

46th Dems Special Meeting
May 25, 2008
Olympic View Church

Attending: Justin Simmons, Jan Ames, Bernadette Laqueur, Mark Saporito, Chad Lupkes, Javier Valdez, John Webber, Janet Miller, Gerry Pollet, , Sarajane Siegfriedt, Dean Fournier, Sylvia Haven, Barbara Whitt, with Betty Means calling in on speaker-phone, Matthew McSheehy

Guests: Kathy Bentson, Julie Anne Kempf, Lauri Serafin, Amelia Serafin, Peter Serafin, Jason Osgood, Dwight Pelz, David Garcia, Brian King, Paula King, Eileen Pollet, Scott White

Javier called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

Javier asked everyone to introduce themselves.

PCO filings. Javier asked Bernadette to report on PCO filings. The deadline to file is June 6.

We have 212 precincts with the new boundary changes. We have 119 confirmed PCOs, with some forms still expected to be returned. Bernadette is chasing down some of the PCOs. We are posting the PCO list on the web site. The new precinct map won't be out until the middle of June.

Dwight Pelz' report-out. Dwight spoke to Scott White and Gerry Pollet about the nominating vote. Dwight appreciates the sensitivity we have shown in this matter. The overall process was not our first choice, and the 2005 rules are not perfect. All across the state we held nominating conventions to meet a legal obligation to strengthen our hand in court. Ideally, all eligible voters should decide on the nominees, however the law took that option away, for the time being, anyway.

A compromise has been suggested. In this compromise, Gerry will be the nominated candidate. The party could move forward with a dual endorsement. In the campaign, Gerry and Scott could each say they are "endorsed." Gerry says his literature will not refer to him being the "nominated" candidate. Scott would not contest the nomination vote.

Gerry said he is pleased with the proposed compromise. We should not divide ourselves in this campaign. In principle, we should be inclusive, and voters should pick nominees. This agreement honors our ability to work together. Next time we should have a much better process. Gerry had not intended to capitalize on the outcome of the vote, in any event. Gerry thanked Dwight and Scott for working out this solution.

Scott agreed with Gerry's thoughts. Party unity is most important. Over decades, we built a strong organization. A battle over process is not what we're about. Scott thanked Dwight for his leadership. Scott spoke briefly about how a dual endorsement might be managed by the Executive Board and at the meeting. Scott understands that the compromise includes a stipulation that each campaign would treat the other candidate with respect.

John Webber pointed out that the membership has not been heard from.

Matthew McSheehy asked about potential minuses in this proposed compromise. Gerry said we could suppose this might create a precedent that affects the larger legal case. Dwight's sense is that this compromise avoids setting a precedent. Dwight would like to see the Executive Board actively support the compromise.

Dean Fournier said the compromise should be blessed by the Executive Board and supported going forward.

Justin Simmons is considering the compromise. He wants to know what happened, but can live with this solution.

Mark Saporito is relieved to see this settled and does not want to see it get any messier.

Bernadette Laqueur wants to see some statement on the web site, because PCOs have questions. Dwight noted the press could treat this in an inflammatory way.

Chad wants to see written procedures for voting and counting votes.

Q&A.

Q: What rules do we use?

A: State party rules, our endorsement rules, among others.

Q: How might this affect the democratic candidate going forward?

A: Scott and Gerry would be best able to answer that. Dwight imagines that Scott and Gerry would have run in both the primary and general in any event. Gerry and Scott affirmed that.

Q: Why did we wait 9 days to meet?

A: The nominating convention was Thursday night. Dwight was late getting back to Javier. Javier first heard about this today.

Q: How does the court challenge go forward from here? Won't someone who was not nominated sue, at some point?

A: For instance, Carolyn Edmonds was not the nominee, but she filed as a Democrat. Dwight has not told anyone not to file. Losing the nomination does not disqualify someone from filing. A bigger question is what we want to do in 2010?

Statement: If the Executive Board accepts the compromise, we should show unity.

Statement: We should explain to everyone what happened. We want to avoid the feeling of a back-room deal in the way we communicate.

Q: Will the Party ignore the "top-two" results? Will the winner be a "nominee?"

A: After the primary, we might see some weird situations that require the party to nominate a candidate who gets through the primary but had not been nominated earlier in the process.

Statement: Most PCOs are unaware of the situation. Since the Nominating Convention, PCOs have not seen anything from the Party.

Statement: PCO turnout was good at the Nominating Convention. We voted. The compromise is a great idea, but we need to communicate with the PCOs.

Javier and Jan will draft a letter and circulate it to Scott and Gerry for approval.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher