

Responses from DNC Member Candidates to Progressive Caucus Survey 2020 May 10th

Thank you to all the candidates for DNC member who responded to the Progressive Caucus survey.

Of the 83 candidates, the following responded by the May 8th deadline.

If a DA region appears after their name, they are running in that region's convention May 16/17.

The Regions are Americas, Asia/Pacific, and Europe/Middle East/Africa (EMEA)

If Global appears after their name, they are also running for election at the DA Global Convention June 6/7.

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Aaron Kruse - Asia Pacific/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Asia Pacific, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

Two of the most important responsibilities of being a DNC member is to share our perspective with the DNC and to build relationships with other DNC members. In order to be effective at those tasks, a DNC member should have deep experience with the global organization and a track record of building strong relationships.

Since joining DA, I have served on the International NEC, as the Chair of the Bylaws Committee, and currently serve as the co-Chair of the 2020 Platform Committee and Chair of DA China. These experiences ensure I have the institutional depth and breadth to serve effectively as a DNC member.

I have worked with many leaders within the Progressive Caucus while helping to build a stronger organization. Electors can look to my track record of transparency and diligence in all that I have done for DA for a strong indication of the work ethic they should expect if elected.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

Representing DA to the DNC is an essential component of a DNC member's role, and success rests on good communication with our members and leaders. That communication is a two-way street – requiring not just sending updates about the DNC, but also listening for feedback. With a professional background in communication, I feel confident that I can find ways to succeed at that task.

One thing I would like to do is to have “town hall calls” where I could be available to discuss the DNC happenings relevant to our organization in addition to the current work our amazing DNC members do to represent us.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

I am no stranger to Democratic Party organization bylaws, and getting involved with the DNC's “inner workings” is one of the main reasons I want to be your DNC member.

I support the recommendations from the URC, and one section in particular is of great importance to us as members of DA – the “Promoting and Protecting the Vote” section. Same-day registration or party switching, election security, expanded vote by mail, and early voting are all issues for which it is important for DA's DNC members to advocate.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I believe that effective policy advocacy involves equal parts storytelling and policy wonkiness. Not only do I have my own stories to tell about those issues, but I also am able to effectively tell the stories of

our members, who support these policies. Additionally, I am sufficiently knowledgeable about these topics to not just describe DA's support in general, but to dive into specifics. For example, one policy I would like to promote within the Democratic Party is requiring carbon offsets for elected Democratic representatives and DNC leadership – including our DA DNC members – when traveling for party-related matters.

(b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

One issue very close to my heart that doesn't receive a lot of attention is better support for programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These are programs meant to help our nation's most vulnerable with essentials like shelter and food. The changes that the Trump Administration has made to these programs are meant to limit the provision of these services and are cruelly aimed at vulnerable communities. These are changes that can be reversed by Executive action and are also programs that should be expanded significantly. I also think that social support programs need to be more accessible and more universal. These are topics for which DA members are well positioned to advocate.

In addition, I think gun control and criminal justice reform needs to be a more visible and deliberate part of our platform. It took two months to put Ahmaud Arbery's killers behind bars because of corruption and incompetence at the District Attorney's office. The DA's office cited Georgia's citizen arrest and open carry laws as evidence of the lawfulness of the killers' actions. These kinds of issues must be part of the Democratic Party's work towards equality for all.

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

DNC members can develop relationships with other state parties and lawmakers that are useful for the outreach work that our policy teams and caucuses do already. My experience working with these groups as part of the Platform Committee and my experience doorknocking with DA both position me as an effective DNC member candidate.

In addition, DNC members are able to submit resolutions at DNC meetings to support certain legislation. Translating those resolutions into actions and positions that the entire DNC can take is critical to effective advocacy, which is something I would hope to do on behalf of Democrats Abroad if elected to the DNC member position.

Adrienne George - EMEA/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I am a bridge builder, excellent communicator/story teller and great listener. I am open and host and extremely loyal. In my first term as a Democrats Abroad DNC Member, those qualities served us extremely well as I was able to connect with fellow DNC Members from other states as well as the newly elected leaders to tell our stories and explain exactly who we are and how hard we work to get out the vote for every single election in every voting district. This led to direct collaboration, for example State parties including VoteFromAbroad.org on their website to DNC speakers attending local and global meetings.

Members of ProDA, along with members of the Black, Hispanic, Military, Women's and Youth Caucuses

should support my candidacy because I support all of your work as a individual as well as on the country level by paving the way through deeds to form a Progressive Black and Women's Caucus in Sweden. The fact that we don't have the remaining caucuses in Sweden was not due to a lack of effort.

I also belong to the Black, Military, Rural Seniors, Disability and Women's Caucuses/Councils at the DNC and share our Global Caucus actions with them. I supported the call for the Democratic Party to have a separate debate for the environment and was a founding member of the DNC Environment and Climate Crisis Council.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

From the very beginning of my term as a Democrats Abroad DNC Member, I have made it part of my remiss to take the time to share the numerous communications I received from the DNC with our members via our DNC wiki page and my DNC Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/AdrienneGeorgeDADNC/>

Taking it further, I created an Instagram account to share the posts from our Democrats Abroad country committees to send the informatoin the other way up the chain to the Democratic Party and fellow DNC Members in other State parties. @agonthednc

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

I voted to support all of the Unity Reform Commission's recommendations that were adopted but the DNC and feel they should become a permanent part of our party.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

The channel to present resolutions to the DNC is similar to ours. Any DNC Member can submit a resolution but traditionally, Democrats Abroad has preferred to submit resolutions that have the support from the DPCA. As a team of 8 DNC Member, I would propose that we submit our Democrats Abroad resolutions to the DNC Resolutions Committee in time to be considered at the first full DNC meeting following this year's Convention.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?
Universal Basic Income as championed by Andrew Yang makes a lot of sense to me.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

The platform is something that once voted on, is used to hold elected Democrats on track. The Party platform is an instrument that is used to educate voters as they choose how to vote in each election. Beyond the cult of personality, the Party Platform is a document that is bigger than individuals and a reflection of the collective power and will of the people, since it is the people who shape the platform. The platform stands as a reminder to each party member of why they belong to the Democratic Party, why they vote Blue and provide details to be used when conversing with first tie voters, disenfranchised voters, non-voters and other party voters.

Amy Stebbins - EMEA/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I live in Germany, a country governed by the progressive policies I would like to see implemented in the United States such as: Medicare for All, tuition-free college, student debt cancellation, strict environmental controls, and equality across class, racial and gender/sexual orientation. As the founder of Frankfurt4Bernie, a subset of the Berlin-based Germany4Bernie, I have been able to continue pushing for reform, and working to get out the vote back in my home country, for example, by holding phone-banking and volunteer-training events at my home. Examples of my service as a political organizer include positions as: a departmental liaison for the Graduate Student Union during the unionization campaign at the University of Chicago; a volunteer for the Bernie Sanders campaign in 2016 and 2020.

I grew up in an Evangelical, Republican household in New Hampshire with several family members who voted for Trump. Although this often challenged me while growing up, it also taught me how to make an evidence-based argument that can win over the people on the other side, rather than alienating them. These skills have been immensely useful while phone-banking, text-banking, and generally trying to convince voters to embrace progressive policies.

As a theater director, my job requires that I organize, manage, and inspire my team. From designers to technicians to actors, I need to get everyone on the same page, and give everyone a sense that their contribution is meaningful, that their ideas are heard, and that we are all working together for a common cause. These strike me as duties similar to those of a member of the Progressive Caucus (proDA) of Democrats Abroad.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

I can only speak on the basis of my experience in Germany, which has been disappointing. DA leaders in Germany outright alienated Sanders supporters from the beginning of the 2020 campaign, explicitly stating that Sanders would not be the candidate. For this reason, Sanders supporters in Germany created their own, independent organizations entirely separate from the DA. This was disappointing and surely unproductive for the party's goal to ultimately consolidate members support around a single candidate. In the coming months, there will be a lot of repair work to be done due to this behavior.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

The Unity Reform Commission needs to explicitly add socio-economic status as a category in point 5 of the URC Report. The DNC needs to also commit to reforming the primary process: it should be a single event held on one day for all states. The current primary is undemocratic, and has fostered distrust in the party's ability to manage a campaign from the Iowa Caucus to the NY primary.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I would like to put together a German task force to provide a report on why American citizens have chosen to live in Germany rather than in the United States. This report would focus on health care, environmental protections, and education. Within the framework of the convention, the only option I see given the new restrictions is reaching out to other progressive members and strengthening our growing coalition.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

The Democratic Party needs to win back working people who have been alienated from the American political class. The party did immense damage to itself in 2016 by labelling poor people as "deplorables" while cuddling up to those economic interests that left everyday Americans in the lurch after 2008. But most importantly, the DNC needs to activate the overwhelming number of Americans who do not vote. This is something that cannot just take place during an election cycle campaign. We need to conduct a rigorous, thorough study that explains why people are choosing not to vote at all, and what our party can do to better serve the needs of those people. Only when that block of voters is activated can we guarantee a progressive future for the party.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

The platform looks good, but actions speak louder than words. The problem is that it does not match with the DNC's actions over the past 30 years, and voters are sceptical. The DNC needs to demonstrate that it means what is written in the platform. The platform would also benefit from not scapegoating Donald Trump as the cause of the nation's problems. The problems the US is currently facing are the result of decades of neoliberal governance, which were of course led by the GOP, but in many instances happily supported by the DNC.

Andrew U. D. Straw - Asia Pacific/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Asia Pacific, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I have advocated to the DNC (each member individually) to improve disability access in Indiana Democratic Party meetings. People with mental disabilities were systematically excluded and this injured me as a Democratic U.S. House candidate in the 2nd District. I have advocated as a lawyer for public workplaces free of sexual harassment, and invented the protective order database used by the Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana State Police, and the FBI. Disability rights is my special area of interest since I have mental and physical disabilities from public service.

<http://disability.andrewstraw.com>

<http://crime.andrewstraw.com>

I am very interested in environmental protection due to my being poisoned by the U.S. Marine Corps base (Camp LeJeune) where I was born. U.S. Military bases are the worst, 800 locations of environmental devastation on the earth. The civilian children of veterans who are poisoned need full healthcare and compensation and I support the Camp LeJeune Justice Act of 2020.

<http://camplejeune.andrewstraw.com>

You can look at my Democratic activism background at <http://Democrat.andrewstraw.com>

You can see my interactions with Pete Buttigieg as mayor of South Bend, Indiana (the congressional district where I ran in 2011-2012) here: <http://buttigieg.andrewstraw.com>

My civil rights work is displayed on my links page: <http://links.andrewstraw.com>

Finally, my list of cases (past, present, and ongoing) can be viewed here: <http://all.andrewstraw.com>

The Indiana Supreme Court, my former employer, has been a constant thorn in my side since I revealed my Camp LeJeune disabilities. When I made an ADA complaint, the Court pounced with its ADA coordinator, causing 6 years of retaliation. <http://dueprocess.andrewstraw.com>
<http://InReStraw.andrewstraw.com>
<http://discipline.andrewstraw.com>

My attitude in the face of adversity is to take action and oppose civil rights violators, no matter what they look like, what office they hold, and whether they wear black robes. I will continue to be a strong civil rights leader as your DNC member. I believe in reform and good reform requires compassion and a commitment to change.

I am a progressive and I believe the federal government should be more proactive in helping the poor, the oppressed, and the disabled. People with disabilities are among the most at risk and poor in society and so my disability advocacy is also poverty work. Social Security is critical and should be expanded so the weakest have a living wage, not a poverty wage. Medicare for All should be basic policy and eventually it will be a bipartisan assumption.

CV: www.andrewstraw.com

3. [What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?](#)

This is like any elected office and a good leader keeps channels open to the constituents. I would like to use a FB group for discussions (polls, etc.) and my email address is always available: andrew@andrewstraw.com

4. [In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?](#)

I have a problem with candidates dropping out and endorsing someone else right before a major primary like Super Tuesday. This does not serve democracy, but operates more like a dirty trick. There should be a prohibition on any candidate dropping out less than 1 week before Super Tuesday because such machinations are not the actions of a bona fide candidate but a surrogate.

Race and gender are well represented in the Party and I would keep in place all protections for these groups. Disability needs to be radically expanded. Some people in their ableism think that disabled means "I can't." FDR was disabled and used a wheel chair. About 50% of all US presidents had mental illness, according to a major study. The Party should have a policy of hiring disabled attorneys, since some states don't even allow disabled people to be attorneys (e.g., Indiana & Vermont) and others are very restrictive.

I strongly believe in inclusion for all civil rights classes and the only committee of the Virginia State Bar on which I am a member relates to diversity and inclusion.

I would like to see every candidate for US House, U.S. Senate, president, and all judges declare what disabilities they have, if any. The time is long past to hide these matters. LGBTQ individuals used to have to hide their civil rights class and now we have Pete Buttigieg being very open. Disability should be exactly the same.

5. Policy Goals

(a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I am 100% in favor of these positions and would suggest asking all Democratic US House and US Senate candidates to declare their views. The Party should provide more support to those who agree with these policies.

(b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

Disability needs to be advanced in every way. People with disabilities are the poorest, the most oppressed, the most discriminated, and the US DOJ is doing very little to protect these rights. Federal judges are openly hostile to the ADA and attack lawyers who aggressively push for "elimination of discrimination" as the ADA requires.

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

I would seek to force state Democratic parties to adhere to the principles of the platform. It makes little difference to have a progressive platform that parties ignore at the state level. Every state party platform and rules must adhere 100% to the national platform. I have written to every member of the DNC about disability discrimination in the Indiana Democratic Party. I even got the Indiana Civil Rights Commission to vote 6-0 in my favor when I said the Democratic HQ in South Bend needs to be accessible for people in wheelchairs. I also asked the DNC to force the state party in Indiana to ensure all meetings are open to people with mental disabilities. I was actually excluded from party meetings on this basis when I was a US House candidate in the 2nd District. The DNC appears to have forced Indiana to change its Rule 10 for this purpose.

Here is a video of some of my advocacy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DebpmIA0oc>

I think the Party can also be stronger against sexual harassment at work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJZyHJYCRMg>

<http://curtishill.andrewstraw.com>

www.andrewstraw.com

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I've been a Democrat all my life from stuffing envelopes for John Kennedy when I was 5, knocking on doors for Gene McCarthy and George McGovern to working for Walter Mondale and going door to door for Barack Obama. I know, I just aged myself terribly there, but it is important in that I am a dyed in the wool Democrat who believes that we are the party of equality and one that fights on behalf of the working class. I've continued that history with Democrats Abroad. I helped create a Country Committee (Czech Republic) and served as its first official Chair. I have served as International Treasurer and Vice Chair and now work on fundraising. I therefore know the organization and what is important about what we do. As International Vice Chair, I also served on the DNC, so I know that organization and what it can do and what it can't do. We have an opportunity to make sure that our unique perspectives are represented in our nation's politics and to build bridges with those in the Party who share our views.

My strongest qualities are a capacity for a rational analysis, the ability to develop convincing arguments and the skill to organize the implementation of what needs to happen. This means that I listen to all points of view and am prepared to change my mind if justified. I think my skills will be a meaningful addition to our group of DNC members in representing our organization with integrity and success. I would only add that while many people know me from my fundraising role in the organization (btw, my mother didn't raise me to be a fundraiser) I am committed to this because I believe strongly in our organization and the role we have to play in national politics - and money together with our incomparable volunteers help us play that role as effectively as possible.

Oh and two other qualities that I think I have, but others will have to be the judge of this, are honesty and a sense of humor/humility. The first often gets me into trouble, and the second occasionally gets me out of it. It's important to know what we stand for as individuals, but it is also important to recognize that one doesn't have all the answers and that it is important to listen to others and take on board what they represent and what they say.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

I won't comment on the current status, but I think it is very important for our DNC to represent the organization to the DNC and vice versa. I would commit that together with my fellow members, we would provide the membership with a regular monthly newsletter about what is going on at the DNC and the rest of the Democratic Party. I would also recommend regular surveys of our membership to ensure that the DNC membership is aware of what is important to our members and that we present those views to the DNC.

I mention this latter because I believe it is important for DNC members to represent our membership. In 2017, while I was on the DNC, I was part of the DNC vote for its new Chairperson. There were many fine candidates and I met with all of them and it basically came down to a two-person race between Keith Ellison and Tom Perez. Either one of them would have made a fine DNC chair and I would have been

comfortable voting for either one of them (as indeed I did), but I knew that a significant portion of our membership favored Keith Ellison and because of this I voted for Keith on the first round because I felt those members needed to be represented. In the second round, I voted for Tom Perez because I felt it was important to be united at that point - (and for which I was vilified with others on several websites, proving the point that quite often you end up pleasing no one.) I imagine that this story may not win me many votes in this election, but the point is that I believe it is important that we know how our members feel about certain issues and that we need to ensure that those views are represented.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

I think the agreement that gave DNC and others a vote only if the nomination went to a second round was a reasonable compromise and should be continued in future conventions. I understand that the measure go further and eliminate so-called super delegates entirely, and rely only on delegates elected in Presidential primaries/caucuses. But it is important to remember that almost all of those super delegates were elected at some point, either as public officials, or as DNC members in elections like the one we are filling in this survey for. I do believe that caucuses should be further discouraged as they continue to favor those who can afford to devote the time to attending them (sometimes eliminating those who work at night, for example).

I also think that eliminating the 15% threshold for candidates to get delegates in state primaries, at the state and district level, should be eliminated, so that the apportionment of delegates reflect the actual vote more accurately.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I think that both are worthwhile objectives and as a DNC member I would be sure to vote accordingly in any DNC measure - and more importantly join with other DNC members from other states in coalitions to make sure that these issues were brought forward and endorsed by the Party, both in its platform and in its public promotions.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

I would be in favor of changes to our current tax policy, e.g, taxing capital gains at the same rate as ordinary income, restoration of state and local tax deductions, etc.

In addition to supporting increasing reductions in college tuition, I would support similar initiatives for meaningful vocational education programs.

I would support changes in our immigration procedures so that applicants are treated with respect. Having worked in refugee programs in Southeast Asia and Africa in my early life, I know how important the US is as a beacon for freedom and the contributions that immigrants make to our country. They should be preserved and not tarnished as they are today.

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

We can promote it more widely and effectively, both through our own social media, but also in the social media of the Democratic Party. Within the organization, it can become more a part of our messaging to our members - and I would support this as a DNC member from Democrats Abroad.

Carl Gardner - Asia Pacific/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Asia Pacific, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

As a life-long Democrat and 30-year Asian expat, I've been involved in the Democrats Abroad organizations in each of the countries I have lived in Asia including Thailand, South Korea, & Singapore. In fact, I was the head of Democrats Abroad when I lived in South Korea during the first Clinton campaign. I am passionate and highly vocal about communicating and defending the ideals which define our Democratic party - equal justice under law, the rights of minorities, reversing global warming, affordable & available healthcare for all as a right, women's & LGBTQ rights, sensible immigration policies, fair and free elections, honesty in government, free choice for woman & a fair tax code that favors the middle & working class over the 1% of this country. I am strongly committed to doing everything I can from my base in Thailand to aggressively encourage not only fellow DA members but other American expats who might find it too difficult to vote in this November's election. This is THE most important election in our country's history - the continuation of our republic depends on it. It is essential that we not only remove Trump and clean-out this incompetent & criminal administration but it's critical that Democrats take back the Senate while increasing our house majority. Carl Gardner

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

The role that DA DNC members must play is extremely important and critical to the success of our party. Too often overlooked, Democrats Abroad represents a large & powerful voting block of well-informed & influential democratic voters. Our view from overseas provides DA members a unique perspective on America's political scene. We tend to take a broader look at problem-solving & understand that decisions made in an American vacuum often have unexpected consequences in our chosen country and region. Our voice needs to be heard in context to not only the upcoming election but then how we govern once we take back the presidency in November. Overall, I am not satisfied with the current status - I believe DA has not "flexed our muscles" enough when it comes to being heard and appreciated as a key voting bloc. We need to step-up, gain greater visibility and communicate in a stronger way. How do we do this? More face-to-face interaction with key Democrats and influencers, better communications, better use of social media to promote our positions & communicate to Americans overseas who might seem isolated and out of touch.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

Overall, I strongly support the four key areas of focus in the Unity Reform Commission report. Specific to the upcoming convention, I agree with the Commission's finding to reduce the number of Unpledged Delegates by 400 or over 60%. I think the report says it best: This reduction will "increase the

grassroots' role in the Party and decrease the influence, real or perceived, that unpledged delegates had on influencing the outcome of the nominating process."

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

As a strong supporter of both resolutions, it would be my primary responsibility as a DNC member to actively promote both to the American citizens living my the chosen country and within the region I live. The Covid19 pandemic has provided a hard cruel lesson to the country - health coverage is a right, not a privilege for those with jobs or lucky enough to afford it. This resolution needs to be supported communicated strongly by DA members. Another hard lesson of the Covid19 pandemic is the environmental & how these issues are so closely tied to people's health and well-being. Climate change is the paramount issue and needs to take center-stage how we legislate and communicate.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

Elimination of the Electoral College & Statehood for DC & Puerto Rico

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Actively solicit input from more members - also, needs to be better communicated through social media. Needs to be a "living" document that is relevant & doable.

Christian Palacios - Americas/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Americas, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

In the history of America there has always been resistance to change, and we see this today in our country. Many Americans clinging to go back to "Normal", afraid of being ambitious to pursue an aggressive progressive platform. A DNC member will face this same resistance within our own party. A DNC member needs to be adaptive to the ever-changing landscape to build trusting relationships. Building trusting relationships is the first step to obtaining a listening audience.

It is my recent experience, where I am in the unique position of having to create and maintain trusting working relationships with high-level government decision-makers to advance the success of my customer's program. It is with this experience that I believe I would be a valuable DNC member to represent the Democrats Abroad 2020 Platform and strongly advocate for the reforms supported by our Progressive Caucus.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

A Democrats Abroad DNC member is a representative of all members of DA. It should be a standard process of debriefing our DA leadership, Country DA Committee leadership, and Caucus leadership of all meetings, calls, discussions or conferences where the DA DNC member has acted as a DNC member representative.

As a new member of DA, I am unfamiliar with the current status to recommend any changes. As a strong

advocate of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal, the Progressive Caucus will have the strongest influence over me. I believe the progressive caucus represents the interests of all members of all caucuses. Medicare for all helps all Americans. Having a habitable planet is not just for progressives, it is for the benefit for everyone. But here we are in 2020 advocating for habitable planet.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

Since the early 1990s we as the democratic party have been fixated on attracting the moderate republican. We have left our values in support of obtaining power. We have attracted away moderates from the republican party leaving a vicious vacuum where Alt-right radicals have taken control of the republican party and current moderate democrats are looking to compromise from an already compromised position.

The reforms adopted by the DNC from the Unity Reform Commission is the first step in a long road, this being said all the reforms adopted can be improved. Automatic voter registration, Same Day Voter Registration, Elimination of all Super delegates, a complete representative of delegates of candidates, rank choice voting, rejection of money from groups or organizations that go against the interest the advancement of the Democratic platform. These are the additional reforms the Democratic party and the DNC must adopt.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

These are urgent issues Americans overwhelmingly support and cannot be forgotten or else we will not have the support of the next several generations. As DNC members we need to advocate for these issues in every appropriate opportunity. Building of relationships and trust amongst all DNC members is how we would best effectively promote M4A and GND.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

The biggest challenge we face passing any Progressive policy is the large dollar influence over our party, candidates, and legislators. The DNC needs to only accept donations from organizations and donors who align with our Democratic platform. Taking actions to limit influence would allow the DNC to pass progressive policies which Americans overwhelmingly support. In return, the DNC would reestablish their reputation as the party of the people and win us future elections overwhelmingly.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

It is important to build alliances amongst all DNC members and utilize this alliance to gain trust and an open ear for our platform. Having a receptive audience to influence and advocate for our platform is what would make our platform a more effective instrument.

Christina Skovsgaard - Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I come from a remarkably diverse background. My entire life I have advocated for enlightened or liberal ideals and new and experimental methods in my professional life.

Working with, and for people, has been a part of my professional life, both a Speech Therapist (MA) and as a professional ski trainer. Both jobs require sharpened communication skills. For the past 15 years I have worked actively for Democrats Abroad as a volunteer in all aspects of GOTV. I am presently serving as Vice Chair in Norway. I like to think of other DA members as my friends and have always acted accordingly. My work on the Steering Committees of the Global Women's Caucus and the Global Black Caucus has expanded my understanding of Caucus work. I am also a member of the Women's Caucus in Cuyahoga County in Ohio, my home state.

We have a remarkable talented group running for DNC; I know DA will be represented well at the DNC in 2020+.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

So, what goes on at DNC meetings? Communicating with DA members and leadership should also be a primary goal for our DNC members. Forwarding information is fine but I think personal reports should absolutely be given. What one did, what was discussed, which groups or Caucus one connected with should be shared information.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

Improvements are still needed to ensure the presidential nomination process is accessible, transparent, and inclusive. I personally would like that all candidates have equal footing and equal speaking time in debates. We started with an amazingly diverse group and ended with two older white men. In all fairness, this is what voters selected, but I wonder if the "lower" ranked candidates would have done better if they were given more debate time. Further, Citizens United needs to be overturned. Money should not have such an important place in selecting our candidates! We desperately need permanent campaign reform.

We have made strides since 2016. I am pleased and grateful that Bernie, who I respect and thank for all his enormous contributions to progressive causes, has wholeheartedly embraced the Biden Campaign. I believe Bernie understands just how important the 2020 election is, our Democracy depends on it.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

So many of us live in countries that have Medicare for All. We can continue to be educators for all Americans and at the DNC, we know firsthand, it is possible, humane, and cost-efficient.

We need to reach out to all legislators. We need to increase funding for research and development for new energy resources. America has the potential to be a world leader in renewable energy and pioneering technologies, but we need to have a mind shift and set higher goals. The environment needs to be prioritized. Science is telling us we are running out of time.

(b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

We must all work to restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act. If citizens can not vote their voice is excluded.

We have seen first hand how fragile our Democracy is with the appointment of extremely conservative judges. The balance of power is out of balance. I also favor time or age limits on judges. A life time appointment can be detrimental for Democracy. No one should hold such power for 40+ years.

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

The DA platform is something we spend a lot of time working on. We need to bring it out and use it as not only an idealistic goal or belief but as a working document. We should create a work list and see how efficient are we at using this important document.

Daniel Tewfik - EMEA/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

Previous work with the City of Boston in Urban Planning and Housing. Started a tech startup to provide a solution to those looking for affordable housing. A big supporter of voter reform and fairness solutions for a more representative democracy. Now that I understand and have seen the thoughtful solutions of social democracy in Denmark, I'm passionate about bringing them back to the US.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

I see the role of DA DNC members as a unified front to make sure the message and goals are met for anyone who considers themselves an American. Without it, fractured voices and different priorities would be heard from different corners of the globe, but together we have one voice. I am currently satisfied with the status and perhaps would like to see which goals were clearly supported by the PC and other caucuses.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

Although I think it's mostly great, I'd more interested in a ranked choice voting model for better representation.

5. Policy Goals

(a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

Continue to spread the importance of the message and use examples of my own experience with a single-payer system as a constituent in Denmark that benefited from the easy/amazing experience that MfA and GND type measures here has done.

(b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

Ranked choice voting and easier voting standards for those that do not feel comfortable with the current model of going to a polling station. Specifically those with accessibility issues and those communities that have been time (and time again) been underrepresented due to voting fraud. Specifically interested in making sure that gerrymandering is completely limited, ranked choice voting is shared, and a common standard of voting practices across all jurisdictions is implemented. It's frustrating to me personally that ballots themselves have a different design format from location to location, county to county, even town to town.

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Joining with other caucuses, either geographically or with common goals to demand improvements in the system.

Evan Bermel - EMEA

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I have experience campaigning for the German Hemp Association for petitions, and organizing demonstrations. I have experience that I gained from volunteering for the German Green Party's EU Parliament campaign, on the ground talking to voters about the issues and the Green Party Policy Platform. I've done some public speaking as a representative of the Germany for Bernie campaign, and as a representative of the German Hemp Association Berlin chapter. I'm the candidate that best represents the youth.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

I think we need someone who accurately and vocally represents the American expats who are enjoying some very different policies abroad when it comes to: healthcare, drug reform, education, labor laws (for example, paid sick leave), and affordable housing. I know I'm the perfect person to share a perspective of an American who loves his country so much, that he wants to see it adopt some of the policies he's been enjoying while living abroad. There's much that the DNC can learn from the popular policies abroad. I am not satisfied with the narrow minded views of the past, and I think it's time we looked to what other countries are doing well and use that as an example of what we can do to improve the USA. After all, we don't have to re-invent the wheel if someone already has done it.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

Well instead of the elimination of only 60% of superdelegates, I would go as far as saying that there should be no superdelegates at all. Because what is more Democratic than letting the majority, and only the majority, decide who the party candidate will be? Can we really call ourselves "Democrats" if we still support a system that undermines the popular vote? No, we can't. Whoever has a plurality or a majority of the vote should be the candidate, it's as simple as that. If that doesn't happen, you should expect a

situation like the DNC of 1968. You cannot usurp the will of the people and expect people to just silently allow it.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I will use the great examples of the many countries abroad who have a Medicare for all system or something similar in order to advocate for that policy. I have examples in my own family, like that of my grandma in Germany who has received a hip replacement and breast cancer removal surgery all for no cost at the point of service thanks to socialized medicine. I will remind people that there's a reason why my generation is joining the Fridays for Future strikes around the world to demand climate action. And why I have as well. I will make it clear that the Corona pandemic is small in scale when compared to the inevitable crisis there will be due to global warming, and that it's imperative that we respond to climate change with even more courage than with the pandemic.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

I am a strong supporter for the legalization, regulation, and taxation of cannabis. I am active as a member of the German Hemp Association in Berlin, and will continue to be a voice for the reform of drug policies around the world.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Ask your fellow Americans who are also living abroad what issues they care about, and what you can do to represent them.

Frederick Bailey - Americas/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Americas, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

As a black product of Public Schools in Philadelphia watching my parents fight for equal resources and equally qualified teachers. To have a nurse in our local school as did the Public Schools in white communities and on...and on. As a businessman who bid on Requests for Proposals for state and local contracts I needed an elected representative to ensure my proposal was not trashed prior to consideration. In short I could not survive without knowing the processes for a black man hoping to succeed in America; knowing the game was always either rigged or political. I had to accept the Kings English as the standard by which my proposals were not necessarily trashed because I sounded black, but maybe I didn't do my homework. After I was comfortable with that, success proved easier. While a Police Detective Sergeant in Philadelphia I took a second job as a counselor in a maximum juvenile detention center known as Cornwall Heights. I spent my mornings teaching teenage boys of all colors how to read on a fifth grade level.

When I left the department I developed Pinpoint Protective Services, LLC a private detective agency specializing in lost, missing or runaways. A mobile business with a staff of 22 investigators, mostly retired detectives that I trusted. I became a grade II investigator for the EPA, the Pa. Bureau of Investigations, and the District Atty. in Montgomery County Pa.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

I have been a member of Democrats Abroad for all of 5 months. I have yet to solidify my current status.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

It's obvious we should be as democratic as possible. Transparency and accountability are concepts that almost always have to be a part of the legal structure of any corporation or organization if these ideals are to withstand the test of time. They both should be permanent. I believe "walking around money" for ward leaders should be a thing of the past. Ward Leaders still expect to be given large amounts of money to give to "committee men" to transport voters to the polls and any other reason they saw fit. There is no connection with that process and the DA but it's seedy and ripe for corruption.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I have not yet read the Green New Deal but I'm curious if this initiative will be opposite to the worldwide environmental agreement that we signed with the EU. As far as Medicare goes if we have already ratified it, I'll support it...but it's much more expensive than the Affordable Care Act and I hope we don't spend our first year in office trying to "re-invent the wheel"

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

This is not specifically a policy but there is one large stumbling block to our Immigration responses and how we treat Mexicans.

Most federal law enforcement people know that the true driver of Latino flight at our borders is the billions of dollars that Americans spend on the purchase of illegal drugs from Mexico. The Cartel wars are being fought over the United States of Americas dollars; most of the kidnappings and killings are bought and paid for by the cartels. The Latino families are running for their lives but they remain silent because they assume the Border Guards are agents of the cartels, just as the Mexican police are. The only answer is a healthcare system that pays for a multitude of drug rehab centers for a population who will not give their names or addresses.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Let our proposals be fact-based, and deliverable in a flexible model that addresses a national need, and is deficit reducing.

Gabriel Cardona-Fox - EMEA/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I am a progressive democrat with over 15 years of experience in advocacy and academia who works on issue of human rights and forced migration.

I have dedicated my life for the pursuit of progressive causes, in Washington, Geneva and Latin America. I have worked in several democratic presidential campaigns, including Sanders 2016, and briefly worked in the Clinton White House after college.

While in Italy, I have been helping to coordinate a local campaign to register American students.

I am an idealist committed to fundamental change but I'm also a pragmatist and a fierce fighter. I am horrified by what has happened to America and its role in the world during the last three years and I am convinced that 2020 will be the most consequential election of our lifetime.

I have a BA in Politics from Princeton, an MA in international relations from Johns Hopkins and a PhD in public policy from the University of Texas. I speak English, Spanish, French and Italian fluently.

3. [What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?](#)

I am not satisfied with the current status.

With over 8 million Americans living abroad, our constituency would represent the 13th largest state! There are more Americans living abroad than there are in the entire state of Massachusetts or Washington. And yet, by and large, we are treated as an afterthought by the DNC.

Americans abroad, on average tend to be more progressive and more educated than the general population at home. Americans living abroad are also more aware and open to wider policy alternatives like universal healthcare, effective gun control, environmental regulation, etc.

With more effective representation and a bigger voice, Democrats living abroad could become a fierce agent of change in the Democratic Party.

I believe that DA DNC members have two important roles to play in: (1) mobilizing, educating and energizing the DA membership abroad (many of whom are largely uninformed and disorganized, even when they want to become engaged); and (2) Advocating for Americans living abroad within the DNC.

More specifically I would work for greater transparency and accountability in the DNC.

It is time to expose the influence of special interests and make the candidate selection process more transparent and democratic.

4. [In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?](#)

(1) Expose and reject corporations' efforts to control the DNC and select its candidates; (2) Abolish the institution of super-delegates; (3) Push for a more progressive party platform with regards to: public healthcare, gun-control, higher education, finance reform, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, among other issues.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I would work to educate DA constituents in Italy and Western Europe with regards to the merits of these initiatives, and to push for their adoption by the DNC at large in conferences and conventions.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

In addition to Medicare for all and the Green New Deal, I would promote: the inclusion of free higher education, Wall Street reform, gun control, protection for dreamers, immigrants and asylum seekers, guaranteed maternity/paternity and sick leave, \$15/hour minimum wage, reduction in defense spending, and a commitment to diplomacy and American leadership abroad and the pursuit of a two-state solution in Israel/Palestine.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Educate and advocate.

Educate democrats abroad by diffusing it and discussing it; advocate for its adoption by the DNC in conferences, conventions and online forums.

Hayoung Wong - Asia Pacific/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Asia Pacific, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

As a DA DNC member, I know that I carry the responsibility of not only representing the Democratic Party's values abroad, but also unofficially representing America. As a citizen, I embrace the nation's values of faith in our loved ones, commitment to the sanctity of our hopes and dreams, and openness to others, regardless of color, race, creed, belief, and persuasion. As a Democrat, I embody our party's heritage of serving the needs of people forgotten by the powerful. The constituency of Democrats Abroad has shown the courage to leave our hometowns (and sometimes our parents and siblings) for the sake of enriching the rest of the world with our willingness to invest our time, talent, and treasure for the well-being of others in our midst. The seriousness of managing this responsibility without showing the arrogance of a bully demands our integrity, our patience, and a smile.

In the world of scholarship, I have studied all the biennial editions of the Almanac of American Politics since 1972, and I have carefully reflected upon the evolution of the Democratic Party as the party came to symbolize a narrative of progress and encouragement that Democrats continue to nurture and embrace. The diversity of the Democratic Party's legislators captures the diversity of America. Some Democrats would shudder at the thought of owning a gun, while other Democrats have a marksmanship without peers. Some Democrats have embraced the need for a revolution, while other Democrats have embraced the need for incrementalism in our politics. As someone who has intimately reflected on the legislative profiles of the Democratic Party's constellation of representatives who have ranged from Blue Dog Democrats like Gene Taylor (D-MS, before his defection to the Republican Party) to progressives like Jose Serrano (D-NY), I know that I can speak in a language that embodies the tone of mildness and moderation while maintaining the substance of platforms that progressives would embrace.

As an International Exchange Alumnus of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (through a Critical Language Scholarship posting in Korea), I participated in the joy of unofficial (private) diplomacy with citizens from the Land of Morning Calm (the nickname for Korea). As someone who grew up in the slums of my Koreatown neighborhood in New York City, I have maintained a gratitude beyond words for people who reached out to me and overlooked the poverty of my situation. I therefore understand the preciousness of gifts that cost no money, and I have come to appreciate the nature of a smile as a vessel for bringing people together. For the service component of my Critical Language Scholarship, I had to work with people afflicted with Down Syndrome. Through the ministries of song and dance, I found ways of overcoming my inability to communicate with these natives. The willingness to scream for joy and cry alongside the downtrodden in our midst defines an empathy that our president obviously lacks. But empathy alone cannot help Democrats Abroad to gain resonance and relevance in any conversation on the future of America. Empathy must exist alongside a commitment to spread the values of the Democratic Party to people across the globe, and I know that I have both the temperament and diligence to work under the leadership of a Democratic Party that will help to restore sanity and decency to American politics and American life.

3. [What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?](#)

As intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership, DA DNC members should try to faithfully present the concerns of Democrats who embody a spectrum of values, beliefs, positions, and circumstances. This work should ideally happen outside the frenzy of media appearances that can intoxicate people into a sense of self-importance. DA DNC members must find the time and sense of prioritization in locating webinars, videos, and readings that can encourage activism among Democrats across the globe. Although we only have a handful of delegates at the 2020 DNC, we represent the Democratic Party to foreigners. Through the access to knowledge and insight that DA DNC members can provide to DA members-at-large, we can ignite the fire of overseas Democrats who will then find ways of calling relatives, friends, and other members of the American community for the sake of explaining the urgency of marrying progressivism with the destiny of America. Although I like the current status of DA DNC members, I hope that the DA group can continue to emphasize the value of work undertaken outside the glow of the media and outside the glow of resume references. DA DNC members should understand that the reward for their work rests not in an entrée position in the civil service, but rather in the joy of seeing progressivism enter the DNA of our legislators.

4. [In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?](#)

Of the proposals discussed in the 2018 Unity Reform Commission, the proposal for “Making the Party More Competitive in All Regions of the Country” should permanently remain a part of our strategy for helping the fortunes of the party. This strategy should become our foundation for electing officials at the lowest levels of government. Elected Democrats in white-majority regions of the South seem about to go the way of the passenger pigeon, and we cannot ignore the South if we hope to regain our relevance in that region. Democrats in white-majority regions of the South need to learn about offices that most journalists of news conglomerates like NBC, CNN, FOX, and MSNBC might not even mention on television. Until November 2019, Mississippi had a two-to-one majority of members of the statewide Mississippi Public Service Commission (the makeup now stands at two-to-one in favor of the GOP). I use the Mississippi example to illustrate a way in which the Democratic Party can actually help to fill the

information gap that will greet people who try to do research on topics like the Mississippi Public Service Commission; Google searches on the MPSC will turn up almost nothing that might significantly enlighten our minds on the purposes, goals, and nature of the MPSC. If the Democratic Party's army of volunteers and researchers can spread knowledge about a Democratic Party that can compete with Republicans in offices known more for the obscurity of those offices, then Democrats can find reasons to show enthusiasm and not just view such offices as predestined for Republican incumbents or Republican candidates.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

To promote the resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal, I hope to continue to do research on the success of these policies (or rather the equivalents of those policies) in nations across the globe. According to the 2019 edition of the annual Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index, the United States pension system pitifully earns a grade of C+ for apparently having weaknesses that would cause experts to question the efficacy and sustainability of our pension system. The health of our pension system closely relates to the health of our health insurance system, a system that deprives people of the right to care from the doctors and nurses who toil across the country so that we might see tomorrow's sunrise. The science for man's role in climate exists as a truth that does not fall in the face of naysayers (naysayers who either willingly or unwillingly ignore the perils of global temperature increases), and I need not recapitulate the research here. On the other hand, we Democrats Abroad DNC members must find ways of turning research often perceived as a source of tedium into communications that can arouse the interest of overseas Democrats and Republicans/Independents who might understand that the gravity of issues behind Medicaid for All and the Green New Deal transcends the partisanship and point-scoring that sadly characterize the nature of discourse in America. Having studied the arcaneness of narratives forgotten by the public for the sake of my doctorate, I know what it takes to cogently and passionately turn the gobbledygook of research into sentiments that can arouse the public.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

The Democratic Party platform needs to improve on ways of welcoming all the factions of our party. We might forget the fact that our party still has conservatives who share our desires to uphold the values of the poor and the downtrodden. From 1872 to 2012, Elliott County existed as virtually the last white-majority rural county of the south to have voted for Democrats in all the quadrennial Presidential elections. In 2016, the county, a county that still maintains a sense of indebtedness for the gift of help from the New Deal, sadly---and hopefully only temporarily---forgot that New Deal heritage and voted overwhelmingly for Trump. As a Democrat who understands the pain and estrangement felt by conservative Democrats who see the national party as a party as an institution that abandoned these Democrats of a period perhaps forgotten by the rank and file of Democrats today, I know that we can find a way to welcome back those conservative Democrats who might very well provide the balance of power in Presidential elections that have come down to margins of fewer than ten percentage points from 1988 to 2016. As a progressive, I know that the Democratic Party cannot offer policy promises that would outrage progressives in my community, but I feel that the Democratic Party can and should provide more than words that will only fill an echo chamber. We might want to devote some space in our platform to language that embraces the diversity of traditions and practices among those Democrats known more for traditionalism than for progressivism. We can specifically write language in our platform that praises (for instance) the

contributions of conservative Democrats in our party's past. The more language we write in this regard, the more we demonstrate our gratefulness to the ancestors of the Democratic Party (and the heirs of those ancestors today).

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

As I noted in earlier responses, DA DNC members should try to avail themselves of opportunities to educate themselves on how to encourage activism for local office elections known for the obscurity of those offices and opportunities to learn about ways. DA DNC members can and should avail themselves of the resources that might solely exist in foreign institutions (libraries that might have texts in non-English languages, for instance), since holdings in these foreign institutions can help to prop our arguments with respect to our platform, a platform that arguably moves to the left of the national Democratic party. But above all, we need to improve the inclusiveness of our rhetoric--- specifically in our outreach to conservatives and moderates. Progressives in our Democrats Abroad DNC membership can provide the rhetoric and the philosophy of the revolution that we hope will happen in November 2020, but we need the help of moderates and conservatives as well.

Jerry Hoffman - EMEA/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

7 1/2 decades on the planet

Student of history, politics, and the United States Constitution

Progressive/Liberal/Anarchist/Socialist; a follower of Bernie Sanders for more that fifty years

World traveler -- approximately 100 countries

Student of languages

Avid reader

BA in Theatre Arts; JD (Juris Doctor)

55+ years as a profession (member of several unions) actor/singer; performed around the world in theatre, television, film, television commercials, nightclubs

Practiced law in state and federal courts in California, Kentucky, and Indiana

Taught English in Spain, Mexico, and Morocco

Good conversationalist

Nice guy

et cetera

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

The primary roles is to assure that the DA platform is comprehensive, inclusive, and clear. DA DNC members must be able to field questions about the platform in an articulate, comprehensible manner.

As of now, the platform needs A LOT of work.

I am not sure to what "the current status" refers. if it refers to the present state of communications between the DA leadership and the membership, I find it to be a somewhat disorganised, hit-or-miss situation.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

Just read the report of the Unity Reform Commission. It's a lot to chew on in one sitting. To the extent that I understand the proposed reforms, I have no strong opposition to the suggestions/mandates. However, I do have some queries and comments.

First, I'm curious about DA delegates to the national convention. How many actual attendee delegates does DA have at the convention? Are those delegates Included in "Category 3" of the "automatic delegates"?

As to the Section entitled "Party Reforms", I believe that DA could be in better compliance with the DNC's suggestions: "The DNC should develop a comprehensive outreach and engagement strategy to reach, engage, and mobilise THE FULL DIVERSITY OF OUR PARTY..."

I am primarily concerned about DA's demographic membership breakouts. Specifically, I believe it is a mistake not to have a distinct category for older, "senior" voters. These folks have unique concerns and issues that must be addressed at the national level. And remember -- a huge percentage of ex-patriots are retirees.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I am an avid advocate of Medicare for All!

I would propose and fight for a plank that mandates repeal of the Code of Federal Regulations proscription against Medicare Part B covering treatment outside the United States. While the original rationale for this rule MAY have been reasonable (if one buys in to the original explanation), the regulation has been outmoded and punitive for decades. It is especially disgraceful that, unless notified not to do so, the Social Security Administration deducts a premium for Part B from retirees' Social Security payments. If an ex-pat retiree DOES discontinue those premiums in order to maximise the monthly SSA payment, s/he then HAS NO COVERAGE when/if returning to, or visiting, the USA.

This whole thing has become a scam strongly supported by the American Medical Association for many years now.

(b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

I would support a strong policy for prison reform, sentencing reform. Many aspects of the American "justice" system are outgrowths of racist and other bigoted beliefs. Many of our laws support and promote those dangerous positions.

I would support support a strong platform dealing with immigration reform. We are a country of immigrants, but we have become an embarrassment to the rest of the civilised world with regard to the manner in which we treat those from other countries.

I would support a plank repealing the Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution's minimum age requirement to run for President (ergo, Vice-President). Why shouldn't Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez be eligible?

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

The proposed platform is too long, too random, too repetitive, too disorganised, too BORING. It should be cut down by combining all references to relevant issues into short, concise, readable paragraphs.

Jim Riske - Americas/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Americas, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I've lived in four US States and 3 Canadian Provinces. This gives me a broad perspective on the needs of the US in general and gives me points of entry for relationship building with members of the House and Senate that other candidates may lack. This MAY afford the opportunity to build relationships with House and Senate members from southeast Michigan, simply because I could attend some of their local events.

More generally, I've run a school, served on local and statewide boards, and currently serve on the Board of Regents of a small university. That gives me valuable experience in the functional distinction between governance and management, and the necessity of that divide in a large organization.

I can't offer any specific progressive bona fides. However, I can confidently say that America hasn't been more ready for a progressive agenda since the Great Depression. The DNC and the party as a whole may manage to get there on their own. But those of us who live in nations with modern progressive economies can provide the encouragement - and the reality check - that these policies genuinely work.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

DA DNC members need to ensure that DA members both feel heard by the DNC and that they actually are heard by the DNC.

I don't have enough information to address how well we are heard in the DNC. I'm personally satisfied with the info and support I've received via the DA organization. However, that may be a function of the US media that I consume and the things I hear from Democratic candidates via email and social media.

I commit to publishing my cell phone number, email, fax, and social media contact information. I commit to meeting with each DA caucus once a month, should they so desire.

As a matter of governance etiquette, I think that most worldwide contact from DNC/DNC members should come from the DA as an organization. However, I will also commit to providing updates regarding meeting schedules of the DNC and a 1-2 page summary of all non-embargoed material from the meeting within a week of the meeting's conclusion.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

I am happy to make all of the changes that were implemented permanent.

I would advocate for adding:

- Removal of the viability threshold for all contests up to and including Super Tuesday;
- Use of ranked choice voting in all contests that keep the viability threshold;
- Addition of monthly party-wide "straw polls", using ranked choice voting from June to December of the year prior to a presidential election, to the criteria for inclusion in the debates.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

Assuming that you mean promote them among the DNC and Dem candidate, I would seek testimonials (whether video or written) from all of our members who live in countries with Medicare for All type systems. The nightmare anecdotes that people have in their heads are one of the greatest barriers to M4A. The other is the deficit, but it's likely that we'll win that argument this year.

Similarly, for the Green New Deal, we as a party need to invest in testing messaging that works for moderates. In the current climate, Green New Deal terminology may work well. But we also need to account for the perceptions that President Obama's investments in green technology were failures. Similarly, we need to invest in new faces of science communication. We need to fight the idea that predictions from 10+ years ago were wrong because the theory is wrong versus the fact that the right, much like we see during this pandemic, leveraged disinformation.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

I support inclusion of both Universal Basic Income, nationwide ranked choice voting, national vote by mail, improved ballot access for 3rd parties once RCV is implemented, and increasing the size of the House to ~1000 members.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

In the American system, the platform is important, but we can't force candidates to fall in line. We must push the DNC to support candidates in purple districts with ads and focused messaging throughout their term, to give them freedom to support planks that might otherwise hurt their reelection chances.

We must also regularly remind President Biden, his Cabinet, and our Congressional leaders that this is our platform and every effort should be made to implement it.

Joe Smallhoover - EMEA/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

1. As a member of the DNC I would bring many years of experience serving Democrats Abroad at the country committee and international level, as well as with the DNC itself. At the country committee level, I began as the campaign coordinator for Democrats Abroad France and eventually served several terms as country committee chair. At the international level of Democrats Abroad, I have served as International Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Counsel. I twice served on the Credentials Committee of the Democratic National Committee and once on the Platform Committee of the National Convention.

My years of experience bring with them the skills of a careful listener, of diligence and stamina – you all know how much work this can be, and those of a careful and honest negotiator.

That experience also brings with connections to people at many levels in the Party and in government across the country on whom I can call for advice and if necessary, assistance in pursuit of the goals of Democrats Abroad.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

2. The DNC members representing Democrats Abroad must carry the message, goals and concerns of Democrats Abroad not simply to the DNC itself, but also to the many elected officials who contact us and seek our support. On the other side, our DNC members must be able to communicate effectively with the members of the DPCA and the rank and file members of Democrats Abroad on the activities of the DNC members and their interaction with the DNC and its staff, as well as on the issues facing the Party and the Nation.

There is a delicate balance with communication. I will set up a two-way channel of communications so that the members of Democrats Abroad know what is happening with the DNC and so that our messages get back to the DNC.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

3. I strongly support all the reforms of the Unity Reform Commission save one. think the Party made a grave error in reducing the number of members of the DNC as well as the number of delegates to the Democratic National Convention, since by doing so it necessarily decreased the diversity and number of voices that could be heard.

To the contrary, I would like to see an increase in the size of the DNC itself as well as in an increase in the number of delegates to the National Convention. The RNC is about half the size of the current DNC. I believe that we should change the size of the DNC to demonstrate in fact our commitment to inclusivity and diversity. I pledge to work diligently to reversing that change.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

We must make known the support for the Green New Deal and Medicare for All not simply with the DNC but also with Congress and the Association of State Democratic Committees. Moreover, I would hope that the Democrats Abroad representative to the Platform Committee of the National Convention would carry that message and indeed our entire platform to the Platform Committee.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

The list of issues that I believe we must push in the National Platform is long, and I laud the efforts of our own Platform Committee, present and past, in elucidating many of them. Key for this discussion I think are the following highlights: push for urgent environmental reforms addressing issues of climate change; support for the Equal Rights Amendment, either for recognition of the Amendment as adopted recently in Virginia, or if that fails for a new Equal Rights Amendment; support for a constitutional amendment guaranteeing every adult citizen the right to vote and re-enactment of the Voting Rights Act in an even more robust version than the one that was partially stricken down and one that would also deal with campaign finance reform in a real manner to counteract at the very least the decision in the Citizens United case; tax reforms that favors people over corporations and recognizes that corporations are not people and only have the rights that the law specifically affords them; real education reform that favors science and fact-based knowledge over intentional ignorance and magical/fantastical belief; economic reform that provides everyone a basic level of economic support and jobs that provide at least a living wage so that parents can go about the task of rearing their children rather than working like indentured servants barely able to raise them.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

The Democrats Abroad Platform is only as good as the efforts we make to make its contents known. Our DNC members must carry that torch to the National Convention, to the DNC, to Party leaders and to the media.

John Chudy - Americas

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Americas

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I have been active in DA since 2006. I work hard year round to elect Democrats through local in-person events, through phone banking, e.g., CallHub, and when I am in the USA in Virginia where I vote I do the same for local and state elections there. I have served as Americas regional vice chair and have been active in regional activities every year since DA Guatemala became a recognized country committee in 2007.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

DA is among the smallest elements of the DNC. Educating the DNC on issues that concern overseas voters is job number one. We have a set of general issue such as tax policy concerns, but one that affects me directly is immigration. Guatemala receives \$8 billion a year from remittances sent back by Guatemalan

immigrants working in the USA, both legal and illegal immigrants. Many Americans, even Democrats, don't appreciate the reality of the importance of immigration. Fostering a deeper understanding of that issue is very important to anyone living in Central America, and it's an issue that no one from Canada or even South America can address.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

Retain the first ballot rule prohibiting Super Delegates from voting at the convention. It is a workable compromise. Super Delegates are a remnant of the old system when only party insiders selected nominees, which was a time when no one like a Donald Trump could become a major party's nominee. Now, with the primary and caucus system selecting nominees, voters, unlike party insiders, can be swayed by popular personalities from TV, sports or personalities that aren't even members of the party they seek the nomination for. The Super Delegates provide a check on those tendencies, limited though it may be.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

Currently, Medicare does not cover overseas residents. I am on Medicare, but Part B, which covers outpatient services and costs, is not accessible overseas. Despite multiple efforts to have a Medicare demonstration project in Mexico to prove the cost-savings of Medicare to overseas residents, the concept has never been attractive on Capital Hill nor inside the offices of the Centers for Medicare. As a staffer in Congresswoman Barbara Lee's office put it to me, "the CBO, when it scores such a proposal, will view it as [Medicare will now be extended to 20,000,000 Mexicans]; a hard sell." Consequently, I have to have private insurance overseas and therefore have opted out of Medicare Part B because I can't use it. If the Medicare for All program as proposed by Bernie Sanders were to become law and private insurance outlawed, I would be UP A CREEK WITHOUT A PADDLE. I live in a country that does not have a good health care system I can buy into like those who reside in Canada, the UK, France or Japan do. And the likelihood that Medicare for All would be automatically extended to overseas residents seems slim at best. If the CBO would be concerned about 20,000,000 Mexicans being eligible for Medicare under a simple demonstration project, just imagine the support the idea would garner when 8 billion people worldwide would be eligible. I do support universal health care coverage that would be a mixed approach, one that would be more in line with say, South Korea's approach where 60% of all health care costs of every citizen are covered, with private insurance being available to cover the remaining 40%. Seventy percent of South Koreans carry private insurance to supplement the universal government care. The USA's history with employer-sponsored insurance dates to the Civil War, and replacing it with 100% government coverage one day to the next will be difficult at best, and certainly a lot harder than getting Americans to adopt wearing face masks during covid-19, which is proving impossible. The post-covid world will be more amenable to drastic changes, but eliminating private insurance 100% will be difficult. Universal coverage that allows some private insurance so people like me can continue to buy it for my overseas use is essential.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

Guaranteed income. The Andrew Yang proposal should be adopted. Millions of Americans will not get their jobs back after Covid-19, and expanding automation will continue to decrease employment opportunities. A basic income guarantee needs to be adopted.

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

I would like to see a strong commitment to comprehensive immigration reform, one that regulates employment needs and extends work visas efficiently and quickly to workers in agriculture, construction, hospitality services and health care, and one that engages countries of origin in both the development of those policies and their implementation.

John Mensing - Asia Pacific/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Asia Pacific, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

One aspect of being a delegate is representing the concerns of the region in which I reside, and being expert enough in the studies of the area to represent those concerns in a domestic American setting. For twenty-five years I have lived in Asia; the first three of those were spent in China, where I learned the language and did an intensive study of the history and contemporary academic literature.

After that I started a family in Hiroshima and spent a year working with the Tibetan Refugee community in Dharmshala, India. I pursued a Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies in Sri Lanka over the course of seven years, and spent five years editing academic articles on Buddhist Studies in Korea. The balance of that time has been spent in Japan, where I now reside. In the course of my academic career I visited and attended conferences in Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, and feel I possess a highly qualified degree of expertise in Asia, both academically and from direct observation. Currently I work with a museum researching early 19th century Japanese history.

As an organizer, I worked as the Director of Outreach and Support Services for the People's Firehouse in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and in the same position for the Environmental Action Coalition, where I organized a network of community recycling centers that helped to defeat 5 planned incinerators. I have also organized around homeless issue and worked as a Psychiatric Social Worker for the Independence Support Center in Grand Central Station. I've organized dozens of protests, several tent cities, and a squatter's movement on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. My first degree is in Journalism, and I've done advocacy reporting.

These community organizing skills and that extensive experience in making political change happen -- I also ran for City Council from Brooklyn and was appointed to Community Board #1 -- mean I represent exactly what the Sanders movement has been about. I'm a people person, I'm articulate, and I get things done. My progressive credentials are impeccable. I also campaigned for Jerry Brown in his Presidential run in '92.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

As an inside the beltway organization, the DNC needs to hear from membership if it is to be a functioning hub for the concerns of its constituents. As far flung as they are, the small minority of DA DNC members can voice a genuine international perspective. Elections vary as to the importance of international issues in the platform the discussions which take place before the vote, but it is safe to say that China, as well as

South and East Asia, will be important issues. Thus, the importance of having DA DNC members who can represent these concerns.

Yes, personally I'm satisfied with the current status.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

Well, they should all become permanent. Additionally, reforms are needed to allow for voting in pandemic conditions, should they occur again, Insurgent candidates need more protection during the primary season, and perhaps penalties should accrue to Party Members who harass insurgents trying to primary the old guard.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

Everything in my power. I'm experienced at such campaigns, and will insure the word gets out.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

We need a better platform position on Asia, but it's a very long discussion.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Attend meetings, speak, write; be persuasive, knowledgeable, and persistent. Oh, and share it on social media.

John Okemah - EMEA/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

As chair of the London Young Democrats, and demonstrate the qualities of being an effective communicator and organizer. I am an open-minded team player, and am committed to advocating for progressive policies.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

DA DNC members must demonstrate they are in touch with domestic current affairs and policy issues, while balancing their commitment to the unique challenges that Americans living abroad face. I do not have a broad perspective on how these issues are currently handled across all DA DNC members, but believe there is always room for improvement; Namely driving hard for a concentrated set of common issues (i.e. taxation, voting rights), and adding our global perspective to domestic policy issues.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

I strongly believe that transparency is paramount - with increased transparency, more accountability and a more resilient democratic process will follow. Of the Unity Reform Commission proposals, I most strongly support more transparent state budgets, the detailed financial conflict of interest policy, and more efforts to train grassroots activists. I would add reforms to outline term limits.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I believe the most effective way to propagate Medicare for All and the Green New Deal is to A.) know all the talking points, policy mechanics, and basic principles driving these ideas and B.) spread our knowledge and enthusiasm to other Democrats who are less convinced of the viability and implications of both legislative packages.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

1.) Universal Basic Income 2.) Higher taxes on incomes over \$5m 3.) Stronger worker's rights 4.) Higher minimum wage, tied to inflation

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Push hard for a shorter, more concentrated platform. Especially on issues that uniquely affect Americans living abroad.

Julia Sagebien - Americas

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Americas

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

One of the most satisfying accomplishments of my life as an educator was being able to bring together in one classroom graduate students from a variety of disciplines usually identified with either left or right-wing paradigms, and students entering a number of different careers (management, public policy, economic analysis, development work, environmental and human rights advocacy, law, etc). We engaged in careful analysis of the systemic nature of economic development 'problems' as well as an analysis of what each actor in the governance ecosystem (what the market/corporations/financiers, states/governing bodies at all levels from local to supra-national, and civil society actors) can effectively do and what they can't do. What at the start of the course seemed like a zero-sum competition between opposing forces, by the end, was seen as a governance ecosystem that could be tweaked for mutual benefit, though it always ran the risk of checkmating itself.

And this was not just a theoretical exercise. I took that same approach to my work in Cuba where I managed to design and lead projects involving national and international actors interested in conceptualizing and implementing low-carbon economic models as the foundational paradigm of Cuba's economic re-development. In essence, we developed a sort of Green New Deal. We worked with the US and the Cubans, as well as the EU and Japan. It also meant helping to develop trust and knowledge exchange among the various constituencies.

My fundamental contribution to the Caucus would be the capacity elevate the discussion above ideological constraints and perhaps bring about an understanding of the political economy of economic systems, and thus facilitate the success of a foreign policy and economic development proposals presented in the Draft Platform. Thinking Big is actually Making Possible.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

Frankly, I don't know. I am not familiar enough with the workings of the DNC and the DA membership given that, in the past, I have limited my interactions to voting and attending some regional gatherings.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

Again, I need to know more by actually witnessing the entire process as a participant and not as an observer. We are drowning in tsunami of uninformed, seat of the pants opinions. I read about the Commission but whether it is doing its job properly or not - I have no way of responsibly answering. In other words, unless I know something well and feel that I can make an informed and valuable contribution - I reserve judgement.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

Healthcare

I live in Canada. I 100% support free access to health care for all. COVID-19 has shown that the deficiencies the U.S. healthcare system are a national security issue. We can expect some bi-partisan agreement that affordable healthcare is something that the government has to seriously review in the next 4 year. However, how to deliver such a program portfolio has been seriously complicated by the economic debacle also brought by COVID-19. States and municipalities will not readily have access to funding because their tax base has been decimated by the lock-downs. I would suggest clear objective of coverage for all, but at this point, be more flexible in the consideration of different models of delivery.

Environment

As mentioned earlier, I have worked with policy prescriptions that resemble the Green New Deal. This policy proposal feasible because oil companies might go bankrupt as a result of the external shocks in both demand and supply. If world governments don't bail the oil industry, but rather let it recede - we have a chance to add increasing green productive capacity while the installed fossil fuel infrastructure is slowly phased out; and

How to fund these policy initiatives?

Only an expansionary economic policy can hold back the near certainty of a deep recession or even a deep depression. Government's will have to spend their way out of this hole. If they choose their spending targets strategically, the expense of an expanded universal health care system and of a Green New Deal could be seen as investments meant to fuel economic growth much like infrastructure expenditures were used by FDR during the Great Depression. Obviously, the hard part is

going to be develop clear national priorities than can guide the competition for these expansionary funds.

(b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

I have reviewed the draft platform and believe it to be quite comprehensive. Again, the 'how to do it' with the limited funds available is going to be the most difficult aspect and it will require a great deal of innovative policy solutions and clever funding envelopes.

I personally would like to assist in areas such as foreign policy (especially Cuba policy), climate change, and economic (trade, tax, etc) policy.

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

It would be very useful to have a series of podcasts led by individuals intimately familiar with each of the proposals of the platform where the process used to deliberate and to arrive at the specific policy proposals is discussed. That way, readers such as myself, can get a better insight on how X solution was arrived to Y problem by considering Z and W criteria in the decision making. This can simplify the analysis of the effectiveness of the policy itself.

Kathryn / Katie Solon - EMEA/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

From the grassroots to the global level, I have worked for Democrats Abroad and overseas voters for 16 years. I'm a co-founder of DA Austria (2003) and of the first Progressive Caucus of DA (2006) (which was denied official status). After 10 years organizing at the country level, I was elected to the global Executive Committee in 2011, serving two years as International Treasurer and four years (2013-2017) as International Chair. Since then, I've been an active member of the DA Germany Executive Committee, serving as a DPCA Voting Representative and leading our nationwide phonebanking team to help grow our country committee and voter turnout for the past three years.

Understanding and being able to articulate our accomplishments, challenges and potential, I am an effective advocate for DA. We could do more to expand and protect the overseas vote with more support from the national and state parties, and we have increasingly more critical votes to offer them. DA DNC Members need to diplomatically but clearly engage in both of these conversations with our Party peers in the US.

Our unique perspectives could help the US — our Party and our elected officials and our fellow citizens — understand that many of the policies that we are fighting for are doable: universal healthcare, livable wages, parental leave, public education that is uniform in quality, free or affordable university and technical training, justice in the criminal justice system, climate change mitigation, sensible gun laws.... (I hesitate to write immigration here because lately this is such a challenge in my part of Europe). Many of us live in countries where such policies are reality. Our overseas votes can elect Democrats determined to make progress in all these areas.

As well as taking the stories of DA and overseas Americans to the DNC, I would also report back on matters of concern to DA leaders, members, voters.

I have been a reformer within DA, and in my 4 years as a DNC Member (ex-officio, while International Chair from 2013-2017), I pushed for change within the DNC. No problem can be solved until it is identified, and I have and would have the courage to name needed reforms and work with our DNC team and other allies to continue to bring about progressive change.

Larry Cohen nailed it on a call that I listened to last week. To make lasting change (within the US political system), it's critical to work in all three areas: (with) candidates, (for) issues and (for) party-building.

I've devoted much of the past 16 years to building our state party — Democrats Abroad.

I ask members of the Progressive Caucus to vote for me to let me use my experience and persistence to work hard with and for you at the DNC, to expand and protect our overseas votes and voices, to push for progress on our issues and to move the Party forward.

3. [What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?](#)

Many leaders and members of DA don't understand how the DNC and other state Democratic parties function, and the reverse is also true — many DNC Members, officers, staff and state party people don't quite understand DA or the lives/concerns of Americans living outside the US. Education and communication flow in both directions is critical to US overseas voters being fully represented in the Democratic Party, and to us working together to win elections.

If elected, I would commit to regular reporting after DNC meetings to DA leaders, members, voters (as appropriate) as well as in between meetings as necessary. I would help develop a mechanism(s) for DA leaders, members and voters, as appropriate and possible, to offer input on the message our DNC members carry to the DNC.

One way of doing this could be for the DA DNC Members to host regular Town Hall meetings, where they could both report and take questions and comments. (We did this monthly--the international excom with DA leaders--when I was International Chair, to be open, inclusive, accountable and transparent.)

4. [In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?](#)

The reforms should be studied one by one to see if indeed they worked as intended. Many of the reforms have to do with the presidential nomination process. We'll be able to better assess the reforms when the 2020 process is completed. If positive, then, of course, they need to be made permanent. If not, then we'll need to explore other solutions.

One of the reforms urges states to use primaries instead of caucuses, because turnout in primaries is greater and participation is more accessible. Several states made the change (DA did so in 2008, when we switched from a global caucus to a global primary). The result? More people voted. Iowa stumbled badly this year... and when the dust settles, it may turn out that 2020 was the last caucus for the Hawkeyes.

To further increase turnout, states need to expand early voting, extend poll hours, or go to all mail-in ballots (which works well in Colorado and Oregon, with some of the highest turnouts, and — I would like to note as a former voter in both states — some of the best results!) and make registration easier. As election law is state law, the DNC has limited influence on some state decision-making, but absolutely use its influence and any legal means to protect voters' rights.

Another reform: the change to status (voting power) of DNC Members/unpledged or “super” delegates. We'll be better able to judge this change after we get through the 2020 National Convention.

Each of the Unity Reform Commission reforms passed should be evaluated carefully to see if its implementation went as planned and if the desired positive effect was achieved. I look forward to those reviews!

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I have spoken up within DA for Medicare for All and the Green New Deal and would do so at the DNC! DA supports both of these important and long-overdue initiatives, and our current DNC Members and our Convention delegates, including the DA person who will be selected to serve on the Platform Committee, should work with allies to make sure these are included in the 2020 Democratic Platform.

Critical to these becoming government policy, however, is winning 2020 elections — at every level, from the White House to retaking the Senate to keeping the House and winning down ballot wherever we can.

I will continue my personal efforts, working with many in Germany, EMEA and across DA, to ensure that we bring home more overseas votes than ever to do our part to win those elections!

We then--all of us--need to hold our elected officials accountable and see that they pass relevant legislation and issue needed regulations.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

The Democratic Party Platform should prioritize climate, Medicare for All, immigration reform, a livable wage, quality affordable education, student debt relief and voting rights.

Being in the US right now, it's hard to think of anything but the pandemic and the miserable leadership gaps around dealing with it. It is showing us the cracks, giant cracks in our policies on these and other critical issues. The disproportionate suffering in certain communities related to poverty, lack of healthcare, economic insecurity and the abysmal conditions in nursing homes and prisons makes it even more clear that our policies for justice need to be not only in the Platform, but also set into government policy.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

The DA Platform and the Democratic Party Platform both can be used to tell our members, our voters and the world what we stand for. Once finalized, DA could and should do a better job of advertising both of these documents, using all of our communications channels.

(The Town Hall idea mentioned above could be used here....holding regular meetings with members and/or leaders to learn about/discuss Platform planks.)

Opening the DA Platform drafting process to DA members everywhere (as we did in 2016 and are doing even more systematically in 2020) gives members opportunities for input and a sense of ownership of the organization.

To me, the core of our work is to get voters to the ballot box. If our Platforms inspire people to vote in November and beyond -- they are effective instruments.

Kenneth Sherman, Canada - Americas/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Americas, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I have 10 years of experience chairing a country committee chapter, and serving as an officer in DA at the country and international level. I am accessible and responsive to membership requests. I pride myself in being a team player and a progressive. As DA International chair in 2011, I appointed the DA Taxation Task Force and every year since have conducted regional seminars on US taxation attended by over 500 members.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

The key role of a DNC member is to be transparent and accessible. Our present DNC members have worked well as a team and have met regularly at the call of the Chair. In every case of inquiry or controversy we have been responsive. I see no need for changes. Our biggest challenge is get DNC funding for our mission equal to the funding that they provide other (50) state parties.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

The DNC should continue to implement the recommendations of the Commission especially the rule that "super delegates" or "unpledged delegates" can not vote on the first ballot unless the nominee has 50% +1 of the votes. We need more transparency on the DNC budget and the role that corporate donations play in our elections.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I would promote them in the Party Platform and at candidate endorsements. Our best chance to influence Congressional legislation is at our bi-annual door knock sessions with the US Congress.

(b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

Resident based taxation

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Like the Taxation Task Force, DA should consider forming task forces on Climate Change and, Immigration to guide the membership to action. We should sponsor webinars on these issues, lobby for action around door knocks, and introduce further resolutions to the Resolutions and Platform Committees,

Leon Morris - Americas/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Americas, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

Being First Nations gives me a good understanding of multiple cultures and their plight. This election is important for democracy in general, but as well, it is very important to well being of all Americans.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

I am very satisfied with current state.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

Any time you make something more transparent and accountable is good. They all should become a permanent part of our Party.

5. Policy Goals

(a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

Living in Canada I am very aware of Medicare for the masses and am a big supporter of such... I will always promote universal Healthcare for all.

(b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

All of them

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Believe in it and live it!

Martha McDevitt-Pugh - Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I'm currently a DA DNC member so bring familiarity with the role and the DNC community to hit the ground running. Being a DA DNC Representative means being part of a team, with each member bringing their specific talents and strengths. It's critical that it not be a personal role or perk. I'm a team player and on my nearly four years on the DNC have forwarded DA's goals as part of a DNC team. Our team doesn't always agree but we respect each other and work from integrity. The DNC body is large, essentially it is a network, and I bring my ability to develop relationships to support DA's mission to empower Americans abroad to engage in political processes. I am effective at communicating DA's capabilities, accomplishment and goals. For example, my 3-minute report to the Western caucus at the August 2019 DNC meeting led to an article on Democrats Abroad in the San Francisco Chronicle. I was elected to represent the Western States on the DNC Women's Caucus executive committee. I listen, I'm persistent at finding places where we can have an impact. See my candidate statement for more information.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

There are many roles DNC Representatives play to connect DA's membership and the DNC community (described on the DNC member description on the website). The role will depend on what kind of connections DA members and leaders seek and what can be accomplished via the DNC. An essential role is explaining the DNC to DA members and leaders. Most people, including many journalists and experts, are not familiar with and have misconcepts about how the DNC body works and what it is for. Starting with "what is the DNC": DNC refers to both the Democratic Party as a whole and the representative governance body to which DA and the other states elect representatives.

The DNC is a large and useful network, and DA DNC Representatives can bring issues or invite DNC leaders and members to bring issues to the DNC community. DA DNC Reps need to be flexible and open to the needs of DA leaders and members and also set expectations. I have worked personally on a number of policy topics over the years (e.g. 12 years working to win immigration rights for same-sex partners, 15 years as a marriage equality activist). The DNC community was useful for working on immigration topics, but working with community organizations in the states was most effective in my marriage equality work. DNC Representatives can steer and guide DA members and leaders who want to know more and engage directly with the DNC and set expectations. This is an ongoing process and bodies such as caucuses can play a role by using the DA DNC Representatives to educate interested DA members about the DNC. For example: DA members probably don't know that DNC meetings are open to the public.

I think that more is possible and that DA leader bodies and caucuses can bring DNC Representatives into their events to connect with members and share about the DNC. When I travel to DA countries I always do an event or fundraiser to support the local committee, share about the DNC and meet members. These visits could be scheduled and organized to provide more opportunities to engage. One thing I have learned is that often members are not very interested in the DNC - they trust our global chair, vice chair and DNC representatives and are more interested in local work to build DA and get out the vote.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

I supported the Unity Reform Commission proposals and would like to see more democracy, transparency and accountability in how we run our presidential primary. More states should move from caucuses to primaries, though voter suppression can impact primaries and must be fought. States should follow DA's

example and offer same-day registration and party switching. Much work has already been done and needs to be maintained (e.g. building tech infrastructure). Making the process clear and educating activists on how to run is very important, as is transparent budgets to grow state parties and engage members. A 50 state strategy is also key. Conflicts of interest policies are needed and charters and bylaws should be regularly reviewed. Joint fundraising agreements should be transparent. An inclusive culture in the party is critical and the ability to express disagreement as we engage with each other. Reporting on the composition of party vendors needs to be in place. Diversity needs to continue to increase: in contracts and vendors, outreach to constituencies, partner organizations and in the pipeline and training.

5. Policy Goals

(a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I will support the policy champions for these frameworks to find the best ways for DA to advocate for these policy solutions

(b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

DA is about inclusion, empowerment and participation of Americans abroad in political processes. I will support DA to my full ability in advocate for policies that contribution to DA's mission and address the unique challenges and issues facing Americans abroad and our families.

I am committed to amending the US constitution to give every US citizen the right to vote.

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

We can use it and refer to it in our policy work. We can educate our members and leaders about our platform and the DNC platform and translate planks into task forces and action plans

Nadia diakun-Thibault - Americas

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Americas

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

Public policy experience and academic credentials that span fifty years. More importantly, this:

Democrats must bring the country about to a realization that 'social justice' is not 'socialism'

- that a caring nation that works toward legislation that is based on distributive justice is not 'communism'

- if you never lived in the former Soviet Union you do not know communism

- you do not know what religious and cultural repression is

- and the illusions of reality television are not 'life, liberty, and justice for all.'

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

Interlocutors should play the role of conveyors of the message without prejudice and self-interest.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

To make the party democratic, transparent, and accountable, the party should incorporate technological mechanisms such as Distributed Ledger Technologies that would ensure ALL democrats participation in a manner that assures the confidentiality, integrity and availability. 'Digital Government' is not necessarily secure government. Without the technological expertise and infrastructure, it is nothing more than a web presence.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

Argue in favour of them.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

Universal Basic Income.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Assure that the platform puts forward not just politically expedient ideas, but ideas and policies that can be effected as legislation, regulations, standards, and all the proscriptive elements of responsible government.

Orlando Vidal - Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I'm a fighter for Democrats Abroad. There are (of course) other fighters, but (all modesty aside) none has fought harder than me for our interests at the DNC. Honesty, I'm sick and tired of how the DNC treats DA as the step child of the Democratic Party. We don't get treated like every other state. Every other state (and DC) gets a monthly stipend directly from the DNC (\$10,000/mo.). Democrats Abroad has been excluded from that funding, funding that (if nothing else) could have afforded us to have a paid, full-time Executive Director. And the promised SPIF (State Party Innovation Fund) grants have been minimal. We've only received a fraction of what was promised. And were this not enough: we're the only party whose delegation is discriminated against by affording its members only half a vote (though our numbers justify increasing our voting strength to 8 from the current 4 and despite the current DNC Chairman's promise to Democrats Abroad that, if elected, he would work to grant us one-person/one-vote at the DNC). I alone within our delegation took the DNC on to try to get this reform passed. I didn't succeed but, if re-elected, will keep fighting for DA. I've served as International Counsel (2 terms), UAE Chair (2 terms), UAE Counsel (now serving second non-consecutive term), and as one of our globally elected DNC Members. I have not missed a single DNC meeting (at a significant expense and investment of time). Electors from our Progressive Caucus should support me because I have the experience and, again, a proven record as someone who is not afraid to fight the powers-that-be and take on the DNC, when required for DA and our members' benefit.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

I'm not at all satisfied with the current status. I have fought to change the status quo. There have been two approaches by our DA DNC members. One (where all but me still fall in) is to "play nice" and to hope that, in time, the DNC will see the real benefit of supporting DA. That hasn't worked. The second approach, which I alone adopted after two-years of the DNC's inaction towards Democrats Abroad, is a more confrontational one. Frankly speaking that also hasn't worked, but perhaps it hasn't because I stood alone within our delegation. If we pulled together and worked together we could get so much more done. We need DNC members that are, like me, willing to take the DNC on. Needless to say DNC members also need to be responsive to the needs, interests, and views of our members. But, on occasion, we need DNC members who are willing and able to lead, and not just follow. Be willing to fight, if necessary. As to what specific changes I would recommend, here are three: (1) though our regular monthly meetings (calls) are open to all who would like to participate, perhaps that's not as well known and we could do better to encourage everyone's active participation; (2) I would also actively encourage any DA member to attend our DNC meetings (some have, which is great, but again everyone should know they can attend—most of the meetings are open to the public though some are held in executive session); and (3) I would encourage DA to extend our stipend fund to include support for those DNC members and other DA members to attend and participate at DNC meetings.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

As my Progressive friends know, I supported all the reforms of the Unity Reform Commission, all but one. I didn't support disenfranchising DNC members. I didn't for four reasons: (1) I stood with the DNC Black Caucus leadership in opposing disenfranchising DNC members because of the disparate impact that would have on the larger minority representation at the DNC, which is proportionally higher than in the population at large and because minority members have struggled for that vote, which now they don't have; (2) I opposed disenfranchising DNC members because I felt DNC members could try to act as a check against a Trump-like figure taking over our Party; (3) I opposed taking our vote away because I felt that disenfranchising DNC members in the first ballot only heightened our influence if it ever went to a second ballot. Would anyone have been satisfied had it gone to a second round at the Convention where DNC members could then vote and decide the election? I don't think so. So I thought the reform only fixed a perception problem that at the end could grant even more influence to DNC members than the reformers ever wanted; and (4) I felt taking our votes away weakened Democrats Abroad's ability to legitimately pledge our votes in exchange for the candidates making commitments to DA for those votes. Without the votes we have nothing to offer and therefore the candidates don't have to pay attention to our interests. The question is now whether disenfranchising DNC members should be permanently enshrined in the DNC Charter and Bylaws. I still have the same concerns as before. But I'm willing to listen to any argument offered by my Progressive friends and I'm open to change my mind. It would be the current delegation who would vote on the floor of the Convention to make the URC reforms permanent (not the newly elected members). Perhaps the ship has sailed and this is something that should become permanent. I'm open to be convinced. As to what other reforms need to happen, there are many. I've spoken already on why our delegation should be treated like all others. I won't rehash that now. Another reform is that the Chair shouldn't be able to appoint all those DNC members he unilaterally has a right to appoint. Many of those have their seats only because of the power of their purse. It is outrageous. DNC meetings should also be completely open. Everything should be transparent. The finances to start with.

They still are not. And the staff at the DNC still doesn't treat DA as they should. Many should go. They've been there way too long. I would just end this answer by asking my Progressive friends to stop thinking of me as "establishment." I'm too a Progressive. I believe in everything the Progressives stand for. I have occasionally disagreed with your tactics. Still, on the substance, I stand with you.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I supported those resolutions. Both Medicare for All and the ideas behind the Green New Deal need to be fully adopted as part of the Democratic Party platform. At every meeting I pledge to raise the issue and to work hard to make them part of our Democratic Party platform.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

As to what other policies our platform should adopt, it should adopt free tuition for all, reparations, basic universal income, increased labor protections, a Constitutional Amendment overruling Citizens United, and statehood for DC, Puerto Rico, and the rest of the territories.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

The Democratic Party platform (and our own platform) are and should be treated like our Bible. They are our instructions. Our DNC members should remember that. The Platform Committee should be required to hold the DNC members' feet to the fire, if they ever deviate. And they should issue a report on each DNC member and how she or he did during their term in terms of advancing the goals and policies of our platform.

Peter J. Foley - Asia Pacific/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: Asia Pacific, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

Progressive from student days Vice President of upper West Side Democratic Reform Club in Manhattan. Previous chair Dems Abroad Thailand and Regional Chair Asia and the Pacific. Leadership in human reproductive rights. as regional director with Planned Parenthood Federation of America's previous international division (FPIA).

Worked for Bernie Sanders in first campaign against Hilary Clinton in primary ;contributor in both Bernie Sanders ' campaigns. Support full throated the three prong must reforms as best articulated by A.O. C.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

I have been pleased with communication from global leadership , particularly Julia . I think there is room for great improvements in the DNC 's communication with rank and file membership

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

All. Full stop

5. Policy Goals

(a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

Enthusiastic and full support and hard work to make it happen

(b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

Domestic and international human reproductive right including the right to an abortion

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Work, work and work

Richelle David - EMEA

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I have been a field organizer for Obama in 2008, DAUK campaign manager in 2016, and excomm member since 2017

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

Liaise with DNC and feed back to them DA member concerns / issues. Yes, satisfied

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

Expand the use of primaries, and make caucuses more accessible to people like shift workers and overseas military personnel.

5. Policy Goals

(a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I support strengthening ACA or pushing for Medicare for All (with high unemployment numbers, this could be an easier sell than in most years).

(b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

Vote by mail to be encourage for all voters, not just those living abroad

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

na

Robert "Bob" Kerr - EMEA/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I am articulate, reliable and passionate. Moreover, I am focused on undertaking tasks that are outcome oriented. I feel that those are my most important skills and qualifications for Progressive Caucus support. I will be a hard working participant at the convention. I immediately joined the DA Progressive Caucus upon joining DA Denmark leadership and attending my first international conference in Washington in 2017. I subsequently played a leadership role additional members to the caucus at the Madrid regional convention, and I was active in attempting to get a healthcare for all brochure published, and brought a prototype to the regional convention in Athens. In Denmark I organized a DA book club, which has run continuously for three years, and I played a lead role in organizing several additional activities to give our members a forum, including large rallies to protest gun violence, caging of immigrant children, and to promote the environment. I was back in New York for one year, during which time I was active in the village and county Democratic Party in which I lived. During that time, my active participation in the progressive caucus lapsed, but I did follow through with the prototype brochure, and with advocacy for progressive ideals in Athens. If selected, I will be hard working for progressive causes in Milwaukee.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

I am reasonably satisfied, I guess. On my side, I believe in reliability and action. I attend every local, regional and global event, that I have been able to attend. At each, I have attempted to engage actively and positively, and to inspire others to do the same. This year, I feel that we all have an obligation to recruit new members, and to advocate Democrat Party values and the importance of getting out the vote to each American that we meet overseas. So for me, that is the ideal profile of a DNC member -- one who is active and passionate about the value and ideals that make our party the only serious choice this November, and who is responsive. I feel that the current DA DNC members that I know generally do fit that profile.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

I participated in several Progressive Caucus dialogues on Slack, and each time confirmed my support for the Progressive Caucus leadership position. That said, I confess that my strengths are not in the actual rules, but in my passion for the principles themselves. I have an absolute, unbridled passion for total transparency, diversity, fairness and honesty as the only paths forward for our party and for our country.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

My biggest passion is Medicare for All. Having experienced healthcare in Denmark, and having witnessed it elsewhere, I feel that our biggest value added to American society is advocacy on this issue. The American healthcare system is so bungling, even for those with insurance, and so expensive overall, that reform is needed on those two fronts alone. However, add in the tens of millions of uninsured Americans and residents without non emergency room access to healthcare AND the hundreds of thousands/millions of DA members and their children cannot safely return to the States and have essentially become healthcare refugees, our witness on this issue is invaluable. I still have the prototype healthcare brochure that produced for the Athens conference. I would like to

bring that to final with Progressive Caucus support and make it available in Milwaukee. I would love for DA to have a booth to present our insights on Medicare for All based on our overseas experiences. I am equally passionate on matters of the environment, but I like to channel my passion to the hear and now arguments. We need to best protect the environment so that we have clean air and clean water NOW, for us and for our children. We need to develop renewable technologies NOW, so that we are ahead of the scientific, technological and environmental curves, again for us and for our children. While I also agree with the entirety of the Green New Deal agenda, for the immediate purpose of achieving our objectives, I feel that we should focus on the importance of clean air, clean water, and ever improving renewable energy technology right now.

(b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

As a retired diplomat, I am passionate on the importance of reordering our international budgetary priorities. Military and Intelligence spending is so out of control, so redundant and so wasteful. On the military side, we should focus our capabilities on the types of potential conflicts that actually threaten us. On the intelligence side, we should also focus on the information that would actually be useful to us and that is not simply researching what can be obtained using open source. In contrast, we should protect and increase international exchange programs particularly those geared towards young leadership development in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. Many such programs were increasingly thriving under President Obama, but are now declining and/or languishing. We need to restore them.

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Be articulate, be bold, and be active. Demonstrate passion and a commitment to networking and walking the halls. And, demonstrate positive energy and a sense of humor. Overall, I feel that our platform is robust. Certainly the contrast between the Democrat Party and however one now refers to the party of T.... (I can't even write his name), is so stark that no American can later claim ignorance of our national divisions and mindsets. In that light, all Democrat Party leaders (and members) need to always demonstrate both knowledge and passion. We want to get out the vote and convince voters to vote Blue both because we have the best ideas, but also because we are the type of party AND people that our fellow Americans want to join and be a part of.

Salli Anne Swartz - EMEA/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

I believe I have the experience both within DA and more generally in progressive associations to act as a bridge between DA and the DNC. My pro bono experience in Africa training officials in women's rights, anti corruption and human rights in the context of natural resource projects makes me very sensitive to the despicable state of human rights in the United States. Having served as DAF counsel, DAF VC, Co Chair of the GWC and Co Vice chair of the platform committee I hope to use my DA experience to push for Medicaid for All and affordable if not totally free higher education. I am a team player and a bridge builder and I want to make DA an important player in the DNC which punches above its weight.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

I am not totally satisfied because we do not get detailed reports of what our DNC members do at DNC meetings, what our DA goals are for those meetings and what exactly our role is within the DNC. I would, if elected, insure that the DA DNC members give regular reports to the DA membership explaining what our role is and should be and how we can further our platform and goals within the DNC. I would also facilitate communication between the DA DNC members and DA membership so that our DA membership understands what the DNC is, how it works, why it is important and how DA can and should interact with the DNC. I would also take the temperature of DA members to find out what issues are important to them and figure out the best means to get that information to the DNC in an effective constructive manner.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

I continue to query the role of super Delegates and whether they are necessary. I also think we need to find a constructive manner of translating the DA and DNC platforms into reality through legislative lobbying, research (for example, connecting our volunteers with Congressional aides to assist in research and other tasks which will help with advancing our agenda), identifying goals which all factions of our Party can rally around and helping divergent voices in our party be heard without destroying the unity of our party.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

I will look at the action items set forth within the Green New Deal and discuss with the DNC how to best implement them through legislation. I will also look at how to limit the grotesque misuse of corporate lobbies to thwart the goals of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal such as the pharm and big oil lobbies. As a corporate lawyer, I feel particularly equipped to help the Democrats introduce legislative limits on corporate spending on lobbying, back door deals, warped advertising and the other tactics which big pharma and big oil use to keep us in the Middle Ages.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

As I have been working on the platform night and day since last November, most (but not all) of the policies I support are reflected in the current working draft. But I would add a few: a financial transaction tax, public funding of all elections, limited terms for Federal and Supreme court judges, nominations (instead of elections) of State judges, due diligence legislation making corporations liable for human rights violations in supply chains, a Federal law making reproductive rights, such as birth control and abortion, legal and affordable for all women, free birth control for high school students, mandatory publication of State and Federal tax returns for all who run for public office and a few more.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

We need to work with the DNC to identify priorities (Medicare, Green New Deal for example) and organize strategies for getting it done. We also need to work with the American Bar Association to block incompetent judges from being nominated. We need to find allies in the DNC who have the power to move platform priorities forward with DA as an equal partner.

Seth Greenberg - EMEA

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

As listed in my biography, as a Professor and as a student, way back when, I took an active role in aiding the integration of society and in promoting a better future for those in need. In College, I participated in a program where i tutored minority students adjusting to the rigors of college. I worked twenty hours a week for three years in that program tutoring math and English and sciences. When I finished my graduate training, i moved into an area in Columbus Ohio, with a high concentration of Jewish and African American families. A move was afoot to move the Jewish community center to a more suburban location. I along with four other community members opposed such a move, and we fought the move. My task involved demographic surveys, and fund raising for an effort to expand the JCC in its current location. We won the battle. The effort is documented in what was then the Ohio Magazine, as i recall. In my academic setting, as Chair of a Psychology Department, I expanded the recruitment of women in my Department from two to a majority. I was also one of the first Chairs to hire a faculty member of Hispanic origin, and mentored him for a full year. i helped organize summer workshops and taught in said workshops for entering minority students. the workshops focused on study and attention skills. As a specialist in cognition, i tutored for three years, in a local inner city area, minority students and non-minority who came from economically deprived backgrounds, and even organized field trips to visit museums with a few of my students. In sum, i have not been a protester or major voice, but rather someone who has taken my commitment to help those in need of a better opportunity. i prioritize action of protest. I believe that changing the world is far beyond my reach, but satisfaction can be derived from making a difference in the lives of individuals. Currently as a retiree in Israel, i am tutoring three Bedouin students in English in effort to even the playing field and given them a boost in their efforts toward University study. One of my students is now obtaining a masters degree. As a Professor, students knew of my Zionist interests. Yet, Muslim students appreciated my honesty, and my empathy for their concerns. I participated in joint Jewish/Islamic programs and had students of various religious backgrounds over for Shabbat dinners. I was of particular help to religious Muslim students who found my religious spirituality a comforting orientation.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

I believe it is critical for them to keep the constituents informed of policy debates, and to solicit their opinions. Whereas issues that directly impact the lives of those abroad should be a priority, given the reverberations that US policy has globally there is a need to communicate about almost every policy issue. There ought to be an outreach to overseas members regarding talking points that are an essential part of Democratic positioning for in the end we are mini-ambassadors in the countries in which we reside.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

I firmly believe that honest an open discussion is critical. Thus, any measure taken to open the floor to the variety constituents is welcome. However, just as we are loathe to give to much power to institutional

units, we must also be careful not to allow small group positions to hold sway. In the end, all voices must be heard but actions must thus reflect the full diversity of thought through compromise.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

Actually, I think this is a matter for which members abroad could be most helpful. I wrote a piece on this somewhere on the DA site. Most of us abroad have experienced a form of nationalized health care, and thus we could provide powerful evidence of both the benefits and costs of such systems. I wrote in a posting about the importance of sober, honest and analytical thinking in trying to grapple with major issues. It is in my opinion important to have an open discussion of the cost/benefit analysis of the various systems we have experienced, and which such systems might be best applied to the States. Thus, in Israel everyone is enrolled in a national health system, but one can choose the group to which they wish to enroll. All groups have a basic level coverage, which is more or less the same across plans. However, each plan also offers two higher levels of coverage. These higher level coverage diverge somewhat, with perhaps a greater emphasis on maternal care, or aging or alternative medicine options. This creates a form of competition and helps improve service all around. In addition, doctors are associated with usually at least two groups, so can recruit a doctor through different plans. Moreover, since doctor salaries are not nearly as high as in the States they also run private practices. If one sees a doctor under private care the timing to get an appointment is faster, but costs more. One can also buy private insurance in addition to public plans which are particularly critical for those needing very specialized operations perhaps performed better in the States. The systems cover medicines, with everyone covered for most prevalent drugs, and then at higher levels more drugs are available including experimental for little cost. A medicine I took in the States cost \$75/month, whereas here it cost \$6/month. An operation I received here cost \$50 including hospital stay, that was priced at \$12000 in the States even with my supplemental Medicare insurance plan.

The downside, taxes are considerably higher on income, not real estate, to support the health system, and wait times for specialists can take much longer unless there is an emergency. Nevertheless, I far prefer this system.

However, my point is that just throwing out Medicare for all might not be the best remedy. I would argue for Universal Health care that would be implemented after a thorough investigation of at least several overseas systems to ascertain what is a best fit for the US. It could be Medicare for all, but there are alternatives.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

I would love to see two planks that address concerns that are and will become major issues in the future. Nobody wants to address how to handle an aging population. The problem is bad now as the bulk of the population is entering their senior years. Yet, this is a problem that the younger generations should be far more concerned about than they are, for with life longevity increasing those in their twenties and thirties may live well into the 100 plus range. Thus, the younger generation could live thirty to forty years past retirement. All seniors, current and future, must content with transportation, when independent driving becomes difficult, food service becomes more essential, community center support for senior activity, and of course health service, and senior community life, e.g. assisted living and nursing centers are likely to become increasingly critical. Take a look at how private and public senior centers have been hit by Corona because of weak legislation guiding such care, or lack of penalty for poor administration of such facilities. But even the more mundane issues

such as public transportation are critical to keep seniors from being shut ins. Thus, a plank focused on senior care is essential.

A second plank should deal with the issue of ethical medical decision-making. The Federal government should gather great minds to begin the discussion of how one decides who gets an organ transplant when demand outstrips supply, and other such decisions. Moreover, what happens when we gain the ability to alter personality through brain implants (coming sooner than you think as neuro research expands) and other such ethical issues. Initially, as brain science advances through drugs or implants we wrestle with disorders such as schizophrenia, but they come a time, as with all such advances, that we gain the capability of treating milder disorders such as obsessive compulsive issues. As with bodily surgeries to improve appearance, one must entertain the possibility that pressure will be created to control personality. In the ideal this is fine, but the potential for blatant misuse is great.

(c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Highlight what is essential, and use social media in an extensive to make clear what those positions are to as large an audience as possible. Do not cover all planks, but focus on those of most immediate relevance to people's lives. If possible tailor plank send out to focused groups.

Stephanie Stewart - EMEA/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

As a 25-year overseas Democrat, I have a deep understanding of DA's priority issues and strategies for achieving our most important goals. I also have significant experience working with members, volunteers, and voters. Registering Democratic voters abroad has been my focus since joining DAUK in 2004. As DAUK Voter Registration Coordinator (2005 – 2012), DAUK Executive Committee Member and Vice-Chair (2007-2009), I organized 100+ volunteers to register voters, oversaw huge membership growth, hosted more than 100 events and supervised a 1300 person London Inaugural Ball. In 2012, I was honored to be a DA Delegate for Barack Obama to the Democratic National Convention. In 2014, I co-founded Ready for Hillary London, and then started London for Hillary. In these roles, I hosted events, registered voters and raised funds. On the DAUK Executive Committee, I continue to promote VoteFromAbroad.org, fundraise for candidates up and down the ticket, and coordinate events.

I have delivered concrete results to elect Democrats again and again. As a DNC member, I will draw on my many years working at all levels within our organization to effectively and actively promote Democrats Abroad.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

DPCA members should attend all DNC meetings to effectively represent DA's interests and should actively participate in caucuses and regional meetings while in attendance. Consistent regular updates to the DA Global leadership list are important to help members be active in the debate as policies are formed and debated. A DNC member should be on the DPCA Leadership Calls, attend regional calls and participate in Caucus events to gather input. This is the only way they can effectively know what we stand for, what our needs are and what initiatives require support from the Democratic National Committee and state

leaders. During DNC meetings I pledge to use social media to keep DA members involved, engaged and informed.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

I fully support the reduction in the number of Superdelegates and the elimination of Super Delegates voting on the first vote at the convention. Our party will only succeed if the election process is fair and transparent. If we cannot achieve this, voters are sure to refrain from voting. I also support the expansion of voting in caucus states as many people who are elderly, disabled, parents of young children and working members cannot attend caucuses.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

As a DNC member you need to network among state parties, regional meetings and caucuses and advocate for DA's platform. It is only with a coordinated effort of a large group of DNC members that policies can be progressed. Finding like minded members and converting others to our cause is key.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

I am very interested in promoting DPCA planks on the environment, military, gender equality, healthcare and gun control. All of these are very personal issues for me. I grew up in a military family, have a long commitment to environmental activism (I worked at the first UN Earth Summit in 1992 and have a masters in environmental management), support the interests of my LGBTQ daughter and have personal experience with family trauma from gun violence. Like you, I have family that rely on the fractured and failing US healthcare system. We must assure that ALL Americans have affordable, comprehensive health care.

We must also work to advance the issues unique to Democrats Abroad including:

- The promotion of the Americans Abroad Caucus and establishment of a Special Committee on Americans Abroad in the Senate; we need to have advocates in government
- Improved voting rights for American citizens at the federal and state level including safe electronic voting; by voting we bring our voice to the table
- Tax reform that promotes Residency-Based Taxation and elimination of the onerous reporting requirements of FBAR and FATCA; this is a very unique DA problem
- Access to supplemental Social Security benefits and the adoption of Annual Earnings Test

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

The platform has to reflect the aspirations and views of our membership. The very inclusive platform process, with numerous means to give input, has been revolutionary for the DPCA. It cannot have life, however, if it is not advocated for among the full DNC membership. Therefore a DPCA DNC member has to be actively attending caucuses and regional group meetings to lend a voice to our platform.

Tommaso Israely - EMEA

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

Through my experience in campaigns and activism I know how to build coalitions, listen to others and make the case for political positions.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

I think there must be a constant liaison between DNC members and the broader DA membership. As the DA membership is vast and diverse, prior to the convention there must be a series of opportunities for DA members to express their feelings about the DNC, the election and much more. This must be done both through quantitative analysis (such as surveys) and qualitative analysis (organising a series of town halls -- virtual or in person).

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

The most important proposal, in my opinion, was the returning of voting to the grassroots, rather than party insiders, not only does this need to stay but an additional shift of power to activists and voters must occur.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

These two policy proposals in particular are some that I've been fighting for in many campaigns I've been a part of, be it fighting for Medicare for All in Texas, during Beto O'Rourke's run for the US senate, or both of these policies in Chicago in Marie Newman's primary against one of the most conservative Democrats (who voted against the ACA). I have a good grasp on what arguments work, highlighting the social and workers justice elements of both the GND and M4A. I will be steadfast in supporting these.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

A \$15/hr minimum wage, more gun control measures, further work on the cancellation of student debt and college affordability, greater bargaining powers for unions and the regulation of the tech industry.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

A constant campaign of raising awareness of the contents of the platform, as well as constantly holding democratic leaders to the platform -- be it in meetings we have with them or through public forums.

Vasilios Gikas - EMEA/ Americas/Global

1. What DNC position are you running for?

Regional DNC Member: EMEA, Regional DNC Member: Americas, Global DNC Member

2. What qualities and skills qualify you to be an effective DA DNC member? Why should members of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad support your candidacy?

Apart from being an Economist - Academician and Politician, for many years, since 2016 I have been an At-Large Representative (PA) in Greece, so I've the corresponding 4 years of experience to continue be an At-Large Representative in Europe.

3. What role do you think DA DNC members must play as intermediaries between the DNC and DA membership? Are you satisfied with the current status? If not, what specific improvements would you recommend?

I believe that the Members of the DA DNC must have a decisive - conjoiner role, between the DNC and the DA Members. I am quite satisfied with the current situation.

4. In 2018, the DNC adopted several Unity Reform Commission proposals for this year's convention to make the Party more democratic, transparent, and accountable. Which of these changes should become permanent? What, if any, additional reforms are necessary?

All the changes that make the our Party more democratic, transparent and responsible, must be made permanent. If there are any changes or additional reforms, we are examining them evolutionarily, in practice, not yet.

5. Policy Goals

- (a) DA overwhelmingly passed resolutions in support of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal at its 2019 Annual General Meeting. What would you do as our DNC member to promote them?

Already, from 2012 onwards, I only support Obama's Health Care, as an Academician, as a Bill and as a Law, from the position of Economist, as well as Citizen, everything else (Medicare for All and Green New Deal), must based on the spirit of Obama's Health Care, that's my opinion, so I'll promote it if our Party wants it.

- (b) What other specific policies do you promote for inclusion in the Democratic Party platform?

Healthcare and Citizen Care, the Reconstruction of Our Economy, a Law that essentially protects Citizens from abusive use of weapons, the Upgrading of Education at all levels, are some of the Policies I promote whenever requested.

- (c) What can DA DNC members do to make the platform a more effective instrument?

Be more flexible, more useful.