

Democratic Change Commission Membership

Brief Biographical Information*

Co-Chairs

James E. Clyburn

Jim Clyburn was first elected to Congress in 1993 and began his steady climb on Capitol Hill winning election as co-President of his freshman class. Six years later, he was unanimously elected Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and to a seat on the coveted Appropriations Committee. In 2002, he was elected in a three-way race to serve as Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, and in January 2006, his peers unanimously elevated him to Chair of the Caucus. In 2006, the House Democratic Caucus unanimously elected Clyburn Majority Whip for the 110th Congress. In addition to serving as House Majority Whip, Clyburn serves as leader of the House Democrats' Faith Working Group.

Claire McCaskill

Claire McCaskill is a 4th-generation Missourian who has spent her entire life in the Show-Me State. In November of 2006, McCaskill became the first woman elected to the United States Senate from Missouri. McCaskill currently sits on five Senate Committees, including Armed Services, Commerce, Homeland Security and Government Affairs, Aging, and Indian Affairs. Additionally, McCaskill was named as one of the select Senators to sit on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, formerly known as the Truman Committee. Prior to serving in the U.S. Senate, McCaskill was elected as a State Legislator and State Auditor. McCaskill worked her way through college and law school at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Members

Jeremy Alters

Jeremy W. Alters is a founding partner in the Florida law firm of Alters, Boldt, Brown, Rash & Culmo where he specializes in medical malpractice, products liability, wrongful death and maritime personal injury. He served as president of the Dade County (FL) Trial Lawyers Association from 2004 until 2005. Alters received his B.A. degree from the University of Massachusetts and his J.D. from the University of Miami Law School. He was one of the initial members of the Obama for America National Finance Committee.

Jeff Berman

Jeff Berman currently serves as Counsel at Bryan Cave, a Washington, DC law firm. Prior to joining Bryan Cave, Berman served as the national delegate director for the Obama presidential campaign. Berman supervised compliance with all state laws and petition requirements and tracked all delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Berman was an advisor to former House of

Representatives Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt, serving as a senior political advisor to Leader Gephardt from 1987-2004, including formal roles in his 1988 and 2004 presidential campaigns. Berman began his career in politics in former Sen. John Glenn's presidential campaign, subsequently serving under Chairman Glenn as counsel to the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs. Berman received his J.D. from Harvard Law School and his B.A. from Brown University.

Ashley Bliss

Ashley Bliss was a field organizer for the Obama Campaign for Change in Cleveland, OH, where she was responsible for building infrastructure and volunteer capacity. Prior to joining the Obama campaign, Bliss was a student assistant at the Georgia Institute of Technology School of Public Policy. She also served as an intern at CNN Espanol. Ms. Bliss is a May 2008 graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Dan Blue

Dan Blue is a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, where he served as Speaker from 1991 until 1994. Blue was the first African American to serve as Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives. Blue was a member of the 2008 Platform Drafting Committee, which drafted the National Platform. From 1998 to 1999 he served as the first African American to serve as president of the National Conference of State Legislators. Blue graduated from North Carolina Central University and the Duke University School of Law.

Bill Carrick

Bill Carrick is a founding partner of Morris & Carrick, a firm that specializes in the creation and production of advertising for candidates, ballot initiatives and organizations. He has served as a strategic and media consultant for candidates and ballot initiatives. His clients come from all levels of government. In California, Morris & Carrick has handled more than a dozen successful statewide campaigns. A native of South Carolina, Carrick began his career in politics there. He went on to work in Washington, D.C., as political director for Senator Ted Kennedy and as the national campaign manager for Representative Dick Gephardt's 1988 presidential campaign.

Michael Coleman

Michael Coleman has served as the Mayor of Columbus, Ohio, since January 2000. Coleman was the first African American in Ohio history to be elected mayor of the capital city. As mayor, he has worked to revitalize the downtown district, improve city services, and promote volunteer and mentorship programs in the city. Prior to becoming mayor, Coleman served as President of the Columbus City Council from 1997 to 1999, and as a

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Council member from 1992 to 1999. Coleman graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1977 with a degree in Political Science. He earned his law degree from the University of Dayton Law School in 1980.

Jeff Forbes

Jeff Forbes, a partner at Cauthen Forbes & Williams, is a 20-year veteran of political campaigns at every level. Forbes began his involvement in politics in 1987 in Al Gore's 1988 presidential campaign. He has worked with and coordinated more than nine different campaigns, ranging from municipal candidates to candidates for President of the United States. He was the national delegate coordinator for President Clinton's 1996 re-election campaign. Forbes also served as chief of staff to Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) and has held staff positions at the Democratic National Committee, including Chief of Strategy in 1999.

Joan Garry

Joan Garry is recognized as one of the most vocal, passionate and effective civil rights leaders in America. Garry was part of the management team that launched MTV in 1981 and after fourteen years in cable television, holding a variety of executive positions in strategic planning and business development, Garry moved to the nonprofit sector. In 1997, Garry was appointed as executive director of GLAAD, one of the nation's largest gay rights organizations. During her eight-year tenure at GLAAD, Joan led the organization through a series of high-profile campaigns. Since leaving GLAAD, Garry has continued to serve as an advocate as a freelance journalist and was co-chair of the Obama for America LGBT Finance Committee.

Larry Gates

Larry Gates has worked in Kansas Democratic politics for over 35 years beginning with managing Bill Roy's 1974 Senatorial campaign against Bob Dole. Gates was first elected Chair of the Kansas Democratic Party in 2003 and was unanimously reelected in 2005 and 2007. During his time as Chair, Gates has focused on moving the Party forward by emphasizing the importance of organizing Democrats at the grassroots level by growing county parties and recruiting top candidates to run for office. Under his leadership, the Kansas Democratic Party helped elect additional Democratic members at all levels of government. Gates served as Chair of the Johnson County Democratic Party and has been a trusted campaign advisor to Congressman Dennis Moore and Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

Adelita Grijalva

Adelita Grijalva is the program manager for Pima County Teen Court, an organization that strives to empower youth and families to make effective decisions through law-related education, positive peer opinion and personal and civic responsibility. She serves as the Clerk of the Governing Board of Tucson Unified School District, and is a graduate of the University of Arizona. During the 2008

Convention, Grijalva served on the Convention Credentials Committee.

Robert Hampshire

Robert Hampshire is assistant professor of operations research and public policy at Carnegie Mellon Heinz College, where his research focuses on the performance, provisioning, pricing and public policy of communication services. Hampshire has worked at IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, Bell Laboratories of Lucent Technologies, Compaq Computers and VLSI Technology. He received a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the University of Cincinnati and a Ph.D. in operations research and financial engineering from Princeton University.

Ned Helms

Ned Helms serves as Director of the New Hampshire Institute for Health Policy and Practice at the University of NH. He served as the former Legislative and Administrative Assistant for Health Policy within the U.S. Senate and as Commissioner of Health and Human Services for New Hampshire. Helms was also the chief administrative officer for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Hampshire. He was a member of the New Hampshire Health Care Community for Obama and served as a Co-Chair of the Obama campaign in New Hampshire. In addition, he has worked on many presidential campaigns and was State Chair of the New Hampshire Democratic Party.

Alexis Herman

Alexis Herman served as U.S. Secretary of Labor from 1997 to 2001. Her accomplishments as Labor Secretary include negotiating between UPS management and Teamsters Union leaders, ultimately ending the ten-day strike. Her extensive political experience began during the Carter Administration when she served as the Director of the Women's Bureau. Secretary Herman served as DNC Chief of Staff for Chairman Ron Brown and later was named CEO of the 1992 Democratic National Convention. In 1993, she was appointed assistant to the President and Director of the White House public liaison office. Since 2005, Secretary Herman has served as a Co-Chair of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee and also served as a Co-Chair of the 2005 Commission on Presidential Nomination Timing and Scheduling. During the 2008 Convention, Secretary Herman served as one of the Chairs of the Convention Credentials Committee.

Ron His Horse Is Thunder

Ron His Horse Is Thunder currently serves as the Tribal Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. In this capacity, he also is the Chairman of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association. His Horse Is Thunder served as president of Standing Rock College, where he was responsible for the overall college operations. His Horse Is Thunder has served as a commissioner for the Higher Learning Commission for the North Central

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Accreditation for Schools and Colleges. He also served on the boards of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and North Dakota Tribal College Association. His Horse Is Thunder was a member of the 2008 Democratic National Convention's Platform Drafting Committee.

James Hoffa

James Hoffa has served as President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters since 1988. Since becoming President, Hoffa's mission has been to build the Teamsters Union into the strongest, most powerful voice in North America for working families. Hoffa is recognized as one of the foremost authorities on Union issues that affect working people. He grew up on picket lines and in union meetings and is the son of James R. Hoffa, former General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. On his 18th birthday, Hoffa received his own union card and was sworn in by his father. Prior to becoming Administrative Assistant to Michigan Joint Council 43, Hoffa was a labor lawyer in Detroit for 25 years.

Roseanne Hope

Roseanne Hope is a lawyer at Faegre & Benson, a prominent law firm in downtown Minneapolis. Hope concentrates her practice in commercial real estate transactions. She has extensive experience representing clients in the development, construction, financing, leasing, land use, acquisition and sale of numerous office, industrial and shopping center properties in Minnesota and across the United States. In addition to her legal work, Hope began volunteering for President Obama before the campaign arrived in Minnesota, served as a precinct captain in both the caucus season and the general election, opened her home to house staffers and volunteers, and traveled to many states.

Steven Horsford

Steven Horsford was elected to the Nevada State Senate in November 2004 where he represents Senatorial District Four. Horsford serves on the committees of Judiciary, Human Resources and Education, and Legislative Operations, Elections and Ethics. Additionally, Horsford has been appointed to the Commission on the Administration of Justice, the Interim Committee on Healthcare and is Chair of the Legislative Commission's subcommittee on child welfare and foster placement. Horsford is also the Democratic National Committeeman for Nevada. In June of 2008, Horsford was named Democratic Leader to the Nevada State Senate Caucus.

Suzie LeVine

Suzie LeVine, a former executive at Expedia & Microsoft, has spent the past several years building support for research and policy supporting early learning. She is a tireless and strategic advocate for children. During the presidential campaign, Levine was a dedicated volunteer working vigorously by fundraising, phone calling and

building GOTV efforts in the Seattle area. She was elected as a Delegate to the 2008 Democratic National Convention. In 2007 & 2008, LeVine received the Helen M. Jackson "Woman of Valor" award for community leadership and the Spitzer Young Leadership award for community involvement across the entire Seattle Jewish Community.

Dick Long

Dick Long is the Director of the United Autoworkers' National Community Action Program (CAP). Long leads CAP's efforts to educate, organize, and mobilize the 1.3 million active and retired UAW members in election campaigns and the legislative arena. An integral part of CAP's strategy is building coalitions with other unions and progressive groups to elect pro-working family candidates at the local, state, and national levels and to promote progressive legislation. Long also serves as Assistant to UAW President Ron Gettelfinger.

Andrés López

Andrés López is the founder of The Law Offices of Andrés W. López, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He previously worked as a Senior Associate at Fiddler González & Rodríguez, and as an Associate at Hill & Barlow, P.C. in Boston. During the 2008 presidential campaign, Lopez served on as an attorney for the Obama for America campaign in Puerto Rico. López received his B.A. from Harvard College in 1992 and his J.D. from the Harvard Law School in 1995.

Patricia Madrid

Patricia Madrid served two terms as the Attorney General of New Mexico, having been first elected in 1998 and re-elected in 2002. She became the first female woman Attorney General in New Mexico's history and the nation's first Latina attorney general. As Attorney General, she established a Capital Litigation Unit to provide assistance to district attorneys statewide prosecuting violent crimes and death penalty cases. She established the Violence Against Women unit to train law enforcement officials to deal compassionately with domestic violence cases and prosecute sex crimes and a task force on internet crimes against children. Madrid was first elected to public office in 1978 as the state's first female district court judge. During the 2008 Convention, Madrid served as one of the Chairs of the Convention Platform Committee.

Debbie Marquez

Debbie Marquez is a co-owner of Fiesta's New Mexican Cantina in Edwards, CO. She has served as vice president of the Vail Valley Chapter of the Colorado Restaurant Association and has been a member of the Colorado Mountain College Latino Advisory Committee. Marquez served as co-chair of the Eagle County Democratic Party. She is also a Democratic National Committeewoman from Colorado.

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Iris Martinez

Iris Y. Martinez, the first Hispanic woman to be elected to the Illinois State Senate, represents the 20th District in the Illinois State Senate. She also serves as Assistant Majority Leader of the Senate. Martinez is vice chair of the Senate Pensions and Investments Committee and is a member of the Executive, Labor, Housing and Community Affairs, and Public Health Committee. She is also a Democratic National Committeewoman from Illinois. Martinez attended Northeastern University and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Jennifer McClellan

Jennifer McClellan has served in the Virginia House of Delegates since 2006, where she serves on the Commerce and Labor and Education Committees. She is a member of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus and a Whip for the House Democratic Caucus. McClellan is also assistant general counsel Mid-Atlantic South for Verizon Communications. She currently serves as vice chair of the Democratic Party of Virginia. McClellan received her B.A. degree from the University of Richmond and her law degree from the University of Virginia.

Linda McCulloch

Linda McCulloch was elected Secretary of State of Montana in November 2008. She is the first woman to hold this position. McCulloch served as Montana's Superintendent of Public Instruction from 2001 until 2008. Prior to being elected Superintendent of Public Instruction, she served three terms in the Montana House of Representatives. McCulloch received her B.A. degree in Elementary Education from the University of Montana.

Tom Miller

Tom Miller is currently serving his seventh four-year term as Attorney General of Iowa. He served as a VISTA volunteer for two years and then as a legislative assistant to U.S. Representative John Culver (D-IA). Miller then served as legal education director for the Baltimore Legal Aid Bureau, before returning to Iowa to practice law. Miller graduated from Loras College and received his law degree from Harvard Law School.

Minyon Moore

Minyon Moore is head of the Dewey Square Group's state and local affairs and multicultural marketing practice areas. Prior to joining the Dewey Square Group, Moore was Chief Operating Officer of the Democratic National Committee. She served as Director of the White House Political Affairs and Assistant to President Bill Clinton. In 1984 and 1988, Moore was an advisor to the presidential campaign of Rev. Jesse Jackson. During the 1988 general election, she served as national deputy field director for Gov. Michael Dukakis. She serves as an At-Large member of the DNC. Moore received her B.S. degree from the University of Chicago.

Sunah Park

Sunah Park is a partner in the law firm of Thorp Reed & Armstrong, where her area of practice includes commercial litigation and product liability defense. She is currently serving her third term on the Pennsylvania House of Delegates, the primary policy-making authority of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Park received her B.A. degree from Brown University and her J.D. from Temple University School of Law.

David Plouffe

David Plouffe, a partner with AKPD Message and Media, was the campaign manager for Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign. Plouffe began his political career in Sen. Tom Harkin's 1990 re-election campaign and went on to work in numerous political campaigns. He served as campaign manager for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in 1995, was deputy chief of staff to Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt from 1997 to 1998, and was executive director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee from 1999 to 2000.

Rebecca Prozan

Rebecca Prozan is an Assistant District Attorney in San Francisco. Prior to being named Assistant District Attorney, she managed Kamala Harris's campaign for District Attorney. She worked for San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown for five years, where she served as the Mayor's LGBT liaison for two years. Prozan was a pledged Obama delegate from California to the 2008 National Convention, and previously served as Co-Chair of the California State Party's LGBT caucus. She received her law degree from Golden Gate University.

James Roosevelt, Jr.

Jim Roosevelt is President and CEO of Tufts Health Plan, a Massachusetts based HMO. Prior to joining Tufts Health Plan, Roosevelt was the Associate Commissioner for Retirement Policy of the Social Security Administration in the Clinton Administration and a partner in Choate, Hall & Stewart, specializing in health care law. Roosevelt is the chief legal counsel for the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Since 1995, he has served as Co-Chair of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee and has served as a DNC member since 1980. During the 2008 Democratic National Convention, Roosevelt served as Co-Chair of the Convention Credentials Committee.

Linda Sanchez

Linda Sanchez represents California's 39th district in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is the first Latina to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee, where she concentrates on pocketbook issues that affect working families. Sanchez was also the first Latina to serve on the House Judiciary Committee, where her work to bring oversight and transparency back to Congress has received national recognition. Sanchez received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and her law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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Randi Weingarten

Randi Weingarten is president of the American Federation of Teachers and has been president of the United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2, since 1998. Prior to her election as president of AFT, Weingarten led New York City's Municipal Labor Committee, an umbrella organization for the city's 100-plus public sector unions, for ten years. Weingarten holds degrees from Cornell University School of Industrial Relations and the Cardozo School of Law. Weingarten is an at-large member of the DNC.

Meredith Wood Smith

Meredith Wood Smith is chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon. Wood Smith has been a small business owner, president of a local business association and a sales representation for a national corporation. She received a B.A. degree from the University of Kentucky. After graduation, Wood Smith taught children with disabilities, served as a vocational counselor, taught delinquent and neglected adolescents and served as an "at-risk" youth advocate and community organizer for city, county and state government.

Martin Yeung

Martin Yeung is a business owner and entrepreneur who resides in Rapid City, South Dakota. He represented the state as a pledged Obama delegate during the 2008 National Convention. He worked as an assistant in the Office of Management and Budget during the Clinton Administration. After leaving the Clinton Administration, Yeung was on the staff of Rep. Joe Sestak (D-PA). Yeung is a member of Equality South Dakota.

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