

2007



DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE
BYRON L. DORGAN, CHAIRMAN

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

DPC STAFF

Joi Chaney	4-0897	Neal Higgins	4-3571
<i>Policy Advisor</i>		<i>Deputy Staff Director and Chief Counsel</i>	
<i>Judiciary</i>		Sara Mills	4-0429
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<i>Commerce</i>		<i>Energy</i>	
<i>Housing</i>		<i>Agriculture</i>	
<i>Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, Science,</i>		<i>Transportation</i>	
<i>DC, Labor, Legislative Branch, Judiciary,</i>		<i>Appropriations: Agriculture, Energy and</i>	
<i>HUD</i>		<i>Water, Interior, Transportation</i>	
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<i>Intelligence</i>		<i>Budget</i>	
<i>Veterans</i>		<i>Tax</i>	
<i>Appropriations: Foreign Operations,</i>		<i>Trade</i>	
<i>Defense, Mil. Con., VA, Homeland Security</i>		<i>Economic Policy</i>	
Liz Engel	4-9531	<i>Banking</i>	
<i>Policy Advisor</i>		<i>Pensions</i>	
<i>Health Care</i>		<i>Small Business</i>	
<i>Education</i>		<i>Appropriations: Treasury</i>	
<i>Aging/Seniors (not Social Security)</i>			
<i>Welfare</i>			
<i>Appropriations: HHS and Education</i>			
Tim Gaffaney	4-3531		
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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 nearly sixty years ago, the DPC has served Senate Democrats by developing policy proposals, providing research and legislative support, publishing reports on important legislation and policy issues, tracking roll call votes, differentiating Democratic policy positions from Republican positions, and promoting Caucus unity and cohesion.

In 2005, then-Democratic Leader Reid and DPC Chairman Dorgan restructured the DPC to be even more effective and responsive to the needs of Democratic Senators. During the last Congress, the DPC's new mission included initiatives to:

- conduct aggressive oversight investigations and hold public hearings to ensure accountability in government;
- develop cutting-edge policy ideas through the creation of a “New Idea Network” with state and local government officials, think tanks, academics, and policy experts around the country; and
- produce language and message frames to effectively communicate Democratic values, policies, and our vision for America's future.

For the 110th Congress, Majority Leader Reid and Chairman Dorgan have created a blueprint for the DPC that builds on the committee's sixty-year tradition of excellence and innovation. In addition to services provided in the past, the DPC will perform the following new activities this Congress:

- provide support for Democratic oversight staff by holding meetings to share information about ongoing investigations and publishing reports to highlight the committees' oversight activities;
- expand the New Idea Network and work closely with Senate staff and network members to develop new ideas that are targeted to specific subjects, legislation, and amendments;
- organize a series of bipartisan summits in Washington, DC and around the country to discuss pressing national challenges; and
- reach out to Democratic state legislators to share best practices and ideas about policy, strategy, and messaging.

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

The Democratic Policy Committee has a five-member team of policy advisors who cover domestic, homeland security, and foreign policy issues. The DPC policy 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 key policy issues;
- ✦ Organize the DPC Summit Series to convene bipartisan summits to address pressing national challenges;
- ✦ Organize Caucus staff briefings, including ones 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
- ✦ Assist the DPC “new ideas network” and oversight and investigations 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 academics, policy experts at think tanks, state and local government officials, leading thinkers 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 issues an annual “Fresh 50” report, which contains fifty cutting-edge policy proposals all available for individual members of the Caucus to adopt and develop as their own. The DPC also hosts staff briefings from innovative sources of new policy proposals. The point person for this initiative is the New Policy Director, who is building the network, directing its activities, and coordinating with Democratic Senators and staff.

As an extension of the New Idea Network, the DPC has created the LegiState Project. The LegiState Project is working to develop a network of Democratic federal and state legislators to share best practices and generate innovative ideas about policy, strategy, and messaging.

OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

Members of Congress have a Constitutional obligation to oversee the activities of the Executive Branch. During the 110th Congress, the DPC will work with the standing committees to assist in coordinating hearings and investigations, provide historical and legal resources relating to congressional oversight, and publish reports that highlight the oversight activities of the committees. The DPC will also continue to hold hearings, focusing on topics of importance to the Caucus that the committees decide not to pursue.

VOTE ANALYSIS

For 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 VoteWATCH.

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.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

DPC '08 Member Services. The DPC can customize products and services, including vote analyses, policy reports, and research studies, for Democratic Senators who are members of the Class of 2008.

DPC Issues Conferences. Members gather twice a year off campus 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 Washington, and a three-day event each spring at a location outside Washington.

DPC Lunches. Every Thursday the Senate is in session, the DPC hosts a lunch where Senators hear from leading figures in government, politics, business, and journalism. Past guests have included Al Gore, Madeleine Albright, Robert Rubin, Condoleezza Rice, Colin Powell, Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, John Sweeney, David McCullough, Bill Moyers, Tim Russert, and Tom Friedman.

STAFF

Joi Chaney is the Policy Team Leader and works as a Policy Advisor on judiciary, labor and other domestic policy issues. Previously Joi worked as the Associate Director for Student Centers at the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy (ACS) where she ran a national law student program and guided 142 chapters in planning over legal and policy events. Prior to working at ACS, she was an associate at Baach Robinson & Lewis in Washington. Joi is a graduate of Howard University and Harvard Law School.

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 Research Director on former Senator Paul Simon's first Senate campaign. Prior to working on the Simon campaign, 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.

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 the Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (2005–2006) and the Iraq Monitoring and Evaluation Program (2003–2005). 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.

Liz Engel works as a policy advisor at the DPC on health care, education, and welfare issues. Before joining the DPC, Liz served as Medical Center Counsel at Stanford University. She also has worked as the director of legal and regulatory affairs at iScribe, Inc. (an electronic prescribing company), an associate in the health care department of Proskauer Rose LLP, a consultant and senior policy analyst at the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health, and as a Legislative Assistant for former Congressman Richard Lehman. Liz holds a B.A. and a J.D. in communications from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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.

Casey Gillece is the Assistant to the Staff Director at the DPC. Casey graduated from Duke University in 2006 with a B.A. in History. She has interned for Baltimore-area Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger and served as a production assistant for NBC Sports at Wimbledon, the French Open, and the Summer Olympics in Athens.

Neal Higgins is Deputy Staff Director & Chief Counsel at the DPC. Neal was previously an associate with Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, a member of the trial team prosecuting Slobodan Milosevic for crimes committed in Kosovo, and an assistant editor at *Foreign Affairs*. He served as the Democrats' Wisconsin Voter Protection Coordinator in 2004 and was a member of Vice President Gore's legal team during the 2000 recount. A graduate of Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, Harvard Law School, and the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Neal has published on peacekeeping and international law.

Sara Mills serves as a Policy Advisor on energy, environment, agriculture, and transportation issues at the DPC. Born and raised in southern Nevada, Sara worked as an intern, a Legislative Correspondent, Correspondence Manager, Legislative Aide, and Regional Representative for Senator Reid before joining the DPC. She also worked as the Deputy Voter Protection Coordinator for the Democratic Party in southern Nevada during the 2004 elections. Sara holds a B.A. in American Studies from Georgetown University and wrote her senior thesis on the impact of media coverage on public perceptions of the Yucca Mountain project in different areas of the country.

Erika Moritsugu serves as a policy advisor on Social Security, tax, budget, trade, and economic policy issues. Before joining the DPC, Erika was an attorney at Hogan & Hartson, where she focused on international trade policy and litigation. 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 in 1995, served as a Legislative Assistant at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, clerked at the Prosecutor's Office of the City and County of Honolulu, and interned at the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. She received a B.A. from the College of William and Mary and a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School.

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.

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.

Brad Weltman works as a member of the New Policy Team at the DPC and the Democratic Communications Center. He was previously a fellow in Senator Kennedy's Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Prior to working for Senator Kennedy at the HELP Committee, Brad worked as the Government Relations Manager and the Director of National Accounts at American Tower. He has a B.A. in Political Science and an M.A. in Public Policy from the University of Michigan.

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