

74th AD Central Committee Candidate Statements for March 3, 2020 Primary Election Democratic Ballot

You may vote for up to 6.

Jonathan Adler

Honestly (not falsely-modest): Valuable hard-working CC Elected 2012-20, Alternate 2009-12. DPOC's Parliamentarian 2015-20. Executive Committee: Member-elected 2017-20, Alternate 2013-16. Committees 2009-20: Bylaws/Rules, Resolutions, Legislative. Meetings rarely missed. CDP Delegate 2008-19. ADEM-elected 2008-11. Respected editor/draftsman. Experienced "institutional memory." CC re-election well-earned. Parliamentary law teacher. DPOC's/CDP's Bylaws/Rules, Election Code, caselaw grounding unexcelled – DPOC's "rule-of-law." Purpose: Efficient democratic action; protect individuals'/body's rights.

L.W.D.C.'s Legislative Action Committee Chair 2005-20 (Concerned Citizens' too) – research, prioritize, advise Board, draft, present actions (petitions, letters, postcards) on key issues: impeachment, money-in-politics, gerrymandering, election-protection, voter-suppression, healthcare, gun-safety, immigration, climate-change, peace, income-inequality, entitlements, tax-giveaways, money-bail, many more. 7 meetings, 2-4 issues/month, 15 years, total: About 450 actions. Impeachment history talks, Founders' writings, expertise. Unsurpassed "legislative nerd"??

Harvard, Yale, law review, clerkship, directed public-interest "test-case" litigation. Legal/political achievements: Nationally newsworthy. Progressive groups: Many. Dislikes: Token-gestures. Politics: Adlai-to-Bernie. Re-elect achievement, reputation, experience, judgment, fairness, professionalism. "If-it-ain't-broke, don't-fix-it."

Iyad Afalqa

I'm a Healthcare MGMT college professor at CSUDH. As a lifelong Progressive Democrat, I served within the ranks of our Democratic Party in WI, NV and CA in different capacities. In Nov 2019, I was elected the President of California Democratic Council.

I also served as CDP E-Board member, Delegate, chair of a statewide caucus, ranking member a state standing committee, member of DPOC Resolutions Committee, and the Chair of DGI when in 2016 Irvine turned Blue for the first time in its 40-years history under my leadership. I was a 2016 DNC elected Delegate and advised a U.S. Presidential Candidate on Medicare.

As a 4th term alternate DPOC Central Committee member, I've a PERFECT attendance, although, as an alternate, it's NOT required.

Given our challenging political climate, DPOC needs someone like myself who is experienced, passionate and committed to protect our BLUE WAVE and take DPOC to the next level.

Kalvin Alvarez

As the son of a Puertorican and a Nicaraguan immigrant, I am personally invested in advocating for a fair immigration policy and including immigrants in local politics. As a student, I will prioritize engaging youth in politics & voting. Being openly gay, I will fight for a world and a party that accepts EVERYONE regardless of age, gender, race, or sexuality.

While working to help elect Katrina Foley as Mayor & my continued employment as her current Campaign Coordinator, I developed deep networks & a passion for helping the Democratic Party. I have volunteered on 5 Democratic campaigns & served on several Democratic club boards. I also proudly worked as State Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris's first district intern. I have accomplished all this while pursuing my higher education at Orange Coast College. As a Central Committee member, I look forward to serving our party in an inclusive manner that moves our party in a progressive direction. I would be honored to earn your vote.

Samila Amanyraoufpoor

I'm a Professor at CSUDH and CSULA and hold a doctorate in International Business. I'm the Chair of California Faculty Association (CFA)-PAC of CSUDH Chapter. I am humbly asking for your vote for my candidacy to DPOC Central Committee. I am currently an alternate member of DPOC Central Committee for Professor Jane Stoeber. I'm committed to helping improve our party, so it is responsive to the needs of the people who make up the most vulnerable amongst us in society. Our brothers and sisters, seniors, immigrants, people of color, and LGBTQ community deserve our unprecedented support and for our party to truly fight for them. We are in a place and time in our country where we can transform America. When we stand together, we win. Thank you for your consideration and I will be honored to have your vote and represent your needs in DPOC Central Committee.

Janice Burstin

I am seeking re-election for my 3rd term as a member of the Central Committee representing the constituents of A.D. 74. Since January 2013, I have had the honor to be a Central Committee member attending monthly meetings at the DPOC. Among the responsibilities of a member are voting on Resolutions presented by that Committee, deciding on potential candidates who want the DPOC endorsement for their various races, discussing issues that are brought to the DPOC and how we would bring it back to our districts. I have participated in Pre-Endorsement meetings to vote for candidates prior to the State Convention and Endorsement Caucuses at the State Convention. I am proud to say that my attendance over the past 7 years has been 100%!

I have been on the Outreach Committee in the past and would like to be on the Endorsement Committee if I am so fortunate to be re-elected, bringing my experience, knowledge and understanding of how the Central Committee functions successfully!

Mary Carter

I am Mary Carter hoping to win your vote on March 3, 2020 for the Democratic Party Central Committee, Assembly District 74. As a member of the Central Committee, I will use my voice and my vote for our children, the sick, the working poor, and the people that are the most vulnerable in our society.

My political goals are: Universal Health Care for all; Publicly funded higher education and vocational training; Environmental sustainability regulations; Housing that makes sense; And, justice for all no matter their religion, ethnicity, or who they love. I PROMISE TO WORK HARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS!

My official involvement with the California Democratic Party started in 1987 with the Jessie Jackson campaign and I have never stopped. You can classify me as an FDR (and his VP, Henry A Wallace) Democratic. As Democrats, we are a community of like-minded individuals who believe in securing our Democratic values and goals. I will hold our elected officials to these goals of the Democratic Party. Thank you for voting.

Andrew Gallagher

My name is Andrew Gallagher and I'm running for Central Committee. I have been active in politics since I first volunteered for Ed Koch's last successful reelection campaign in New York in 1985. I resumed my political activity in Phoenix where I lived in 1999. In Arizona, I was elected a precinct committeeman for Maricopa County Democrats in 2006. In 2008, I was elected a delegate to the Arizona Democratic Central Committee. I relocated to Costa Mesa in 2009. Since then, I was elected ADEM delegate for AD 74 in 2013 and appointed in 2015. In 2019, I was elected club delegate for Newport Beach Women's Democratic Club. I am also a five-time candidate for national delegate in Arizona in 2000, 2004 and 2008 and in the 48th CD in 2012 and 2016. Currently, I am a member of Costa Mesa Democrats, Newport Beach Women's Democratic Club, Democrats of Greater Irvine and Democratic Club of West Orange County, where I serve as secretary. I will also be running for national delegate in 2020.

Marleen Gillespie

As a bilingual teacher for over 35 years, the witnessing of the devastating effects of socio-economic injustice and disparity in destabilizing marginalized families, communities, and democracy itself, has led me to active involvement in various capacities including: Current DPOC Central Committee Delegate, Delegate to 2016 Democratic National Convention; Steering Committees: DFA - O.C., HealthCare For All, Campaign For A Healthy California - O.C., O.C. Interfaith Coalition for the Environment, FOCD Immigration Detainee Visitation Program, Ongoing Canvassing and Community Outreach in my precinct and also Hispanic communities in Tustin.

As all organizations seek to strengthen effectiveness, communication, and bonds of shared purpose, as a Delegate, I further seek to join the Rules Committee in order to help increase identification and addressing of stumbling blocks in Central Committee meetings and decision-making processes.

In shared commitment to our Party's Platform and the belief that a just nation must ensure that all may thrive and have a place at the table, I would be honored for your vote.

Boris Greseley

I'm honored to be running for the 74th Assembly District, Democratic Central Committee. Originally hailing from the Garden State, I received my B.A. in Political Science from Syracuse University. While at Syracuse University, I served as Student Body President, representing over 14,000 undergraduates in matters regarding university policy, academic affairs, and overall student welfare. Today, I work as the Public Affairs Representative for the Carpenters/Contractors Cooperation Committee (C/CCC), where I advocate for the creation of quality construction jobs, good wages, and the protection of our working-class. As a proud union member, I am passionate about building healthy sustainable communities, fighting for equality and protecting workers' rights to create a more equitable society. When elected, I will continue to advocate for the development of more affordable and attainable housing and the promotion of honest and transparent government leadership.

Dean Inada

I'm Dean Inada (pronouns he/him) running for AD74 Central Committee. I've served on the Central Committee since 2007 and was also on the LWDC board for a while, before moving to Irvine.

My oath of office is to support and defend the US and California Constitutions. This became a problem for me when Prop 8 passed. So with the OC Equality Coalition, I filed an amicus brief to that effect to the Supreme Court, and it was overturned.

In addition to the US and California Constitutions, I also like to support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (<https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>), the CDP Platform(<https://www.cadem.org/our-california/platform>) and the OC May Day Collective Platform (<https://web.archive.org/web/20170121132221/http://ocmdc.org/oc-may-day-coalition-platform-2016-2/>)

While doing so, I like to observe the Zapatista 7 tasks

(<https://web.archive.org/web/20111026200525/http://www.zapatistacoffee.com/2010CPLVDBrigada.html#7tasks>)

If you know of any opportunities where I or other OC progressives can do so, please submit them to the OC Progressive Calendar (<http://ocProgressiveEvents.info>)

Aarti Kaushal

I'm the only 1st generation, Indian, Hindu, South Asian immigrant woman out of the 17 candidates, one of the only API immigrant women of color in the entire field of candidates. I'm educated in Irvine's public schools, UC Irvine, and Chapman University, from a lineage of 3-generations of voters and courageous freedom fighters under Gandhi's nonviolence movement against oppressive British rule.

A former special ed teacher and current educational consultant with 26 years experience.

A survivor of family violence, a mental health, women's, and children's rights activist, the only voice building a platform for student mental health, empowering them through mindfulness, conscious nonviolent activism, and healing trauma through performing arts.

I would join the outreach committee to activate underrepresented voters and work with committee members to include all stakeholders in addressing environmental conservation, climate change, rights of children and women victims, immigrants, and LGBTQ.

Vote for me as the most balanced and inclusive representative for democratic values!

Anne Mohr

Experience: East-coast politics 1990s-2000s. Municipal Committee member 10+ years, appointed then elected and served as Vice-Chair then Chair. Moved to CA and joined CDP calling for Obama. In 2016 elected delegate for Sanders and went to Philadelphia convention. In 2017 ran for ADEMS and elected to Delegate/EBoard. During that tenure took on the position of VP Membership of the California Democratic Council, to which I currently proudly serve as Membership Chair.

My desire to serve on DPOC is twofold, I believe in this party and its tenets and that Orange County should be at the forefront ensuring our members uphold our democratic standards. If we are going to call ourselves Democrats we should ultimately be certain that we are ready to serve democratically both in actions and policy. My intent through work and communication is to strengthen our foundation in order to be the Party that it is truly for the people.

Jill Nelke

I'm a current member of the Central Committee in the 74th Assembly District. I live in Corona del Mar. I'm a mother of 4 children, who was active in the P.T.A. and National Charity League. I've decided to run again for Central Committee because I can't imagine not being an integral part of making a difference, promoting values and policy which benefit everyone not just a few.

I've been involved in Candidate Endorsements, and Campaigns, Get Out The Vote, fundraising for Planned Parenthood and the Democratic Party of Orange County. These are all areas of endeavor that I wish and hope with your support to continue.

Lauren Johnson-Norris

I'm a small-business owner, attorney, working mother, E-Board representative to the state Democratic Party, and Chair of Irvine's Community Services Commission. On Central Committee, I will champion progressive values like 100% renewable energy, strong public schools, women's rights, solving homelessness and the housing crisis, and an economy that supports the middle class.

I'm a life-long advocate for women's rights and social justice. Under my leadership as an Irvine Commissioner, Irvine added 2,500 new childcare seats, fully funded after-school programs, and protected our open spaces.

We must protect our Democratic gains from 2018 and elect more Democrats to local office. I have joined the Finance Committee to use my broad network of donors to help elect more Orange County Democrats.

I would be honored to earn your support. You can reach me anytime at lauren@laurenforirvine.com

Jane Stoever

I am a professor at the University of California, Irvine School of Law, where I direct the Domestic Violence Clinic and the Initiative to End Family Violence and teach Family Law and Legal Ethics. I also co-chair the Orange County Domestic Violence Death Review Team. My research on domestic violence, firearms, immigrant rights, and feminist legal theory can be found here: <https://www.law.uci.edu/faculty/full-time/stoever/>.

I received my J.D. from Harvard Law School and my LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center after working at a shelter for teenage girls and living at a homeless shelter as a staff member. Today, I live in Irvine with my husband Dave Min and our three children. I was honored to be elected to the Central Committee in August 2019, and am eager to continue being a voice for inclusion, collaboration, and service and striving to advance a strong, progressive Democratic agenda.

Becky Visconti

I pledge to: Strengthen our policy positions, advance our progressive values, ensure fair representation for our electorate.

Proven Experience: Presently serving as a Delegate for AD 74, Secretary Laguna Beach Democratic Club, Advisory Council member for WAVE, member of Citizens Climate Lobby, and volunteer for Congressman Harley Rouda.

I stand for: Environment, addressing climate crisis; Trailblazing reproductive health policy in California; Healthcare options for every citizen / resident; Programs advantageous to all individuals: public education, criminal justice reform, SNAP, TANF; Solutions to homelessness; Job creation especially helpful to human, economic, environmental well being; Funding research & legislating gun violence to improve public health & to keep our communities safe.

Election Information: My name appears 3rd from the bottom of the candidates list.

Bethany Webb

I am an ally, an advocate and a revolutionary. My Pronouns are She, Her, Hers, I am a lifelong Liberal. My first participation in politics was volunteering for Michael Dukakis in 1988. My first protest was with the Million Moms March on Mother's Day 2000. On 10/12/2011 My sister Laura Webb was murdered, and my mother Hattie Stretz shot in the largest mass shooting in Orange County. From 2011-2016, I found my voice fighting both Gun Violence and the Death Penalty After Tuesday, November 8, 2016, I went All In. I am a founding member of HB Huddle, and have spent the last three years giving all I have to fight for decency. Should you decide to vote for me, I promise you that I am a critical thinker, who is not influenced by popularity or intimidation. Thank you for your consideration.