

---

## DNC Re-Kapp: Summer Meeting 2022

---

Michael Kapp, DNC Member <michael@michaelkapp.com>  
To: Michael Kapp <mdkapp@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 11, 2022 at 9:28 AM



Michael --

The Democratic National Committee met for its 2022 Summer Meeting from September 8-10 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland.

[Here was the schedule for the DNC meeting.](#)

The agendas for the [Constituency Caucus](#) meetings, the [Regional Caucus](#) meetings, and the [Council](#) meetings can be found at those links.

At this meeting, the DNC conducted party business including consideration of the 2024 Call to Convention, the 2024 Delegate Selection Rules, and 33 proposed amendments to the Charter & Bylaws.

The [Call to the Convention](#) sets out the structure and format for the 2024 National Convention. (Please note that this includes placeholder language for the early voting primary states. [That decision was pushed](#) until after the November midterms.)

The [Delegate Selection Rules](#) set out how delegates are to be selected, along with related requirements for State Parties.

Finally, the DNC's Rules and Bylaws Committee developed [33 amendments to the DNC's Charter and Bylaws](#) as part of its responsibility to regularly review and propose changes to these documents.

---

**Thursday, September 8, 2022: DNC Youth Council, DNC Resolutions Committee, DNC Western States Caucus, DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee, President Biden speech**

**DNC Youth Council**



I attended the DNC Youth Council for the first time as its former Chair. (I'm too old now.) At the meeting, we heard updates from the new Youth Council Chair, Young Democrats of America, College Democrats of America, and the High School Democrats of America. We also heard a presentation on the Youth Council's new initiative, the DNC's Fair Shot program. For more information about the Fair Shot program, including action items specifically targeted to young people, [please click here](https://democrats.org/fair-shot/).

**DNC Resolutions Committee**



I attended the Resolutions Committee where they were considering [this initial list of proposed resolutions](#). The committee was clearly opposed to two resolutions, #16 and #19. The Chair said that some resolutions were too negative heading into the November midterms. You can read the resolutions yourself, but to summarize...#16, from California's RL Miller, thanked the President and Congress for passing the Inflation Reduction Act, while also mentioning Sen. Joe Manchin (WV) and condemning his secret side deal for pipeline permitting; RL's resolution also requested a standalone bill for the side deal. (Of note, #15 was a resolution from DNC Chair Jaime Harrison that was very similar to RL's resolution, but without any mention of Sen. Manchin or the secret side deal.) Resolution #19, from Judith Whitmer, the Chair of the Nevada Democratic Party, condemned dark money and called for a ban of its use in Democratic primaries. (Also of note, #18 was a resolution from Chair Harrison that was also similar to Chair Whitmer's resolution, but did not call for a ban of dark money in Democratic primaries or call for investigations into violations.)

On #15, Resolutions Committee member John Verdejo (NC) requested that a new clause be added to the Chair's resolution that more closely reflected RL's resolution. That amendment was approved.

On #16, the Committee was ready to move forward and reject RL's resolution without calling on her to speak; their stated concern was that her resolution mentioned Sen. Manchin. However, after a brief kerfuffle, RL was given time to speak. She asked that the committee amend her resolution to remove the apparently-offending language regarding Sen. Manchin (but she was clear that she would like to keep the language asking for a standalone bill for the secret side deal.)

I am grateful that California DNC Member Laurence Zakson, who is one of California's two members on the Resolutions Committee, kindly and very unexpectedly invited David Atkins and I, as co-sponsors of RL's resolution, to speak next. Laurence was chastised by the Parliamentarian for his request, but it was grudgingly approved. David spoke to the committee, and Nebraska Chair Jane Kleeb spoke in my place. At the end, however, no committee member offered an amendment to remove the apparently-offending language regarding Sen. Manchin. Nor did any committee member make a motion to approve the resolution and send it to the full DNC for final approval. RL's resolution died.

Later, #18 -- Chairman Harrison's resolution on dark money -- was unanimously passed without much discussion.

Finally, on #19, Chair Whitmer spoke on her resolution, but it died when no committee member made a motion to approve the resolution and send it to the full DNC.



The final list of committee-approved resolutions that went to the full DNC [may be found here](#).

### DNC Western States Regional Caucus

As the newly-elected Vice Chair of the Western Caucus, I provided a brief report on my work for the Caucus since the last meeting, including new bylaw changes to be voted on at our next meeting.

The highlight, certainly, was a visit from SGOTUS (someone used that term and it took me a funny moment to figure out.)



*Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff speaks to the Western States Caucus  
(Caucus Chair Tina Podlodowski [WA] is sitting between SGOTUS and I, I  
assure you)*

Doug Emhoff, who was introduced by Chair Harrison, spoke about his torrid pace of fundraising events on behalf of the Biden/Harris campaign and then the DNC. He also spoke about his life as the first Second Gentleman, and how it is to be married to the Vice President of the United States. He shared a story about the first time Vice President Harris presided over the Senate as President of the Senate -- the first woman ever in that role -- to provide what was her first tie-breaking vote in the Senate. He shared that he was overcome by emotion by the weight of that moment. When the Vice President came home that night, he thought they were going to talk about that incredible moment and her place in history. Instead, the Vice President asked him what they should have for dinner.

VPOTUS and SGOTUS -- they're just like us!

### DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee

The DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee met to discuss routine business, but thanks to organizing efforts in which I participated, the Chair also allowed a discussion on Amendment #16. For the record, there are no Californians on this committee.

As I shared in my Pre-Kapp, there was fear that this Amendment could open the door to the DNC ignoring or overruling any direction relating to Party governance from the National Convention -- even though the Convention is the highest authority in the Democratic Party per the DNC Charter. In my Pre-Kapp, I used the examples of a post-Amendment #16 DNC ignoring the 2016 Unity Reform Commission and the 2020 resolution affirming the changes to superdelegates.

In this meeting, the Chair himself used the Unity Reform Commission as an example, admitting that it was possible that Amendment #16 could enable the DNC to ignore similar direction. However, he explained that wasn't the intent nor would the DNC ever abuse this power. He shared that this statement would be added to the legislative intent on this amendment (which I later learned would be sent to the National Archives.)

There was an intense discussion between the Committee Chair and one of the committee members, who happened to be the Chair of the Association of State Democratic Committees (also known as the ASDC, which is the organization for all State Party Chairs and Vice Chairs). The ASDC Chair said that there was a lot of concern expressed by the State Parties on this Amendment, and asked if the Rules and Bylaws Committee could amend Amendment #16 before it went to the full DNC for approval. The Parliamentarian ruled that the committee could only vote to approve or reject Amendment #16; they could not change it. (I believe that there could have been a vote to withdraw Amendment #16 so that it could be amended at a future committee meeting and then brought back to the full DNC Membership; however, the Parliamentarian did not share that option nor did any committee member ask that question.)

During this discussion, the Committee Chair did acknowledge that Amendment #16 could, and maybe even should, be strengthened to avoid any possibility of the DNC overruling the National Convention. But, he bound himself to the Parliamentarian's ruling. Eventually, the ASDC Chair called for a motion to direct the Rules and Bylaws Committee to commit to amending Amendment #16 (which by then would already be enshrined in the DNC Charter and Bylaws) at the next meeting in Spring 2023. However, the motion died for lack of a second.

The committee adjourned without any other action or discussion.

### President Biden speech

To cap (Kapp?) off the day, President Biden visited the DNC. This is the third time President Biden had come to the DNC in three meetings since his election (one virtual, two in-person meetings.)

There's not too much to say here, as there was a lot of media coverage, so I'll just provide [this link](#) instead.

The President did stay for about an hour after his speech to do a rope line. I didn't seek a picture because I had my picture taken with him at the last meeting, and I wanted to make sure that other people had an opportunity.

---

### **Friday, September 9, 2022: DNC Councils, White House Tour, Convention City Receptions**

Friday was a whirlwind. In the morning, I attended the meetings for the Environmental and Climate Crisis Council, the Interfaith Council, and the Rural Council.

Around noon, I participated in a White House tour that the DNC had procured for DNC Members and their guests. (It was the standard free public tour, and DNC Members did not get any special privileges.) It was great to see the new official portraits for former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama -- [you can see the official portraits \(and my excited reaction\) here](#).

The agenda for the Executive Committee meeting is [here](#). CA DNC Executive Committee member Garry Shay's notes from the Executive Committee meeting can be [found here](#).

At night, four potential 2024 National Convention cities hosted receptions for DNC Members. Those cities were, in no particular order, New York, Atlanta, Chicago, and Houston. (DNC Members do not get a vote on the selection of the Convention city; this will be a decision made by the White House sometime in 2023.) It's my hope that the White House prioritizes hotel proximity and cost to delegates, Labor-friendliness, and access to reproductive health care for delegates.

---

### **Saturday, September 10, 2022: DNC Credentials Committee, General Session**

## DNC Credentials Committee

The DNC Credentials Committee had no significant business. Christine Pelosi and I are the only Californians on this committee. The only item of discussion was the ongoing challenge to the Florida Democratic Party, whose bylaws and procedures violate the core Democratic and democratic principle of "one person, one vote." Committee members were informed that the FDP was granted an extension until November 30, 2022 to implement the changes necessary to bring their bylaws up to Democratic Party standards. The Florida Democratic Party has failed to enact these changes for more than 13 months, but it was clear that the DNC's patience with Florida is wearing thin.

## General Session

[Here was the agenda for General Session.](#)



Having decided earlier not to contest the two resolutions that the DNC Resolutions Committee had killed without a vote, pro-reform DNC Members decided to focus on the future.

The Resolutions Committee report was approved without comment or opposition. [The list of committee-approved resolutions can be found here.](#) For transparency, I co-sponsored the following resolutions that were approved by the committee:

- Resolution in Support of President Biden and his Historic Agenda
- Resolution Reaffirming Our Commitment to Reproductive Justice, Privacy Rights, and Personal Freedoms and Support of Codifying Abortion Rights
- Resolution Supporting President Biden's Leadership on the Economy

- Resolution Reaffirming the Democratic Party's Commitment to American Workers
- Resolution in Support of the January 6th Committee and the Defense of Democracy
- Resolution Reaffirming Support for Our Veterans
- Resolution Reaffirming the DNC's Commitment to State Parties
- Resolution Supporting President Biden's Plan for a More Fair, Orderly, and Humane Immigration System
- Resolution Supporting Former President Barack Obama's Campaign to Combat the Spread of Disinformation
- Resolution in Support of the Equal Rights Amendment
- Resolution Recognizing the 40th Anniversary of the Murder of Vincent Chin
- Resolution in Consideration of HR 669 and S 1148 to Restrict the First Use of Nuclear Weapons
- Resolution Supporting President Biden's Leadership in Signing Into Law the Inflation Reduction Act
- Resolution in Support of Policies to Address Poverty and Systemic Racism in the United States
- Resolution Reaffirming the Democratic Party's Commitment to Eliminate Dark Money and Pass the DISCLOSE Act
- Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Zahra Abbas
- Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Madeleine Albright
- Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Norman Mineta

When Chair Harrison called for discussion on the Rules and Bylaws Committee report (which included the Rules and Call of the National Convention, the 2024 Delegate Selection Rules, updated Rules of Procedure for Filling Vacancies, and all 33 proposed amendments to the DNC Charter and Bylaws, all in a single package), a DNC Member from Wyoming, Jessica Chambers, asked to be heard and was granted the opportunity. Here is what she said:

*"My name is Jessica Sell Chambers, I'm a DNC National Committeewoman from the great state of Wyoming. I just want to thank everyone for the hard work that they've done over the last few days, months, years. Everyone here has worked really hard in this election cycle, and back home where they come from. We are all here to win in November. As former Chair Tom Perez always said, 'unity is not uniformity.' Yesterday, I received a text from DNC staff, along with hundreds of you. It said, 'we want to check in in advance of the general session because we're hearing that a very small group may try to disrupt the general session*



*tomorrow, during the ratification of the Resolutions report and the Rules and Bylaws report. We cannot afford this disruption less than 60 days before the election. Also it can prevent the VP from being able to speak tomorrow. We recommend that you enthusiastically vote to support the reports as written and adopted overwhelmingly by your colleagues on the standing committees. We were wondering if we can count on you to support the Chair and the reports.' There is not a disrupter among us DNC Members. As Tom said, 'unity is not uniformity,' and our staff should not be telling us how to think or vote."*

After applause by the Membership, Chair Harrison said "her message, it is heard by this Chair. I will be discussing this with our staff to make sure that we are addressing members in the appropriate fashion. But I thank you again for that."

There was no attempt to amend Amendment #16 or any other part of the Rules and Bylaws report. However, I and others are holding out hope that this loophole that the DNC has now enshrined into its Charter and Bylaws will be closed before the 2024 National Convention. The work on this continues with our friends and allies across the country.

Fortunately, there was a request to divide the question, so that we could see where individual DNC Members stood on Amendment #16. (There was no concern about anything else in the entire Rules and Bylaws report.) DNC Members did not vote by written ballot, but by literally standing. I can't confirm everyone's votes, since they were all standing around me, but I feel confident in saying that a plurality of California's DNC Members voted against the Rules and Bylaws package. Key California organizers who voted no on the rules package included David Atkins, RL Miller, Sean Dugar, and myself.

Finally, the DNC approved without opposition the Chair's appointments to fill vacancies for DNC Vice Chair, on the standing committees, at-large DNC Members, and DNC Executive Committee members.

After a nearly two-hour wait (which included a panel by state party chairs and speeches by staff,) the DNC finally heard from Vice President Kamala Harris. The Vice President gave a powerful stump speech, referencing recent Democratic wins in Kansas, New York, and Alaska. It was an energizing way to close out the meeting.



Chair Harrison adjourned general session after a video from Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The next meeting of the DNC is likely to be in Spring 2023. However, I am unlikely to attend because I will have a newborn at home. Of course, I will send a proxy to ensure that California's voice is fully represented.

---

If you have any questions or just want to talk about the DNC, you can always reach me by [email](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or text/call me at (510) 717-8260.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the California Democratic Party.

Your ally in activism,

Michael Kapp  
Member, Democratic National Committee  
Vice Chair, DNC Western States Regional Caucus

<http://www.michaelkapp.com/>

--==--

Michael Kapp for DNC · 3731 Wilshire Blvd, Suite #514, Los Angeles, CA 90010, United States

This email was sent to [mdkapp@gmail.com](mailto:mdkapp@gmail.com). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).  
You can also keep up with Michael Kapp, DNC Member on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

--==--