

SANTA CLARA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE
7 PM-9PM, via Zoom Online Conference (details in box below)

(Our meeting is open to the public, but we reserve the right to remove guests who disrupt the meeting. Video and audio recording not permitted without prior approval)

AGENDA FOR Thursday, June 4, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. IDENTIFICATION OF VISITORS

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Thursday, May 7, 2020

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Spotlight on disparate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color: SJ Councilmember Maya Esparza
- b. Resolution to Believe Women
- c. Resolution Opposing DeVos Final Rule on Campus and K-12 Sexual Assault and Harassment
- d. Request to endorse ABA 5 (Repeal of Proposition 209)
- e. Resolution in Support of Placing the Fair Elections Initiative on the November Ballot
- f. First reading: proposed change re fast track endorsement of previously-endorsed incumbent Democrats

8. REPORTS

- a. Executive Board/Chair: Bill James
- b. Vice Chair: Jean Cohen
- c. Treasurer: Angelica Ramos
- d. Secretary: Helen Chapman
- e. Executive Director: James Kim

f. Issues: Michael Vargas

g. Community Services and Voter Registration: Judy Pipkin

h. Finance: James Kim

i. Endorsements: Clarence Madrilejos

j. Communications: John Comiskey

k. Gender Equity and the Status of Women: Shay Franco-Clausen

l. Campaign Services: Titus Lin

m. Clubs: Alex Wara

n. Regional Director Report(s)

o. DNC: Otto Lee

p. DTV Report: Steve Chessin

q. Pro-Choice Coalition: Claudia Shope

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS

June 13, 2020, 10am-12pm, via Zoom
Campaign Training for candidates, professionals, and youth
(rsvp@sccdp.org)

10. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

June 17, 2020, 6-7:30pm, via Zoom
(contact chair@sccdp.org for link)

11. ADJOURNMENT

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87869028946?pwd=d0ptanVxbUV3aVVWYUxl cFgyaFBdUT09>

Join by Phone: (669) 900 6833

Meeting ID: 878 6902 8946

Password: 924240

Resolution to Believe Women

Whereas survivors and allies are tired of seeing powerful individuals, especially men, commit abuse freely without consequences; and injustices and violence against the less powerful, especially women, have galvanized a popular uprising in recent years, from the Ya Basta movement against the sexual abuse and exploitation of immigrant women workers in the janitorial industry; to the first Women's March in 2017; to the consciousness-raising of the #MeToo movement, where millions of women shared their stories as survivors of harassment and assault; to the national horror of a partisan Senate voting to confirm Brett Kavanaugh as a Supreme Court Justice even though three women had accused him of sexual assault; and

Whereas per our platform the Santa Clara County Democratic Party *strongly opposes all gender-based discrimination, including misogyny, sexual harassment, and sexual violence, and believes that any person who perpetrates sexual harassment or sexual assault of any kind is unfit for elected and appointed office, and that public officials and entities have a duty to investigate accusations of sexual harassment or assault and take appropriate corrective or punitive action;* and

Whereas the Democratic presumptive nominee for President, former Vice President Joe Biden, has been accused of sexual assault by his former employee Tara Reade, and has been accused of unwanted and inappropriate touching by seven other women; and Anita Hill, Senators Ed Markey and Jeff Merkley, the editorial board of the New York Times, the Enough is Enough Voter Project, and many Democrats, as well as Biden himself, have called for an investigation; therefore

Be it resolved that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls on the Democratic National Committee to commission an investigation into the allegation that presumptive nominee Joe Biden committed sexual assault against Tara Reade, and any other allegations or evidence of inappropriate behavior, to be conducted by impartial investigators independent of any campaign or partisan entity; and, if any allegation of sexual assault or harassment by Joe Biden is found to be substantiated by such an investigation, calls for him to voluntarily withdraw his candidacy and calls for the Democratic National Convention to choose a different nominee; and

Be it further resolved that our call for an investigation shall be communicated to the public and to the media; and that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to all other Democratic Central Committees in California, all Caucuses of the California Democratic Party, and to the CDP Executive Board, to urgently ask them to pass similar resolutions; as well as to all DNC delegates from California; and to DNC Chair Tom Perez.

Submitted by:

Rebeca Armendariz; Michele Dauber; Shay Franco-Clausen; Rohin Ghosh; Ellie Greene; Michelle Hua; Jennie Hutchinson; Alex Lee; Sally Lieber; Sergio Lopez; Monica Mallon; Jessica Matthew; Johannes Muenzel; Olivia Navarro; Ruben Navarro; Angelica Ramos-Allen; Emily Ramos; Kristin Rivers, Ph.D.; Cari Templeton

Resolution Opposing DeVos Final Rule on Campus and K-12 Sexual Assault and Harassment

WHEREAS Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recently issued a final rule under Title IX which guts protections for victims of sexual assault and harassment for college campuses and K-12 schools, the new rule among other things requiring colleges and universities to provide a live hearing before a panel in which a person accused of sexual assault or harassment has the right to cross-examine a complainant through an “advisor” chosen by the accused and who may but need not be an attorney but who can be anyone, including a fellow student, fraternity member or angry parent, and the new rule further requires schools and colleges to dismiss any complaint that does not meet the high bar of being “severe and pervasive” as well as “objectively offensive,” such that it denies the victim access to an educational program, and the rule further excludes most off-campus and online harassment and assault from the purview of Title IX entirely, and the rule further allows colleges to require “clear and convincing evidence” to prove sexual harassment and assault; and

WHEREAS experts and survivors have said the rule will reduce the willingness of survivors to come forward, will require schools to abandon certain trauma-informed best practices, and is too narrow in scope; and

WHEREAS the final rule, which is over 2,000 pages long, imposes dramatically changed substantive rules and expanded procedural requirements and was issued in the midst of a global pandemic and associated shutdown of schools across the nation, and yet requires full compliance within just three months;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party opposes DeVos’s final rule in its entirety, and endorses and supports legal action being taken by the National Women’s Law Center to prevent the rule from becoming effective in any way, and urges in any event that the August 14, 2020 effective date be delayed to allow schools more time to study and prepare to comply with the rule, and further calls on Congress to immediately pass legislation to revoke the rule and adopt rules, modeled on the U.S Department of Education’s 2001 Sexual Harassment Guidance, and 2011 and 2014 guidance documents that have been revoked by Secretary DeVos, which will better protect students against sexual assault and harassment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be sent to Members of Congress whose district includes any part of Santa Clara County.

Submitted by Santa Clara County Democratic Party Chair Bill James

Resolution in Support of Placing the Fair Elections Initiative on the November Ballot

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Democratic Party (SCCDP) and a number of other allied organizations have endorsed the Fair Elections Initiative (FEI), which would reform San Jose elections by reducing the influence of special interest money in campaigns for Mayor and City Council and by increasing voter participation in mayoral elections.

WHEREAS, after the San Jose City Council voted 6-5 against putting the measure on the Ballot, a community coalition turned in over 97,000 signatures to the San Jose Clerk's office petitioning to have the FEI put on the November ballot, but roughly 3,000 signatures were "lost" before they arrived at the Registrar's Office;

WHEREAS, after the Registrar of voters initially rejected the measure based on a sampling process that found insufficient signatures to qualify for the ballot, a California Superior Court judge reversed that decision and has now ordered a full recount after finding numerous "egregious" errors in the policies and procedures used by the Registrar of Voters in counting the signatures, which may have resulted in countless signatures being unjustly disqualified;

WHEREAS, the loss of the signatures and the egregious counting errors (1) raise serious concerns about the integrity of the initiative process if it can be so easily undermined by such errors, and whether this was a form of voter suppression, which we as a party both locally and nationally have condemned as undemocratic; (2) promises to disenfranchise minority voters; and (3) must be corrected swiftly and decisively, so that it does not become a tool of corruption by unscrupulous interests in the future.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED, that, the City of San Jose must find the missing 3,000 signatures, which were last in their possession or, failing that, the San Jose City Council must place the FEI on the November 2020 ballot; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the SCCDP hereby calls for a full and impartial investigation into this matter, in order to determine precisely how this failure occurred, what reforms must be made in order to ensure that it never happens again, and who should be held accountable.

Respectfully Submitted by: Asm. Ash Kalra; Asm. Kansen Chu; Maya Esparza; Jean Cohen; Helen Chapman; Michael Vargas; Judy Pipkin; David Cohen; Tony Alexander; Andres Quintero; Claudia Shope; Omar Torres; Adrienne Grey; Rebeca Armendariz; Emy Thurber

[PROPOSED] Amendment to the Endorsement in Local Races Act

III. E. Fast-Track for Previously-Endorsed Incumbent and/or Sole Incumbent Democrats.

1. In the case of a Democratic incumbent who was endorsed previously for their current office by the SCCDCC and/or one or more Democratic incumbents running for re- election in a race for which the number of Democratic candidates does not exceed the number of seats, the Director of Candidate Recruitment and Endorsements, in consultation with the County Chair and the SCCDCC Executive Board, may place the name(s) of one or more of these candidates before the SCCDCC for endorsement without the requirement of ~~a questionnaire or~~ an interview.
2. The names of all such "Previously-Endorsed and/or Sole Democrats" shall be placed on a consent calendar. Such consent calendar shall be voted on by the SCCDCC in a single motion that may be approved by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.
3. Any candidate may be removed from the consent calendar by any voting member of the SCCDCC. For each candidate removed from the consent calendar, a separate vote shall be taken by the SCCDCC, which may, by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, endorse such candidate.
4. Any candidate who fails to receive an endorsement through the process described in this section shall be allowed to go through the questionnaire and interview process, without prejudice.