

Letter regarding DNC chair Perez's Convention committee (Tony Wikrent)
[Tom Perez Stacks the DNC Deck Against Progressive](#)

January 29, 2020

The Progressive Democrats of Orange County (PDOC) wish to direct your attention to the list of 2020 Democratic Party National Convention committee members who will organize and manage the Convention. PDOC agrees with assessments of this list (see links below) that it contains an unacceptably high number of establishment Democrats who intend to blunt the progressive wave being generated at the grass roots. We must act immediately to ensure that the 2020 Democratic Party nomination process is not tainted by the same improper favoritism for the *status quo* which clouded the 2016 process.

The 2020 Democratic National Convention is organized and managed by three special committees of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). This past weekend, DNC chairman Tom Perez released a list of the people he has selected for these committees. "Their mandate will include managing the convention's rulemaking procedures, resolving disputes over delegate credentialing, and codifying the Democratic Party platform," [Daniel Boguslaw writes in *The New Republic*](#). The Progressive Democrats of Orange County are concerned, after reviewing their profiles (assembled by [Kevin Gosztola of thegrayzone](#); here is [Gosztola's original twitter thread](#)), that Perez is filling these committees with opponents of progressive policies such as Medicare-for-All, relief from the burden of college tuition, a Green New Deal, and curbing the influence of big money in politics.

PDOC believes it is essential that the 2020 Convention be organized and managed without the taint or even appearance of favoritism. To this end, PDOC hopes Convention committee seats will be filled by Party members who have not gained notoriety for their vocal and uncompromising opposition to progressive policies, or have become too accommodating to the role of big money in American politics. As Boguslaw summarized the situation:

"If the party's blue-collar and middle-class base—demographics whom candidates routinely address during their debate-stage polemics—are truly the engine of the Democratic machine, it's hard to see how their interests are represented by the 70-odd delegates, who derive their own socioeconomic standing from their careers at America's top financial firms and K Street influence shops. In a country where ordinary people are left sagging under the weight of medical debt, student loans, ramped-up housing costs, and climate change inaction, these committee selections offer little comfort. To many, it's something of a slap in the face...."

"Co-chairmanship of the DNC Rules Committee was awarded to Maria Cardona, a CNN contributor, former lead communication strategist for the Department of Commerce's effort to pass the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement, and most importantly, principal at the Dewey Square Group. This consulting firm has represented a diverse clientele:

from the [grocery](#) and [restaurant lobbies](#) fighting against unionization efforts to [big pharma](#) and Starbucks. [As The Intercept reported in 2016](#), DSG even consulted with the [health insurance](#) giants who sought to undermine key parts of the Affordable Care Act. DSG is also represented on the Rules Committee by the firm's co-founder, Charles Baker, who cashed in after having secured favor within the party for years of lobbying and dues-paying as chief administrative officer for Hillary for America. Minyon Moore, another DSG principal, also found her way to a committee seat....

On the Rules Committee, it is important that members are independent of any candidates and campaigns, and able to render decisions fairly and impartially, without any aura of favoritism or bias. Taking money, as an employee, consultant or contractor, from any presidential campaign while also serving on the Rules Committee destroys any notion of this essential independence.

After reviewing all the committee members proposed by Perez, Boguslaw concludes "Regardless of committee members' explicit or covert preference for presidential candidates, the corporate affiliations of these appointees and their outspoken refusal to cede any ground to progressive policy positions are wildly at odds with the preference for integrity valued by the majority of Democratic voters."

PDOC therefore joins the Progressive Caucus of the California Democratic Party in calling upon DNC Chairman Tom Perez to re-evaluate his list of proposed committee members to ensure the integrity of the presidential nomination process. We cannot afford to have the Democratic nominee for President undermined after the Convention by allegations that the Rules Committee was able to improperly maneuver the process in their favor.

Fuller details, and profiles of Perez's selections, are available at the following links:

[Kevin Gosztola's original twitter stream](#)

[To rig primary against Bernie, DNC chair Tom Perez nominates regime-change agents, Israel lobbyists, and Wall Street consultants](#)

Kevin Gosztola [thegrayzone 1-27-19]

Video of Gosztola describing Perez's picks: [Democratic Party Elites Rig 2020 Convention Committees Against Sanders](#)

["A Who's-Who" of People Against Progressive Agenda: DNC's Perez Under Fire for Convention Committee Picks](#)

Andrea Germanos [Common Dreams 1-26-20]

[Tom Perez Stacks 2020 Convention Committees With "From the Swamp" Nominations](#)

Gaius Publius [DownWithTyranny 1-27-20]

[Tom Perez Stacks the DNC Deck Against Progressives](#)

Daniel Boguslaw [The New Republic 1-28-20]