

DEMOCRATIC

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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Polly Baca
Vice Chair

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TO: DNC Members, Democratic Friends and Colleagues

FROM: State Senator Polly Baca *Polly*
DNC Vice Chair

RE: Vice Chair's Report

Moving to the close of this DNC administration, and as we plan for the months and years ahead, I would like to highlight some of our major accomplishments over the last four years.

We can be proud of our work together during this time. Building from within we have strengthened our national Party, built stronger state organizations, solidified our financial base, developed greater relationships with our Democratic elected officials, expanded our communications and campaign services, and maintained the great principles of our Democratic Party.

Among many areas of responsibility, I have worked closely with fellow elected officials, Democratic women's groups, and have been the officer in charge of Hispanic Affairs, as well as the officer to convene the first official Native American Delegates Caucus at a national convention. My role as Vice Chair took me across the country on close to 400 speaking engagements for our Party and our candidates.

I was proud to chair the Rule 19C Subcommittee that brought to successful resolution the delegate selection challenges in Iowa and New Hampshire. And it was with great pride that I co-chaired our magnificent convention last July.

Looking back briefly over the past four years, in June 1981, my home state of Colorado was honored to host the first meeting of the full DNC in the West in two decades. That was the year we so proudly joined those working diligently for the extension of the Voting Rights Act over the efforts of President Reagan to stall and weaken its provisions. Also that year, we initiated the first full-scale series of annual fund-raising activities with the Hispanic community which continue to this day.

In 1982 we were called upon again to take on a Reagan-appointed U.S. Attorney who had launched a secret probe of U.S. citizens requesting bilingual ballots; and, with the support of our DNC Executive Committee,

we voiced the strongest opposition to the harrassment of Hispanic citizens and workers by Reagan's INS officials during its "Operation Jobs" program. On the bright side, we conducted a positive, fruitful, fully inclusive midterm conference; and won record gains in the Congress and statehouses across the nation, increasing the Hispanic Democratic votes in Congress by 100 percent. At our Midterm conference I convened a Frost Belt/Sun Belt Roundtable among elected officials and Party workers representing both areas to begin assessing the population shift and other factors that are changing our political landscape. It is critical that we continue this process.

1983 was the year that Chairman Chuck Manatt and I announced the creation of the DNC Hispanic Campaign Fund which this year contributed to 40 Hispanic candidates running at the local, state, or federal level. It was through the generosity of many of you that those contributions were made possible. Also that year, Colorado's "mile high city" elected a bright young Hispanic mayor out of an electorate that is only 18 percent Hispanic. We hosted a meeting of Democratic women state legislators and convened our second meeting of Democratic Hispanic state legislators in San Antonio, Texas.

Bringing to a close the present year, I think we all can agree we've never worked harder. Persons involved in our national convention were the most informed, most called-upon Democrats in our Party's history. In the Hispanic Division we culminated a three-year process of computerizing, for direct mail purposes, a list of 5,000 Democratic Hispanic activists--elected officials, Party workers, convention delegates, businessmen and women, contributors, and media. These lists, each separately identifiable, were used to distribute convention information and for our November elections. In those elections Democrats held our own or made gains in local, state, and congressional races across the country. It is that successful, proven base that we will use to win back the White House in 1988.

Thank you for this opportunity to work closely with you. Together, we have begun to develop a vision for America-- one that is not accepting of the status quo, that demands the best that we have to offer, so that we can become the best that we can be-- as a nation, as a people, as a Party.