



Anna M. Caballero

12th Senate District

SB 714 – Democratic County Central Committee Elections

SUMMARY

SB 714 would ensure DREAMers and aspiring citizens can be appointed and elected to a county central committee.

PROBLEM

Elections Code Section 7209 prohibits a person who is not registered as affiliated with the Democratic Party to be appointed or elected to a county central committee. Party registration is established by completing an affidavit of voter registration. The affidavit must show the facts necessary to establish voter registration and affiliation to the Democratic Party. This means that it is impossible for an aspiring citizen to register with the Democratic Party and therefore unable to be elected to a county central committee. This systemic barrier imposes limitations and exclusion of more than 2.5 million Californians in our democracy.

BACKGROUND

An estimated 200,000 DREAMers live in California, alongside an immigrant population of over 2.5 million. A DREAMer is a person born in a foreign country who was brought to the U.S. as a baby or young child. Many DREAMers have only known this country as their homeland. DREAMers are active members of their communities, have obtained college degrees, and served in the military. During the pandemic, DREAMers have worked as essential workers in health care, education, agriculture and other food-related jobs.

California has long recognized the important and integral role of immigrants in our society and economy, and over the years has enacted policies to increase their civic participation. Most recently, a law was signed to allow immigrants to serve on state boards and commissions. Additionally, in 2019, the California Democratic Party passed a resolution to expand eligibility for all Californians to register with the party, regardless of immigration status. The inability of aspiring citizen to be appointed or run for elections to a county central committee remains an obstacle to full civic participation. Democracy is strengthened with diverse participation and meaningful inclusion. As California looks forward to its pandemic recovery, it is important that members of the communities most affected are not prohibited from a seat at the table and able to pursue the leadership roles they seek.

SOLUTION

SB 714 would amend Elections Code Section 7209 to allow aspiring citizens to be appointed and elected to a county central committee. Immigrants' voices, experiences, and talent must be recognized and integrated to ensure direct participation in the Democratic Party.

SUPPORT

Democratic Party - Chicano Latino Caucus (sponsor)
California Legislative Latino Caucus
International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU)
La Raza Community Resource Center
Napa County Latinx Democratic Club
Salinas LULAC
San Francisco Latinx Democratic Club
San Diego Border Dreamers
AD 6 Delegate Tomas Evangelista (Dreamer)
AD 17 Delegate Sarah Souza (Dreamer)
AD 22 Victoria Sanchez de Alba, San Mateo County
Democratic Central Committee

CONTACT

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