

PROPOSED RESOLUTION JUNE 2019

Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee
Resolution: 2019 –20 DCCC Vendor Blacklist

Whereas the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) changed their rules in March of 2019 so that any vendor or consulting firm which provides services to a Democrat who challenges an incumbent Democrat in a primary election will be blacklisted and prohibited from conducting business with the DCCC or being referred by the DCCC to other Congressional races; and

Whereas this rule was made at a time when primary challengers are beginning to build campaigns for the 2020 election cycle, deliberately harming their ability to organize effective campaigns, and in some cases forcing them to abandon their candidacy; and

Whereas the ability to have competitive elections are essential to the functioning of a representative democracy; and

Whereas our county organization seeks to increase the diversity of our legislative bodies at all levels in regard to race, gender, gender identity, age, national heritage, and other categories representing our population, and we encourage young people and new people to get involved in political activity; and

Whereas young progressive activists, including people of color, are unlikely to organize and work politically for politicians with outdated or middle-of-the-road conservative viewpoints, and institutions become stagnant if new ideas are stifled and young people and new people are not welcomed to become involved and fully participate; and

Whereas incumbent candidates have no right to institutional biases or rules to protect them from defending their record to voters or from being compared to Democratic alternatives; and

Whereas the platforms of the Multnomah County Democratic Party and the Democratic Party of Oregon unambiguously oppose barriers to participation in democracy, explicitly including the right of eligible citizens to run for elected office, which is as much a part of full suffrage as the right to cast a ballot; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the Multnomah County Democrats will draft letters to Oregon's Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives expressing our opposition to the DCCC's incumbent-protecting policy and calling on our Representatives to bring about a reversal of this policy, including changing DCCC leadership if necessary; and

Be it further resolved that we call on Oregon's members of the Democratic National Committee to condemn the DCCC's policy and to create language in the national Platform of the Democratic Party that explicitly calls for full suffrage for all eligible citizens, not only the right to vote but also the right to run for elected office.

Resolution submitted by:

Ethan Scarl, Austen Lethbridge-Scarl, Sally Joughin, Michael Burleson, Nancy Hedrick, Celeste Soles, and the Platform, Resolution and Legislative Committee.

Platform, Resolution and Legislation Committee
Multnomah County Democrats

Send to the following Legislators: Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici, Kurt Schrader, and Peter DeFazio, and to all Oregon DNC members: Travis Nelson, Tanya Shively, Matt Keating, DPO Chair KC Hansen, DPO 1st VC Pete Lee, Gov. Kate Brown, AG Ellen Rosenblum, and House Speaker Tina Kotek.

Purposes of the Resolution and what it will resolve:

It seeks to change a policy adopted by the DCCC to punish any vendors, including campaign managers and consultants, who support a primary challenger against a Democratic incumbent, by blacklisting them. This is an inappropriate protection of the status quo by old guard Democrats, and will have the effect of keeping out new voices.

It lets our elected officials know that this county organization and its grassroots activists oppose the DCCC's policy regarding challenging incumbents, and to inform them of why the DCCC's attitude is counterproductive to the success of Democrats in the 2020 General Election.

Multnomah planks:

Article IV (Election Integrity), Plank 6:

We oppose voter suppression and disenfranchisement in all its forms.

Arbitrary articles interfering with one's ability to run/stand for office is a form of disenfranchisement.

We normally focus on the voting side of the equation but being allowed to run is also unambiguously part of what we call the voting franchise.

DPO planks:

Article 5 (Good Governance), Plank 22:

We believe in the freedom to vote, access to participation in our democracy, removal of barriers to participation, debates in legislative races, and the ability to be more informed members of the electorate through vote by mail systems. We support the right to vote enshrined in the 15th Amendment.

<https://theintercept.com/2019/03/25/dccc-blacklist-democratic-party/>

<https://theintercept.com/2019/03/22/house-democratic-leadership-warns-it-will-cut-off-any-firms-who-challenge-incumbents/>