

Resolution for Submission to the Arizona State Democratic Party

Title: Resolution to Establish a “People’s Primary” Policy Banning Billionaires and Corporations from Buying or Unduly Influencing Democratic Primaries

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party is the party of the working class and Americans who believe in a one person, one vote democracy where our elections are determined by We the People as equal citizens — not billionaires and big corporations; and

WHEREAS, working class voters should have no doubt that the candidates chosen in our primaries are not beholden to the same billionaires and corporations that are exploiting and hurting them; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Democratic Party (ADP), as a voluntary association, has the authority and responsibility to regulate its internal affairs, including nominating processes and primary elections, to ensure fairness, integrity, and alignment with our values; and

WHEREAS, to strengthen our party’s brand, win back trust from many voters, and empower our party to win elections and govern to deliver for the working class, the Arizona Democratic Party must act to confront the crisis of big money corrupting our democracy within the arena under our direct authority: our primary elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arizona Democratic Party will establish a "People's Primary" policy to bar, to the greatest extent possible, the use of massive private wealth to buy or unduly influence our primary elections. This policy will ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that candidates in Democratic primaries are not benefited by, dependent on, or elected due to outside or independent electioneering spending funded by big donors who are circumventing legal limits on direct contributions to a candidate’s campaign fund to spend tens or hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars of private wealth to elect the candidates of their choice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the ADP Rules Committee shall form an ad-hoc committee to develop this policy that includes the organizers of this resolution and one mutually-agreed member of the ADP Executive Committee. The committee will be charged with developing this policy to achieve the purpose established here-in and with formulating official proposed ADP People's Primary policy and procedures, including any bylaws changes, if necessary, to implement and enforce it. This policy and associated procedures, and any additional supporting resolution or bylaws changes, will be prepared and submitted for a vote at the September 2025 State Committee Meeting.

SUBMITTED BY: Kai Newkirk & Endorsers Named Below

DATE: 05/20/25

Endorsers

Kai Newkirk, Co-Chair, ADP Progressive Council; founding Mission Director, Democracy Spring
Missa Foy, Co-Chair, ADP Progressive Council; Chair, Navajo County Democratic Party
Eric Robbins, Chair, Pima County Democratic Party
Nick Collins, Secretary, ADP Progressive Council
Dan O'Neal, State Coordinator, Progressive Democrats of Arizona; Chair Emeritus, ADP Progressive Council
Emily Kirkland, PC, LD-8; former Executive Director, Progress Arizona
Paul Stapleton-Smith, State Committee Member LD21
Sen. Catherine Miranda, Senate Democratic Assistant Leader, LD 11
Sen. Analise Ortiz, LD 24
Rep. Mariana Sandoval, LD 13
Melissa Galarza, LD12 State Committee Member
Nicolas Mink, Vice Chair for the Arizona Democratic Party
Martín J. Quezada, Former State Senator, LD 29
Richard Andrade, Former State Representative, LD 29
Sarah Stuart, President, Arizona College Democrats; Coconino County Democratic Party, Youth Committee Chair; PC, LD 7
Connie Cockrell, Chair, Gila County Democrats
Alison Porter, Co-Chair, ADP Small Business Council; Co-Founder, Save Our Schools
Ben Armentrout, President, University of Arizona College Democrats; Vice-President, Arizona College Democrats; PC, LD-20
Jess Staggers, Membership Director, Maricopa County Young Democrats; LD 29 SCM
Dhruv Rebba, Co-Chair ADP AAPI Caucus, ASU Young Dems Vice President
Susie Thornton, Secretary, LD 12, State Committee Member
Alex Ray Sanchez, Pima County Democratic Party Communications Chair
Ann Heitland, Former Senior Vice-Chair ADP and Former Coconino County Democratic Party Chair
Brianna Westbrook, Former Vice Chair of Arizona Democratic Party
Natacha Chavez, Vice Chair, ADP Progressive Council, LD 22 State Committee Member
Thomas Dunning, 1st Vice President, Democrats of Rim Country
Betts Putnam-Hidalgo, PC and SCM LD 20; Former Co-Chair, ADP Progressive Council
Joan B. McDermott, MCDCC District 3 Chair
Vivian Perry, Exec. Committee Member, YCDP
Michael Bradley, PC LD 4, State Committee Member
Marilyn Weissman, PC, LD 6
Donna Hanley, LD 7, State Committee Member
Charlie Silver, PC LD6, State Committee Member
Ken Kenegos, LD 18 State Committee Member
Angela Buer, Former Chair LD 9 Dems
Kathy Fitzmaurice Yontz, LD 12 PC & State Committee Member

Jessica Chalberg, LD 21 PC

Roemello Chavez, LD 8 PC

Michael David Bryan, State Committee Member; VP, Democrats of Greater Tucson

Kevin Glover, LD 3 PC & State Committee Member

Mikah Dyer, LD 28 PC

Connor Roland, Young Democrats of AZ Northern Development VP; PC LD 13

Eric Stafford, Vice Chair LD 29

Sharon Regen, LD 1 State Committee Member

Sherri Johnson, LD 12 State Committee Member

Rebecca Villalpando, LD 1

Erlinda Bates, State Committee Member LD 4