

PLATFORM COMMITTEE UPDATE: 1/22/2010

Note: Our next Meeting will be on Monday 2/8, 6:30 PM

Platform Committee Report: Monday, 1/25:

We should have the proposed platform up on the BCDP Website by 2/5, in time for the beginning of the precinct lit drop to begin. See attached platform "en toto" file with additional revisions made tonight.

Then we will do an e-blast to Dems and precinct leaders to further alert Dems to our upcoming community forum on 2/20, encourage community members to start thinking about and deliberating on the platform in their precincts and alert them to the resolution process.

We will consider revisions and resolutions for inclusion in the platform up till 2/23, which will then give us nearly a week to post the final pre-caucus platform proposal and official ballot by 3/2, so that the community has two weeks to review it before the caucuses.

New resolutions can then be submitted at the caucuses, but will have to achieve approval by a majority of caucuses voting on 3/16 in order to be included in the final pre-assembly caucus proposal. See resolution form.

Platform balloting will be held from 3/18-3/24 and results will determine our final pre-county assembly platform proposal that will be posted two weeks preceding the assembly.

Following and on the attached is the rundown on the forum and its schedule. If you all can print out the flyer and circulate to your networks or email it to them, that would be really helpful!!!!

February 20, 2010: Boulder County Democratic Party Communitywide Forum

Who's In Charge?

Duane Physics, G2B47, Colorado Ave., Across from Folsom Field, CU, Boulder
<http://www.colorado.edu/campusmap/map.html?bldg=DUAN>

Morning session:

9:30-10:30 AM: The Economy

10:40-11:30 AM: Health Care

11:40 AM-12:30 PM: Healthy Democracy

Afternoon Session

1:30-2:30 PM: Energy and the Environment

2:40-3:30 PM: Immigration & Foreign Nationals

3:40-4:30 PM: Education

Note: It always takes at least 10 minutes into an event to deal with intros and latecomers. So apologies to Economy and Energy, I think we will have to accept the fact that you will need to hold your presentations to 50 minutes as well, unless we want to be flexible with the ending time. We can talk about that at our next meeting.

To Do:

Issues teams need to finalize the list of panelists and get bios out to me by 2/5 for posting on the Website and use in press releases. Under consideration are:

- Energy: Mona Newton from the Governor's office; Will Toor, County Commissioner; Micah Parkin; Amy Guinan; Dane Cobble; Julie Zahniser
- Education: Great Ed CO; Francie from Impact; Lauie Albright

- Economy: Carmen Rhodes, Carol Hedges (Fiscal Policy Institute), Bob Hullinghorst
- Health Care: Howard Wolf, Pet Leibig, Dianne Primavera
- Immigration: Jared Polis, Bob Norris, Jorge Santiago
- Healthy Democracy (AKA Campaign Reform): Jim Hoffmeister, Shirley Gin (League of Women Voters), Ken Gordon

Contacting Panelists:

As per our discussion tonight, I am attaching the proposed platform, clearly still in draft form. You can use this, with apologies, in your outreach to perspective panelists.

Please set the tone of the discussion as the following:

- Why are these issues important and how can we best address them.
- How does each issue impact or is impacted by the issue of jobs and the economy
- What can panelists suggest voters do to more effectively help drive our legislative agenda so that we can achieve change we can believe in.

Getting the word out:

- Sally Martin and Linda Cornett will help with publicity.
- As stated above, it would be great if all committee members with activist group connections will also help get the word out about the forum and of course the platform process itself. Think League of Women Voters and Democratic Women of Boulder County and many, many other organizations you all are members of.
- Also, Joel will make sure an announcement goes out about the forum at the 2/15 Howard Dean fundraiser at the Spice of Life.

Platform Website background info:

Please each team send articles, slide shows (Clive), YouTube links and links to other Web resources to me by 2/5 so we can begin to post references on our Web page

For our next meeting on 2/8:

- Come prepared with any logistics concerns and ideas. We need volunteers from each issue team for:
- General meet and greet
- Manning the hall tables
- Passing out and collecting surveys
- Collating input for your issue, selection and basic editing of appropriate resolutions or suggested wording changes and then getting the info to Nancy Dowling by 2/25.

I want to thank you all so much. Everyone's help is so essential to this. A special note of thanks needs to go out to Nancy for continuing to host our meetings and to Jonathan for his efforts to take old 2008 resolutions and make them useable for this platform.

Rebecca

1/25 Meeting Prep

Background info: We will do three 50 minute -1 hr sessions in the morning and afternoon and allow for Q&A and info gathering all in one place, without doing breakouts. It will shorten our day and make logistic easier to follow. We can give each panel at least 30 minutes for presentation, allowing 20-30 minutes for Q&A on the spot and we can hand out individual surveys and resolution forms for each panel discussion and gather it from participants at the end.

- The morning session will go from 9:30-12:30 AM. I want to give a full hour to the economy and allow a 10 minute break before the healthcare forum, which can meet from 10:40-11:30 and then start the campaign reform panel at 10:40 and having it end the morning session at 12:30.
- The afternoon session will go from 1:30-4:30 PM. Again I want to give a full hour to energy/environment and allow a 10 minute break before beginning the Immigration panel at 2:40. It will end at 3:30 and we can then begin the education panel at 3:40 and end it at 4:30.

It would be great if each of you hosting an issue could begin the outreach to potential speakers and do as much as you can to secure their participation by this Monday, if at all possible. I think we want to have our panels arrive at least a half hour before their presentation to feel the pulse of the room and the panel discussions and also to make sure they get to us early enough to have some time to group with each other and their fellow panelists before their panel starts.

- The economy panel won't be arriving in the midst of another discussion, but still it would be great to have them all in by 9:00-9:15 AM at the latest and expect to stay through to 10:40.
- Optimally healthcare panelists should arrive at 10:00 AM and expect to stay till 11:40 AM.
- Campaign reform should arrive by 11:00 AM and expect to stay till 12:40 PM
- Again the environment will be the first panel in the afternoon and we will all want to have some lunch. So I am asking that these panelists arrive absolutely no later than 1:15 PM.
- Immigration can then arrive at 2:00 PM and expect to stay till 3:40 PM.
- Education can then come in at 3:00 and expect to stay till 4:40 PM

That leaves a couple of more things to consider ASAP:

- Who amongst you on each of the issues teams would like to perform the function of being your panel's MC?
- Who can greet the panelists and make sure they get to where they need to go and have their needs met?
- Who could man the table in the hall to answer your issue's related questions?
- Who can do the work of information gathering from the participants, collating and editing of additions and revisions to your issue's plank?

Also, given the events of this week, what should your panel's focus be?

- I would love every panel to relate their issue back in someway to the economy.
- But another theme that I would like all panels to address is the one of taking back our power, i.e., what resources do we have as citizens to achieve the change we seek--platform being a big one, but not the only one?
- This will also help us in plugging in other activist organizations as resources for concerned citizens. So think about the groups you know of or involved with and let them know about the event and our commitment to empowering the Democratic voter to achieve the changes we all are united on.

If you are serving actively on the platform committee at this time and cannot come this Monday, please let me know.

Rebecca

PLATFORM COMMITTEE UPDATE: 1/19/2010

I had not finished the below update when the results of the Massachusetts Senatorial race came in. It makes your heart sink. It's so ironic and frustrating to think that Mass voters could possibly think they are going to be helping the situation any by putting back into office the kind of people who caused our current problems in the first place.

However, I think it also may provide the stimulus to really work harder at defining core Democratic values and key policy recommendations, so that Democratic voters and the elected officials are all on the same page and that is what we are about. I have been pleased to hear more and more people call for our elected officials to represent the Democratic Party Platform. The stronger our voice as Democratic voters, the more elected officials will reflect our will. But there in lies the hitch: we have to stay involved and be patient with the imperfect while that voice builds to an unmistakable roar.

UPDATE

We had a great meeting Monday, 1/4, at Nancy's house, making progress both on platform issues wording and on planning for the forum. The following is an update on platform committee developments coming from the 1/4 meeting and other discussions:

Platform Revisions

We worked through most of the planks and updated them further. **Two planks need another look and I am requesting that any last changes come in by Sunday.**

- One is the **campaign and elections reform plank**. Jonathan and Angie are trying to get to this, but if anyone wants to review the attachment for that plank and send in suggestions, please do so. Otherwise it will stay as it is.
- The other is the **conservation and energy plank**. Julie Stone has been diligent in working her way through this plank. However, it is such an important plank, I would like to give you all a chance to look through it one more time.

Susan Boucher has wondrously offered to help with editing all planks and Nancy Dowling wondrously will be taking the finished planks and putting them into a survey form. We need to get these off to Susan for editing ASAP and then back to Nancy, so we can get **all planks ready for posting by early February**.

Online Voting

Jonathan Singer is looking into security issues for such a public balloting as we plan to hold. We are setting it up so that people will be able to go online several times over the one week period we are allowing for the vote. This way they can take their time completing and feel free to search on line for background info, etc.

Thinking about **background information**, we will have a section on our Web page for links to articles, etc. on re different complex issues. Please begin to collect background information relevant to the issues that concern you and feel free to submit a position statement. Please ensure:

1. It is based on fact and supporting facts are referenced, preferably with links
2. It explicates the platform language and positions
3. It is presented as an effort to help folks understand the vision and values from which the platform language and positions are derived

Communitywide Forum

Here is the rundown on our forum plans to date:

Sat Feb 20 at CU, Duane Physics G2B47

- Session 1: 9 am to 12:30 - Economic Prosperity, Health Care, Campaign Reform
- Session 2: 1:30 to 5 - Energy & the Environment, Immigration, Education

Each session will entail 2 1/2 hours of panel discussions, covering three planks in each, followed by 1 hour of breakout time with panelists and participants in dialogue to consider revisions and new resolutions. Note we will not be focusing on Foreign Policy or Civil Liberties, though we will want to have surveys for each there for those who would like to offer input.

Panels:

I would like to suggest that we let the Economy Panel take the lead for the morning and the day with a full 45 minute panel presentation, followed by 15 minutes of Q&A. It would be great if all the remaining panels had at least some focus on the impact of their issue on the economy and vice versa.

Healthcare and Campaign Reform can follow with two 20 minute panels, allowing for a break and 15 minutes @ of Q&A time.

We can follow the same arrangement in the afternoon, giving the lead time to Energy/Environment

Panelists:

Below is the rundown of issues hosts for the specific panels and names of perspective panelists, suggested at our last meeting. We are going to want 2-3 panelists for each issue and have a host team member act as their issue's MC.

This is the area where the most work needs to be done and it would be great to have each host team be close to determining their panelists by our meeting this next Monday. When you invite panelists, ask them to stick around for the entire morning or afternoon section, if at all possible, so that they can be available for the breakout sessions at the end.

Issue:	Hosts	Suggested Panelists
Economy	Clive Jones, Jonathan Singer	Bob Hunninghorst, Carol Hedges, Rollie Heath, Todd Solomon
Healthcare	Brenda VonStar, Lyn Gullette	
Campaign Ref.	Jonathan Singer, Angie Layton	Ken Gordon, Jim Hoffmiester
Energy/Enviro	Julie Stone, Angie Layton, Alison Burchell	
Immigration	Nino Gallo and team	
Education	Angie Layton	

Marketing:

- **Lit Drop and other Dems resources:** Postcards will be going out to all Dems, via mail and by foot, by mid-February. This is fantastic. Other Dem channels will include an e-blast to precinct leaders and one to the general Dems list. Also we should get an announcement out about the general platform process and the forum to the Democratic Women's group.
- Sally Martin and Linda Cornett have wondrously stepped forward to help with publicity
- Host groups are encouraged to network amongst activist groups concerned with your respective issues.

Thanks one and all!
Rebecca

PLATFORM COMMITTEE UPDATE, 1/31/2009:

I think we can accomplish our platform agenda with some success in the coming months:

- We will have the opportunity to broadcast our platform calendar and agenda through various venues this next month and February.
- We will be contacting all precinct leaders and the Dems e-list as soon as we have our 2010 proposed platform and other information up on the BCDP website.
- This will also serve to alert PLs and e-list readers to our upcoming community forum on 2/20, encourage community members to start thinking about and deliberating on the platform and alert them to the resolution process.
- Sally Martin and committee members with activist group connections will also help get the word out about the forum and of course the platform process itself.
- We will consider revisions and resolutions for inclusion in the platform up till 2/24, which will then give us nearly a week to post the final pre-caucus platform proposal by 3/2, so that the community has two weeks to review it before the caucuses.
- New resolutions can then be submitted at the caucuses, but will have to achieve approval by a majority of caucuses voting on 3/16 in order to be included in the final pre-assembly caucus proposal.
- Platform balloting will be held from 3/17-3/24 and results will determine our final pre-county assembly platform proposal that will be posted two weeks preceding the assembly.

NEXT: Platform meeting this Monday, 1/4

AGENDA:

- **6:15-7:30 PM:** Review/revise issues planks and suggested revisions. **HOMEWORK: Please review attached planks and bring in writing any changes you would yet suggest.** It will make things go much more quickly. Please note that the campaign and media reform plank has not been reviewed to date. Jonathan is working on it, but it would be great to have all of you check that over and bring any revisions with you.
- **7:30-8:30 PM: Forum Planning. Very important!** To be determined: Schedule; agenda; speakers; format; community outreach.

Many good wishes for the year ahead!

Rebecca

303-444-9537

PLATFORM COMMITTEE UPDATE, 12/19/2009

Over the past week, we have had some carefully considered critiques of two of our platform issues' statements, both having to do with the rights or lack of same of those who have entered this country illegally. This issue is one that calls for honest reflection, a willingness to walk in another's shoes with humility and respect and a recognition that there are some things for which there may be no easy answers and certainly not ones that can be offered by any one community, state, or even nation.

There were such times during the last election cycle when we found it necessary to go back to our core Democratic Party values to find direction. The last sentence of our preamble, as revised so effectively by Susan Boucher this past week, may be worthy of looking at again:

... We are mindful of the blessings of democracy as well as our consequent obligation to contribute toward international cooperation, peace, and prosperity - not only for ourselves, but for all.

Also helpful may be these words from President Obama in his speech, accepting the Nobel Peace Prize:

...For true peace is not just freedom from fear, but freedom from want.

It is undoubtedly true that development rarely takes root without security; it is also true that security does not exist where human beings do not have access to enough food, or clean water, or the medicine and shelter they need to survive. It does not exist where children can't aspire to a decent education or a job that supports a family. The absence of hope can rot a society from within....

These are things to keep in mind as we ponder the issue of just whether or not we offer humane assistance to those who have entered this nation in whatever manner and, if so, how much.

Knowing that we are likely to come across a number of suggested revisions and resolutions that may conflict with our 2008 Platform and draft 2010 Platform, I am suggesting the following guidelines:

- Due to the numbers of registered Democratic voters who voted on the Platform ballot of 2008 (over 700), the 2008 Platform will hold precedence in any major qualitative dispute on any issue as we develop our 2010 Platform, unless a majority of Platform Committee members vote for its revision.
- Also of weight will be the perspective of any issue team as they have worked to revise or update an issue for the 2010 Platform.
- Any simple wording revision that preserves or strengthens the meaning or intent of either the 2008 Platform or the revised issues statements, such as the following one submitted this week, will be accepted and incorporated, if clearly an improvement, e.g.:
- *We affirm that women and men have the right to affordable, accessible birth control methods without government **or outside** interference.*
- Any suggested revision or resolution that is respectfully submitted by a registered Democratic voter, but is clearly in conflict with the spirit of the 2008 Platform or the revisions put forth by any issues team in preparation for the 2010 platform, will be respectfully distributed amongst our committee for review.
- The effected issues team, or any other Platform Committee member serving on behalf of the concerned issue, will be given opportunity to present a position paper and/or any other relevant background information in response, which will then be submitted to Joel Davidow for review.
- A link to said response will then be posted on the BCDP Website Platform page, provided the following criteria are met:
 - It is based on fact and supporting facts are referenced, preferably with links
 - It explicates the platform language and positions
 - It is presented as an effort to help folks understand the vision and values from which the platform language and positions are derived

- Any suggested revisions or resolutions received by 12/23, in conflict with either the 2008 Platform or 2010 draft Platform, will be brought before the Platform Committee at our next meeting on 1/4, for inclusion or rejection in our draft 2010 Platform.
- The Committee will again review revisions and resolutions that are submitted up to and for a few days after our communitywide forum on 2/20, in preparation for our final 2010 Platform Proposal and Platform Ballot, to be posted by 3/2/2010

Enjoy some food for thought as well as holiday refreshments!

Rebecca

PLATFORM COMMITTEE UPDATE, 12/5/2009

Update from 11/24/09 Platform Meeting

Issue revision:

At our meeting, we explored several of the issues, including: healthcare; the economy; immigration; conservation, energy and the environment.

- Suggested revisions were made to each issue discussed, but it was clear that more work needed to be done.
- The decision was made at the time to have each of those present continue working on their preferred issue until 12/7 (because this is so late, we may need to stretch it to 12/10). Everyone was also encouraged to reach out to experts in the field and other activists for input.
- Next step is then be to get revised issues statements out to all on the committee for further editing.
- **All committee members will then have till 12/14 to submit any additional revisions to Nancy Dowling** (I think we can still keep with this date).
- Nancy will then compile a revised platform statement or first draft of our 2010 platform proposal by 12/30.
- **We will then have our next meeting on Monday, 1/4 at 6:00 PM**, at Nancy's in Lafayette.

Those attending included:

Clive Jones: Economy
Jonathan Singer: Economy
Lynn Gullette: Healthcare
Julie Stone: Energy/Conservation
Nino Gallo: Immigration
Ivan Meek: Campaign Reform

Platform committee members expressing interest in the above issues, but not in attendance:

Alison Burchell: Energy/Conservation
Terry Greenberg: Healthcare
Sandy Szewczyk: Healthcare
Kelli Willis: Healthcare

Issues without representation at the meeting, but with previous commitment from members, include:

Education

Angie Layton:
Sandy Szewczyk:

Civil Liberties

Rachel Dane:
Kelli Willis:

I will attach here the entire 2008 platform and also send separately the 2008 platform statement for each issue to members of each issues team, asking you all to confer with each other and submit your revisions to me by 12/10.

- Please edit out outdated recommendations, change those that need updating and identify new ones that are in need of inclusion.
- **Include only core values and key policy recommendations.** This is not for everything and the kitchen sink. People should not find it overwhelming. Keep to brief, declarative sentences.
- Compile a glossary and background information, if helpful.
- **I would appreciate it if one member of each team would do the work of synthesizing the revisions into one issue statement!**

- I will then send out the revised issues statements to the general committee for review and ask that you all get any further revisions back to Nancy by 12/15.

Next:

On/off-line community outreach—Precinct leaders and general Dems e-blast:

Clive Jones suggested that we reach out to the precinct leaders ASAP to involve them in this process. After some consideration and with agreement from Candace Bowman in Field and depending on some remaining details, we are making arrangements to do PL outreach in January and, soon after, a general Dems e-blast as well. Preparation for this includes :

- Confirming if and when there will be a pre-caucus precinct lit drop, which will help to determine both the communitywide forum date and the timing of our first contact with the PLs (I will be meeting with Candace Bowman, before the exec meeting this Wednesday, about this and other Platform/Field collaboration)
- Determining our Communitywide Forum date and format and other calendar and procedural details at our 1/4 platform meeting.
- Posting on the BCDP Webs site an intro to the mission of the BCDP platform process, the remaining calendar of platform related events and our procedural guidelines for further input and revisions in early January.
- Posting on the site the first draft of the 2010 proposed platform and ballot.
- Posting a resolution form for the submission of revisions or additions to the platform.
- Posting a glossary and other background information for each of the platform issues, as needed.
- inviting people to participate in a trial run of the caucus ballot process—up to a week past our communitywide forum—to gather additional feedback. Results from this trial-run and feedback from the forum, will lead to further revisions of the proposed platform and ballot, that will be posted in its final form two weeks preceding caucuses.
- Reaching out to the precinct leaders to inform them about all of the above—including the lit drop, if it is to take place—and encouraging them to reach out to their neighbors, consider holding community deliberations and inviting them to go to the website, where they and their neighbors can offer input and learn of the remaining platform timeline, etc.
- Contacting BCDP Dems directly via an e-blast to encourage them to participate in all of the above.

This feels doable and will serve to help accomplish our goal of having as much community participation as possible, including ample opportunity to reach out to activists for input and resolution submission, which will help cut down the last minute insanity that can come with the platform.

Thanks, everyone, for pitching in!
Rebecca

PLATFORM COMMITTEE UPDATE, 11/16/2009

Update from our Platform Committee meeting after the Executive Committee meeting this past week. We had a pretty good turn out. Thank you all who could for coming.

Our strategy was to consider what we could realistically achieve, between now and the caucuses, to meet our goals for expanding community involvement and deliberation on the platform. Two possible scenarios were offered: one delineating the maximum we could do; the other the minimum.

We did not reach a final conclusion, because certain information still needs to be determined (can we manage to put together a blog and will we hold a communitywide forum in January or February), but it looks as if there was enough momentum to at least work towards most of the more inclusive agenda and at least put together a communitywide forum in late January or February (depending on when the Field team will be doing lit drop).

Step One—Define/refine the Issues: It was agreed that **the most effective way we can move ahead is to have issues teams review issues surveys/ballots** (see attached), **compare them with the 2008 platform** (also attached), **then:**

- Check to see what is old and should be **eliminated**
- Determine what should be **updated** or revised in anyway; what needs further clarification or elaboration (keep it simple--we are trying to make this accessible for the general public)
- Determine what is missing and needs to now be **included**. Again keep it simple, just a leading phrase. More can be added, for explication purposes only, when we post the final platform proposal for review before the caucuses.
- **Anticipate any emerging concerns** that activists are expressing regarding your selected issue. That will help cut down last minute resolutions. *

Note: Nancy Dowling will then take this information and format both the first draft of the proposed 2010 Platform and the abridged platform ballot. Nancy will not decide whether issues, should, or should not be included in the Platform, but rather will decide whether the questionnaire/ballot issue statements match the proposed platform and if they are:

1. Unbiased
2. Singularly focused
3. Unambiguous
4. Easily understood by potential respondents (understandable by the least educated/informed potential respondent) and whether they
5. Lend themselves to statistical analysis and
6. Cover all topics under consideration for the platform

Also Note: We are identifying core Democratic values and key/basic policy recommendations only.

This is not about everything and the kitchen sink. Otherwise it will turn off many voters who are just too busy for such a survey and skew the platform towards policy wonks, leaving the general Democratic voice unheard.

Step Two: After the issues are defined, then the issues teams will (note "?????" and underlining indicate areas we are not sure we will do as yet)::

- Recruit community leaders, activists, legislators to lead forum and blog (?????) discussions. *
- Network with aligned groups to get them involved with the blog (?????) or to co-sponsor our January/February communitywide forum. *
- Oversee the blog (?????) discussion for your issue and track and post relevant legislative news
- Bring panel together and help frame the issue for discussion at the January forum and February wrap up forum/s(?????)
- Begin preparations for our communitywide forum and any wrap up forums (think marketing!).
- Track input for your issue from blog (?????)and communitywide forum or wrap up forums(?????)

* **Note:** By reaching out to activists, unions, etc., to involve them in the platform process (forum, wrap up, blog?????), we are also helping to reduce or eliminate any last minute resolution submissions.