



Progressive Democrats of Benicia
Endorsement Committee
April 26, 2018

Research – KEVIN DE LEÓN for U. S. Senate, June 5, 2018 Primary

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ENDORSE KEVIN DE LEÓN

- A. Candidate name:
Kevin de León, current state Senator, 24th District (Downtown and East Los Angeles).
- B. Relevance of office/ballot measure to Benicia/Solano County.
- As U. S. Senator, appointment to committees provides ability to address issues of interest and concern to Californians, as well as support allocation of federal revenues to California to support state initiatives and goals.
 - His opponent, for example, sits on committees addressing issues on immigration, border security, energy, water, the FDA, and science.
- C. Description of candidate's past and present positions and voting record on progressive issues, or the impact of the ballot measure, if passed, on progressive policies and programs.
- Takes credit for crafting the bipartisan deal in 2018 to extend California's cap-and-trade program with \$1 billion of the generated revenue directed at diesel pollution and bolster electrification of transportation and vehicles.
 - Takes credit for shepherding SB 1 into law in 2018, authorizing a \$5.4 billion a year investment in road, freeway, bridge and transit projects over the next decade.
 - Sponsored SB 54, the California Values Act (a/k/a California Sanctuary bill) which prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies, including school police and security departments, from using resources to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest people for immigration enforcement purposes.
 - Planned Parenthood: 100% voting record. During 2018 budget negotiations, secured \$50 million from Proposition 56 tobacco tax revenue to support Planned Parenthood's advocacy for an increase in higher Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for reproductive health care.
 - In 2014, sponsored SB 967 to prevent sexual assault on college campuses, and was first such law in the U. S. to require affirmative consent.
 - In 2016, led \$15 minimum wage legislation through Senate and Assembly to the Governor's desk for signature.
 - Sponsored SB 1275 (2014), which created a rebate initiative to make electric cars more accessible to working families with the goal of placing one million low-emission vehicles on the road.
 - In 2012, he co-chaired the successful Proposition 39 campaign closing a corporate-tax loophole and creating a \$2.5 billion revenue fund for energy-efficiency upgrades in schools.

D. Description of the candidate’s sponsors and opponents, sources of financial support, and volunteers’ network.

- **Financial support:** Cash-on-hand through March 31, 2018 - \$672,330. (Federal Election Commission).
- **Major sources of contributions:** For his past four races – from Labor, Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Health, Communications/Electronics, and Energy. During his Senate terms, he has sat on committees responsible for issues affecting the business of some of these sources.

During his comments at the PDB April 10 meeting, de León stated he didn’t accept corporate contributions. According to the Green Party candidate in this race, de León has a long history of accepting corporate contributions.

- **Endorsements:**
 - U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.)
 - Labor organizations, including: California Nurses Association, California Service Employees International Union, and the California Labor Federation, which has 2.1 million members, citing de León's position “on good jobs, climate change, \$15 minimum wage, protecting immigrant workers and supporting the right to stand together in a union.”
 - Tom Steyer: "I think he’s the kind of young progressive that reflects California and would be a very strong advocate for our state nationally."

E. Description of how candidate or ballot measure supports PDB Core Principles.

- De León’s legislative experience shows a strong commitment to inclusion and tolerance, social justice, and the environment (though, approval of cap-and-trade extension cost the Bay Area an opportunity for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from refineries).
- De León is also a strong advocate of public education and teachers. Prior to his time in the Legislature, he worked for the National Education and the California Teachers Association.

F. Recommendation and brief statement.

His history as a state Senator demonstrates a strong commitment to progressive issues like inclusion and tolerance, social justice, the environment, and public education. He supports a single payer health program for California absent a national plan. His main impediments to unseating Sen. Feinstein appear to be twofold: name recognition beyond Sacramento and his home district in Los Angeles, and money. Tom Steyer’s endorsement may mean much needed financial support as well; with money, name recognition largely takes care of itself. He should be endorsed for U. S. Senator.

Ralph Dennis

April 26, 2018

Signed: _____ Date: _____



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Research – DIANNE FEINSTEIN for U. S. Senate, June 5, 2018 Primary

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE

- A. Candidate name: **Dianne Feinstein**, current U. S. Senator.
- B. Relevance of office to Benicia/Solano County.
- As U. S. Senator, appointment to committees provides ability to address issues of interest and concern to Californians, as well as support allocation of federal revenues to California to support state initiatives and goals. Her current committee assignments and their focus:
 - Senate Judiciary Committee (ranking member), including Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security.
 - Senate Appropriations Committee, including Subcommittees on Energy and Water (Vice-Chair), Agriculture and Rural Development, and the FDA.
 - Senate Committee on Commerce and Science.
 - Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.
- C. Description of candidate's past and present positions and voting record on progressive issues, or the impact of the ballot measure, if passed, on progressive policies and programs.
- In 2015-2016, bill passed to provide \$558 million in long-term authorizations to California for building new water infrastructure, including desalination, recycling, and storage projects.
 - In 2015-2016, with California Sen. Boxer passed the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, authorizing \$415 million to carry on the work from an earlier bill, including lake-wide aquatic invasive species control, storm water management and watershed restoration projects, environmental restoration projects, and fire risk reduction and forest management programs.
 - In 2015, authored a provision which became law that bans torture of detainees in U.S. custody.
 - Authored a number of provisions to reform K-12 education, which became law in 2015 with passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act:
 - To expand charter schools and provide continued support for existing high-quality charter schools.
 - Allow schools to use Title II funds to provide training to school personnel on preventing and detecting sexual abuse.
 - Protect funding for large school districts such as San Diego that serve military-connected children.
 - An exemption to allow two California schools for homeless children, San Diego's Monarch School and Stockton's Transitional Learning Center, to continue to operate and receive federal funds.

- Make it easier for homeless students to access federal housing assistance programs by allowing appropriate school faculty to certify they are homeless and eligible for assistance.
- Allow schools to use federal funds to support English learners by providing interpreters, translators, and materials in students' native language.
- In 2015, proposed provisions became law which are meant to strengthen the security of the Visa Waiver program, which allows individuals from 38 countries to travel to the United States without a visa. These provisions require individuals who have traveled to high-risk countries, including Syria and Iraq, to go through the traditional visa process rather than the visa waiver process.
- Key supporter for the nuclear agreement between Iran and other countries and helped defeat a resolution in September 2015 designed to undermine the agreement.
- Rail safety:
 - In 2016, directed \$50 million in the 2016 omnibus spending bill for rail safety.
 - In 2015, secured \$199 million for commuter rail safety in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act.
 - Successfully negotiated provisions in the extension of the Highway Trust Fund in 2015 to ensure rapid implementation of Positive Train Control, a technology that can prevent rail accidents.

D. Description of the candidate's sponsors and opponents, sources of financial support, and volunteers' network.

- **Financial support:** Cash-on-hand through March 31, 2018 - \$10,352,000 (Federal Election Commission). Four top contributors (other than candidate): EMILY's List, Edison International, Pisces Inc., and PG&E Corp.
- **Major sources of contributions:** For her past two races – the candidate, Emily's List, PG&E, Edison International, and Pisces, Inc., women's issues, health care/pharmaceuticals, lobbyists, and lawyers/law firms.
- **Endorsements:**
 - Most Democratic members of California's Congressional delegation, including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Kamala Harris.
 - Most current California Democratic office holders, including Gov. Brown: "More than ever, we need Dianne Feinstein's steady leadership...she's exactly the right person to ensure that [President] Trump is held accountable."
 - Former Vice President Joe Biden, saying that as Senator he admired her hard work, preparation, and effective advocacy for California and the progressive values they share.
 - Former U. S. Senator Barbara Boxer.
 - Equality California: "Senator Feinstein stood with our community back when few others did; she fought for funding to combat the AIDS crisis when many elected officials looked away; and there's no doubt that she will continue to serve as the fighter California's LGBTQ community needs in Washington during these trying times."

