



DEMOCRATS ABROAD

Democrats Abroad is the official arm of the Democratic Party for the 9 million U.S. citizens abroad (This is a voting bloc bigger than all but 12 states.)

- was founded in 1964, 12 years before we had the right to vote from abroad
- 42+ country committees and members in 190 countries
- sends votes home to every state and congressional district
- conducts a global presidential primary and global convention
- sent a 30-person delegation to the National Convention,
- is represented by eight DNC Members (with ½ vote each)
- online voter registration/ballot request tool: www.VoteFromAbroad.org
- Facebook page is 3rd biggest of state parties

Greatest Challenges

- * reaching the estimated millions of U.S. voters overseas who aren't yet voting
- * educating voters: most of the 6.7 million Americans eligible to vote from abroad don't know they can or how to do it
- * overseas Americans need to register or request their ballots **every** election year
- * data on overseas voters is not complete or accurate or available
- * managers and staff are nearly all-volunteer global organization
- * geographical spread of our "state," which crosses 20+ time zones
- * since 2012, no financial support, little institutional support from the DNC.

Core Work

- * voter registration/GOTV
- * advocacy on issues of concern to Americans abroad
- * (new) electoralizing resistance: providing opportunities for Americans abroad to defend Democratic values and policies and join the resistance

2016 Accomplishments

- * increased overseas voter turnout by 75-100% (helped win NH Senate race)
- * increased use of VFA.org for voter registration/ballot requests by 89% (154,165) (89% increase from 2012; 46% increase from 2008)
- * grew DA membership by 86% (86,430 to 135,179)
- * 50+% increase in turnout in global presidential primary (only Democratic state primary to beat 2008 numbers)
- * 140,000 phone calls to battleground state voters in 149 countries in last weeks of campaign
- * targeted emails and social media messages to battleground state overseas voters
- * 30,000 voters helped at 24/7 online voter help desk
- * 2.5 million overseas Americans reached with VFA.org Facebook ads
- * 100+ debate parties around the world
- * 100s of voter registration/ballot request events around the world
- * 5 Global Town Halls organized for over 3,000 voters to hear from U.S. Senate and House candidates and stars such as George Takei
- * 12 candidate videos made (with Tim Kaine, Elizabeth Warren, Michael Bennet, Chris van Hollen...)
- * 40 volunteers drafted 2017 Platform; 3000 members commented online