

**San Francisco for Democracy General Membership Meeting
Northern District Police Station
March 15, 2010**

A quorum was obtained with 10 members in good standing attending. Numerous non-voting members were also in attendance to hear from the Party Chairs.

Party Chairs in attendance: Marsha Feinland, Former State Chair of the Peace and Freedom Party; Barry Hermanson, Co-chair of the California State Green Party; and Aaron Peskin, Chair of the San Francisco Democratic Party

President Tim Durning called the meeting to order at 7:10

President Durning gave opening remarks and announced that the Republican Party representative had to cancel due to a scheduling conflict the same night. He turned over the Party Chair Forum segment to Political Affairs Director Glenn Davis at 7:12.

I. Party Chair Forum

Director Davis explained how different questions (specific to the party) had been developed for each party chair, as well as generic questions for everyone. The generic topics included state and local budget issues, local transportation and public safety. Glenn told the chairs they would be asked questions in a different order each time, so that the pattern would not be predictable.

The party chairs introduced themselves. Questions were asked by Glenn, followed by Q & A from the audience for more than an hour. Towards the end, the party chairs were invited to make closing statements. This segment ended at 8:50.

President Durning asked the members to remain in order to participate in the next agenda items.

II. Letter urging Speaker Pelosi to keep a Public Option in the Healthcare Reform Bill.

Vice President Tom Brown asked for a vote of the membership to support sending this letter. (copy attached). The letter was approved by a vote of 8 Yes, 0 No and 1 Abstain.

III. UFA (Uniting American Families Act) and comprehensive immigration reform.

Due to time constraints and the fact that the speaker for this agenda item had to cancel, this agenda item was tabled.

President Durning adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by Tom Brown

Attachment: copy of letter sent to Speaker Pelosi:



March 15, 2010

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the members of San Francisco for Democracy, I am writing to encourage you to include some version of the "public option" in the House Reconciliation bill on health care which will be sent to the Senate. Given that a version of the public option was previously included in the House version of the Health Care Reform bill and is supported by a majority of the American people, a public option seems suitable for the reconciliation process.

We know that you have recently stated that you will not include a public option in the House reconciliation bill because there are not sufficient votes in the Senate to pass it. However, more than 50 Senators have already stated they support the public option, and 41 of these have signed a letter stating they would vote for the public option if it were presented to them in the reconciliation process.

We understand and appreciate that some of our elected representatives are reluctant to vote for a public option due to fear of being demonized by the radical right wing attack machine. However, these attacks will happen regardless of what votes our elected representatives take.

Our understanding is that if the House were to include a public option in the Reconciliation bill, the worst that could happen is that it would be rejected by the Senate, thereby requiring a second vote on the bill without a public option. We believe it's worth that risk in order to go on record in support of the public option which, in the long run, is the most fiscally conservative option to keep health care costs down in future years.

Sincerely,

Tim Durning, President
San Francisco for Democracy
president@sf4democracy.com

Cc: Dan Bernal, District Director
Congressional District 8