

State Committee Report

Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee

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New FDP State Chair

The State Executive Committee met on December 9, 2017, to elect a new State Party Chair -- Terrie Rizzo, the Chair of the Palm Beach Democratic Party.

Chair Rizzo is reviewing staffing at the State Party. She recently announced that Caroline Rowland has been hired as the Party's new communications director. Caroline is a former television journalist, who worked most recently at a news station in Orlando, and won an Emmy for coverage of President Barack Obama's 2008 election. In 2016, she helped elect Congresswoman Val Demings in the 10th CD.

Chair Rizzo is also putting together her appointments for FDP Standing Committees. On Wednesday, she announced her new Rules Committee appointments -- which includes the reappointment of Rick Boylan and the new appointment of Amos Miers. The Rules Committee will meet on February 3-4 at the Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace from 11 am to 6 pm. At that meeting, the committee will review the proposed new FDP Bylaws as prepared by the Charter & Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee (see below).

Charter & Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee Update

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee met January 6-7 to finalize a document to be presented to the FDP Rules Committee for review at its upcoming meeting. The committee agreed to combine the current FDP Charter and Bylaws into one "blended" version of State Party Bylaws. Here are some highlights of recommendations by the Ad Hoc Committee:

- Change the name of the State Executive Committee to the State Committee, eliminate the Central Committee, change the name of county DEC's to Democratic County Committee.
- Change the structure of the state committee currently based on allocating weighted votes to one man and one woman from each county to a structure that proportionately allocate members to counties based on the number of registered Democrats in the county. The proposed formula allocates the county chair and a minimum of one state committeeman and one state committeewoman to each county, with additional members to be allocated based on every 30,000 (or greater fraction thereof above the initial 30,000) registered Democrats in the county. Under this formula, 439 members (including county chairs) would represent the 67 counties. Pinellas would elect 17 state committee members and Hillsborough would elect 23. Broward and Miami-Dade would each elect 41 members. In counties with more than two state committee members, only one

state committeeman and one state committeewoman will be automatic members of the steering committee.

- Eliminate the Loyalty Oath and instead update the bylaws provision pertaining to the removal of members who support the election of a non-Democrat over a Democrat in any election other than judicial races.
- Eliminate the requirement for proxies to be witnessed or notarized, and allow proxies at the DEC level to be given to any other DEC member or to another Democrat from the same precinct, but allow a member to only carry one proxy.
- Change the quorum requirement for DEC meetings from 30% if the membership is over 300, or 40% if the membership is less than 300 to a flat 25% of the membership.
- Allow any Democrat to run for a state party officer position, as long as the person (1) is nominated by a DEC chair, vice chair or state committee member, or (2) submits a petition signed by at least 10% of the state committee members, or (3) has been a registered Florida Democrat for the last five years (except when not possible due to age) with a record of active support for the party.
- Add a Resolutions Committee as a regular standing committee of the state committee.

Clubs & Caucus Update

Congratulations to all of our Pinellas County Democratic Clubs and Caucus chapters! All were re-certified or newly certified in 2017! Relax, you don't have to do it again until 2019.