delay of Item 9. Announced 10 year anniversary of CCD and circulated an invitation to the celebration.

Susan Bryan, treasurer of CCD, associated herself with Nulty’s comments.

Susan Pfeifer wished Kelly a happy birthday and announced that volunteers registered 172 new citizens today after the naturalization ceremony in Oakland.

School Board Member Rachel Norton spoke in support of Prop B.

Joel Van Horn advocated for \$15/hour minimum wage with 6 paid sick days and inflation adjustments. He circulated a petition.

Lito Sandoval, President of Latino Democratic Club (LDC), commented that he objects to receiving a notice of “no chartering” for LDC and calls for an investigation.

Gabriel Medina associated with Sandoval’s comments.

Todd David thanked members Leah Pimentel and Kelly for how they handled the pre-endorsement conference.

Public comment ended at 8:21 pm.

5. Reports

a) **Chair** (Mary Jung). No report.

b) **Voter Registration** (Trevor McNeil). Thanked volunteers who came out to new citizen ceremony. The party is on track for 10,000 new registrations this year. Encouraged candidates to sign up for the Dem100 challenge (between now and June). Member Philhour acknowledged Executive Director Ally Medina for her many talents in registering new voters.

c) **Club Chartering** (Pimentel). No report.

David Campos asked for follow-up on the LDC officer comments. Pimentel responded that she has reached out, there was a conference call, she spoke with LDC members at Convention, she followed up and is still working on completing their request. They put their papers in at 11:59 pm on the deadline date, but did not use her email address so she was not aware of the request until much later.

Tom Hsieh commented that he has read the handout from the LDC officers. Its preamble is inflammatory and has no evidence. This is not on the agenda. It should be looked into and it will be. Pimentel has done a fantastic job chartering clubs in a reasonable and timely fashion.

Jung invited the LDC leadership to meet with her during the April Executive Committee meeting. She promised they would be heard and thanked them for bringing it to her attention.

Petra DeJesus questioned that a club was even unchartered. Jung replied that “unchartered” is not the correct term – and that we should be careful with language. LDC’s charter “lapsed” and it is easily taken care of with new paperwork. “Unchartering” would be an action on the DCCC’s part, and DCCC has taken no action.

Campos said it would be a mistake for anyone to pre-judge here. He does not question the integrity of anyone here.

Kelly worked with the LDC and asked them to send documents to her and she checked them over and then passed those on to Pimentel. There were problems with the club’s paperwork, and as she is the Regional Director, she would like to be part of any discussion about the allegations. Jung agreed to inviting her to any meetings concerning this.

Jay Cheng, President of Asian Pacific Democratic Club, commented that in their chartering process, they had an excellent experience – easy, transparent and fair -- with Pimentel.

Peter Gallotta, President of Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, commented on difficulties that the club experienced - delays in communications and issues of not being in compliance. More should be done to help get clubs be in compliance.

Joni Eisen complained about the pre-endorsement process.

Lou Fischer, President of Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, commented that member Pimentel was helpful through a painful process.

Michael Nulty, President of Central City Democrats, expressed confusion about guidelines and bylaw changes.

Bruce Agid, President of District 6 Democratic Club, commented that the re-chartering process was difficult, required by-laws changes, education of membership, etc, but they got all the support they needed.

Laura Clark, proxy for RFK Democratic Club President, commented that it was extremely difficult for the club to get chartered because they were not as organized as they should have been. Yet, they got all the support they needed and are grateful for the experience.

Jung commented that in pre-endorsement years, rules come down from the State Party and they are sometimes difficult for the clubs. DeJesus asked if she could join the review committee. Jung replied in the affirmative.

d) **Finance** (Dunning). The Democratic debate watch party netted \$3,200, which will fund 2 interns. Thanked all helpers.

e) **Treasurer** (Hsieh). The party has roughly \$60,000 cash on hand – a strong financial position.

f) **Labor Committee** (Josh Arce). Supervisor Mark Farrell's *Friedrichs* resolution that mirrors ours is waiting to get on calendar. Would like to coordinate the date of April 4 Monday at 5:30 pm for an action at Guarados at 18th and Shotwell. Arce requested the help of Executive Director Medina.

g) **Bylaws Committee** (Matt Dorsey). There has been a request to add a provision to periodically engage a parliamentarian to provide training when new DCCC members come on. Will experience 3 of these meetings to see if they will be

valuable. Watch for next month's agenda for a further report. Kelly thanked Dorsey for his great work. She will see that bylaws change made.

h) **Executive Director**(Medina).Hadafantasticexperiencethismorning.172 new registrants is a record since 2012.

- i) **CDP Region 6 Update** (Kelly). In the past, she has asked people on this august party to give to CADEM and she was told that our committee has a very small pool of donors. Chair Jung stressed the importance of supporting CADEM 2016.

6. **Slate Card Vendor Selection (Jung)**

Jung explained the selection process. There was an Issues and Endorsements committee meeting. Two vendors applied: 50+1 and Winning Directions. After looking at the total prices and considering discounts, 50+1 had the lower bid and the committee recommended awarding the contract to 50+1.

M/S/C (Scott Wiener/Kelly) to award the contract to 50+1 as long as there is no conflict of interest with 50+1 and any candidates endorsed by the DCCC.

Member Campos abstained.

7. **Endorsements (Rosenthal/Jung)**

Alix Rosenthal thanked Medina for all her help, and went on to comment on the following:

- a) **Superior Court Judge, Seat 7**. DCCC will endorse one or no candidate. Roll call vote. 31 votes are to be represented. An "abstain" will lower the overall vote count. Majority means 16 votes if everyone votes. (50% plus 1.) There will be rounds until one person gets a majority vote or it is clear there is no endorsement. Where there is no opposition, a matter may be decided by acclamation. A vote for a candidate by a DCCC member is not an endorsement.

M/S (DeJesus/Rafael Mandelman) for a "no endorsement" vote. Matthew Rothschild, proxy for Wiener, responded that the motion is against the bylaws.

Eric Mar commented that there are three outstanding candidates and that we should decide "no endorsement" to keep from being divided.

Jung referred to Parliamentarian Hsieh who read from Article 6 of our by-laws. Our endorsement process is clear. If we are to change that by-law, we would need a 2/3s vote to depart from it. For each office, a committee member may cast one “no endorsement” vote on each ballot.

Rosenthal commented that an endorsement vote is on the agenda and we approved the agenda.

Dunning affirmed that and called for a roll call vote.

Hsieh commented that to add an item to the agenda at this point requires a 2/3s vote.

Jung ruled that we will go forward with a roll call.

M/S (Mandelman/DeJesus) to challenge the ruling of the chair.

Hsieh commented that the committee will vote on this challenge. A “yes” vote would be to overturn the chair. A “no” vote upholds the decision of the chair.

Kelly commented that Mar’s statement is an argument to overrule the chair. The party should take no position. We have three people who should be judge.

DeJesus claimed she made a motion and there was a second and when there was a ranked choice voting opportunity, we voted on “no endorsement.”

Mandelman commented that he disagreed with the reading of the by- laws that we could not take action in this way. He would rather stay out of this judge’s race.

Dorsey does not see a way that we take this up because a reconsideration motion must be made by someone who opposes it.

Rothschild stated that DeJesus is being unfair, and that she has every right to vote “no endorsement.” DeJesus’ motion is out of order. He will support the chair.

Hsieh called the question. A roll call vote on the challenge to the chair’s ruling was held. The challenge to the chair’s ruling was defeated. Voted as follows:

Yes: Campos, DeJesus, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar, and Migden.

No: Anderson, Arce, Cohen, Dorsey, Dufty, Dunning, Engardio, Fazio, Hsieh, Jung, Levitan, McNeil (proxy Arce), Philhour, Pimentel, Prozan, Rosenthal, Tsang, Wiener, Feinstein, Speier, Leno, Ting.

Abstain: Pelosi, Ma, Chiu.

Next followed the roll call vote on Superior Court, Seat 7 judicial candidate endorsement:

17 votes for Paul Henderson: Anderson, Cohen, Dorsey, Dufty, Dunning, Fazio, Hsieh, Jung, McNeil, Philhour, Pimentel, Prozan, Rosenthal, Tsang, Wiener, Ma, Leno.

2 votes for candidate Victor Hwang: Levitan and Ting. 0 votes for candidate Sigrid Irias.

10 votes for “no endorsement”: Arce, Campos, DeJesus, Engardio, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar, Migden, Feinstein, Chiu.

2 abstentions: Pelosi and Speier.

Paul Henderson received the candidate endorsement for Superior Court Judge, Seat 7.

b) Local Ballot Measures.

- i. **Proposition A:** Public Health and Safety Bond (Rosenthal/Malia Cohen) Endorsed by acclamation with Pelosi and Speier abstaining.
- ii. **Proposition B:** Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund Charter Amendment (Rosenthal/Cohen) Endorsed. Engardio and Migden voted “no.” Speier and Pelosi abstained.
- iii. **Proposition C:** Affordable Housing Requirements Charter Amendment (Rosenthal/Rebecca Prozan) Endorsed. Anderson, Engardio, Speier and Pelosi abstained. Feinstein voted “no endorsement.”
- iv. **Proposition D:** Office of Citizen Complaints Investigations Initiative Ordinance (Rosenthal/Jason Wong) Endorsed by acclamation. Pelosi and Speier abstained.
- v. **Proposition E:** Paid Sick Leave Initiative Ordinance (Rosenthal/Wong) Endorsed by acclamation. Pelosi and Speier abstained.

- vi. **Proposition AA** (District Measure): San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Program (Wong/Rosenthal) Endorsed by acclamation. Pelosi and Engardio abstained.

8. Resolution: Mandatory Solar and the S.F. Better Roofs Policy

M/S/C (Pimentel/Kat Anderson) by acclamation. Pelosi abstained.

This resolution endorses the San Francisco Better Roofs Policy to require solar energy installations in certain new construction projects, and to support making San Francisco a leader in carbon reduction and green urbanism.

Arce commented that this is a big opportunity to embrace our democratic values and thanked Pimentel for bringing this forward.

9. Resolution and By-laws Amendment: *Ex Officio* DCCC members

M/S (Rosenthal/Anderson)

This resolution amends the S.F. Democratic Party's by-laws to add the Mayor and the members of the Board of Supervisors as *ex officio* members of the SFDCCC, provided they are registered Democrats; and to correct an inadvertent prior omission for U.S. Senators.

Jung reminded the members to treat each other with respect.

Rosenthal acknowledged her father in the audience. Her mom is Mayor of Claremont. She read a prepared statement. 12 current and former elected officials are running in D17 and 9 such in D19. They will out gun and out raise money, which is disheartening to the grassroots candidates.

Approving her proposal will give these candidates hope. Elected officials don't have a lot of free time to do the work of the party. The bulk of this work is done by those who do not hold another office. Everyone is trying to figure out how this will help or hurt their faction, so she has tried to make this neutral. Create 7 new seats – 4 in AD17 and 3 in AD19.

Campos stated his objection to this proposed amendment on the grounds that it is not fair to change the rules after the filing deadline.

Kelly reported she ran with 8 young people when she last ran and she thought that was a good thing. She thinks that if we add 7 members, the election code will have to be changed (at the state level). Had she known about the extra 7 people, she would have put more names in and would have campaigned for them.

Anderson commented that the resolution is a thoughtful solution that recognizes that the nuts and bolts work of the Democratic Party is done by rank and file members who are not also elected officials, and to the extent the size of the committee will be increased – all the better to get things done. DCCC service provides the opportunity to gain skills and it also requires that we register voters, charter clubs, raise funds for our efforts, and endorse the future leadership of San Francisco. This is a committee that is best suited to those Democratic activists who are getting started.

Dorsey commented that this is a detailed, thoughtful policy. He worries that politics will keep us from getting there. He will refrain from suggesting that this go to committee.

Dunning thanked Rosenthal for bringing this up. Four years ago, she was the only non-elected to win in her assembly district. She had to raise \$50,000 and knock off an elected and an incumbent. It should not have to be that hard. In AD17, we have 10 new candidates that are current or former office holders for 2 spots. The party is about giving grassroots advocates a chance to be a part of the Party. Help keep the Party strong.

Mar also wants to support an effort like this, but questions the timing. “Why now, Alix?” This party has been taken over by development interests and lobbyists. He feels like there is a lot of bulls**t in this room. To counter us who want to maintain an independent Democratic Party. This is the elephant in the room. This is to protect the powerful interests in this City.

Rosenthal responded that no one told her to do this. No developer, no special interest. She talked with 3 people at the Convention who complained they did not want to have to run for the DCCC – it’s an arms race. She wants to end the contest as to who can bring the biggest vote getter to the Department of Elections. She’s changed the proposal several times to continue to keep it neutral.

Keith Baraka, proxy for State Senator Mark Leno, read a statement from Leno supporting that this go to the by-laws committee for further review.

Mandelman praised the Burton's for all they have done for the Democratic Party. "He can run for anything he wants to, and I will support him for that even if I lose my seat." Mandelman commented that we are the Party that aggressively goes for what is important. He feels that the committee has gone adrift. He thinks there are a lot of changes that have to get made to make this work.

Laura Clark, proxy for RFK Democratic Club President, commented that the committee has gotten really rooted in our teams and that is disappointing to her. She has moderate and progressive views and the idea that we have to get in these deep encampments and make it an arms race is misplaced. She wants to see nuanced views. The deep-rooted problems are coming to full blossom here. Everybody and their parents are running for the DCCC. We need to rein this in. When was the last time that elected officials voted to get rid of their own power?

Joni Eisen, President of Potrero Hill Democratic Club, commented that she believes that Rosenthal is trying to come at it with a neutral point of view. The legality of this is in question, right? She would like to ban former elected and electeds from running for the DCCC.

Rosenthal responded that the *March Fong Eu* case said the party has discretion over the makeup of their own party.

Jung commented that the Los Angeles DCCC has over 200 members and 80- 90% of them show up for meetings.

Paulina Maldonado, President of Young Latino Dems, commented that the optics of this don't let good and discourages people from getting involved.

DeJesus commented that this is too hastily put together. How do you decide which elected officials to include? She thinks this should be left with the new board.

Rosenthal explained again why she crafted the amendment as she did.

Jay Cheng, President of Asian Pacific Democratic Club, thanked Rosenthal for moving quickly on a real issue of concern. After the dust settled on Friday, Democrats realized there were real issue to address. He was proud that there was a response, and that it was adjusted as questions were raised. Thanked all the Supervisors for the work they have done to build the party. This discussion is not a comment on them. On the issue of timing – this is urgent. It is disheartening for activists to see 9 supervisors filing to run. This was agendized before the filing deadline, so it is untrue to say the timing is self- serving.

Lou Fischer, President of Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, commented that the DCCC has been broken since 2008. She filed to run in 2008 and at the last minute, all these Supervisors put their names in and she realized that she did not have a shot. The activists from Alice have nowhere to go. It bothered her to hear the words “arms race.” We’re all different shades of blue.

Campos stated his belief that this proposal will not withstand legal scrutiny. He sees a fundamental due process violation.

Dunning called the question. Seconded by Wong.

Roll call vote.

18 in favor of the bylaw amendment: Anderson, Arce, Cohen, Dunning, Engardio, Fazio, Hsieh, Jung, McNeil, Philhour, Pimentel, Prozan, Rosenthal, Tsang, Wiener, Pelosi, Ma, Chiu.

11 opposed to the amendment: Campos, DeJesus, Dorsey, Dufty, Kelly, Levitan, Mandelman, Mar, Migden, Leno, Ting.

2 abstained: Feinstein and Speier.

Motion fails by a vote of 18 to 11 with 2 abstentions. To pass, it needed a 2/3 majority.

M/S/C (Dorsey/Pimentel) to send the proposal to committee. All in favor except that Feinstein and Ting abstained.

10. New Business – None.

11. Adjournment (Kelly/Pimentel)

Meeting was adjourned at 10:54 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kat Anderson, DCCC Recording Secretary