

Democratic Party of Sacramento County
Questionnaire for 2019 CDP Chair Candidates

NOTICE: Your answers provided on this questionnaire will be made available to DPSC members and may become public.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Candidate Name	Lenore Albert
Campaign Contact Person	Mesbah Islam
Campaign Email	LenoreAlbert@msn.com
Campaign Phone Number	424-365-0741
Anticipated Budget	\$10,000.00
Funds Raised to Date	\$500.00
Website & Social Media Handles	LenoreAlbert.com

Demographic Information (optional):

Racial/Ethnic Identity	
Gender Identity/Pronouns	
LGBTQ?	
Veteran?	
Young Democrat (35 or under)?	
Union Member?	

Please list all Democratic Party organizations (e.g., clubs, caucuses, state or local party, etc.) to which you belong or in which you have held a leadership position, and what position you held:

Democratic Organization	Position Held	Duration
Advocacy & The Arts Dem Club	Chair	2019-
AD 72 Alliance Dem Club	Chair of the Legislation & Education Committee	2017-2018
DWOC (West OC Dem Club)	Member	2015-2016
Democratic Party of Orange County	Member and appointed to Legislative committee but never invited to participate on it	2017-2019
DSCC	Delegate and Member of the Credentials Committee	2015-2017
	Eboard Delegate and Co Chair of the Credentials Committee	2017-2019

DSCC Caucuses	Was a member of many or most of the caucuses	At some point in time between 2015 and 2017
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ISSUE QUESTIONS (Please provide concise, responsive answers).

1. What specific policies will you implement to end harassment and retaliation, sexual or otherwise, within the CDP; including holding accountable those who enabled abuse under the previous Chair?

If elected as Chair, I would implement the same policies and procedures that all corporations must implement at the staff and executive level in order to protect the organization, the employees and volunteers. I would also implement anti bullying/anti harassment policies and procedures via a resolution/motion made to the body (it does not belong in the bylaws) to protect our delegation whether they are members, eboard members or caucus chairs. I would hire a third party that specializes in training and have the delegation and executive members go through the training corporate America goes through.

2. What is your specific plan for increasing outreach, engagement, and voter turnout, and which constituency groups would you prioritize?

Answer here. If elected as Chair, I plan on creating a model plan to empower our local grassroots with the best our counties have to offer. Right now there are good things various counties and clubs are doing throughout our state that are not being broadly applied everywhere. We need to increase and focus on our Red Districts like we did this last cycle in Orange County with such good results. However, we cannot lose focus of any district. We also should make sure we are being inclusive of all people with particular sensitivity to those who are not English speakers.

3. As Chair, how would you balance the preferences of delegates, elected officials, donors, and organizational allies (e.g., organized labor) in deciding which candidates to endorse and where to invest CDP resources once they are endorsed?

Answer here. The CDP only endorses state races. It is not the job of the Chair to endorse, but the job of the particular district members to do the endorsement. Currently clubs et al get one vote at the pre endorsement conference for every 20 home members in their club within that district. As to resources, there is no doubt that Red Districts suffer losses due to lack of adequate funds. I personally experienced that in my 2016 race for AD 72 as the endorsed Democrat. However, there is a numbers game that I plan on showing the delegation because I am not making money off of campaigns so I can level the playing field. Those numbers will ensure that their district becomes targeted and thus, receives funding.

4. As Chair, will you implement a policy of banning contributions from specific contributors or classes of contributors (e.g., oil companies, Walmart, charter schools, private prisons, etc.), and what would be your standard for choosing which contributions to ban? As a candidate for Chair, do you reject contributions from any aforementioned sources?

Answer here. I will continue the bans that have been instituted by my predecessors. I have not solicited any institutional donations. This is a campaign by and for the 99% and not even backed by the billionaires.

5. What specific actions would you take to: resolve infighting between elected Democrats and Democratic activists, mitigate disagreements over policy or endorsements, and unify the party after a contentious primary?

Answer here. As grassroots we are the people with the power that choose the candidates to walk and knock for and thus, we are the people who elected the candidates in the first place. As Chair, I would remind the grassroots their choice and vetting for popularity, power or one that truly aligns with their ideals is within their power. They hold the ruby slippers. Working for someone or something is much easier than working against. There are a lot of things that need and can be done in this area and it is different for each region. It is not a one hat fits all. As for the delegates, I will level the playing field and give everyone a seat at the table.

6. What is your plan for holding elected Democrats and Democratic candidates accountable in the following common-place situations:

- A Democratic elected official or candidate endorses a Republican competing against a Democrat endorsed by the Democratic Party in a partisan or non-partisan race;

Answer here. The law as I understand it, allows for an elected to endorse whomever they wish on the grounds that they are elected and as such must represent the whole and not just part of their constituency. However, the CDP does have Bylaws which allows the CDP to terminate the membership of any delegate who avows support (e.g. endorses) a Republican and I would enforce that mechanism swiftly upon any member for doing so (and I have supported as much in the past.)

- A Democratic elected official or candidate publicly campaigns for or against a ballot measure contrary to the position of the Democratic Party.

Answer here. So long as the law did not prohibit a sanction, I would support bringing a motion to the entire delegation to determine if they wanted to add a sanction for contrary campaigning. I am not sure it would pass because our party is such a big tent there are times when different factions have not favored various controversial ballot measures.

- Have you endorsed or otherwise supported a Republican (or other non-Democrat) competing against a Democrat in a partisan or non-partisan race? If so, who and why?

Answer here. No.

7. What will you do to ensure that the CDP platform is translated into actual policy through legislation at the federal, state, and especially local, levels? What should the CDP's response be when Democratic elected officials vote contrary to the party's official position on legislation?

Answer here. If elected as Chair I will be more than happy to give guidance to the delegation to show the interested parties how to draft legislation and lobby their representatives to sponsor it.

8. Under your leadership, what new or improved resources or strategies will the CDP provide to county committees like the DPSC to do the following:
 - Win elections at the local non-partisan level;

Answer here. If elected as Chair I will try to take the best practices from our various counties and put them in a handbook so that every county has an increased sandbox of ideas to choose from. I do not believe the Chair of the CDP should overreach or be totalitarian because the Counties operate on a separate level and their Chair and the Regional Chair are the masters of this ship.

- Recruit, train, and elect younger and more diverse candidates;

Answer here. Same as above.

- Elect criminal justice reform-minded candidates for District Attorney and Sheriff in every county.

Answer here. Same as above.

9. Do you support the following reforms and how would you implement them:

- Changing how standing committee members are selected;

Answer here. I am in support of changing how standing committee members are selected. With that said, although the Bylaws gave the sole power to the Chair, in the past it is my understanding that the Chair delegated that power out amongst the other officers and allowed input from others. I plan on making sure delegates from every campaign are appointed to standing committees if I am elected as Chair. I want diversity reaching from all regions, representing diversity of religion, sexual orientation and ethnicity. In 2017 when I appointed as Co Chair of Credentials about 50% of the delegates on our committee voted for Kimberly Ellis and 50% voted for Eric Bauman we had diversity in every way imaginable or attempted to do so on my committee and there were zero issues with the members on the committee working together. I would hope that such a system would not change after this election. I would reevaluate the appointments after the first year.

- Limiting the number of standing committee co-chairs and changing how they are selected;

Answer here. Same as above. I do not believe there should be a limit on co chairs nor have I seen it be a problem that has come to the attention of Credentials.

- Altering the balance of elected vs. appointed delegates;

Answer here. As experienced in 2019, when a power or perceived power struggle between electeds, the unions and grassroots happens, the elected and/or unions and/or grassroots will run delegates against grassroots in ADEMS when there was no prior involvement of such in that district. I am open to giving Chairs of the Dem Clubs a seat at the table. The number of seats for central committee members or for ADEMS are based on the law 1/100,000 or 1/10,000 registered Dems. It is basically a carrot for registration drives. To that extent, the grassroots has the power to increase the number of seats through registration that is then reported by the Secretary of State after the general election. I am for redistricting our Delegate elections and selection.

- Providing for child care at CDP meetings;

Answer here. I believe that was already lobbied for, voted on and approved. I support it.

- Making the CDP more accessible for persons with disabilities;

Answer here. All county central committee meetings and State meeting places are supposed to be ADA accessible. I do believe in having a special line during our high traffic times for registration or where there are long lines is needed or having a seating area.

- Making CDP meetings more affordable;

Answer here. This is kind of like the Made in America question. If we want to keep our pledge to hold our meetings within California in facilities that support our union workers, then we need to pay for that expense. With that said, of course we need to continue to negotiate for our facility rates. There are waivers of dues for members. We could be more helpful in encouraging the sharing of costs by putting a link exchange on the CADEM site for people looking to share a room with another delegate for convention or Eboard. I am open to all suggestions.

- What other reforms do you support for making the CDP more democratic and accessible?

Answer here. I want to get dark money and Wall Street's clutches out of the party and transform it into the party that supports the 99% not just in words but in actions where we can elect those that will not be influenced by money and power but will consistently vote to uphold our platform.

10. What criteria will be your priorities when hiring CDP staff, and how involved will you be in day-to-day decision-making with staff? Do you support unionizing CDP office and campaign staff, and what would you do to ensure that their decision to unionize would be honored by the CDP and its coordinated campaigns?

Answer here. I know Bernie Sanders decided to unionize his campaign staff this time around and I find that interesting. As for the CDP, it is up to employees to determine if they want to unionize. I will not obstruct it nor will I force them to. The Chair is not supposed to be a dictatorship. I have employed various people over 17 years and dictatorship is not my management style. I do plan on opening up two additional regional headquarters: one in the Central Valley and one in Southern California so that people are only 4 hours away from a regional headquarters (at least that is the goal).

_____/s/Lenore Albert_____

_____/04/01/2019_____

Candidate's Signature

Date