
Two weeks to go!

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

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Michael Kapp

Member, Democratic National Committee

Michael --

Greetings from Nevada!



With the election only 14 days away, I know everyone is busy knocking on doors, making phone calls, and volunteering for Democrats up and down the ballot in local campaign headquarters. However, I wanted to remain in touch in the closing days of the campaign.

First, thank you so much for all your hard work this cycle. Volunteers are the backbone of our Democratic Party, and while we always say that this is the election of our lifetimes, there is so much at stake. Not only are we going down a dark path that is leading us to the worst possible climate change projections, but the right for a woman to make her own decisions about her body, and peaceful coexistence and integration with our fellow Muslim brothers and sisters are all on the ballot this November.

In case you needed any more motivation to spend another shift making phone calls or spending a weekend in a swing state, I wanted to share with you [this list of 140 terrible things the Republican](#)

[nominee has said about women](#). However, this election should not be about how out-of-touch and extreme Donald Trump and the Republican Party are, but about the positive progressive vision that Democrats are offering the country. I urge you to [watch and share this short web video](#) on why our Party's leaders are Democrats.

DNC Update

The Democratic National Committee is down to a skeleton (Halloween pun!) crew in Washington, with dozens of DNC staffers deployed to battleground states. The Democratic Party (national and state) and the Hillary Clinton campaign currently employ 5,138 paid staff in 15 battleground states. In comparison, the RNC, state parties, and Donald Trump employ just 1,409 staffers in 16 states.

With Trump and the Republican Party imploding in swing states and collapsing in traditionally-Republican states, we have a unique opportunities to register new voters and build campaign infrastructure in new territories. In particular, I am pleased that the Clinton campaign, which has staff in all 50 states, is reaching out to historically-underserved communities -- [including Native American tribes](#). In Arizona, a traditional red state, the DNC and Clinton campaigns have 160 organizers now in Arizona, and 25 of them are dedicated to tribal communities:

"Tribal communities have swung a lot of elections in Arizona. In an election that will be razor thin, getting out the vote in Navajo Nation could turn the state blue." -- Charlie Galbraith, a member of Navajo Nation and a political adviser to both the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee

Expanding the electoral map has benefits beyond this election cycle. One such example is in Texas, where [a recent poll](#) broke down Clinton/Trump likely voters by age:

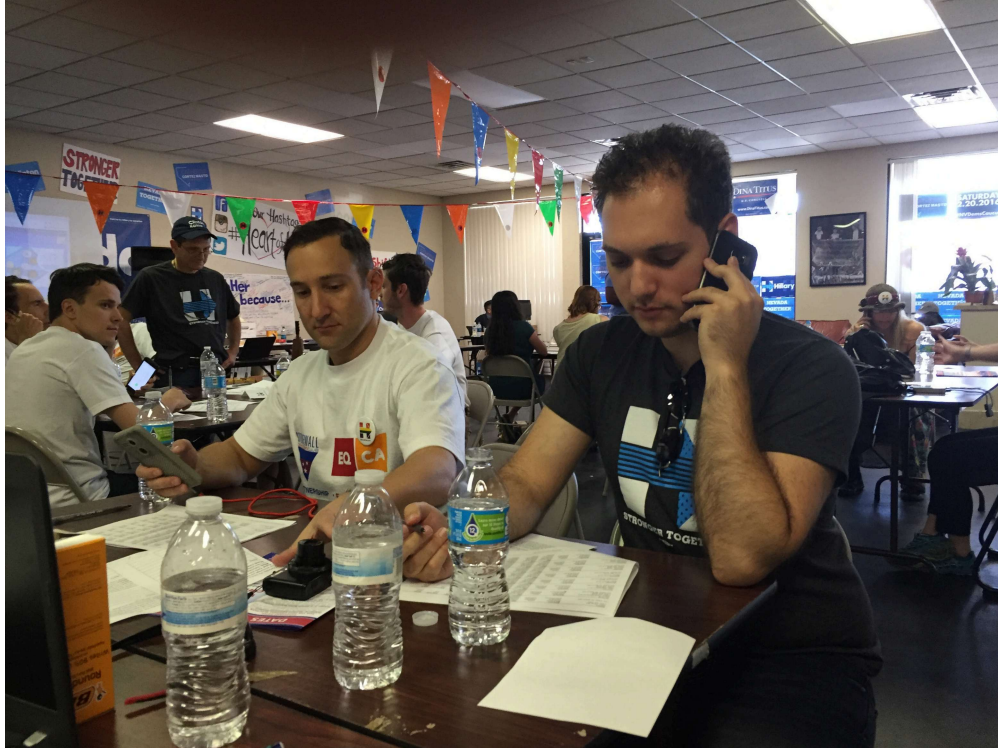
65+: Trump +22
45-64: Trump +14
30-44: Clinton +8
18-29: Clinton +21

Younger voters were critical to electing President Obama in 2008 and 2012, and this new generation of voters will only become more essential in this and future elections. Last week, I spoke with the new senior advisor to Interim DNC Chair Donna Brazile. We discussed new methods and issues to communicate and engage with this new generation.

I will continue to keep you updated on our progress moving forward.

Getting out the vote in Nevada

Last Thursday, I traveled to Las Vegas in advance of this weekends' LGBT GOTV trip, organized by my fellow DNC Members Jess Durfee and Laurence Zakson. I wanted to get to Nevada early so I had a head start on working to elect Hillary Clinton and Catherine Cortez Masto, the Democratic choice to follow Senator Harry Reid in the U.S. Senate.



It was great to be doing important work with my fellow DNC Members, including (L-R) Laurence Zakson, Jess Durfee, and DNC LGBT Caucus Chair Earl Fowlkes.

Other California DNC Members who were in Nevada included Garry Shay and Andrew Lachman.



After canvassing, we helped staff the Democratic Party booth at the Las Vegas LGBT Pride Festival. It was the first day of early voting and we helped direct voters to their most convenient polling center and convinced them to vote down-ballot for all Democratic candidates.





Southern California had sent six busloads of volunteers into Nevada for the weekend, and after a long day in the sun talking to voters, many of us sat down to a family-style dinner of delicious Thai food. Board members of [Stonewall Democratic Club](#) and the [Miracle Mile Democratic Club](#) were joined by West Hollywood Councilmembers Lindsey Horvath and John Heilman (not pictured), former West Hollywood Councilmember and Executive Director of the Trevor Project Abbe Land, and social justice attorney Sandra Fluke.



The results for the first day of early voting in Clark County (Las Vegas) were outstanding: voters cast 39,309 ballots, surpassing the 2012 general election figure of 33,182 by more than 6,000 votes. Our superb Democratic ground game, combined with the non-existent Trump field operation, meant that 55% of Saturday's ballots were registered Democrats, compared to only 27% registered Republicans. This morning, the [Washington Post](#) covered our successful Nevada weekend:

Many Republicans familiar with Nevada worry about this nightmare scenario: If Trump loses decisively along the Eastern seaboard—New Hampshire, Virginia, North Carolina and/or Florida—the networks could declare that Clinton is the president-elect before polls even close in Nevada. Many core GOP voters typically cast their ballots while commuting home from work. What if a couple percent of them decide that the election is over and it's not worth waiting in line? Because Republicans are so

reliant on these voters, and Democrats will have so many votes locked in from early voting, it could lead to a down-ticket bloodbath. At the very least, it could tip a close Senate race to Cortez Masto.

Of course, if the networks call the presidential race before the polls close in Nevada, they could end up affecting voter turnout in California as well -- similar to how the Associated Press called the Democratic primary for Clinton on the night before the California primary.

However, in the event of an early call for a President-elect Hillary Clinton, I believe the outcome in California would still be favorable to Democrats. California Republican voters unenthused by Trump have no Republican Senate candidate for which to vote. This was always going to be a problem for the underfunded California Republican Party GOTV operation, and, while everyone should exercise their right to vote, a President-elect Clinton might provide further disincentive for California Republicans to vote. In tight Congressional, State Senate, and Assembly races in purple areas of our state (Michael Eggman, CA10; Doug Applegate, CA49; Jonathon Ervin, SD21; Henry Stern, SD27; Josh Newman, SD29; Cheryl Cook-Kallio, AD16; Christy Smith, AD38; Sharon Quirk-Silva, AD65; Al Muratsuchi, AD66), non-voting dispirited Republicans may provide Democratic candidates with an additional margin for victory.

The large-scale effort in Nevada would not have been possible without hard-built Democratic infrastructure and hundreds of volunteers on the ground. Congratulations to everyone involved, and to all California Democrats who worked on a campaign this weekend!

November Executive Board Meeting

The California Democratic Party Executive Board is meeting at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay in San Diego from November 18-20th. [The tentative agenda is posted online](#). You can [register online](#) for \$40 or for free by [signing up a new DEM2016 member](#)! [Contact the CDP](#) to take advantage of this important Party-building offer.

While the hotel block is closed, if you have not yet booked your hotel room, you may find [union-friendly options available here](#).

I look forward to seeing everyone at this post-election meeting and hearing new war stories. Feel free to contact me at mdkapp@gmail.com, or call me at 510-717-8260, and we can set up a time to meet in San Diego.

Remembering Tom Hayden

[Tom Hayden passed away earlier this week](#). It was an honor to get to know him during our respective campaigns for DNC, and I always admired his strength and willingness to speak truth to power. Our progressive movement and all Californians are better today because of his dedicated service to the public good. During this difficult time, my best wishes and thoughts go out to his family and all those who loved him.



Your ally in activism,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Kapp", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Kapp
Member, Democratic National Committee
<http://www.michaelkapp.com/>

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

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