



Democrats Abroad Japan 2009 Officer Election Ballot

Please vote on each one of the Four National Officer positions for Democrats Abroad Japan. Each office has multiple candidates running, and you should indicate your choice by marking the box after your chosen candidate's name for each office. At the bottom of this ballot you must write your name in block letters and write your signature at the bottom of page 1. Any ballots that are unsigned will be invalid. This is according to DNC and DA international rules. To vote in this election you must be

- 1) an American Citizen 2) 18 years of age or older 3) a Member of Democrats Abroad Japan

Please mail or fax your ballot to Democrats Abroad Japan postmarked or time stamped no later than August, 21st 2009. The Election committee will be counting the ballots and making a full report to the membership within 2 weeks of the post marked deadline date.

fax your signed ballot to 03- 6802-3547 (international 81-3-6802-3547 if you are traveling)
Or mail to

DAJ
Kichijyoji Honcyo 2-6-8
Daisan Musashino Bldg. 4F
Musashino-shi, Tokyo,
180-00041

Attached you will find candidate statements from each candidate If you have any questions concerning this ballot please contact the DAJ 2009 Committee, DAJ2009elections@gmail.com . You may also post questions and read comments from the candidates on this thread in the DA website Japan section <http://www.democratsabroad.org/node/9284> Or email the candidates directly (their email has been provided where authorized by each candidate. (listed by office and by alpha)

DEMOCRATS ABROAD JAPAN OFFICER BALLOT (PLEASE SELECT ONE CANDIDATE FOR EACH OFFICE)

Chair	Malcolm Adams mal@totown.net	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Lauren Shannon Lauren.shannon@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
	John Winebarger john.winebarger@i-d-a.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice Chair	John Shelley jshelley@hotmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mike Stensrud mike.stensrud@hotmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	Jean Paul Biondi jeanpaul.biondi@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Linda Gould lagould@yahoo.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	William Campbell william.campbell@hoteiwines.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Matt Nisenoff politicsnstuff2@yahoo.com	<input type="checkbox"/>

NAME: (Block Letters Please) _____

SIGNATURE _____ TODAY'S DATE _____



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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS 2009 Election

CHAIR

Malcolm Adams

Lauren Shannon

John Winebarger

MALCOLM ADAMS FOR CHAIR

Dear Fellow Democrats Abroad Japan,

As a young student I became politically active in the campaign of my grandfather, Nebraska State Senator John Adams Sr., my father, Attorney Ralph W. Adams, candidate for Public Defender in Omaha, Nebraska, and my own candidacy as a college student for the Nebraska State legislature. This experience launched a lifetime of political organizing and activism that has spanned 45 years, including the campaign of Bobby Kennedy for President in the late 1960s. I'm confident that my experience eminently qualifies me for the position of Chairman of Democrats Abroad Japan.

I ask for your support for my candidacy. If elected, I pledge to continue the good work that has been achieved by the current leadership. I will bring experience and dependability to the job. As an internationally known TV and Radio news correspondent of forty years, I attended and covered the Democratic National convention in August 2008 in Denver for my online news service, Japan Journal. I worked vigorously to get out the vote in the 2008 election and organized a delegation of Americans to be among the first to vote in the Tokai region of Japan as an active member of the Americans Abroad for Obama efforts.

I have been a champion of progressive causes both at home in America and here in Japan as evidenced by my leadership in ending the recent offensive "Obama as a monkey" advertising campaign by a Japanese cell phone company. I'm a 33 year resident of Japan. I first came to Japan as the Tokyo correspondent for CBS News. Later, I helped to launch the CNN Tokyo Bureau as chief correspondent and producer of the award winning weekly series, This Week In Japan, which aired globally. I have operated my own international corporate communications company for nearly 25 years in Japan and have permanent resident status here. If elected I will continue to fight for the progressive principles of the Democratic Party.

I stand ready, willing and able to serve.

Thank you for your kind consideration and support.

Vote for Mal Adams and "Be The Change!"

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm W. Adams

Kakegawa city, Shizuoka, Japan

LAUREN SHANNON FOR CHAIR

Dear Democrats and Election Committee;

I am happy to accept the nomination to run for re-election as chair for Democrats Abroad Japan for the 2009-2011 term. This would be my second and final term in office as a DAJ chair (2 term limits!) I would be honored to continue my service to the DAJ community. In my first 2 years as chair we saw great change and growth in the Democratic Party back home and in our own community here.

With the help of amazing officers and volunteers, I was able to lead us through the first ever Global Primary, helping set up and run voting centers in Tokai, Kansai and Tokyo as well as managing the balloting and return of primary votes from all over the country (all the way from Hokkaido to Okinawa) in an amazing show of support for our party and ultimately our new president.

I oversaw the start of a vibrant Young Dems Abroad group here in Japan. The YDA group played a vital role in increasing voter turn out in both the primary and general election. I helped run events, I lead discussion groups, represented DAJ in our big Dems vs. Repubs debate, I also represented DAJ in the global democrats abroad organization. I have been working in 2009 to start our first caucus, the LGBT policy group as well as our first new chapter In formation In more than 3 years, In Yokohama. This work has been incredibly gratifying and I hope I have served you well.

If re-elected chair, I hope to:

1. grow our membership and voting base. Our primary goal must always be to help overseas Americans vote.
2. facilitate member ideas for interesting events and needed services
3. make sure DAJ is an active participant in DA plans worldwide
4. expand our communication outreach
5. Forge a strong relationship with our embassy and the first democratic party appointed ambassador to Japan in almost a decade!



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6. build strong committees and chapters within DAJ
7. identify and encourage future leaders and participants In DAJ

8. Personally I hope to continue to push forward a grassroots, by and for the people, progressive agenda. To help members stay informed about our leadership in Washington DC and to call to account both democrats and republicans who are not doing their utmost to fulfill their mandate to work tirelessly in support of the People (not the corporations) in the USA.

These are my goals, I am also eager to share my passion for what I have learned in recent years, and to get more people interested in the political process. My current team of officers, Mike Stensrud/ Vice Chair, Linda Gould / secretary, and William Campbell / treasurer have done a great job this past two years and I hope you will consider giving us a second term to complete the work we have set out to do. I humbly ask for your support and I sincerely thank you for your time,
Lauren Shannon

John Winebarger FOR CHAIR
Tokyo, Japan (17-year Resident)

Perhaps one of Barack Obama's most memorable statements from the campaign was; "you are the one's you've been waiting for; you are the change you seek". Cynics saw this as well-delivered but empty rhetoric that bamboozled celebrity-obsessed voters. However, supporters understood this line as a simple and eloquent call for an open, broad-based, and grass roots political movement aiming to wrest control of politics from entrenched elites. Contrary to his critics, Obama's call for political reform was not vague or simple. He often linked the unholy alliance of money and politics to the dismantling of US financial regulation, the inability to pass health care reform, and the failure to support sustainable and equitable economic policies. His analytical as well as eloquent rhetoric, his inclusion of Democrats in his criticism and his background as a community organizer led many of us to believe that he was sincere in seeking a true political "transformation" and had the skills to be successful.

I am running for DAJ Chair because I feel the Obama Administration has betrayed not only the promises of its campaign but the promise of its candidate. I wish for the DAJ to add its voice to the growing number of progressive groups advocating a fundamental change of direction. Below is a partial list of specific Obama policies which I find particularly shocking and inexcusable.

- ◆ Appointment of failed Clinton Administration regulators who not only repealed Glass-Steagall and refused to regulate Credit Default Swaps, etc. but who went on to personally, massively and inappropriately profit from these very regulatory changes
- ◆ Continuing the Bush/ Paulson financial policies that have accelerated the greatest transfer of wealth from the poor and middle class in US history-- all in order to cover the massive mistakes (gambling losses) of financial elites
- ◆ Overlooking true advocates of health care reform as candidates for HHS and instead attempting to repay a political debt to a crusty Washington insider seriously compromised by financial ties to health insurers
- ◆ Refusing to even temporarily cease prosecution of Don't Ask Don't Tell, not to mention failing to seriously promote the end of DADT altogether.

From my perspective this is not "change that I can believe in". As Obama so eloquently put it in the campaign, cynicism is one of the greatest obstacles to political change. However, if left unopposed these policies are likely to foster cynicism from which the Democrats will be unlikely to recover for a long time. I believe that the Obama Administration's current political problems result not from a powerful center-right opposition but from his failure to seriously pursue and advocate the progressive policies set forth in his campaign. Therefore, I hope DAJ can add its voice to the call to Obama to end the egregious betrayals of campaign promises and also challenge him to find the political courage to live up his brilliant and inspiring campaign rhetoric.

VICE CHAIR
John Shelley
Mike Stensrud

John Shelley FOR VICE CHAIR

My name is John Shelley and I am an 11-year resident of Osaka running for Vice Chair of Democrats Abroad-Japan. Before telling you what I think DA-J's role and my role within it should be in the coming year, I'd like to lay out where I think we Democrats find ourselves at the current time.

First, let me say that I believe expatriate Democrats are in general more progressive than our counterparts back in America. Living outside of the country affords us a world view of the United States that is more impartial than the "exceptionalist" one most Americans, progressive or conservative, fall



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prey to daily in the U.S. media. Because of this more objective, international sensibility, many of us were exhilarated at this time last year with the sea change in American politics promised by Barrak Obama. He seemed to be someone like us, who having lived outside the US did not see America's virtue in its political and military dominance but rather in its commitment to a shared respect for and cooperation with all nations.

Now a half a year into his presidency, I believe that the genuine hope that Obama engendered in Americans has been cynically ignored. The domestic policies he enunciated so eloquently - ending the persecution of gay military personnel, reinstating transparency in government, abolishing military tribunals, restricting lobbyist access to government positions, making Wall Street accountable - all were quickly discarded as he surrounded himself with the very Beltway machinery that he so successfully and stirringly ran against in the election.

Abroad, we are now escalating a war in Afghanistan that has no clear rationale and no end in sight. And with that escalation, we are bombing more and more innocent civilians in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, thus turning these populations and the rest of the Muslim world increasingly against us. In the Middle East, after President Obama's uplifting Cairo speech in which the United States finally joined the rest of the planet in demanding Israel respect the rights of the Palestinian colony it has ruled over for the last 42 years, he now continues the long-standing policy of sitting silently by while Israel confiscates yet more Palestinian land.

All in all, the inescapable truth is either that Obama does not believe what he said during the campaign, or that he is just overwhelmed by the job and afraid to follow through. Whichever it is, at this time it's incumbent upon progressive Democrats worldwide to hold him to his words. I think the role of Democrats Abroad in the coming year, here and elsewhere, should be to engage its membership in a spirited discussion of the American political agenda and to resolutely express our convictions to the DNC, the Obama administration, and to American and host-country media. If I am elected Vice Chair, all my efforts will go in that direction. Thank you for your interest in my candidacy.

John Shelley
jshelley@hotmail.com

Mike Stensrud FOR VICE CHAIR

I'm an Oregonian living Tokyo and am the current Vice Chair. As Vice Chair, I was responsible for organizing Get Out the Vote (GOTV) activities in DAJ during the last election cycle. These activities included:

Running a volunteer voter assistance table outside of National Azabu every Saturday from June '08 - Sept. '08 for at least 3 hours.

Organizing the DAJ presence at the US Embassy BBQ in '08.

Organizing a group of DAJ Activists to distribute VoteFromAbroad.org fliers outside of Yokosuka Naval Base

I have also attended almost all of the Dems Abroad Regional meetings (Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia), as well as the global meetings (D.C., Vancouver B.C.) and managed to get DA to pass what I believe is the most sweeping marijuana regulation/taxation resolution ever passed by a state party of a major political party. You can find it buried amongst the resolutions passed at the DC meeting in '09 on the DemocratsAbroad.org website.

Other things that I have done previously include:

Arranging for experts to speak to interested Americans about the US-Japan Social Security Totalization Agreement (40+ people attended)

Contributed funds to both DAJ & Dems Abroad

Arranging a fundraiser for newly minted US Senator, Jeff Merkley (D-OR) as well as organizing a visit to his office for Dems Abroad members during our Congressional Doorknock in DC in April of '09.

I have been active in trying to get the word out to Americans about how Universal Healthcare actually works and think the healthcare issue is a great example of an issue that Dems Abroad can really lend our voice to.

I'd like to ask for your vote to run for Vice Chair again. I think we need to continue solidifying our position in Congress next year and would be happy to get the opportunity to help DAJ contribute to further gains. - Mike Stensrud



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SECRETARY

Jean Paul Biondi

Linda Gould

Jean Paul Biondi FOR SECRETARY

To All Members of Democrats Abroad Japan:

My name is Jean-Paul Biondi. Today, I am asking for your vote as secretary of Democrats Abroad Japan.

Shortly after arriving in Japan, I had the pleasure of attending 'Bridges for Obama' at the Imperial Palace, where I was introduced to Democrats Abroad Japan. That same afternoon I met several people who I would see again many times, both casually and at campaign events throughout 2008 through to today. Dedicated and intelligent individuals who have as strong a passion for our country as I. And now, as a candidate for secretary of Democrats Abroad Japan, I will have an opportunity to work closely with those same people to answer the call-to-action President Obama gave to all Americans some months back. I look forward to taking a much larger and active role in the organization; in support of Democrats Abroad Japan, our President and most importantly you.

As secretary, I will do my utmost to ensure that all duties of the position are executed diligently and professionally. I will work to fulfill any and all requests for information regarding the activities of Democrats Abroad Japan and strive to deliver it in a timely and professional manner. In addition, I will work to record the minutes as accurately as possible and have them immediately accessible to all members of DAJ. Moreover, I will work closely with the Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer to keep DAJ in good standing with the Democratic Party Committee Abroad and in support of all that the organization aims to achieve.

In accepting the nomination for secretary I believe my skill sets are particularly well suited for the position and will prove to be valuable to the organization. As a marketing and communications specialist I, constantly, work to ensure the smooth flow of information. I also aim to make information accessible and understandable. In addition, I achieve this through embracing multiple forms of communication; email, web 2.0, written and telephone among others. I will use whatever means necessary to fulfill my role as secretary of DAJ, and am open to any suggestions you may have to better achieve results.

Finally, in line with President Obama's call-to-action I'd like to ask for your vote as secretary of Democrats Abroad Japan. Thank you for your time and I look forward to working for you over the coming couple of years.

If you have any questions or would like chat, please feel free to call or write anytime.

Warmest Regards, Jean-Paul Biondi

090-3082-5805 jeanpaul.biondi@gmail.com

Linda Gould FOR SECRETARY

Dear DAJ members,

I am so honored to be nominated again for Secretary of Democrats Abroad Japan. Over the last two years, I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as Secretary, communicating with you and helping you vote in the DA Global Primary, helping you register to vote in the general election, aiding you with questions you had about your DAJ membership, and doing everything I could to help you elect Democrats into office. I'm most proud of spearheading DAJ's leadership role DAJ in collecting testimonials from Americans living abroad about the benefits of a single-payer health care system. Other countries have picked up on our idea, and I hope that our stories may convince our representatives in Washington to pass a public health care plan. I humbly ask you for your vote once again in this year's election.

Thank you.

Linda Gould



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TREASURER
William Campbell
Matt Nisenoff

William Campbell FOR TREASURER

I am honored to accept the nomination for a second term as DAJ treasurer.

I would best describe myself as a fiscal conservative and social liberal. After spending 15 years on the trading floor, the last 8 of which were at JP Morgan, I happily left banking (and my Republican colleagues) behind in 2001 to run my own wine California wine import company, based in Tokyo.

If elected, I will continue bring a strong sense of fiduciary duty to the position. DAJ members have donated their hard-earned time and money for fundraising, and I believe that they deserve accurate, timely, and open books, which I will provide upon request. I am heartened by the energy that Lauren and many others have brought to DAJ in the last few years, and I look forward to assisting in whatever way that I can.

Sincerely,
Bill Campbell

Matt Nisenoff FOR TREASURER

I would like to thank the elections committee of Democrats Abroad Japan for the positive experience and congenial tone they have set for this election. I would like to thank you, the membership, for considering your vote for Treasurer.

My name is Matt Nisenoff and I am an unrepentant Democrat. I have worked to elect Democratic candidates for 30 years in every position from front line door to door knocking, to precinct captain, to campaign manager, to deputy field director on a Presidential primary campaign. I have run for office as a Democratic candidate, served as an aide to a county elected Democrat, and served as an aide to the first Hispanic woman to be elected to the Maryland House of Delegates. I have served on several Central Committees including having been elected to the Greene County [Ohio] Democratic Central Committee, chaired the Issues Position committee of the Montgomery County [Maryland] Democratic Central Committee (back to back years), and served as a Treasurer on the District 18 caucus of the MCDCC. I have a background that would serve the members of Democrats Abroad Japan well.

My family moved to Okinawa as my wife is active duty military and we will be here for a number of years. As a father and military spouse, I will have the time to fulfill the duties of an executive committee member of Democrats Abroad Japan.

During the past year I started and worked with others to establish Okinawans for Obama as the first ever Democrats Abroad Japan group in this part of Japan. I would be the first member from this area to serve on the executive committee, if elected.

Perhaps more importantly I would like to serve the members of Democrats Abroad Japan as your Treasurer and am asking for your vote.

I would be happy to hear from you, answer any additional questions, take any suggestions you would like offer and would welcome your emails at politicsnstuff2@yahoo.com.

Democratically Yours,
Matt Nisenoff