

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee

General Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2018

Call to Order: Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm, by Chair Cecily Harris.

Chair — asks for motion to approve August minutes. [the room]: **PASSED.**

Chair — asks for motion to approve September agenda. [Burruto, Robbins]: **PASSED.**

Brigid O'Farrell — Marc Berman was elected in 2017, born in Dallas Texas, raised in Palo Alto, worked for Anna Eshoo in her district office. He went on to get a law degree. He's chair of the elections and redistricting committees.

Mark Berman — Yes, I was born in Dallas. We moved to Palo Alto when I was 4 to make sure we didn't develop Texas accents. I'm just back from my first term. Last year, a big focus was on housing, and the affordable housing bond on your ballot. We're not going to build our way out of housing crisis with public money. We passed bills to make housing better for people. Five billion dollars a year for transit, roads and streets. It's called the gas tax, a tax funding measure. I'm proud we raised the public payment index. California has the worse highways in the Nation. This is why we passed this \$5B package. Prop 6 is a repeal. Tax funding is not as popular in LA and the central valley. We lost our super majority in the Senate with a recall. We extended the cap and trade system. Another big focus was bail. People are kept in jail because they can't afford to get out. We are moving from a money bail system. For felonies, for violent felons, the DA can request they stay in jail. It's a system that exists in a couple other states, something we'll move to. We also passed SB 100, setting a goal of 100% renewable by 2045. There is a lot in campaign finance disclosure. Having Mullin take that over was a relief for me. We came back with a social media act with the same stringent requirements. As chair of the redistricting committee, we came up with cyber security concerns to make sure our counties are safe. We want to identify the best process. This office will combat misinformation around the elections process. People would post images, "vote for Hillary text 24683." Or "Republicans vote on Tuesday, Democrats vote on Wednesday." The office of election and cyber security will focus on this and will reach out to get this stuff taken down. We'll also work a lot in the census closer to April 2020. The census is used to draw lines. There is a real threat that we may lose one house member. This is a huge threat, California historically is the hardest state to count. The biggest concern, fear and anxiety because of the Trump administration. The census is about counting people. The money we get back from the Federal Government is \$78B a year. With a significant undercount, we lose medical, lunch programs and critical projects. We send more money than we get back. The state is mobilizing, more recourses into outreach and community organizations. There is a lot of anxiety and fear. Trump wants to put a citizenship question on the census, even if you are an immigrant here legally. This is information you are sending back to the Federal Government. Youth mental health is a big issue in my hometown. We have two suicide clusters. I remember how stressful it was growing up in 80s and 90s. Pressures exist to go to a great college. It's OK to fail. I talk about all the failures I had growing up. I led the effort this year to get \$1B in the budget for the state to get the best suicide training. It will be on a volunteer basis for people to see the signs. This is something I worked on last year. It's important for all of our youth. Also, I want to thank Nicole Fernandez and Zack Ross my interim and now campaign manager.

David Burruto — From the county perspective, what does early mobilization look like?

Berman — The census will be online. The census needs to be run by the Federal Government. In the year 2000, they did a good job of not doing an undercount. This is the best investment we can make on return. Billions of dollars per year for decades. I'm very happy to see Newsom say, "great, but not enough." My colleague from San Diego said, "for the last year, I've been telling all my constituents not to answer the door." I'm pleased the philanthropic community is stepping up.

Eric Siegel — A question about bail reform. How do we make sure assessments aren't biased?

Berman — No, we haven't created the process yet. It might be the judicial council. I'm confident those groups (ACLU) will be involved.

Diana Reddy — I'm concerned about the census. Will questions of citizenship be on the census?

Berman — The million-dollar question, no answer yet. A month ago, judges threw that out. We're optimistic, but we'll see. What if they set it up so you can't hit "next" if you don't answer; you can't lie on a Government questionnaire.

O'Farrell — Can you give us an update on your campaign?

Berman — I had two opponents, but now just Alex Glew. I hear he's a nice guy. It's going well. I'm also out working to support colleagues, some in danger of losing their elections.

INTODUCTIONS

Chair — Welcome Terry, nice to see you.

LETTER FROM WOODBURY

Chair — Woodbury Iowa Central Committee asked us to adopt them.

Nancy Yarbrough — Interesting idea, helping Dems in other places.

Sharrie Kriger — Full disclosure, I grew up in Sioux City Iowa. These folks need support.

Chair — I'm interested in helping. I'd like to pass a hat.

John Woodell — Contributing from our committee to another committee in another state can be very complicated. We have State FPPC rules, and there are Federal rules. We should promote people contributing individually.

Yarbrough — I'll get answers from our treasurer and report back at the next meeting.

Judith Christensen — We can open our wallets right now.

Woodell — There can be local rules against giving cash. We have an ordinance in Menlo about contributing cash. Woodbury may have rules about anonymous cash contributions.

Burruto — The treasurer can answer these questions. We could do something on the website. I wouldn't worry about the rules, we pay someone to worry about the rules.

Sandra Lang — Iowa is important. I see no compelling reason why we couldn't do this.

O'Farrell — Would a motion be appropriate that we pass the hat to start a collection for Iowa?

Woodell — There may be a requirement in Iowa that every person contributing must show their occupation and employer. There is definitely a rule here about accepting cash over \$100.

Karen Maki — If this money is for this election, we should make a motion to donate right now.

Cliff Robbins — I have no idea if they have a viable candidate. I think \$1,000 would be fine, as long as we get approval from our treasurer. I'll make that motion.

Christensen — I'll second that.

Chair — Is there more discussion?

Dana Smith — How many states are there? My feeling would be that we don't give, but we each make our own commitment to support them. Why not give to the next person asking?

Chair — Any other discussion? We have a motion and second.

Woodell — What are we voting on?

Burruto — What are we donating?

Cliff — It seems OK to give money.

Chair — We support candidates for local office and I assume they do the same.

Woodell — I'd propose we find out which bank account we can give them money from and bring this back at the next meeting.

Lang — I just noticed that the letter is from the State Central Committee. I'm just bringing that to your attention. I'm still in favor of giving \$1000.

Alexis Lewis — I'd like to keep my money in San Mateo County.

Robbins — Motion to contribute \$1000, subject to accountant clarification.

Vote with hands: 10 for, 7 against, 2 abstain — **MOTION PASSES**

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

Eric Ohlund — We had our first phone bank last night. We're doing our best, phone bank Wed and Sunday into the Central Valley. We're doing precinct walks for Reddy, followed by Jason and Giselle. All on Saturday mornings. We have co-sponsored events, Swing Left, co-hosting Monday the 24th. We're also co-hosting an event with DemFems, Sunday the 30th. Endorsed candidates will talk to constituents. On Oct 24, there is a fundraiser at Angelica's which is down the street.

April Vargas — Lots to do, sign-up sheets. Numbers corresponding to activities. Want to phone bank? If you have a phone or laptop, bring it. We have a good system, you only talk when a live person answers the phone. Another type of call, volunteer recruitment. We need people to call. Every central committee member needs to be doing this. Also, remote phone banks. We also have a volunteer in San Mateo highlands. She's opening her home for phone banking. Voter registration is also something you can do, Nancy Palumbo is doing a fantastic job. We need people to staff. We have a lot of events, we need people. It's a two-hour commitment to train you. We have seven weeks left.

Woodell — We're now all vote-by-mail, how do we work with that?

Vargas — One component of voter registration is to let people know about vote-by-mail.

Alex Melendrez — Do we have material about vote centers?

Chair — Please tell everyone about events, look at the website.

CHARTERED CLUBS

Chair —DFA, DemFems and Coastside have re-chartered. We're working with PDC and Hillsborough. NPD is working on getting information. MidPenSolDems is not re-chartering. I have not heard back from the others.

OTHER THINGS HAPPENING

Chair — Some learned that Pam O'Leary stepped down. There will be a caucus on or before Monday October 15. Nancy will be caucus chair. We need everyone to vote. Also, I'm moving to Minnesota in Oct, so I'm resigning as chair and will need to be replaced as a district 3 member, and I'll need to be replaced as e-board. I'm staying in San Mateo County until just before next meeting. I'll be continuing on as chair and sending out the agenda. This will all be queued up in the next agenda. Brigid will be caucus chair.

O'Farrell — You need to live in district. It is an elected position. Contact me.

Chair — This is an elected position that runs until June 2020. I've been on central committee since 2008. I joined e-board in 2012, became Southern Vice Chair, and Chair in 2017. It's been an honor to serve all of you. I will take off to Washington County Minnesota.

Woodell — So we have a caucus next meeting for both seats? Also, according to the bylaws, does the Southern Vice chair continue on until January?

Chair — According to the bylaws, the Southern Vice Chair represents the Chair in their absence at meetings, but the bylaws don't specify if they serve until the next election. That will be up to the Central Committee to decide at the next meeting. I don't know if there is going to be a program.

O'Farrell — We don't yet have it figured out, there may be a program.

Chair — There will be three things: There could be a program, then we will vote on members for district two and three. Then there will be a conversation about having an election for chair to run through January. Then we vote for the November e-board proxy. There in an executive e-board meeting in Long Beach. That will all be queued up on the agenda.

Lang — When there is a vacancy for the chair, there is a ten-day notice that is sent out to advise the committee. When I read that, I don't see any complicating language related to other members of the e-board. We're going to talk about that at the next meeting?

Maki — I think we need a representative to the State e-board.

Chair — In January, there will be elections for the e-board. We also need ADEM reps. In the past in was a man, a woman, and now a third person. I don't know how many delegates there will be. In 2017, we had an opportunity to have three state delegates. I don't know how many state delegates we'll have. It's determined by voter turnout.

Vargas — To be clear, you are stepping down? Let's thank you [applause], so then there will not be an election for chair at the October meeting?

Chair — My assumption is that's up to the body. In even years the Southern Vice Chair represents the Chair. there isn't something about chair leaving early. I've announced this evening.

Burruto — We have to fill it, because then the Vice Chair would be vacant. We have to fill it.

There is no question. In October this should be queued up as an election.

Chair — It's until the January meeting. Karen will run the meeting in October, then the November meeting is the last meeting because we have a holiday party in December.

Burruto — I want to say thank you. I bought you a bottle of California for Minnesota.

Woodell — I'd like to see this after the election. We have two Vice Chairs this is not a problem.

Chair — That will be discussed at the next meeting.

Woodell — There is discussion about putting this chair election on our agenda. There is a lot to do for the November General election, and I hope we can have our attention focused on that.

E-BOARD REPORTS

Northern Vice Chair — No report

Southern Vice Chair — No Report

Controller — Nancy Yarbrough

We have been spending a lot of money.

Federal: \$46,196, State: \$348,358, and Segregated: \$562.

We are not in bad shape, but we need to be frugal for the next few months.

Chair — Our delegation has contributed \$15,500 so far, we're grateful.

Reporting Secretary — No report

Correspondence Secretary — No report

STANDING COMMITTEES

Chair — A few of us are planning a fundraiser, more on that later.

ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE

Maki — We made endorsements on Sep 6th [applause]

Burruto — We had 62 candidates and 29 ballot measures. This was a lot of work. There are going to be two slate mailers, North and South, too many candidates. It's pretty much done, doing reviews now. It will go out to meet absentee ballots. I quoted at \$24,000, \$12,000 for each slate card. We raised \$30K for the card. We raised \$16.5K, charges add up. We'll print and mail more. Instead of 24,000, maybe 30,000 mailers.

Chair — Measures and Statewide candidates as well.

Burruto — We have Yee, Ma, and others paying; we have nine measures that came on.

Krigger — Sabrina raised questions about fairness.

Burruto — Candidates we endorsed. All are invited to join in.

Krigger — Is getting on the mailer dependent on contributing?

Burruto — On the back we do list everything. Unless you pay, no face on the front.

Vargas — How do you decide how they get mailed, where they go?

Burruto — We want to talk to Dems, two or more Dems per household. About 22K households in the past. They tend to be high propensity voters. We gave candidates a flier, Maki emailed them.

Vargas — There are no candidates in some areas, so no mailer to that city?

Burruto — You still have some jurisdictions, State and County races. We try to allocate as much as we can. We don't want to leave out some space.

Reddy — when do they come out?

Burruto — ballots go out on the 9th, we'll send out about the same time.

Yarbrough — How do people vote?

Chair — Remember the June election, voters waited.

Burruto — If anyone wants a PDF, let me know.

Christensen — People ask me how to vote, I say, "let me send you something."

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE — No report

BYLAWS COMMITTEE — No report

ELECTIONS INTEGRITY — No report

DATA MANAGEMENT — No report

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Brigid O'Farrell — Scheduling Phil Ting after the 25th, maybe Scott Wiener.

A special thank you so Mike A for great poster.

FEDERAL UPDATE — No report

REGIONAL DIRECTOR — No report

DIRECTOR and LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

State Senator Jerry Hill's Office

Joan Dentler — The Governor is busy signing or vetoing. Patient's Right to Know Act; A doctor on probation must notify when on probation. Also, prohibiting drones over jails and detention camps is now law. Extension of four-year baccalaureate program; extends that program, adds 15 community college programs, to add one program for district, no UC or CSU, they will be able to offer it. Another one we've heard about; later school start time, SB 328. In not rural areas, they're not allowed to start before 8:30. The Governor vetoed it. He said, "this is one size fits all, why teachers and school boards opposed it." Events: Java with Jerry in Sunnyvale on the 28th of this month. Working with Berman for a joint coffee in Half Moon Bay.

Assemblymember Marc Berman's Office

Nicole Fernandez — Marc is having an event on Oct 4th co-hosted with Warren Slocum and Ruben Abrica. We're working on a Half Moon Bay coffee soon.

CLUB REPORTS

Coastside Democratic Club

April Vargas — We're having TJ Cox from CD21 in El Granada on Oct 22nd. We'll have a phone bank for TJ from 3 to 5. I urge everyone to talk to me and reserve a spot. Another reason to arrive at 3pm, you meet the candidate, easier to get to the coast early in the day. We'll be phoning for him on Sunday that the same house. We had a successful endorsement meeting, it was packed. I'm proud to be a member.

Democracy for America

Diana Reddy — We'll be having report from the League of Women Voters. Going over measures on the ballot. December is our holiday party.

Dem Fems of Silicon Valley

Joan Dentler — Thanks for hosting our event. I believe we have 27 candidates all together. We invited them all, thanks again for the use of this space.

Peninsula Young Democrats

Alex Melendrez — We have an extremely long calendar; walking for Cory this Saturday, general meeting on the 27th. The last meeting on prop 10 was a packed meeting. Next with regional director for the Democratic Party. Oct 21, out at CA 24, for Jessica Morse.

LIGHTNING ROUND

Brigid O'Farrell — Tomorrow night, Josh Harder, CD10, tomorrow night in Hillsborough.

Sandra Lang — We've been inundated with Kavanagh. In Burlingame housing meeting last Saturday with Prop 10 discussion. A lot of hope to help people.

Nancy Yarbrough — Just wanted to say, thank you to Cecily. We became friends through the trenches; we'll miss you. A monumental amount of work, thirty hours a week.

AJOURNEMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19pm.