

## Candidate Statement for Zachary Zannoni, Special Events Chair nominee

Greetings,

I'd like to express interest in running for the executive board as Special Events Chair. I understand the role of Special Events Chair most imperatively is maintaining DEMCCO's presence through community events and outreach. This is quintessential to a vibrant and strong political environment to bring in newer and diverse candidates for membership and or future political office.

I understand the need to bring people in who for far too long may have been undervalued, underserved, and left out of the conversation and out of the decision making. Not only is it in my values to do so we all recognize the importance of that to our party and its values. As we will likely be entering the post-Pandemic era sometime this year. It's incredibly important that we focus on outreach and a presence to bring in people who may not be used to a traditional structured political setting yet would like to get involved in the process. Having events to that not only allow me to bring in and attract new people but retain our standing in the community would be a goal. It's also a goal that fits nicely with my role in North County Young Democrats as Director of Community Outreach I see it as an opportunity to synthesize my work into the goal of outreach. That can be channeled through outreach to youth looking to get their feet wet in the political process all the way through to adults looking to get involved on a more committed level. I see it as an opportunity to craft a well-designed and established presence and outreach program to make DEMCCO the Gateway to North County Politics.

Regarding my personal life and experience I've been involved in politics since high school worked as field staff for board of education, town council and State Representative races in my hometown of Enfield, Connecticut. Like so many Californians, I wasn't born here. I was born in Stafford Springs, Connecticut and lived in Enfield, Connecticut through the end of high school. I was raised in Enfield by a single mom Michelle and with notable help from my grandparents Mary and Gary who were lifelong farmers but always took time to take me throughout New England on the weekends. Both my parents struggled with drug abuse like so many other American families and I constantly throughout my childhood and dealt with an unstable environment causing me to bounce between households and caretakers. I depended on outside role models like my teachers, to keep a smile on my face every day, and later inspire me to be an educator myself and a male role model for dozens of others who may not have a father in the household.

When it became time for me to create my own path I became attracted by California's natural beauty, immaculate urban environments, rich diversity, and cultural centers and of course, it's unbeatable weather. In final months of high school which took place in the midst of global pandemic resulting in nationwide lockdowns and virtual classes and a virtual graduation, my acceptance letters came in with acceptance to all California colleges I applied to. (First in family to be accepted to a four-year institution) Though like many, I had to face the reality I couldn't attend college due to my parent's lack of ability to pay. But it didn't stop me from my jump to the West Coast.

I moved here with the savings I had working part time in high school at Smyth Bus where I fueled buses, cleaned, and painted rims, trimmed hedges and chopped vines as well as with birthday and graduation money from family and friends. Coupled together I could support a move to California, and I left on my own just a month after my graduation from high school. I took a gap year to qualify for in state the following year and worked full time in an Oceanside school as a Teacher's Aide through last November to pay my daily expenses and rent a room, I'm currently in the process of getting a job as a special education paraprofessional in one of our public school districts here in North County.

Any questions give me a call or text!  
(858) 230-2678

Thanks Always,  
Zachary P. Zannoni