

DEMCCO General Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2021

The meeting was held on Zoom.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. and members and guests were welcomed.
- II. The Agenda was approved without objection.
- III. The Minutes of the October 24, 2020 meeting were approved without objection.
- IV. Program: Running for Office in North County—a panel discussion with Esther Sanchez, Lela Panagides, Jane Marshall, Shari Mackin and Teresa Acosta

QUESTION #1: What were your experiences running for office in 2020?

- COVID made it significantly more difficult, candidates prefer to meet voters but this was not possible
- Support from DEMCCO, the San Diego County Democratic Party, and other groups was very important
- There's a double standard for women candidates, women walk a difficult line
- Races with multiple Dems gave the election away to Republicans

QUESTION #2: What was your biggest obstacle?

- Fundraising was difficult, women at a disadvantage compared to men
- Independent Expenditure money from developers, etc. gave the opposition a much greater advantage
- Where Republicans outnumbered Democrats, it was necessary to focus on crossover/local issues and really connect with voters
- Unable to talk with voters because of COVID
- Getting some endorsements
- In Oceanside, there were 4 races competing for volunteers, funding, etc., ultimately could not overcome in races with multiple Dems

QUESTION #3: Would you do it again?

- Yes, I have work I want to get done
- Yes, but prepare, start early, get fundraising started soon
- Maybe, Independent Expenditures are difficult to compete against
- Yes, my experience and knowledge has been in city government and I love it

QUESTION #4: What do you recommend to someone interested in running for elected office?

- Be active in your neighborhood
- Ask yourself why you want to do it and be honest; must want to serve your community by solving problems and making policy
- Prepare early by researching records, attending meetings, etc.
- Have a plan and get some experience
- Attend workshops
- Find and use good mentors/advisors
- Be grateful every day for your helpers
- Must have the fire in the belly!
- Involvement in the community is critical
- Ask questions of others who have been through it
- Have support in your community

V. Elected Officials and Candidate Remarks

Council Member Priya Bhat Patel – has begun her campaign for California State Senate, District 36, in 2022 and would like our support
Mayor Catherine Blakespear – considering running for California State Senate, District 36, in 2022 and would like our support

VI. Consideration of Bylaws Amendments

It was moved/seconded (Loughney) to change the vote to remove a member by 2/3 vote of the ~~E Board~~ **membership**. The motion passed by a vote of 26 yes and 4 no.

The E Board recommended amendments to the Bylaws were presented and approved by a vote of 26 yes and 0 no.

It was moved/seconded (Campbell) that DEMCCO file a complaint with the San Diego County Democratic Party requesting them to censure Council Member Bhat Patel. The motion failed by a vote of 6 yes and 24 no.

VII. Announcements

- Spencer Katz on behalf of Supervisor Lawson-Remer, announced an important action to direct the Board of Supervisors to develop a climate action plan with a goal of zero carbon emission by 2035. Please sign the letter of support and attend the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 27, 2021.
- Kyle Krahel asked that Oceanside voters send email to the Oceanside City Council supporting his selection to fill the vacancy on the council.

- Kathy Rallings announced
 - the deadline for receipt of your ballot for ADEM has been extended to February 3. She is running for ADEM 76 and would appreciate your support.
 - San Diego Democratic Central Committee unanimously passed a resolution to send a request to Governor Newsom to seek waivers so that California can proceed with its own “Medicare for All” plan.
- Martha Alvarado is running for ADEM 76 because there are no women of color running, please vote for her.
- Jason Rosenberg is running for ADEM 76 because we need to support candidates that are progressive, pragmatic, and diverse. Please vote for him.
- Diana Aguirre, PAC Chair, please request to receive the PAC newsletter and announcements by emailing info@demcco.org. Diana is also running fo ADEM 76 and would appreciate your vote.

VIII. Adjournment

It was moved/seconded (O'Donnell) to adjourn the meeting until February 27, 2021 at 10 a.m. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Slater, President

Approved 02/27/2021