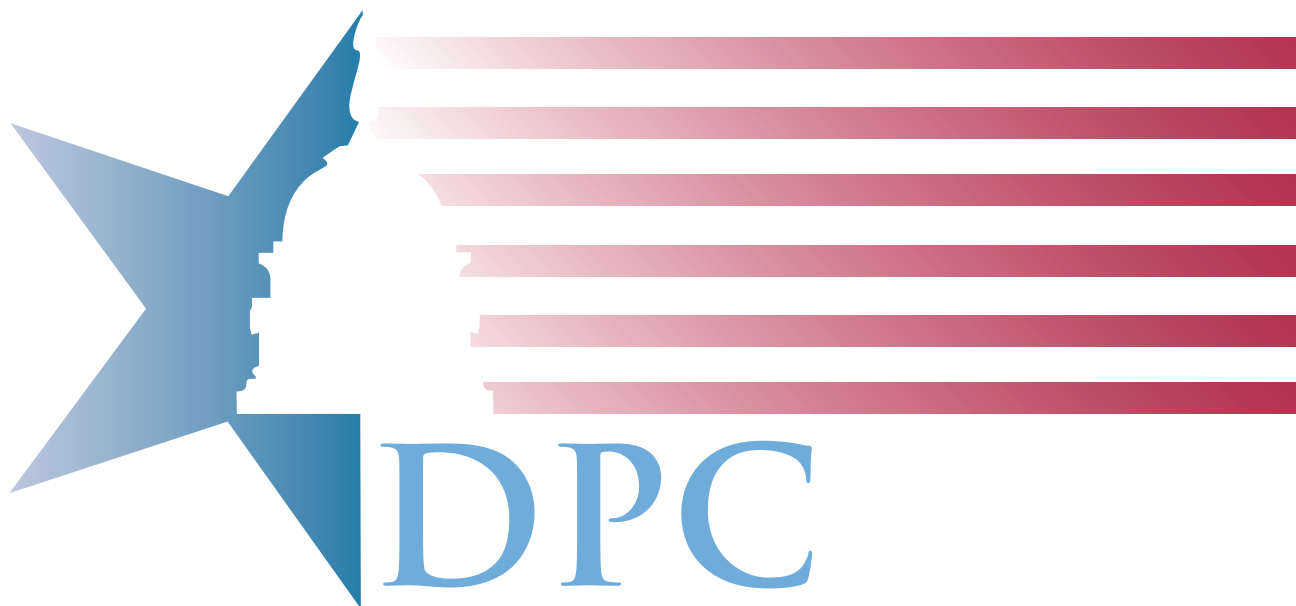


2009



DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE
BYRON L. DORGAN, CHAIRMAN

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Democratic Policy Committee (DPC) was established in January 1947, after President Harry Truman signed legislation to create majority and minority party policy committees in the Senate. Since its creation over sixty years ago, the DPC has served Senate Democrats by developing new policy proposals, providing research and legislative support, publishing reports on important legislation and policy issues, conducting oversight hearings, tracking roll call votes, differentiating Democratic policy positions from Republican positions, and promoting Caucus unity and cohesion.

MOVING FORWARD IN THE 111TH CONGRESS

Under the direction of its Chairman, Senator Byron L. Dorgan, the DPC will continue to build on its more than 60-year history of service to the Senate Democratic Caucus in the 111th Congress. In addition to the services provided during the last Congress, the DPC will:

- unveil a new DPC website that will serve as a “virtual one-stop shop” for Senate Democrats for print and video content about the Democratic agenda and message;
- provide a “technology template” to Democratic Senators that provides a blueprint for adapting state-of-the-art online tools to governing and the legislative process;
- organize field hearings around the country to amplify the Democratic message;
- work with the Executive Branch to address the contracting-related abuses the DPC has identified over the last five years through its series of oversight investigations; and
- after eight years of outsourcing and a significant increase in the number of federal contractors, examine the quality and cost effectiveness of government contracting.

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

The Democratic Policy Committee has a five-member team of policy advisors who cover domestic, economic, national security, and foreign policy issues. These advisors provide the following services for Democratic Senators and staff:

- ✦ conduct policy analysis and research for Leadership and Caucus staff and help implement Caucus initiatives;
- ✦ serve as a central source for information about legislation, amendments, and policy issues;
- ✦ write Legislative Bulletins on major legislation and Special Reports and Fact Sheets on the Democratic position and record on key issues;
- ✦ organize Caucus staff briefings featuring experts from think tanks, research organizations, and universities;
- ✦ work with Leadership and Caucus staff to develop and communicate the Democratic message on key issues; and
- ✦ support the DPC “New Ideas Network” and oversight functions.

NEW POLICY DEVELOPMENT

In early 2005, the DPC launched an initiative to generate new policy ideas for Senate Democrats. The “New Ideas Network” consists of more than 200 academics, policy experts at think tanks, state and local government officials, thought leaders from business and labor, and bloggers. The DPC works with network partners to facilitate bold, original thinking and develop innovative policy solutions to existing and emerging problems.

As part of this project, the DPC publishes an annual *Fresh 50* report, which contains fifty cutting-edge policy proposals available for individual members of the Caucus to adopt and develop as their own. This year, to celebrate the fifth annual edition of the report, the DPC will publish the *Fresh 50 x 5*, a compilation of all *Fresh 50* reports released since 2005. In the 110th Congress, the DPC produced more than twenty-five papers that proposed new policy ideas for individual Senate offices to consider.

The DPC also hosts regular staff briefings given by guests who have been working on innovative new policy proposals. The point person for this initiative is the New Policy Director, who works to build the network, directs its activities, and coordinates with Democratic Senators and staff.

OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

Members of Congress have a Constitutional obligation to oversee the activities of the Executive Branch and improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of governmental operations. The Oversight and Accountability Project works with standing committees in the Senate to help coordinate hearings and investigations, providing historical and legal resources relating to congressional oversight, and publishing reports that highlight oversight work in the Senate. The DPC also conducts its own oversight hearings, focusing on topics of importance that the committees decide not to pursue. Since 2003, the DPC has held 18 hearings on waste, fraud and abuse in Iraq contracting that have uncovered hundreds of millions of dollars in waste and identified contracting abuses that have threatened the health and safety of our troops.

VOTE ANALYSIS

For more than 60 years, the DPC Vote Analysis team has provided comprehensive information about Senate voting records to Democratic Senators. Today, the team tracks and compiles information on record votes (including concise summaries of the debate on amendments and the major provisions of bills) and provides online access to Senate voting records via the VoteWatch website (dpcvotes.senate.gov). Vote-related research materials maintained by the office go back to 1933.

The DPC Vote Analysis team also works closely with Democratic offices on a wide range of vote-related research projects, including the compiling of detailed voting record histories, performing attendance analyses, and providing a variety of standard and customized reports.

Voting records. The Vote Analysis team distributes voting record sheets on a weekly basis and voting record books at the end of each year. These annual vote books list all votes that occurred that year, along with chronological, subject, party line, and bill number indexes. Voting record information is made available daily on the VoteWatch website (dpcvotes.senate.gov).

Recess reports. At the beginning of each Senate recess, the team distributes a detailed attendance summary for each Senator, and a vote comparison report that shows how often each Senator has voted with every other Senator. This information is distributed to legislative directors and to the personal attention of each Senator.

Vote analysis reports. The Vote Analysis team has developed a set of analytical vote reports to provide information concerning a Senator's voting pattern and how it relates to the Senator's party, and to the Senate as a whole. These reports are useful for measuring a Senator's support for his or her party, how much voting independence he or she shows, or how similar or dissimilar a specific Senator's positions are with respect to the Senate on an issue or set of votes.

Cloture report. The Vote Analysis team prepares a report that lists all cloture motions that have been filed in the Senate. The report lists the legislation and nominations on which cloture was filed, who filed the motion, and the number of days of debate that occurred before cloture was filed.

Interest group ratings. The Vote Analysis team maintains a list of interest group ratings reports on the DPC Web Site (dpc.senate.gov). This list provides links to the latest interest group reports published by more than 50 interest groups in more than 20 issue areas.

VoteWatch. DPC maintains VoteWatch, a web site that provides comprehensive and timely information on Senate votes (dpcvotes.senate.gov). More than 8,000 votes are accessible going back to the 97th Congress (1981).

DPC Week in Review. Recent vote information is distributed weekly via the DPC Week in Review, an e-mail report that lists the record votes that occurred during the previous week, the latest floor schedule, the attendance record of the Senator to whose office the report is being sent, and a set of key vote searches to help offices quickly retrieve votes related to matters occurring on the Senate floor. The report is available to all Democratic staff.

Office databases. For those offices who maintain their own vote databases, DPC provides vote data in a format that can be incorporated into those databases.

TECHNOLOGY AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

DPC Issues Conferences. Members gather twice a year at issues conferences to hear the latest thinking on policy issues and review recent political trends. Senate Democrats use these conferences to brainstorm and strategize on the most important economic, social, and political issues facing our nation. A one-day conference is held each winter in the Washington area and a three-day event is held each spring at a location outside the Washington area.

DPC Lunches. Every Thursday the Senate is in session, the DPC hosts a lunch at which Senators hear from leading figures in government, politics, business and journalism. The DPC has hosted more than 275 lunches over the last decade. Past guests have included Al Gore, Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, Colin Powell, Henry Paulson, Ben Bernanke, Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, Michael Bloomberg, John Sweeney, Rupert Murdoch, Bill Moyers, Tim Russert and Tom Friedman.

Online Video Project. Working with the Democratic Communications Center, the DPC has produced nearly 500 online videos that show Democratic Senators speaking on the Senate floor, in Committee hearings, and in “behind-the-scenes” interviews about key legislative issues.

Message Project. The DPC Message Project brings together leading practitioners from various fields, including marketing and advertising executives, public opinion leaders, policy makers, political consultants, and writers, to provide their ideas on messaging and the use of language in politics.

DPC '10 Member Services. The DPC customizes DPC products and services, including vote analyses, policy reports, and research studies, for Democratic Senators who are members of the Class of 2010.

STAFF

Joi Chaney serves as DPC Policy Director and Counsel and works on judiciary, labor, immigration, rules, commerce and housing issues. Prior to her tenure at the DPC, she was the Associate Director for Student Chapters at the American Constitution Society for Law & Policy, where she organized nearly 150 law student chapters, which planned well-over 600 progressive legal policy programs and events around the country each year. Previously, she was a litigation associate at Baach Robinson & Lewis PLLC in Washington, D.C. During the 2000 election cycle, she was a staff member in the Office of the Secretary at the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic National Convention Committee. She has also interned at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Joi received a B.A. in Political Science, with an English minor, from Howard University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Jesse Comart is the Assistant to the Staff Director at the DPC. Previously, Jesse worked as an intern at the DPC and produced video for the DPC Online Video Project. Before coming to Capitol Hill, Jesse worked as a paralegal at the Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman and Dicker law firm. Jesse graduated from George Washington University in 2008 with a B.A. in Political Science.

Doug Connolly, the Senior Vote Analyst at the DPC, provides reports to Democratic Senators and staff, responds to research requests, and maintains the voting records database. Doug joined the DPC staff in 1986 after serving as the Assistant Research Director on former Senator Paul Simon's first Senate campaign. Prior to working at DPC, Doug worked for the Federal Library and Information Center Committee at the Library of Congress. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan.

Chuck Cooper, the Staff Director at the DPC, came to Washington in 1996 to work as a Legislative Assistant for then-Rep. Sherrod Brown. The following year, Chuck joined the DPC, first as a Policy Advisor, then General Counsel, Deputy Staff Director, and finally Staff Director in 2000. Prior to working on Capitol Hill, he was a trial attorney at Smith Marshall Weaver, where he served as an associate and then partner, in his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. Chuck graduated with a bachelor's degree in English Literature and Political Science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He received his law degree from Case Western Reserve School of Law in Cleveland and a master's degree in Public and Nonprofit Management, with a specialization in public policy, from New York University.

Leslie Gross-Davis serves as the DPC's Counsel. Prior to joining the Committee, Leslie served as Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor to Rep. Artur Davis, where she crafted the Congressman's judiciary, education, and technology policy agenda. While working for Rep. Davis, Leslie oversaw the Congressman's House Administration and Judiciary Committee portfolio, drafting legislation that included remedies for the structural defects of one of the nation's largest civil-rights consent decrees. Prior to joining the Congressman's staff, Leslie served as the inaugural Advocacy Director for the Mississippi Center for Justice, where she established the firm's issue portfolio and served as chief legal and policy strategist. Before joining the Center, Leslie litigated class-action education cases at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. While there, she worked with a national coalition of public interest advocacy groups and lectured nationally on equal opportunity law. Leslie is a 1998 graduate of George Washington University Law School and a graduate of the Annenberg Honors Program at Howard University.

Kristin Devine works as a Policy Advisor on defense, foreign affairs, homeland security, intelligence, and veterans issues. Prior to joining the DPC, Kristin worked for an international development organization managing USAID contracts, including an Afghanistan Rule of Law Project and an Iraq Monitoring and Evaluation Program. Previously, she worked as a research assistant at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and also served as a Staff Assistant for Congressman John Tierney. She holds an M.A. in Arab Studies with a concentration in Arab Politics from Georgetown University and a B.A. in Government from Colby College.

Tim Gaffaney, the Research Director at the DPC, previously taught political theory at Georgetown University and American University. Tim has published academic articles in the field of democratic theory and is the author of *Freedom for the Poor: Welfare and the Foundations of Democratic Citizenship* (Westview Press, 2000). He has spoken at a number of professional conferences, delivering papers on poverty and democracy, science and public policy, and volunteerism. He holds an A.B. in the History of Religion, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Jacqueline Garry Lampert serves as a Policy Advisor on health care, education, aging/seniors, and welfare issues. Before joining the DPC, Jacqueline worked as a Legislative Assistant for Senator Tim Johnson, advising the Senator on health care, disability and Social Security policy. Before coming to Capitol Hill, she was a Senior Government Affairs Consultant at New York Life Insurance Company where she coordinated grassroots advocacy efforts. Jacqueline holds a Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University and a B.S. in Communication from Northwestern University.

Erika Moritsugu is a Senior Policy Advisor and Counsel at the DPC responsible for economic policy, which includes budget, appropriations, tax, financial services, trade, small business, social security, and pensions issues. Before joining the DPC, Erika was an attorney at Hogan & Hartson LLP, with a regulatory and advocacy practice. Previously, she was a principal at The Wexler Group, a DC-based government relations firm, where she specialized in the coordination of grassroots campaigns and coalition management. Erika also interned at the White House, served as a Legislative Assistant at USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, clerked at the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office, and interned at the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division. She received a B.A. from the College of William and Mary and a J.D. with honors from the George Washington University Law School. Erika is an Executive Committee member of the DC Democratic Party, a domestic violence counselor, an active volunteer advocating for the expansion and protection of voting rights, veterans, and the empowerment of minority communities, and was deployed during the 2005 hurricane season as a Red Cross disaster worker.

Michael Mozden has worked at the DPC vote office since 1997. Mike tracks and writes summaries of the votes and the arguments made during debate on the votes. He also performs vote-related research for Democratic Senators and staff. Mike graduated from Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts, with a degree in Foreign Policy and Economics.

Ryan Mulvenon serves as a Policy Advisor on energy, environment, agriculture, and transportation issues at the DPC. Before joining the Committee, Ryan served as a Legislative Aide and Legislative Correspondent for Senator Harry Reid. Previously, he worked for Mayor Charlie Luken, the former mayor of Cincinnati. Ryan holds a B.A. in History and Political Science from Xavier University and an M.A. in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

Barry Piatt serves as Communications Director and Senior Advisor at the DPC. A former news reporter in Iowa, Barry has worked as Communications Director for several members of Congress, including Tom Harkin (D-IA), Dave Nagle (D-IA), and Jim McDermott (D-WA). He served as the Communications Director for the Iowa Democratic Party during the 1984 presidential caucuses and campaign, as Political Director and Communications Director for Rep. Dick Gephardt's (D-MO) 1988 presidential campaign and as Communications Director for Senator Harkin's 1992 presidential campaign in New Hampshire.

Doug Steiger is the New Policy Director at the DPC. He served as an Atlantic Fellow (a British government fellowship for American public policy professionals) in Edinburgh, Scotland in 2004. Doug previously worked for Senators Moynihan and Baucus at the Senate Finance Committee, where he was responsible for welfare, unemployment, and child welfare policy. During

that time, Doug drafted the welfare reform reauthorization measure that was approved by the Finance Committee in June 2002, as well as the Democratic alternative offered in 2003. Prior to working at the Finance Committee, he served as a Budget Examiner at the Office of Management and Budget. Doug graduated from Stanford University and earned a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley.

Holly Teliska is a Policy Analyst at the DPC. Before joining the Committee, Holly worked at the Shearman & Sterling law firm and in the district office of Hannah-Beth Jackson, a California Assemblymember. During the 2002 election cycle, she was a field representative for the Martha Fuller Clark congressional campaign. Holly is a graduate of Colgate University (B.A. Political Science) and the University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall) School of Law. She was a visiting law student at Duke University School of Law.

NOTES

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(as Assistant Democratic Leader)

Patty Murray

ex officio

(as Secretary of the Conference)

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