

## CoCo Teleconference March 15, 2020

Called to order at 2:05 pm. Josh, Chris, Marielle, Adam, Carter, Cindy, Ken, Nick, Tim, Zac, Anthony, Traven, Robert, Tanya.

1) Nick talked about Socialist Alternative and beginning to organize a third party nationally. He's been talking to other state parties about coordinating especially Seattle Councilperson Kshama Sawant. Anthony suggested involving the Burlington Progs. Josh suggested a tie in with fund raising. The exchange would be good for party building for both groups. Seattle beginning to look like what is going on in Burlington. Nick would like a congratulatory statement by the Party for her reelection and start a more direct party to party contact.

2) Town Meeting Day Round Up. Burlington went really well, went 5 of 6 and 3 for 4 of the high priority races. Highest turnout in the last decade at least. Average age on the council is lower and been unseating incumbents, we are beating Democrats as straight P's, possibly a gateway into unseating the mayor. 6 Progs, 1 Ind and 5 Dems, we have the majority. Josh thinks it may be time for a more developed primary process. Nick got reelected in Thetford and is now the SB chair, progressives swept the seats and the progressive articles on the ballot, agenda for housing and climate moving forward.

3) There was an attempt to weaken the corporate contribution ban, there was an attempt to strip parties out of the ban by the committee chair, the Senate has passed the stronger version, if the amendment fails on the House floor it can't be brought back up in Conference, Dems public position is that they don't have a position, privately they are trying to water it down or defeat it. The process for re-districting has begun, structure is being put together. Ethics Commission bill would have them comeback with a statutory en-forcible ethics code. There is concern about how the virus will impact the coming election, candidates will not have to circulate petitions this year, possibility of more mail in ballots. Discussion about the petition issue, maybe online? Broad support for mail in ballots by the CoCo. Anthony reports that the Green New Deal in spite of having 14 cosponsors can't get a committee hearing.

4) Covid-19 response, AFL-CIO has put out a long piece urging contact with legislators and administration about mitigating the economic burden on working class people in terms of medical care and income losses. It is becoming clear that things will get worse as we slide into recession and the Governor is not prepared to address this. Zac reported that they are working through the unemployment system to make funds available while not penalizing employers who need to lay off workers, banks report they have a lot of liquidity and urge people who run into problems that forbearance will be available. House has been working up measures to expand the healthcare workforce. Josh says we have been asked to make a press statement and participate in a press conference next week. Anthony proposes that we support the AFL-CIO statement and wait to see the Burlington City Council statement and work with that language. Zac suggests that we stay away from the politics at this point, be helpful and supportive. Robert thinks we should not be afraid to appear at least a little political about our policy positions. A statement will be circulated, Burlington City Council has already done most of the heavy lifting and we should mirror that statement. Anthony suggests that we should be able to meet both needs and we should support labor, especially teachers, keep the critique constructive.

5) Budget report, concern about cash flow with the legislative assistant. We are relying on a lot of one time monies and we need deeper fund raising. Possibly targeted phone calls since public events are out for the moment.

6) State Committee meeting may need to be canceled. We need an endorsement process before the primary elections. Is May too early? June 13<sup>th</sup> as a replacement meeting date? For now this will be an agenda item for the April phone meeting. Josh points out that we haven't actually endorsed Zuckerman yet even though he is obviously our candidate. Statement to go out that the CoCo supports and endorses his candidacy and that it will formally go to the State Committee for approval in June. Josh will see if the endorse term meets the bylaws.

7) Next call April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Adjourned at 3:16 pm