

Albany Democratic Club
Inaugural Meeting
Tuesday, February 28, 2017 7:00 PM
University Village Four Corners Room

Meeting Minutes

7pm Call to Order

New Business:

- Officers launched brainstorming session rotations for following subcommittees: Federal, State, Local, Swing District, Party / DNC.
- Committee reporters synthesized main points and priorities:
 - **Federal:**
 - Preserve the ACA
 - Support independent investigation of Russian- administration contact.
 - Question how do we mobilize Dems nationally and locally? How to make our message more simple and compelling?
 - Focus on policies and practices undermining democracy itself: Free press, gerrymandering, voter's rights. How to mobilize around these issues?
 - **Local:**
 - Integrate the Village into the city better.
 - Mobilize for community-oriented policing
 - Promote better affordable housing and transportation
 - Sanctuary City Status (Albany Unified is a sanctuary district). Albany police have made a statement, sanctuary practices more or less in place, but do not use the formal status.
 - Ameliorate homelessness: City Council resolved to start a resource center. Need to do more. Next Tuesday SEJC will be considering workplan for next two years, including tax structure-- low-income families pay 3x what more affluent pay
 - **Swing:**
 - Policies: How should Democratic Party message and change policies to ensure that elected Democrats support voter interests and make sure voters understand?
 - We can ADC ally with existing organizations to fundraise and work. Who do we trust the most?
 - Work to increase turnout among minority groups. How to instill the sense that voters *want* to vote and encourage voter engagement? How can we encourage and assist in naturalization efforts?
 - We must ensure that local groups lead. We are providing support, but not taking over. How can we identify grassroots progressive candidates to run for office, even low-level positions and encouraging them to move up?

- **DNC / Dem Party**

- Members desire more transparency in DNC spending and funding. Where are those funds going?
- Members want transparent, open primaries, open elections, reduced obstacles to participation. We must push party to be more responsive to public.
- Who are the delegates? What is the relationship between clubs and internal party structure? How does this relationship work? Propose to research and present for next meeting.
- There is a lack of clear, concise vision that candidates can latch onto.
- Party should focus on swing states vs. 50 state solution. Party should reach out to alienated voters within the Party.
- Invite a party representative to explain party structure. Proposals include Kimberly Ellis. The California Democratic Caucus is hosting big convention in May.
- How can we mobilize around restrictions for corporate funding?
- Key urgent question-- we have to repair broken trust between voters and party leadership?

Sub-committee creation. All members volunteered for one or more subcommittees. Subcommittees will meet, nominate chairs and co-chairs, and determine short and long-term goals to present to club at next meeting. Subcommittee sign-up sheets and goal proposal worksheets distributed.

Club Business:

- Move meetings to third Thursday of month
 - Seconded→ approved. Meetings will remain scheduled for 7pm. Potlucks will remain scheduled for 7pm.
- Proposal for dues -- \$30 annually. Dues cover:
 - Room rental
 - Printing
 - Exceptions for financial hardship
 - Moved -- seconded. Approved.
- Elections:
 - Gabi Baty Elected for Treasurer.
 - Laura Feinstein --Elected for member at large
 - Nick Pilch -- Elected for member at large
- Open Forum
 - Brian Lucas, Self-appointed west coast campaign manager for Jon Ossoff -- Georgia House election. See to donate and volunteer.
 - Brian Beall: City Council Meeting on March 7th will discuss local tax policy.
 - Eleanor Moses: Time to fundraise. Eleanor and Jennifer volunteer to begin this initiative.

9pm: Meeting Adjourned.