

Leone, Frank

From: Tom Perez <PerezT@dnc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:05 PM
To: Leone, Frank
Subject: Today's Rules & Bylaws Committee Meeting

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

Dear Fellow DNC Member,

Over the past few months, the COVID-19 pandemic has plunged our nation and the world into crisis. The latest jobs report, which came out on Friday, showed the national unemployment rate tripling to over 14%, and it's even higher in communities of color. Hispanic unemployment is now at a record high of 18.9% under Donald Trump, compared to 5.9% when President Obama left office after overseeing one of the largest declines ever in Hispanic unemployment. A recent poll showed that Hispanics are almost twice as likely as white Americans to have been laid off since the start of this crisis. In fact, Hispanic men have been harder hit than any other group by the economic fallout of this pandemic.

Meanwhile, African American unemployment has skyrocketed to 16.7%, more than double what it was when President Obama left office in January 2017. So while President Obama helped bring African American unemployment down from 16% during the Great Recession, it's now back up to 16% under Donald Trump.

But make no mistake: This was not inevitable. The only thing more staggering than these numbers is the incompetence that caused them. Donald Trump was warned months ago about the virus, but he failed to take action, and even said it would miraculously disappear by April. His failure of leadership has cost people their jobs, their savings, and their lives. The United States accounts for about 5% of the world's population but roughly 33% of the world's confirmed COVID-19 cases and more than 25% of its confirmed deaths. This is a disaster of historic proportions and Donald Trump is at the center. He's been chronically incompetent throughout

That's why at our convention this summer, we're going to officially nominate Joe Biden as the Democratic Party's candidate for president. And we are going to make history when we send

him and the first-ever female vice president to the White House in November.

While we are working to plan a successful convention in Milwaukee the week of August 17th, our Rules and Bylaws Committee unanimously passed a resolution today that gives our convention team the maximum flexibility they need during a truly unprecedented moment in our history. It is my expectation and hope that we will have an exciting, inspiring convention in August in Milwaukee. Does this mean that a precise format has been decided? No. This will give the convention team the tools necessary to adapt and plan in order to ensure that every delegate is able to accomplish their official business without putting their own health at risk – whether that be participating in person or by other means to allow for social distancing.

That's the job of good leaders – to adapt to changing situations and prepare for everything. And that's exactly what our Rules and Bylaws Committee did today. And you will hear from Secretary Rae in the coming days with further information on the resolution and voting procedures in order for it to be considered and adopted by the entire DNC.

Contingency planning is an important feature of preparations for every convention, and the DNCC is composed of seasoned convention and event veterans who have been planning for a variety of scenarios from day one. I also want to praise our partners in Milwaukee and Wisconsin who have shown such tremendous leadership during these extraordinary circumstances.

We remain focused on planning a successful Democratic convention, and we are in constant communication with the federal, state and local health officials, and will continue to follow their guidance.

At the end of the day, our number one priority is the health and safety of the American people. Unlike our Republican counterparts, we will not have our public health heads in the sand.

This stands in stark contrast to how the RNC is handling its convention. Donald Trump and Ronna McDaniel repeatedly downplayed the severity of this crisis and scoffed at making changes to their convention. They're eager to advocate for federally funded Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for their convention-goers while dismissing the thousands of nurses and doctors at hospitals across the country who have faced significant shortages of PPE. That's some serious chutzpah.

We're seeing the same selfishness in the White House. Trump has failed to provide adequate testing for the American people. Just this weekend, he said he didn't even agree with the "whole concept of virus testing." And yet, he and Mike Pence are getting tested every day. Now that the virus is spreading among White House officials, they've decided to take precautions – but only

for themselves. That's not leadership, that's cruelty, incompetence, and cowardice. Finally, the RBC took up waivers submitted by five state parties who had to move their primaries because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The DNC has been working day and night with every state party to ensure that we are providing them with maximum flexibility when it comes to their delegate selection plans. And as we head into November, we will work with states and bring litigation wherever necessary to ensure that every eligible voter can make their voice heard through options like vote by mail and other reforms, because we simply can't let our democracy come to a halt.

The work the RBC did today is critically important to our party's success. I'm so grateful to them and you for moving our party forward, and to our entire DNC staff for working tirelessly during this pandemic to ensure Democrats win this November.

Best,

Tom



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