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## DNC Summer Meeting 2018 Re-Kapp

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To: mdkapp@gmail.com

Mon, Aug 27, 2018 at 8:18 AM



Michael --

The Democratic National Committee met for its 2018 Summer Meeting in Chicago, Illinois from August 23 to 25. [Here is the schedule](#) and [caucus/council agendas](#).

[Click here](#) for a 'Member Toolkit' designed by the DNC that I believe provides excellent resources and information for everyone to use.

As always, if you have any questions about this meeting or anything else related to the DNC, please feel free to reach out to me by [email](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or text/call me at (510) 717-8260.

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### Wednesday, August 22: Association of State Democratic Committees (ASDC)

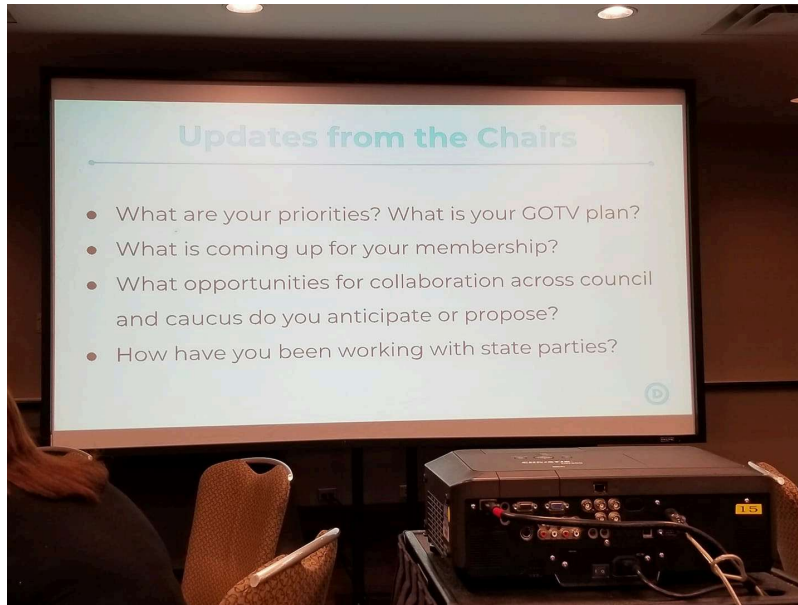
The day before the official meeting of the DNC began, the ASDC met. The ASDC is the organization for State Parties. California Democratic Party Chair Eric Bauman and Vice Chair Alex Rooker serve on the ASDC. We heard ASDC and DNC officer reports.



That evening, the DNC hosted a dinner for DNC Caucus and Council Chairs. Even though I was at the time only the Vice Chair of the DNC Youth Council, since our Chair had aged-out of her position on the DNC, I attended this dinner as acting Chair of the Youth Council. Maria Elena Durazo (Co-Chair of the Labor Caucus), Jess Durfee (Chair of the Western States Caucus), and Andrew Lachman (Chair of the Small Business Council) all attended in their capacities.

During the dinner, Tom Perez spoke briefly about the site selection process for the 2020 National Convention, pledging his commitment to make this the most "disability rights-friendly convention ever."

As acting Chair of the DNC Youth Council, I spoke about my efforts to make DNC meetings more productive and helpful to new young DNC Members. After all, we are your representatives here at the national level and we need to be as effective as possible.



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**Thursday, August 23:** DNC Executive Committee, DNC Youth Council

Thursday began with a meeting of the DNC Executive Committee. Maria Elena Durazo, Lorna Johnson, Jess Durfee, Christine Pelosi, and Garry Shay sit on this committee.

DNC Chair Tom Perez opened up the meeting. We heard reports from the Political and Organizing Team, including that the DNC has reached 36 million voters and has 140 organizers on the ground. There was an update from the Ryles and Bylaws Committee Co-Chairs on the proposed reforms. Chair Perez spoke about the need to pass these reforms in order to build trust.

[For a complete report, please find Garry Shay's report here.](#)



Immediately following the Executive Committee meeting, we moved into closed session for a cybersecurity update.

[I then led the meeting of the DNC Youth Council as acting Chair.](#)

Former Young Democrats of America male DNC representative John Keller from Chicago and I organized a fascinating and diverse panel discussion with local candidates, elected officials, and Party leaders. Ellie Pérez from Arizona, the first DREAMer on the DNC, was our excellent moderator.



After the panel, we held elections for Youth Council Chair. I was unanimously elected. To fill the now-vacant Vice Chair position, Kat Hoang (Texas) was unanimously elected.

As Chair, I will be appointing a new Youth Council Secretary, a position that has been vacant for over a year. I asked Youth Council members to make recommendations (even self-recommendations!) on this appointment. I will work with Kat and other Youth Council members to determine this appointment.

I also spoke to the Youth Council about collectively exploring other opportunities to bring more young DNC Members into leadership positions.



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**Friday, August 24:** DNC Members-only Session, DNC Credentials Committee

The morning began with a less formal meeting of the DNC Membership. This is a recent tradition that was started by Chair Tom Perez and our DNC officers to provide DNC Members with a more intimate back-and-forth discussion with our leadership.



Virtually all of the meeting was Q&A and discussion on the proposed DNC reforms. Chair Perez invited all DNC Members who wished to speak to address the officers and full DNC. Debate lasted four hours. I was honored to be asked to speak. I carried with me the voices of the California Democratic Party Executive Board and more than 2,600 grassroots activists in strong support of these Party reforms. I spoke about the years-long effort that has gone into these proposals, and I thanked our DNC leadership for a deeply transparent and collaborative process. I reminded DNC Members that these reforms came out of a unanimous vote of the 2016 Democratic National Convention, and that we must always listen to those we represent.



For more information about these reforms, you can find [a letter from the Rules and Bylaws Committee Co-Chairs here](#), [a short fact sheet here](#), [the proposed 2020 Call to Convention](#) (which includes the reforms to unpledged delegates, also known as superdelegates), [the proposed Delegate Selection Rules](#), and [two proposed amendments to the DNC Charter and Bylaws](#) (including important transparency-related Party reforms from the Unity Reform Commission and language that allows for the inclusion of gender non-binary members and delegates). All of these reforms would pass during General Session the next day.

Because the DNC Members-only session was three hours longer than expected, all other meetings were pushed back.

Immediately afterward, I attended the meeting of the DNC Credentials Committee. I am the only Californian on this committee of about thirty DNC Members from around the country.



We discussed two complaints involving the Democratic Parties of Florida and Puerto Rico. I asked pointed questions and voted against dismissing these complaints. I was the only vote against dismissing the complaint against the Florida Democratic Party, and one of five votes against dismissing the Puerto Rico complaint. However, both complaints were dismissed. Even though the Puerto Rico complaint had been dismissed, I was unhappy with ex parte communications that allegedly occurred and may have harmed the challengers' case. Knowing that the Credentials Committee no longer had any jurisdiction over Puerto Rico, but wanting to ensure full transparency, I called for a motion to ask the Democratic Party of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to share these communications with the challengers. This vote also failed, with three other DNC Members joining me.

[You can read the final report of the Credentials Committee here.](#)

Because both the Members-only session and the Credentials Committee meeting went long, I was unable to attend the Western States Caucus.

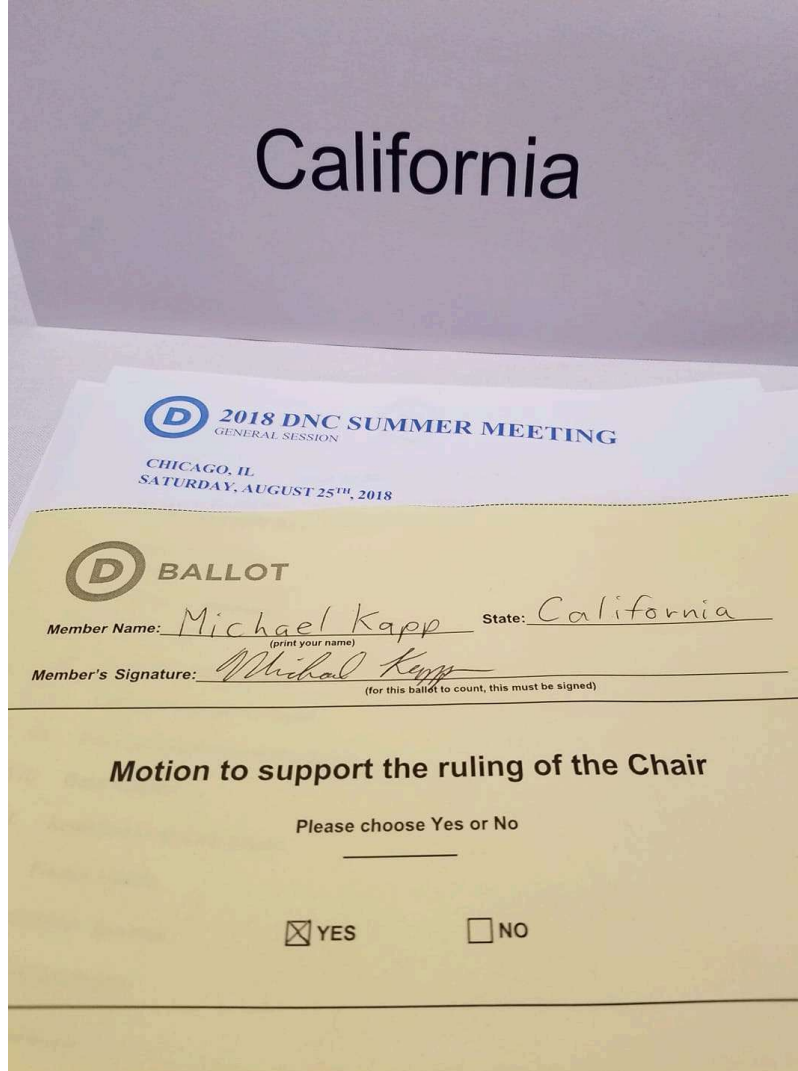
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### **Saturday, August 25:** General Session

On Saturday morning, we began General Session. After approving the Credentials Committee report, we began to discuss the proposed reforms through approval of the Rules and Bylaws Committee report.



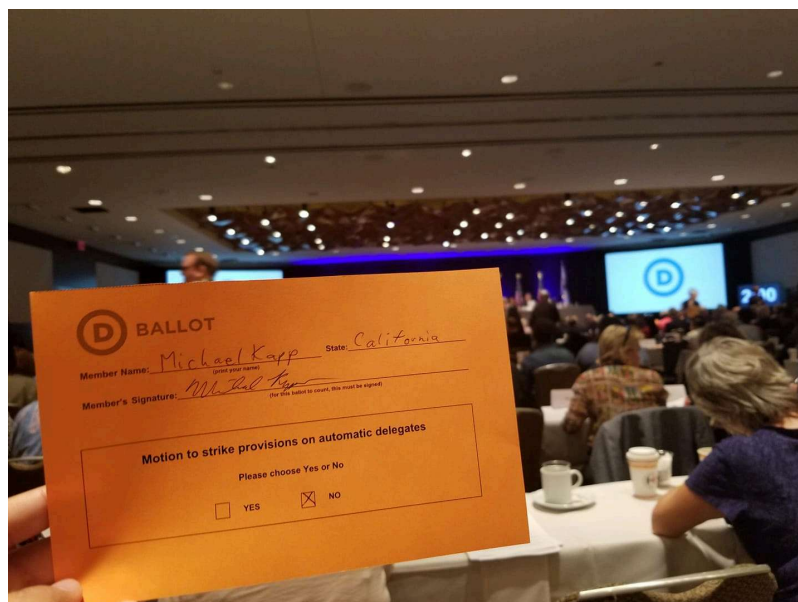
The first motion was a procedural one: many reform opponents believed that these changes required a charter amendment, and therefore required 2/3s support instead of 50% to pass. Chair Perez ruled that the reforms did not require a charter amendment, and appealed his own decision to the body. This procedural motion was widely viewed as a test case to see how many DNC Members were in favor or against reform. We voted via paper ballot whether support the ruling of the Chair that the reforms did NOT require a 2/3s supermajority. I voted yes.



I [livestreamed the announcement of the results of the first ballot here](#). The motion, which only required 50% to pass, [earned more than 75%](#). At that point, it was clear that reform would pass overwhelmingly.

Yes	329.5
No	106.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>436</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>75.5%</b>

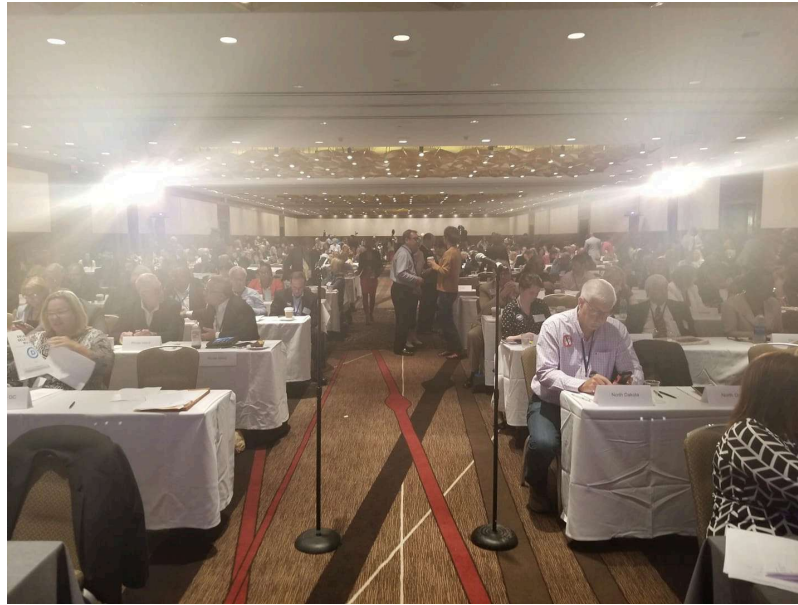
The second motion was to strike (delete) the full language on unpledged delegates (superdelegates) from the reform package. I [voted no](#).



As counting began, the lead opponents asked to speak to the full body. They conceded that reform was going to pass. Successful motions were made to suspend the rules, end counting of the second ballot, and vote by acclamation to pass these reforms. [You can watch my livestream of this here.](#) These actions clearly demonstrated that Democrats are unified heading into the November 2018 midterms and 2020 beyond.

We then easily passed the two charter amendments (on the Unity Reform Committee recommendations and updating our gender language).

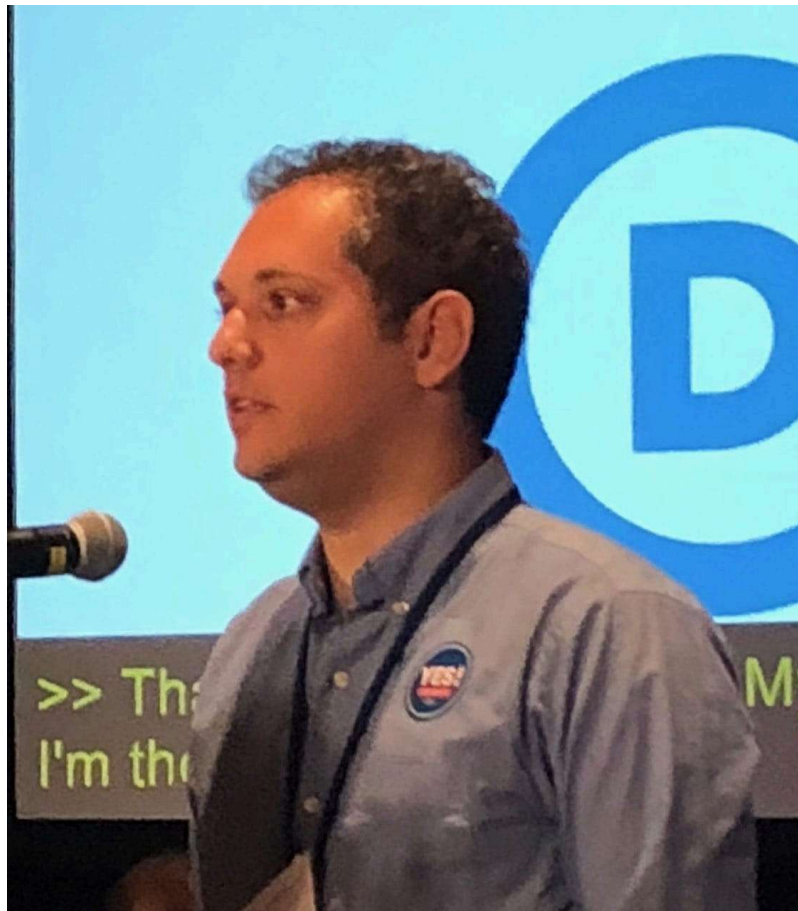
Before the meeting ended, [we approved 33 resolutions, which you can view here.](#)



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*"We made these changes because it's never too late to do the right thing," said California DNC member Michael Kapp, who supported Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential primary. "By restoring trust to our presidential primary process, we are reinforcing the fact that Democrats are the party of the people."*

[Huffington Post: Democrats Strip Superdelegates Of Power In Historic Reform Vote](#)



These important reforms would not have been possible without the broadest coalition I have ever seen within our Democratic Party: Bernie and Hillary supporters, DNC Members and the DNC leadership, we all came together to develop these reforms and organize support. I was proud to work as an official whip in support of these reforms, but it is the collaboration between DNC Members and leading activists from around the country who put aside our relatively minor differences to work together and make these reforms a reality who deserve our thanks.

Thank you for the incredible opportunity to serve you and our National Party.

Your ally in activism,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Kapp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Kapp  
Member, Democratic National Committee

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