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## DNC Summer Meeting 2019 Pre-Kapp

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Michael --

The Democratic National Committee met for its 2019 Winter Meeting on August 22nd - 24th, 2019 at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square in San Francisco, California.

While it's extremely disappointing that the DNC meeting partially conflicts with the California Democratic Party Executive Board meeting in San Jose -- a decision that I understand was made by the interim CDP Chair without input from our California DNC Members -- I hope many California Democrats can attend at least some of the DNC meeting too.

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

[Here were the agendas for all the DNC Caucuses and Councils.](#)

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### Wednesday, August 21, 2019: SF Democrats Fundraiser

I flew into San Francisco a day early to get a head start on organizing around a climate debate and support the San Francisco's Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC) at their annual fundraiser, where I was glad to run into challah/clean money activist Hene Kelly!



*With CDP Region 6 Regional Director and Disabilities Caucus Chair Hene Kelly*

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi accepted the DCCC's lifetime achievement award. Thank you Chairman David Campos for a great evening of progressive infrastructure building!



#### **Thursday, August 22, 2019: DNC Youth Council, DNC Credentials Committee**

Today started with the DNC's Resolution Committee. After many hours of debate that was attended by hundreds of climate activists, the committee rejected Washington State Chair Tina Podlodowski's proposal (Resolution 5) for a dedicated climate debate. However, Dr. Jim Zogby amended Resolution 4, which was also on climate, to include a key clause:

*WHEREAS, the DNC has repeatedly and **will continue to encourage candidates to participate in multi-candidate issue-specific forums with the candidates appearing on the same stage, engaging one another in discussion**, which have a long history of providing the best venue for in-depth conversations on specific policy matters; (emphasis mine)*

Also on Thursday morning, I chaired the DNC Youth Council. Highlights include hearing from leadership from the Young Democrats of America, the College Democrats of America, and the High School Democrats of America. We also approved a slate of diverse young people to join the Youth Council as at-large members. We heard from Will Rodriguez-Kennedy (the Chair of the California Young Democrats), Chairman Tom Perez, DNC Secretary Jason Rae, then-interim DNC Finance Chair Chris Korge, DNC staff, and representatives from NextGen and Emerge America.

Keeping in mind my and the DNC's commitment to neutrality in this presidential race, I did not invite any presidential campaigns to speak to the Youth Council. Saying that, several campaigns came and requested speaking time. Each campaign that asked for time was given exactly two minutes to speak: Buttigieg, O'Rourke, Harris, Warren, Steyer, and Yang.



After the Youth Council, I attended the DNC Credentials Committee. I am the only Californian on this committee. We only had old business to discuss: the credentials challenge to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Alabama Democratic Party.

At the last meeting of the Credentials Committee six months, we determined that the meeting that resulted in their election was improper. At the time, I had argued that the election results should be thrown out, the DNC credentials for the Alabama Chair and Vice Chair should be revoked, and a new election called. While new bylaws and a new election was ordered by the DNC Credentials Committee, my motion to immediately revoke the credentials for the Alabama Chair and Vice Chair failed by one vote. Instead, the Alabama Party was given until this meeting to implement new, proper bylaws and hold new officer elections.

Unfortunately, since then, the Alabama Democratic Party engaged in what the DNC called "a textbook case of stalling" and no progress had been made. After some discussion, the committee voted on a motion, that I seconded, to revoke the credentials of the Alabama Chair and Vice Chair. This motion passed unanimously. The DNC will continue to try to work with the Alabama Democratic Party to revise their bylaws and implement new officer elections.





At the DNC Credentials Committee meeting

I also attended the DNC LGBT Caucus, which had an extremely informative program on combating homelessness among LGBTQ youth. California's Laurence Zakson is the Secretary of the LGBT Caucus, and he introduced our Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis who spoke about her history supporting the LGBTQ community.



*California DNC Member and DNC LGBT Caucus Secretary Laurence Zakson speaks at the LGBT Caucus*

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### **Friday, August 23, 2019: Meet the Candidates, Organizing for Climate**

On Friday, the DNC hosted two sessions for presidential candidate speeches. We heard 13 candidate speeches:

- Michael Bennet
- Julian Castro
- Joe Sestak
- Seth Moulton
- Tim Ryan
- Cory Booker
- Kamala Harris
- Bernie Sanders
- Amy Klobuchar
- Tom Steyer
- Elizabeth Warren

- Marianne Williamson
- Andrew Yang

Six candidates also appeared by video:

- Joe Biden
- Pete Buttigieg
- Beto O'Rourke
- John Delaney
- Steve Bullock
- Kirsten Gillibrand

We also heard a powerful and deeply inspiring speech from Rev. Dr. William Barber, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign. I hope to have a link to this speech to share with you soon.



#### **Saturday, August 24, 2019: DNC Western States Caucus, General Session**

Saturday kicked off with the [DNC Western States Caucus](#), chaired by California DNC Member Jess Durfee. We heard reports from each of the Western states and held an election to fill a vacancy on the caucus executive board. Tina Podlodowski, the Chair of Washington State and author of the original resolution calling for a climate debate, also announced that well over 100 DNC Members have signed a motion for a roll call vote on a climate conversation at the General Session.



*Tina Podlodowski, Chairwoman of the Washington State Democrats, speaks at the DNC Western States Caucus*

General Session began soon after. After the Credentials Committee and Rules and Bylaws Committee reports were approved by the DNC, we heard the report from the Resolutions Committee. Immediately after the report was given, there was a motion from the floor to, essentially, pull and delete Resolution 4 from the rest of the Resolutions Committee packet. As explained above, Resolution 4 had been amended in the Resolutions Committee to allow candidates to participate in forums where multiple candidates could be on the stage at the same time and discuss a specific issue and not be barred from participation in DNC-sanctioned debates, as the rules currently stand.

Chairman Perez initially gave both sides a total of 30 minutes (15 each) to discuss, but after it became apparent that there was great interest by DNC Members in discussing this further, allowed 30 seconds to everyone who wanted to speak.

I was grateful to be able to speak on this topic. [You can watch a grainy video of what I said here](#), but here is a transcript:

*"My name is Michael Kapp, and I am Chair of the DNC Youth Council and I am the only Young Democrat from California on the DNC. I know that it is my generation and future generations that must live with the repercussions of climate change longer than anyone else. I am here to lift up the voices of California Democrats who are virtually unanimous in support of a climate debate. This is an existential crisis, and one that I believe must be brought to an elevated level of dialogue. I also reject language that divides Democrats, on and between the issues, as Reverend Barber told us yesterday. That is why I supported the resolution by the Chairwoman from Washington State, as well as Resolution 4 as amended. Furthermore, I have deep respect for the Chair of our Party, but our Democratic Party is bottom up, not top down. Mr Chairman, colleagues: DNC Members lead this Party, not a single individual. We have the right to overturn a unilateral debate rule in which we had no part in creating. Otherwise, we diminish our value to those Democrats we represent. For all these reasons, I urge that we keep Resolution 4 in the packet."*

After speeches were over, we used a written ballot. A YES vote would allow Resolution 4 to be pulled and therefore defeat the effort to hold a single-issue discussion with multiple candidates, while a NO vote would keep Resolution 4 in the Resolutions Committee packet and allow it to pass the full DNC. I voted NO.

As per my past practice on all votes I take at the DNC, here is my ballot:

California

**D BALLOT**

1. NAME AND STATE OF MEMBER

MEMBER'S NAME: Michael Kapp STATE: CA  
(print your name)

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE: Michael Kapp  
(for this ballot to be counted, it must be signed)

DO YOU SUPPORT MOTION #1?

YES ☐ NO ☒

Sadly, after about 45 minutes of counting, [we learned that we had lost](#): there were 137 NO votes versus 222 YES votes to pull Resolution 4.

Also per my past practice, I have requested the full voter-by-voter tabulation on this vote. I promise to share it with you once I receive it.

Other notable business handled during General Session included the passage of a bylaws amendment to add the Chair and Vice Chair of the High School Democrats of America to the DNC, the election of



new DNC Finance Chair Chris Korge, and the election/appointment of individuals as at-large DNC Members to meet diversity goals.

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I'm sorry that I was not able to attend the full CDP Eboard meeting this week, but I needed to do all I could to try to pass a climate debate. I was glad to join our Eboard on Saturday and Sunday!



[For more information about your DNC delegation, please click here.](#)

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  
Chair, DNC Youth Council

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