



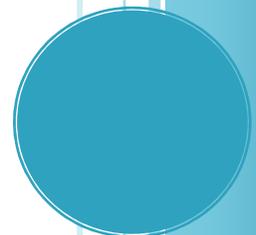
DNC YOUTH COORDINATING COUNCIL

2008 Plan

Increasing opportunities and improving participation of
young people at all levels of the Democratic Party.

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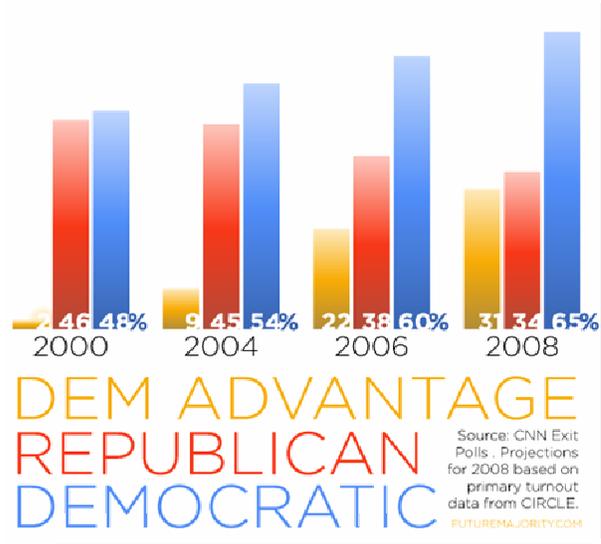


Overview

The Democratic National Committee’s Youth Coordinating Council (Youth Council) was formally constituted as a council of the DNC in December 2005. The goal of the Youth Council is to increase opportunities and improve participation by young people, under age 36, in the activities and structure at all levels of the Democratic Party.

Among the purpose and goals of the Youth Council, as established in the by-laws adopted February 2007, was to ensure that the Democratic Party maintains a majority of the youth vote which it currently holds with a wide margin.

Partisanship is habit forming; in fact if a person votes for a Party three times in a row, they are often a Party voter for life. If campaigns reach out to young voters today, they can win and build a base for the next couple of decades. This is critical since the Millennial generation will be 30% of the electorate by 2012 and are currently an impressive 25% and voting at record numbers for Democrats.



Goals of the Council also include increasing involvement of young people in the inner working of the DNC by electing more young DNC members and Convention Delegates. Lastly, we strive to get more young people placed on key DNC committees.

DNC Youth Council Goals

- 1) Ensure the Democratic Party maintains a majority of the youth vote.
- 2) Increase involvement of young people in the inner working of the DNC.
- 3) Get more young people placed on key DNC committees.



STRUCTURE OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL

The structure of the DNC Youth Council was defined in the by-laws of the Youth Coordinating Council that were approved by the Democratic National Committee and adopted by the Youth Coordinating Council at an organizational meeting in February 2007.

Council Structure

The Council is composed by all members of the Democratic National Committee under the age of 36. As the terms of DNC members fluctuate, the number of DNC members on the Council will change from year to year. In addition to these members, the Council is also composed of three at-large members from each of the DNC's four regions. The regions are the East, South, Midwest, and West. The at-large members submit applications and are elected to their position by all present Council members. These at-large members are not voting members of the DNC, but rather individuals who are youth leaders in their regions who will be able to connect young people to their State Party as well as the DNC.

An Executive Board made up a Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretary leads the Council. The new Chair, Jason Rae, is a DNC member from Wisconsin. The new Co-Chair is Jane Fleming Kleeb, an at-large Youth Council member from Nebraska. Jason and Jane will work together to actively promote the Youth Council and its activities. The position of Secretary is currently open and will be appointed by the Jason and Jane by mid-May.

Members of the Youth Council

DNC Members

Maria Chappelle-Nadal (Missouri)
 Francisco Domenech (YDA – Puerto Rico)
 Ed Espinoza (California)
 David Hardt (YDA, Texas)
 David Holmes (Texas)
 Steven Horsford (Nevada)
 Awais Khaleel (CDA, Wisconsin)
 Helen Langan (Utah)
 Jennifer McCellan (Virginia)
 Heather Mizeur (Maryland)
 Jason Rae (Wisconsin)
 Jeffrey Richardson (DC)
 Dan Slater (Colorado)
 Sam Spencer (Maine)
 Crystal Strait (YDA, California)
 Lauren Wolfe (CDA, Michigan)

At-Large Members

Kevin Bondelli (West)
 Mike Connery (East)
 Veronica De La Garza (South)
 Jane Fleming (Midwest)
 Amber Goodwin (South)
 Patrick Grayson (South)
 Rafael Noboa (West)
 Shaunica Pridgen (Midwest)
 Edgar Santana (East)
 Vanessa Sievers (East)
 Mandy Winton (Midwest)

A'shanti Gholar, Executive Assistant to the DNC Political Director, will serve as the DNC staff director to the Youth Council. She is the immediate liaison with the DNC and assists the Chair and Co-Chair as necessary.

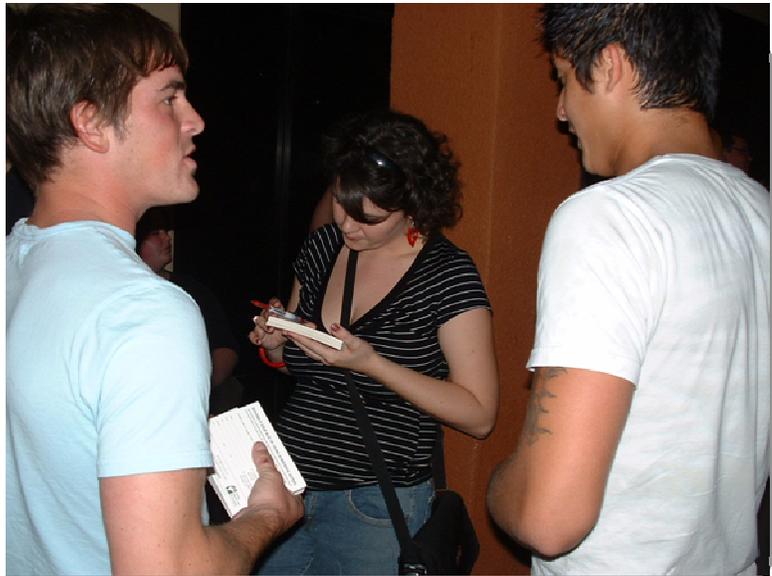
2008 Goals

The main focus for 2008 will be engaging young people in the 2008 election season—not in the traditional sense of getting more young people to vote—but rather ensuring young people are engaged inside the Democratic Party structure from the DNC all the way to local precincts.

One of the main goals of the Youth Council is to increase the number of delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Denver in August 2008. As such, this will be an important time to reach young people, those 36 and under, elected as a delegate to the National Convention and to continue to help young people get elected to their local and state conventions and then the National Convention.

In 2004, youth delegates (those identified as being under the age of 36) made up only about 13% of all delegates to the convention. Meanwhile, this group makes up a larger portion of the Democratic performance (some estimates are 23%) and thus should be equally represented at the convention. Our goal is for young people to be at least 15% of all delegates.

The DNC Rules & Bylaws Committee created a way for states to set goals for youth representation in their delegations. As such, the Council will work with the states by providing resources on how to involve youth in the delegate selection process.



One of the main methods to do this is by sponsoring trainings for youth to learn about the procedures for being elected. Because of the short time frame to implement this program, we will work with state parties to co-sponsor a conference call for all interested parties. The call will focus on training on the exact procedures, as well as work to inform young voters about other opportunities for involvement within the Democratic Party. This will be a benefit to both the state party and the DNC as a whole. These calls will be beneficial to building a network of youth activists contact information.

We will also work to provide trainings and other resources to young Democrats at the National Convention, including a possible training on how to run for office as a young person. We believe it is important to provide as many resources as possible to young people.



co-sponsor Watch Parties in Denver with Young Voter PAC and CDA.

2008 Goals

Increase the number of young people serving as Delegates to the National Convention to at least 15%.

Hold at least one training and three watch parties at the National Convention.

Hold at least one national GOTV day using the DNC's Neighborhood Program.

Assist the Party's nominee, with advice from the Youth Council members, with their youth voting plan.

Create a Youth Table at the DNC as a place for all youth voting groups to convene, share ideas and grow the youth voting movement.

Serve as a resource for media on Democratic youth's perspective on the Presidential campaign but also on issues and local races.

Assist the DNC in the creation of a Youth Voting Rights Institute.

Increase the amount of young people appointed to key committees by 15%.

The Democratic Party's Neighborhood Program will have a major impact on campaigns. We hope to recruit, train and mobilize youth to get involved in their communities by communicating with their neighbors in targeted precincts across the country through the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program.

We believe strongly that this program will change the way that activists and volunteers are used in the Democratic Party. It will allow us to scale personal voter contact efforts more effectively and efficiently than ever done before. This is an important method in getting young people trained and involved in the party structure. The Youth Council plans to hold at least one national GOTV day where we use the Neighborhood Program as the tool for young leaders to use in their community.

As we move toward the 2008 election, we will work with the eventual nominee to give advice on their youth voter outreach program. With the variety of expertise among council members, we will be able to provide vital resources and information and focus on connecting the campaign to key young people throughout the United States and US territories.

The Youth Council will establish a Youth Voting Table. The table is composed of all interested parties doing outreach to young people around voting, civic engagement, leadership and candidate outreach. The Table will meet monthly via conference call and will meet face-to-face at DNC meetings or other large Democratic gatherings.

The Youth Council will represent Democratic youth as a source in the media about the importance of youth in the general electorate.

Another main project of the Council will be to work with the DNC towards the establishment of a Youth Voting Rights Institute. Because many young voters are unaware of the law regarding registering to vote and many key districts will specifically target youth voters to suppress their vote, it is important to have legal resources available. The Council is prepared and willing to help the DNC in its development of this institute and serving as in-state resources.

As 2008 comes to a close, we will work within the organized DNC structure to ensure the new Chair's at-large appointments and appointments to DNC committees will include representation of those under 36 and will be an increase of at least 15% from the current numbers.



QUICK SNAPSHOT OF 2008-2009

Program/Task	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Develop Youth Voting Rights Institute	Orange												
Conduct Delegate Selection Trainings with State Parties	Blue												
Help Democratic Nominee with Youth Plan				Orange									
Implement Programs for National Convention					Blue								
Work with DNC to Develop Youth Outreach and GOTV Plans and Neighborhood Program							Orange						
Work with New DNC Chair to Increase Involvement of Youth										Blue			
Plan for 2009 and Beyond											Orange		
Hold Youth Table Meetings and Outreach to Press	Blue												