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OKLAHOMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
STATE CONVENTION
TAKEN ON JULY 25, 2015, BEGINNING AT 12:00 P.M.
IN OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OFFICER TEAM

Mark Hammons, Chair

Connie Johnson, Vice Chair

Dave Ratcliff, Secretary

Donna Russell, Treasurer

Reported by: Cheryl D. Glenn, CSR, RPR

1 CONVENTION

2 MR. HAMMONS: I will call the reconvened
3 State Convention to order. We will commence with the
4 Color Guard and the presentation of the Pledge of
5 Allegiance. If you would come forward. That is
6 being presented by the Veterans Committee.

7 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

8 DENNIS WEESE: And now, please, a moment of
9 silence for our men and women in peril overseas.

10 (Moment of silence.)

11 DENNIS WEESE: Thank you, Brothers and
12 Sisters. Color Guard dismissed.

13 MR. HAMMONS: You may take your seats for a
14 moment while Joel Baker comes forward for the purpose
15 of the National Anthem.

16 Okay. Can you hear me in the back? We're
17 going to do the National Anthem, so, please, either
18 stand silently or take a seat. Joel Baker will be
19 presenting the National Anthem.

20 (National Anthem.)

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. HAMMONS: Thank you very much.

23 And to present our invocation, Dana Orwig has
24 been gracious enough to come forward and provide the
25 invocation to open the convention.

1 DANA ORWIG: May we give face for the
2 promise of this day and the tasks set before us. May
3 we offer ourselves to this work with open hearts and
4 open minds. May we honor all of those gathered here
5 and seek common ground and mutual understanding. May
6 we commit ourselves each day to dealing a more just
7 and caring society where all God's children are
8 honored and respected. And may we ask for the
9 strength and courage to persevere, the humility to
10 correct our faults and the wisdom to listen deeply,
11 remembering that the Oklahoma Democratic Party is to
12 be a source of hope and a force for good.

13 Amen.

14 (Amen by audience.)

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. HAMMONS: Now, we are honored to have
17 two of our former governors here in person. We are
18 honored that -- also that Former Governor David Hall
19 has written a letter to be read. Governor Henry
20 sends his regrets; had he a preplanned travel out of
21 the country but would be here otherwise. Governor
22 Boren, of course, is preparing for the start of the
23 school year at the University of Oklahoma. But we do
24 have honored guests that we want to recognize. I
25 would like, before we do that, for us to take a few

1 moments so that everyone could find an appropriate
2 seat. It may be helpful for some of the counties if
3 you could move and try to sit approximately with the
4 groups that you sat with before. Let's take about
5 five minutes and get organized, get seated so that we
6 can get our attention during a recess period to our
7 governors who have been kind enough to come and share
8 their time with us. And we have other people that we
9 will recognize thereafter.

10 So, five minutes. Please find a seat. And
11 remember that we -- these are honored guests. We
12 want to be quiet and attentive and give them a chance
13 to -- to speak and be heard by everyone in
14 attendance.

15 So, starting now, and at 12:18 on that clock
16 let's everybody be in their seat and ready to go.

17 (A break was taken.)

18 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. As usual, we're
19 already two minutes behind where we are supposed to
20 be, so, please, the next item will be the recognition
21 -- the next item will be the recognition of former
22 governors. So, let's have respectful silence so that
23 you can hear -- can you hear in the back? Okay. If
24 you would gather quietly, try and take your seats.

25 The first governor to speak is going to be

1 Governor Walters who will be here -- who is here.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. Let us introduce
4 Governor Walters.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. HAMMONS: I want to say just one word.
7 Governor Walters has been one of the most fabled
8 people in supporting the Democratic party in helping
9 us to advance --

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. HAMMONS: -- to keep this party well
12 and moving forward and I want to thank him
13 personally. I want each of us to thank him for those
14 efforts.

15 (Applause.)

16 GOVERNOR WALTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 It's truly a labor of love, I can assure you of that.
18 My best wishes to you and to the other Democratic
19 leaders as you start your new administration.

20 It's a great honor to be invited to come and
21 stand before you and share a few thoughts and -- and
22 then have the privilege of introducing Governor
23 George Nigh who will do the same.

24 I want to say how proud I am of this party,
25 of you and of your candidates who have worked so hard

1 to implement policies that have improved and
2 strengthened public education. House Bill 1017 back
3 in my day, back when --

4 (Applause.)

5 GOVERNOR WALTERS: -- your candidates
6 implemented welfare reform that provided
7 compassionate support for mothers and -- and children
8 while using laborers to allow innovative reform to
9 make these programs more efficient. You and your
10 candidates helped pass bond issues to improve state
11 facilities particularly in education. Your work
12 helped pass job incentive programs and training
13 programs that resulted in tremendous growth of jobs.
14 You helped teachers, you helped elderly, you helped
15 disadvantaged and disabled. You promoted diversity
16 and you respected our environment. You helped build
17 a better society and, yet, as they say, "No good deed
18 goes unpunished".

19 (Applause.)

20 GOVERNOR WALTERS: After -- after the 2014
21 election, so many of us felt frustrated by the apathy
22 of our voters by their submission to policies,
23 candidates and a party that are clearly not working
24 in the best interest of the people of Oklahoma, but,
25 instead, are sloppishly committed to right wing

1 ideology that is based literally on a hatred of
2 government, an aspiration to deny as many services as
3 they can, opposition to diversity and a remarkable
4 lack of compassion, I dare to say a set of policies
5 that are in stark contrast to the Bible and Christian
6 doctrine that they trumpet is their belief and
7 often --

8 (Applause.)

9 GOVERNOR WALTERS: But the facts were
10 undeniable. When the dust settled on November 5,
11 2014, Democrats found ourselves in a very deep hole,
12 not an overnight occurrence but a continuance of a
13 slide over several years. Democrats now have only
14 eight senators out of 48 and 29 representatives out
15 of 101 members of the House and no statewide elected
16 officials.

17 What's wrong? What's driving this lack of
18 political success for progressive rational
19 merit-based ideas? Why are we having this moment in
20 our long history of rich with progressive
21 accomplishments.

22 Former Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor and former
23 congressional candidate Caitlin Free (phonetic) and I
24 decided to host last January about 70 activists,
25 young leaders, current leaders and others to share

1 some thoughts. And I am excited that this reconvened
2 State Democratic State Convention is considering some
3 of these initiatives. You and I have many ideas, but
4 here are my three top reasons why we are not
5 succeeding politically, and I'm just asking you to
6 fasten your seatbelt, I'm going to go fast because I
7 want to respect your time. And if you want -- if you
8 want a full rendition of this, of course, this is my
9 nature, I tend to write everything down, so leave me
10 a card later and I'll be happy to e-mail this to you.

11 But, first of all, three reasons why we're
12 struggling. The Republicans have control of
13 redistricting. Well, for decades so did -- so did
14 the Democrats, but it's different now. The
15 sophistication in science is -- has now allowed them
16 to so much more precisely choose their voters rather
17 than voters choosing their candidates. The result is
18 that more than 60 percent of the elections in 2014
19 never made it to the general election ballot and are
20 decided in single-party votes primaries or determined
21 at filing when only one person files. That's reason
22 1.

23 Reason 2. There are very few progressive
24 messages disseminated in Oklahoma. For example, Fox
25 News nominates M -- MSNBC nationally by a factor of

1 five to six lines gear ship ratings with a message
2 that is extremely conservative, and that dominance is
3 much worse here in Oklahoma. The legislature is
4 dominated by right wing Republican politicians who in
5 many cases are extremists. Most of the statewide
6 officials show a very conservative if not extreme
7 ideological line. So, the Affordable Care Act, which
8 is really a good thing for Oklahoma, actually makes
9 \$500 million for Oklahoma, actually creates 12,000
10 jobs in Oklahoma, and at the same time covers 200,000
11 uninsured citizens is received by a majority of
12 Oklahomans as a communist plot, and they believe
13 Governor Mary Fallin when she says it will cost a
14 billion dollars, a preposterously wrong number,
15 fervently wrong. Diversity is good for our culture
16 and our communities. We should not be opposed to
17 people who are not like us in race, in religion or
18 sexual preference, but bill after bill is passed and
19 chips away at the rights and freedoms of those
20 different than our leaders. Education is critical to
21 our success and, yet, public education is almost
22 always under assault. Working men and women who want
23 to organize, they have leverage against powerful
24 corporations, are often characterized as near
25 subversive. The beat-down we get daily is enough to

1 depress a puppy, and that certainly depresses our
2 voters. That was reason number 2.

3 (Applause.)

4 GOVERNOR WALTERS: Reason number 3. And I
5 want to be careful; this is very delicate, because
6 nobody wants to declare Oklahoma a racist state, but
7 when a candidate -- a candidate for president cannot
8 carry a single county in either his election or
9 reelection and, yet, has good ideas and plans or, in
10 the reelection, a solid record of accomplishment,
11 something more is afoot than simply perceived bad
12 politics.

13 (Applause.)

14 GOVERNOR WALTERS: So, having a black
15 president, being respectful of the rights of gays,
16 protecting women's rights, wanting to help elevate
17 the condition of the poor, being for public education
18 improvements, providing healthcare insurance for
19 those without the means to obtain it are sadly not
20 supported by the candidates that are elected by our
21 fellow citizens.

22 So, what do we do about it? What can we do?
23 I want to mention six things.

24 First, we have to have a Democratic candidate
25 in every race.

1 (Applause.)

2 GOVERNOR WALTERS: Out -- out of a hundred
3 -- this is debatable by some who want to marshal
4 resources, et cetera, but I -- let me -- hear my
5 case. Out of 164 total state and federal offices not
6 counting judicial, county and municipal races, only
7 62, 38 percent, were decided on the November ballot.
8 102, 62 percent, were decided by one-candidate closed
9 primaries or by a one-candidate filing. 79, nearly
10 half of all the offices up for reelection, were
11 determined when only one person filed out of 164. 75
12 offices out of 164 had no Democrats file for office,
13 including a congressional seat, the attorney general,
14 the insurance commissioner, the treasurer, the
15 auditor and corporation commissioner. Half of the
16 seats of the Senate and House and 12 district
17 attorneys went unchallenged. 75 Republicans went
18 unchallenged for reelection. Only four Democrats got
19 a free walk. 75 of them, four ballots. I was not
20 favored to win, but I ran and won. Brad Henry was
21 not favored to win when he ran and when he won, and
22 you know of many other similar examples. We cannot
23 let 50 percent of our races in our state government
24 go unchallenged by Democrats.

25 (Applause.)

1 GOVERNOR WALTERS: Number 2, we have to
2 significantly improve our technology to identify our
3 voters and get them to the polls. Finding
4 frequently-voting Democrats and getting them to the
5 polls is no longer good enough. The technology of
6 mining for voters, using what's called data analytics
7 to identify specific interests and demographics of
8 voters and voters passionate about specific issues is
9 advancing rapidly. Only 28 percent of registered
10 Oklahoma voters voted in November 2014, one of the
11 worst turnouts in the nation. When compared to
12 eligible but unregistered voters, adults, Oklahoma is
13 turning out about 18 percent of eligible adults,
14 being that most offices that get to the ballot are
15 chosen by 10 percent of eligible adults in Oklahoma.
16 10 percent of eligible adults elect the right wing
17 extremists in the same state capital. So, better
18 data analytics, better slicing and dicing of our --
19 of our voter files and our -- and the information
20 that we have or can obtain is like tapping well
21 reserves in the ground. The Obama campaign showed us
22 how to do this in 2008 and many states followed suit.
23 We're behind and we need to catch up. That was
24 reason number 2.

25 Reason number 3, the Democrats do not need to

1 change our messages. When our Republican governor in
2 her reelection inaugural address and in her 2015
3 State of the State talked about education and
4 healthcare and correction reform, if you closed your
5 eyes you would have thought you were hearing Governor
6 Jari Askins. But, of course, Governor Fallin's
7 programs are just lip service so as to not offend the
8 Tea Party wing of her party. And -- and the pressure
9 is on for Republicans officeholders and candidates to
10 at least pretend that they are for these things. We,
11 the adults in the room, are winning the message
12 contest and it is getting coopted by Republicans in a
13 1984 or William (phonetic) fashion. We have to be
14 clear that we are for freedom and liberty and the
15 only ones assaulting freedom and liberty are the
16 hyper-conservative legislators that, again, only
17 10 percent of eligible adults put in office.

18 Reason number 4.

19 (Applause.)

20 GOVERNOR WALTERS: Democrats have to beat
21 the drum louder demanding debates about things that
22 matter. And I know we feel like we do it all the
23 time, but we've got to beat it louder. Crazy bills
24 to cut funding for schools, denial of Medicaid
25 expansion dollars, common 4 which is hyped up like

1 some assault on freedom, efforts to terrorize
2 immigrants, women and gays. Democrats have to keep
3 the pressure on that they are about adult decisions
4 and policies that are in the best interest of
5 Oklahoma and not some crazed ideology. And when I
6 say "beat the drums", I mean persistent continuous
7 messaging. Progressive blocks in Oklahoma have, in
8 my estimation, 50,000 participants. The Oklahoma
9 Observer continues to defend progressive ideas and
10 attack hyper-conservative nonsense. This Land Press
11 in Tulsa is progressive, not so political but with a
12 huge audience. I hosted the first ever meeting
13 between these two publications during the last month.
14 There is an effort underway to find a clearinghouse,
15 Washington Post style daily feed, that makes our case
16 of those who believe there has to be another way than
17 that being crammed down by right wing Republicans
18 extremists.

19 And then there is social media. Let me just
20 ask, who's on Instagram? Who posts to Instagram?
21 Who -- who -- who -- who sends out Tweets? Who's on
22 Twitter? Who's on Facebook? A lot more of you. I'm
23 going to sound like Donald Trump here a little bit.
24 You need to follow me. I'm on Twitter, I'm on
25 Instagram, I'm on Facebook, but where I love to pound

1 away is on Twitter because it's instantaneous, it
2 goes immediately, and people, when they see it,
3 they'll re-Tweet it or they'll favorite it. And so,
4 last week I said, "Thank you conservative Republican
5 legislators for cutting the clothing allowance for
6 foster children in Oklahoma", #thank God we still
7 have the oil and gas tax cuts as high as we can get
8 them.

9 (Applause.)

10 GOVERNOR WALTERS: Social media drives
11 that. We're at 5,000 friends on Facebook. When that
12 gets posted and reposted, you'll hit 25,000 people
13 before you know it. And this audience itself, when
14 you start following each other and re-Tweeting that
15 to your network, your network grows, and before you
16 know it, we'll be -- we'll be -- we'll be getting the
17 attention of folks like Scott Pruitt and others who
18 are just off the ranch in terms of their public
19 policy. I disguise my name as David Walters, so I'm
20 easy to find.

21 (Applause.)

22 GOVERNOR WALTERS: We need to create --
23 reason number 5. We need to create a virtual
24 legislature at the initiative petition ballot box. I
25 hope you hear more about this soon, but there are

1 efforts underway to put aggressive issues on the
2 ballot through initiative signature petitions, a
3 highly experienced group to reform that collects and
4 defends signatures and ballot titles and then
5 organizes professional issue campaigns.

6 Complimentary issues should be combined. Those that
7 will attract funding should be on the ballot with
8 those that are going to be very popular. When every
9 Democrat who's going down with double-digit defeat in
10 Arkansas of 2014, minimum wage passed by a two-thirds
11 vote, two-thirds, 66 percent, every Democrat is being
12 slaved and that drove them to the polls. If we don't
13 put minimum wage on the ballot in 2016 or 2018
14 couples with educational funding --

15 (Applause.)

16 GOVERNOR WALTERS: -- with a plan for
17 redistricting commission, which was recently upheld
18 by the United States Supreme Court and the
19 restoration of injured workers benefits, which is Tea
20 Party law, but, if eliminated, we will miss a golden
21 opportunity.

22 Finally, in my -- in my humble opinion, point
23 number 6. Democrats should welcome independence and
24 find a way to attract more of them --

25 (Applause.)

1 GOVERNOR WALTERS: Today the Democrats have
2 fallen slightly behind Republicans in registration,
3 but essentially each party has 43 percent, and
4 Independent registered voters account for 14 percent
5 and they are climbing rapidly. Ben Odom believes
6 that Independents used to be young people who did not
7 want to tell their parents they were Republicans, but
8 -- but young people, professionals, those that skew
9 labels, those who think both parties are bad and
10 maybe some who now don't want their Republicans
11 parents or bosses to know they're Democrats. These
12 voters, independent-minded, young, professionals
13 should be more our voters than theirs. So,
14 14 percent of registered voters are likely
15 sympathetic to more progressive views and are a --
16 are a significant block of voters. By the stroke of
17 a pen, you can open our primary to Independent
18 voters. Strategically it would throw Republicans for
19 a loop because their Tea Party will never ever allow
20 them to open their primary since it would dilute the
21 Tea Party's influence. Independents would get used
22 to voting for our candidates in the primary and
23 appreciate one of the parties welcoming their
24 participation. Some of this goodwill and activity
25 will carry over to the general election which can be

1 very significant in a close election.

2 But will it affect our ability to nominate
3 good Democrats in our primaries? When we can
4 nominate Jim Rogers with no funds, no program, no
5 organized campaign, a guy who held a cardboard sign
6 up on an overpass outside of Tinker Air Force Base
7 and our nominee for the United States Senate, then I
8 -- then I would maintain our primaries can stand an
9 infusion of --

10 (Applause.)

11 GOVERNOR WALTERS: It is -- it is bold, it
12 doesn't cost a thing, it's immediate and if it
13 doesn't seem to work, we can immediately reverse it
14 in the next election.

15 I know it's controversial and it may not
16 happen, but it should.

17 These are my thoughts. Godspeed to those of
18 you ready to take on the future.

19 (Applause.)

20 GOVERNOR WALTERS: I asked the Chairman if
21 I could introduce Governor Nigh. I'm so delighted
22 that he allowed me to come with him today. He lives
23 off the globe and I'd like to be him.

24 He's often referred to as a good guy and a
25 good governor. My view is a little bit -- I don't

1 have the same liberation to it. My view is he's an
2 extraordinary individual and perhaps the best
3 Oklahoma Democratic Governor of all time, the 17th
4 and 22nd Governor of Oklahoma, the first to be
5 reelected and the first to win all 77 counties, from
6 McAlester, a Navy man, a graduate of East Central
7 State in Ada, a teacher, a member of the House of
8 Representatives, born lieutenant governor or at least
9 he was the youngest ever elected lieutenant governor
10 in 1958. He became the 17th governor when Edmondson
11 took the Deceased Senator Kerr's seat and then he was
12 elected lieutenant governor again in 1966 and 1970
13 and 1974, and during that time he briefly served
14 twice as governor. Then he was elected the 22nd
15 governor in 1978 and reelected, the first time in
16 history, in 1982. We had tax cuts in boom days, we
17 had tax increases in downtimes, always supporting the
18 essential services of education, healthcare, job
19 creation. He was a road builder. Just driving here
20 from -- from north Oklahoma City saying, "Remember
21 when we built this? Remember when we did that?" And
22 you wouldn't have -- you wouldn't have any of the
23 major street systems or highway systems that we have
24 today without him. He's a builder of tourism
25 infrastructure creatively boosting that in our

1 economy. He expanded educational TV and much more.
2 He was a reformer, appointing some young guy to
3 co-chair the Nigh Commission which proposed hundreds
4 of changes in state government, including things like
5 the Edmondson Commission. After retiring from
6 office, he stepped in to run a travel tourism agency
7 and then became president of the University of
8 Central Oklahoma which resulted in a boom of
9 fundraising facilities and programs.

10 George, thank God, is of sound mind and
11 reasonably good health, his counsel on issues and
12 politics is golden, and you should count yourself
13 fortunate if you access some of his wisdom. That is
14 why I serve as his driver as often as I can.

15 We all love George, but the bare vote that
16 was given to George Nigh at the bombing commemoration
17 this year brought tears to the eyes of all who
18 witnessed it and to George.

19 Please welcome, in my view, the best
20 Democratic Governor we've ever had, Governor George
21 Nigh.

22 (Applause.)

23 GOVERNOR NIGH: Okay. You just about
24 brought tears to my eyes just then. Thank you.

25 Thank you, David Walters. I thought every

1 car had a governor. Once more, Governor David
2 Walters.

3 (Applause.)

4 GOVERNOR NIGH: The unusual thing is that
5 Governor Walters has said, you know, Twitter and all
6 that sort of stuff. Anybody got a flip phone here?
7 I love you. I love you. Times change. My flip
8 phone is just wonderful. It's just -- and he wrote
9 his speech. I -- I haven't written but three
10 speeches in my life. One was my first inaugural.
11 One was when I was lieutenant governor and I spoke on
12 what mental health means to me. And I can't remember
13 what the third one was.

14 My -- my -- what mental health means to me, I
15 was on the -- actually, I was on the national
16 legislative council executive committee and the
17 chairman from Louisiana called me and said, "We're
18 going to Minnesota to have a -- a nice trip and
19 you're going to speak at the national mental health".
20 I said, "I don't know anything about mental health".
21 And he said, "Well, I don't either, but I'm going to
22 introduce you", and we'll stay after the convention,
23 so I said, "Okay". So, I got the director of mental
24 health and I said, "You need to come talk to me".
25 And for about four days I sat and listened to him and

1 I would write down keywords and I would do things,
2 and then I would give it to my secretary and she'd
3 type and then I'd rewrite it. And I went to
4 Minneapolis and the guy who was to introduce me, he
5 canceled at the last minute. And I'm speaking to
6 maybe a thousand people on what mental health means
7 to me. And, like you, we weren't sure when lunch was
8 going to be and so they introduced me just prior to
9 lunch and they said, "Okay. You can only speak so
10 long because lunch will be served at this time". So,
11 I -- and I read my prepared speech and delivered it
12 wonderfully, delivered it on what mental health means
13 to me. And then, Mr. Chairman, the chairman of the
14 committee got up and said, "I've just been informed
15 lunch is running late, so we have time for questions
16 and answers". And I used a four-letter word and I
17 think it was darn. And so, he just immediately went
18 and said, "Do we have questions?" Somebody stood up
19 and gave this question that I didn't even understand
20 the question. And I said, "Oh, gosh, my flight
21 leaves in 45 minutes and they're downstairs waiting
22 on me right now to take me to the airport, but if
23 you'll write me". Walters said, if you'll let me
24 know, he'll send you his speech. "If you'll write me
25 a letter, I will answer any question you have". And

1 I never heard from a one of them when I left. But it
2 was weird.

3 So, another time where I gave a speech that
4 wasn't written it was when Polish jokes were so
5 great. And the lieutenant governor or Wisconsin was
6 running for governor and he invited me to come up and
7 kick off his campaign -- no. He invited me to a
8 meeting and then to kick off his campaign. But, as
9 lieutenant governor, he wanted me there and he said,
10 "I thought it would be good for you to be there".
11 And I got up and I told Polish jokes in -- in
12 Wisconsin. I told Polish jokes. And a Catholic
13 priest stood up and said, "I'm Polish". And I said,
14 "And Catholic, too?" I mean, I could have run
15 against Donald Trump. I was not making -- and -- and
16 he got -- the Catholic priest came to the microphone
17 and took it away from me and said, "All you decent
18 Catholics follow me", and a third of the crowd left.
19 "And all you decent Polish follow me", and they
20 walked out. So, I thought, well, everybody I had
21 ticked off had left, so I just kept telling Polish
22 jokes and got a standing ovation. They invited me
23 back the next year and we had the largest crowd in
24 the history of their annual meeting, but they said,
25 "You've got to tell Polish jokes".

1 Times change. And I've got to say I don't
2 know everything about everything. And it's tough for
3 me sometimes to decide what I really want to say
4 because there's so much I want to say, but what I'm
5 proudest of is -- is particularly saying that we need
6 to include everybody. And I -- and Donna
7 particularly was my inspiration that special people
8 with special needs need special programs.

9 (Applause.)

10 GOVERNOR NIGH: And -- and I just think
11 that goes to mental health. And it goes to the
12 disabled, and it goes to handicapped, and it goes to
13 anything -- people with special needs. I remember as
14 president -- just before I became president of UCO, I
15 had been hired but I hadn't taken the title, and I
16 was going over to Old North and there was this
17 23-year-old something -- 21, 23-year-old handsome
18 young man on his hands and knees crawling up the
19 steps. I said, "Where are you going?". He said,
20 "I'm going to my class. This building doesn't have
21 an elevator and I can't climb the stairs". On his
22 hands and knees. I went to the dean, I said, "What
23 are you doing teaching that class up on the second
24 floor?" He said, "Well, that's where it is". I
25 said, "Move". He said, "We don't have an elevator".

1 I said, "Move the classroom until we get one".

2 I can remember when we had an open house at
3 the Governor's mansion and everybody had to climb the
4 steps to come in the front door. I said, "Build a
5 ramp". And the preservation -- historical
6 preservation committee said, "Oh, wait a minute.
7 This is historical". I said, "This is the people's
8 house more than historical. Build a ramp". And
9 one day we had --

10 (Applause.)

11 GOVERNOR NIGH: We put in a ramp and we
12 hadn't opened it officially, but there was a lady
13 that came in and Donna and I were shaking hands, and
14 she said, "You've got a ramp". I said, "Yes". She
15 said, "My mother is sitting in the car because she
16 knew she couldn't come in. Can I go get her?" She
17 went and got her wheelchair and rolled her up the
18 ramp, and she was the first handicapped accessible
19 visitor to the mansion. And she cried as she came in
20 the door, as did her daughter, as did my wife, as did
21 I, that she was the first. I don't know if she's
22 Republican or Democrat or Independent; I just know
23 she needed something.

24 And how thrilled I am -- and I can go on and
25 we talked about the Francis -- we drove by the

1 Francis Tuttle Vo-Tech. And I said I -- you know, I
2 -- I am president of a university but not everybody
3 wants to go to a university; they just need training.
4 And vo-tech, in those days, I was proud as lieutenant
5 Governor under a Republican Governor, Dewey Bartlett,
6 who asked me to head up a committee and go to South
7 Carolina and see what this vo-tech system is, to
8 offer training. And I remember that because when I
9 was in the ninth grade we had a vocations class at
10 McAlester. And you wrote down at the beginning of
11 the semester what you wanted to be when you grew up
12 and we studied that the rest of the semester.
13 Doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief. We studied it in
14 ninth grade. And I wrote down governor.

15 (Applause.)

16 GOVERNOR NIGH: And she said, "I don't know
17 how we're going to study that. We've never had that
18 before". I said, "That's what I want to be".

19 When I graduated from high school, the -- in
20 the assembly program this gal was dressed as a
21 fortuneteller and she turned a goldfish bowl
22 upsidedown and she had a sheet over her head and
23 said, "I see the future. I see this girl starring in
24 movies in Hollywood and I see so and so, he's singing
25 on Broadway, and I see George Nigh has just been

1 elected president of the United States Street
2 Cleaners Association".

3 I came home from the Navy in 1946. I was on
4 the OU campus, on the south campus saying I'm going
5 to go home and run for governor. I went to Eastern
6 A&M. I placed third in the Carl Albert Oratorical
7 contest out of three contestants. I was in Bob
8 Hurd's Youth Citizens Committee when I was in East
9 Central in Ada. And who would believe it, the next
10 month my grandson, who is the great grandson of Bob
11 Kerr, is getting married. I share a grandchild with
12 Senator Bob Kerr. But he asked me what I wanted to
13 be. I said, "I want to be governor". I ran for the
14 legislature; I served eight years. A senior in
15 college I got elected. I didn't want to be a
16 legislator. No offense. I was ready to climb the
17 ladder. I ran for lieutenant governor, 16 years as
18 lieutenant governor. I didn't want to be lieutenant
19 governor. No offense. I wanted to be governor.

20 Now, the reason I'm saying this, to wrap it
21 up, because I wanted to be involved in politics, yes.
22 I wanted to be involved in public service, yes. And
23 I wanted people to quit saying, "Just because you're
24 in politics there's something wrong with you". But
25 politics is what we pledge allegiance to. That's

1 what our men and women -- we have prayers for our men
2 and women around the world who are defending
3 Democracy where you select your leaders. And why do
4 we want to defend a government that selects its
5 leaders and then criticize anybody who offers
6 themselves. And under the law you can't be drafted;
7 you have to sign up. You can't be drafted for the
8 legislature. You can't be drafted, Joe, for
9 governor; you have to run. You have to run, you
10 know. And I just tell people, if you don't quit
11 bitching about politics, run for your -- you run. If
12 you don't like who's running, you run. "Oh, I
13 couldn't".

14 (Applause.)

15 GOVERNOR NIGH: "I couldn't do that, but I
16 can sure complain about it and I can sure contribute
17 and I can sure raise money so somebody else will run,
18 but I can't run".

19 And so I believe in the political process, I
20 believe in politics. And I open many speeches when I
21 speak at commencements. And, listen, the baldheaded,
22 gray-headed guy that came up and said, "You spoke at
23 my high school commencement", if you don't get a wig,
24 don't tell people that I spoke at your commencement.
25 Have you all heard about the honored flights. The

1 honored flights, World War II veterans get to fly
2 from our nation's capital to see the World War II
3 museum. Raised money and send them. And I went on
4 the inaugural flight. They said, "Will you go on the
5 inaugural flight?" I said, "Only if you don't call
6 me governor, only if you don't ask me to make a
7 speech, only if you don't have me a reserved seat, if
8 only I'm just aviation boatswain mate third class
9 George Nigh, then I'll go on the honors flight". So,
10 I got on the plane, and they didn't -- they didn't
11 call -- you could see it in their eyes, like some of
12 you today, "Oh, I know him, oh, oh, oh". I was
13 standing in front of the World War II monument in
14 Washington D.C. and this old-timer came up and put
15 his arm around me, and he said, "I just figured out
16 who you are". I said, "Oh, shucks, shucks". He
17 said, "Your son was such a good governor".

18 (Applause.)

19 GOVERNOR NIGH: Here I am, the youngest
20 member of the legislature when I was elected in 1950,
21 youngest lieutenant governor in the nation in 1958,
22 and my son. My how times change, change, change.

23 And you'll notice I'm a little -- I've --
24 I've had back surgery and I have balance problems,
25 but if I hold on. Oh, I like a -- it would be a good

1 excuse for when a good looking Democratic woman comes
2 up, I say, "Oh, hey, it's good to see you again. I'm
3 really not loving you, I'm just holding on".

4 Change. Public service. Active. Identify.
5 No, I don't have a prepared speech. But I love the
6 Democratic party because it loves everybody and
7 everybody is welcome. I don't want it to be
8 exclusive. I've got to tell you when I was governor
9 and appointed to committees and chairman of
10 commissions and agencies, there were over 300
11 agencies, boards and commissions. And, yes, I had
12 them all on a board -- I own a board enclosed in my
13 office, and in eight years I became the -- I became
14 the first governor to -- so, that means I served
15 eight years. Most agency, boards and commissions,
16 members of the board are appointed for seven years.
17 So, that means that a governor is basically going out
18 of office historically in Oklahoma before they ever
19 appoint a majority of -- of an agency. I'm the first
20 governor -- when I left office, every single member
21 except one that served on any agency, board or
22 commission I appointed. But when I kept records, I
23 said every agency, board or commission that I appoint
24 will have a female, will have a minority, will have a
25 young person --

1 (Applause.)

2 GOVERNOR NIGH: -- and will have a
3 Republican. Every agency, board or commission. But
4 I think that government and politics should be
5 all-inclusive, and so I wanted that to be a
6 reflection of the people, not just of who supported
7 me. And, yes, as we drove down the highway, I can
8 remember when -- on a four-lane highway, 75 from
9 Bartlesville to Tulsa, they said, "You're four-laning
10 up to Bartlesville? They didn't vote for you". I
11 said, "Yeah, they did". Especially when I ran for
12 reelection. All 77 counties, all-inclusive, all
13 people, all walks of life. That's what this party
14 has been basing in its belief. And I don't have to
15 write that down. I'm proud to be a Democrat, but I'm
16 proud to be inclusive, concerned about everybody.

17 So, in closing may I say, the miracle to me
18 of the Democrat party is that we like to include
19 people, not exclude people. There's two ways to draw
20 a circle, one is to include people in and one is to
21 exclude people out. Our circle of the Democrat party
22 is to be open arms and welcoming to all groups, to
23 anybody who wants to identify. And I second the
24 suggestion of Governor Walters that we allow those
25 who are Independent to be a part of our process.

1 (Applause.)

2 GOVERNOR NIGH: The purpose of a Democrat
3 is to include, not to exclude, and that's why I like
4 the Democratic party and that's why I am proud to be
5 a Democratic, and that's why today I'm honored that
6 you would let me come here. And that's why I want to
7 close by saying continue to be inclusive, continue to
8 love Oklahoma, continue to love everybody in Oklahoma
9 and work together to say all 77, all people, we're
10 different.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. HAMMONS: Don't we elect wonderful
14 leaders?

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. HAMMONS: Please give our governors a
17 standing ovation one more time. Stand up. We've got
18 two great people in the room.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. HAMMONS: I would like to take a moment
21 to recognize the other elected officials who are
22 present, and we're going to also recognize the
23 statewide nominees who carried our Party's banner in
24 2014. But if we could start with the elected
25 officials. And where is that -- who's got a hand

1 mic? Do you have one? If -- we'll start with
2 Representative Inman who is the leader of the
3 Democratic Caucus in the House of Representatives.
4 If you would stand and introduce yourself so everyone
5 can see you. And if the other members of the House
6 and Senate, any other elected officials we have would
7 stand so that you can be acknowledged and recognized.
8 I've seen several of them. I see Representative
9 Perryman in the back, Representative Brown. I know
10 Representative Young is here. Lockhart.

11 REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT INMAN: I won't be
12 long. I'm going to speak here in a few moments, but
13 it is great to see you all, it's an honor to serve as
14 the Democratic leader of the Oklahoma House of
15 Representative these last five years. It's an honor
16 to represent my hometown of Del City and south
17 Oklahoma City at the state capitol, and maybe even
18 more than that it's an honor to serve the men and
19 women who I'm proud to call my colleagues, Former
20 Representative from Rush Springs and our Democratic
21 Nominee for Governor this last, Joe Dorman. And then
22 you're going to get a chance to see some of the
23 talent who you'll hear from here in just a moment.
24 But thank you all for being here, thank you for what
25 you do. And those of you who are represented by

1 Democrats in this room or Democrats who represent you
2 back home but couldn't make it today, understand you
3 really do make a difference. You made a difference
4 back then, and if we can just continue to make that
5 push statewide, we'll get more Democrats elected in
6 the House and the Senate. So, thank you all so much.
7 God bless.

8 REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE YOUNG: Thank you, my
9 leader. George Young, House District 99, Oklahoma
10 City. Thank you so much.

11 (Applause.)

12 REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE YOUNG: Let me say
13 this. This is my first term. And I want to say to
14 my leader, Scott Inman, thank you for your help in
15 assisting me to get situated. I tried to listen, I
16 tried to learn. Next year I'm going to raise some
17 hell.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN CHRISTINE PRICE ALLEN: Good
20 afternoon. I'm City Councilwoman Christine from
21 Midwest City, Oklahoma and --

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN CHRISTINE PRICE ALLEN: Thank
24 you. I'm the first African-American female there in
25 Midwest City, so -- and I'm a Democrat.

1 (Applause.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN CHRISTINE PRICE ALLEN: So,
3 that means that we're making progress all the way in
4 Midwest City. This is my first term and there is a
5 lot of things that are happening there with me, with
6 my voice; I'm very forceful. I'm the only female on
7 the city council chamber, the only female, but I'm
8 the most forceful -- the most forceful one and I get
9 a lot of things done. And I want to tell you that
10 Midwest City, the first year at the Midwest City --
11 excuse me -- Martin King parade was Midwest City's
12 first time attending. So, I'd like to say that we
13 are really getting involved in Midwest City. Thank
14 you all so very much and you all have a great evening
15 and get some things done, Democrats.

16 (Applause.)

17 REPRESENTATIVE DAVID PERRYMAN: State
18 Representative David Perryman, House District 56 in
19 Grady, Kiowa, Caddo County. I just want to tell you
20 I appreciate seeing you here. I appreciate the
21 example that we've had of Governor Walters and
22 Governor Nigh. Thank you so much for the -- the
23 inspirational talks. I mean, it -- it -- it makes me
24 know more solidly why I'm a Democratic.

25 I want to express my appreciation to the new

1 county state chair and -- and the -- the glimmer of
2 hope and the growth that I see of the party in the
3 future in turning this ship around. And I also want
4 to express my appreciation to two individuals who
5 have been so influential in the three years that I've
6 been in the State House, and that is Former
7 Representative Joe Dorman who encouraged me to run
8 three or four years ago. Joe and I live just a few
9 miles apart in Grady County, and his house district
10 is just -- was just south of the house district that
11 I represent. But I can't say enough about Joe.

12 And one other individual is -- is our leader,
13 majority -- minority leader, soon to be majority
14 leader, Scott Inman. I hope that he -- and Leader
15 Inman is a brilliant leader who leads -- leads our
16 House Caucus in a way that is making it stronger and
17 stronger each day. And I -- I just ask you all to
18 fall in line and -- and take the lead from these --
19 these men who are leading our party now.

20 And thank you so much for the opportunity to
21 be here today.

22 (Applause.)

23 SARA BAKER: Okay. We're moving. We're
24 moving. Bear with me.

25 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES LOCKHART: Hello. I'm

1 Representative James Lockhart, House District 3 down
2 in southeast Oklahoma, LeFlore County.

3 (Applause.)

4 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES LOCKHART: I'm really
5 glad to be here today. This placard and our -- our
6 agenda, that's going to go in my personal scrapbook,
7 because I believe, as a Democratic, and more
8 importantly as an American, every vote matters. And
9 given these people, if we can get this done today, to
10 let Independents vote in the Democratic primary, our
11 soldiers our overseas fighting for that and I think
12 this is a historic vote here we're doing here in
13 Oklahoma today. Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 REPRESENTATIVE SHANE STONE: I'm
16 Representative Shane Stone from southwest Oklahoma
17 City. And we are currently at my alma mater Oklahoma
18 City Community College.

19 (Applause.)

20 REPRESENTATIVE SHANE STONE: I just wanted
21 to thank everybody for being here and echo much of
22 what I've heard, and I think we're doing a good thing
23 today and something good for Oklahoma Democrats.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MAYOR JERI MOBERLY: I'm Jeri Moberly,
2 Mayor of Owasso, Oklahoma.

3 (Appause.)

4 MAYOR JERI MOBERLY: I'm currently serving
5 my second term on the Owasso City Council and was
6 supported for two years by my Republican fellows to
7 serve as mayor of Owasso. If it can happen in
8 Owasso, it can happen anywhere.

9 (Appause.)

10 SARA BAKER: So, I saw Representative Mike
11 Brown. Where is he? Okay. I don't have glasses on,
12 so I'm a little blind and I'm just seeing people.
13 Here we go, putting you on the spot.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE BROWN: Well, it is a
15 pleasure to be here. I represent Cherokee County
16 which is God's country.

17 (Appause.)

18 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE BROWN: You know, I am
19 so proud of my leadership at the House.
20 Representative Inman has a visionary aspects of
21 becoming the next governor of Oklahoma, so keep that
22 in mind. I know he doesn't want me to say that. But
23 he has aspirations of that and I saw his 9th grade
24 report on wanting to be the next governor of
25 Oklahoma.

1 But we do need to make some changes in
2 Oklahoma and I think this is a good change. Thank
3 you.

4 (Applause.)

5 SARA BAKER: Do we have any other elected
6 officials? I heard the mayor of Spencer is here.
7 Somebody is pointing and somebody is cheering. Okay.
8 Right here?

9 MAYOR SCOTT CLARK: I'm Scott Clark. I've
10 been mayor of the town of Milburn for 18 years and
11 chair of Johnston County Democratic party for two
12 terms.

13 (Applause.)

14 SARA BAKER: Thank you.

15 MAYOR EARNEST WARE: Good afternoon. My
16 name is Earnest Ware. I'm the mayor of Spencer. And
17 I --

18 (Applause.)

19 MAYOR EARNEST WARE: I'm going to ask a
20 question. And my question is, I know Republicans
21 don't stand for anything, but -- and Democrats stand
22 for the people, but what do the Independents stand
23 for? That's my question.

24 (Applause.)

25 SARA BAKER: Do we have anyone else that is

1 an elected Democratic? If we do, somebody please
2 raise your hand or point them out to me and I will
3 run the microphone over. Going once.

4 VICE MAYOR MARSHA JEFFERSON: I'm Marsha
5 Jefferson, City of Spencer Vice Mayor.

6 (Applause.)

7 SARA BAKER: Representative Virgin just
8 walked in the door.

9 (Applause.)

10 REPRESENTATIVE EMILY VIRGIN: Hello,
11 everyone. I'm Emily Virgin from Norman, District 44.

12 (Applause.)

13 SARA BAKER: Okay. We're -- we're good.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. I will -- would like
16 to read a letter that Governor Hall sent to us. He
17 could not be here. He's residing in California now.

18 It's, "Dear Chairman Hammons. Thank you for
19 your very kind invitation to attend an aggressive
20 state convention on July 25th, 2015, at the Oklahoma
21 City Community College. I am sorry but I will not be
22 able to attend and my apologies for not answering
23 earlier. However, I am writing a letter that is
24 attached to this message and I appreciate you having
25 it read at the convention. I would like to ask a

1 favor; could the Mayor of Holdenville, Beverly
2 Rodgers, read my letter to the convention?"

3 Is Beverly here? I didn't get this in time
4 and open it to make sure that she was present, so I
5 apologize for reading it in her place. I will read
6 the letter.

7 "Chairman Mark Hammons, Officeholders in all
8 levels of state government, Delegates to the 2015
9 Democratic Party, to the State Convention, to my
10 fellow Democrats, it is an honor to have an
11 opportunity to reach you and to be a part of the
12 Convention. The issues you are discussing will have
13 a historic impact for the future of Oklahoma. May I
14 add my endorsement to the proposal to allow
15 Independents to vote in the Democratic primaries in
16 Oklahoma. We have always been an inclusive party and
17 this is a move that has been needed for years.

18 Here in California, where I now reside, there
19 has been very successful integration and I think that
20 it's a tremendously important step in returning the
21 majority of Oklahoma state government to the control
22 of the Democratic Party.

23 It is a significant trend that I've observed
24 in Oklahoma for unification of the many factions of
25 the Democratic Party and positive action. These

1 joined efforts have always been the hallmark of
2 successful campaigns and resulting benefits for our
3 state. In my last two visits to the state I've had
4 many encounters with people on the street who say
5 it's time for change and leadership of the state, for
6 new direction and less acrimony.

7 The return of Oklahoma to blue state status
8 is nearer than you may imagine. Although our nation
9 has many divisive issues to reconcile and solve, it
10 is my firm belief that the only viable path is to
11 elect a Democrat to the White House in 2016.

12 With your help --"

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. HAMMONS: "With your help, I envision
15 Oklahoma as one of the pleasant surprises in winning
16 the election in 2016. In your selection of Chairman
17 Hammons and the other positions of leadership who
18 bring wisdom that will benefit the party for years to
19 come, may God bless this convention, the State of
20 Oklahoma and the United States of America. Your
21 friend in the cause for better government for all,
22 David Hall, Oklahoma's 20th Governor".

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. HAMMONS: Now, I would like to briefly
25 introduce Mona Waymire from Carter County who is the

1 daughter of Former Governor Raymond Gary.

2 (Applause.)

3 MONA WAYMIRE: Thank you very much for this
4 privilege. And it was wonderful to hear our two
5 previous Governors Nigh and Walters speak, and
6 they've given you great addresses. And I'm just
7 bringing to you the past of a former governor, my
8 dad. I've been writing my autobiography, and, as I
9 have, I've been seeing the things that he
10 accomplished when he was governor and I just briefly
11 want to mention those to you.

12 How many of you have benefitted from the free
13 textbooks? That was -- that was a piece of
14 legislation that he got passed in a senate bill.

15 (Applause.)

16 MONA WAYMIRE: Another -- another
17 noteworthy thing he did while he was in the senate,
18 which was for 14 years, was that he -- he reduced the
19 number of school districts in Oklahoma to
20 consolidation from over 4,000 to approximately 1,600.
21 This was probably motivated by his time as serving as
22 county superintendent in small Marshall County where
23 he had over 40 small dependent school districts to
24 look over, so he saw firsthand what it would do. And
25 when he introduced that, they protested and marched

1 around the capitol, I am told from my reading and
2 what I remember him talking about, by the thousands,
3 10,000 exactly. And his peers in the senate said,
4 "You will never be reelected". But he was.

5 (Applause.)

6 MONA WAYMIRE: But the thing that he was
7 most noted for, as you remember, was the peaceful
8 integration of Oklahoma schools.

9 (Applause.)

10 MONA WAYMIRE: I have been a strong
11 Democratic for many, many, many years and taught
12 Democratic politics around the dinner table, the
13 lunch table and the breakfast table, and I have
14 attended more Democratic rallies than you can
15 probably count.

16 But thank you very much for the opportunity
17 of bringing his presence to this meeting today. And
18 I know that he's looking down on us and probably
19 talking politics somewhere up there.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. HAMMONS: The next thing that we will
22 do before we start the order of business and receive
23 a report of the credentialing committee will be to
24 introduce the candidates for statewide office who
25 carried the party's banner in 2014.

1 Now, before we do that, though, Linda
2 Gershner -- am I proceed pronouncing that correctly?
3 -- left her wallet up here and so she needs to come
4 get it before the credit cards and money disappear.

5 And one other thing, we are going to
6 introduce the staff. After the vote I hope you will
7 stay; there is -- there is other business to
8 accomplish, but I want us to keep on -- on the
9 schedule of starting the debates on the open primary
10 at 1:30.

11 I do have to say before we go any further
12 that there is one person who has shown dedication
13 above and beyond, and that is our state treasurer.
14 Donna, where are you?

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. HAMMONS: Happy birthday, Donna. Today
17 is her birthday. Someone out there needs to lead
18 "happy birthday" for her.

19 (Singing.)

20 (Applause.)

21 DONNA RUSSELL: Thank you all. There's no
22 way I would rather spend my birthday.

23 MR. HAMMONS: 2014 was a difficult election
24 year for the Democratic Party, but it also marked the
25 emergence of some true leadership for the party

1 people who will be with us and who will be guiding us
2 for years to come. I would like to recognize those
3 individuals.

4 Sara, if you would get up, and, Mike, so that
5 we can do that, who are present and who carried the
6 party's banner and carried it well in 2014. I would
7 like to give you more time but we did promise we'd --
8 we'd start the open primary issue at 1:30, so if you
9 could try to keep these remarks to a minute or two, I
10 would appreciate it.

11 But let me start with the party's standard
12 bearer, our gubernatorial nominee, Joe Dorman.

13 Joe, if you would stand.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. JOE DORMAN: First off, I want to say
16 thank you to each and every one of you in this room.
17 There is no way the efforts we put forth would have
18 been possible without each and every one of you all
19 around the state working hard.

20 Now, I know I did not have a primary, so I
21 was automatically the Democratic nominee for
22 governor. But in case any of you had any questions
23 about my qualifications, I can assure you I know the
24 executive, legislative and judicial --

25 (Applause.)

1 MR. JOE DORMAN: I can also assure you
2 that, as I traveled around the state and visited with
3 Oklahomans of all backgrounds, people want to see
4 something better for our state. They want to see a
5 change that will improve the lives not only of
6 themselves but the future generations, who will also
7 take care of those elderly who have put forth much
8 effort to see great things for our state who may be
9 struggling.

10 We saw policies at our state capitol this
11 last session that hurt not only the elderly but hurt
12 kids, hurt poor people. The other party passed
13 legislation to block opportunities for people to give
14 a living wage to Oklahomans. We saw a governor
15 single-handedly block efforts to implement Medicaid
16 expansion in our state to help people survive, to
17 have the opportunity to provide for their families.
18 We saw teachers demonized and, in turn, students
19 punished whereas we're forcing test after test after
20 test on them instead of actually allowing the
21 teachers to have a chance to do their job and educate
22 those students and prepare them for life.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. JOE DORMAN: We've seen people
25 demonized and scrutinized because of the personal

1 choices they make in their life. Whenever the other
2 party says they want to stay out of the bedroom, they
3 want to stay out of your personal lives, they turn
4 around and pass bill after bill signed by the
5 governor that tells you how to live your life. That
6 is simply wrong. We must work together.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. JOE DORMAN: I will tell you a majority
9 of Oklahomans want to see something different, but in
10 this last election cycle we saw 40 percent of the
11 people who were eligible voters go to the polls.
12 Part of that was the weather, part of it was lack of
13 an interest in the campaign, part of it was the other
14 side working to discourage people from going to the
15 polls. We have to redouble our efforts, we have to
16 work hard. 2016 is going to be an important election
17 year, not just because of the presidential race, but
18 it's the anniversary of term limits. We're going to
19 see a huge turnover in our legislature. The men and
20 women that are there in the back have been putting
21 their time and effort into fighting for better
22 Oklahoma. We're going to see people like Sally Kern
23 term out.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. JOE DORMAN: But I ask you, what are we

1 going to do about it? Are we going to see something
2 different? Are we going to see something better?
3 The only way we will see something better is if we
4 work hard to make it a reality. We have to focus our
5 efforts, we've got to channel our resources into the
6 campaigns and help our candidates. We need to make
7 Scott Inman Speaker of the House. We need to make --

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. JOE DORMAN: We need to make sure we
10 send rational legislation to the governor's desk so
11 in 2018 we'll actually have a governor that will sign
12 those good bills into law, that will turn this
13 around. We've got to make sure that we put forth the
14 best candidates.

15 It was mentioned earlier, "If you're not
16 happy with the job someone is doing, step up and do
17 it". And that's exactly what I did in this last
18 election cycle. I was going to go home and run for
19 county commissioner. Just to be able to sleep in my
20 own bed seven nights of week, that was going to be a
21 wonderful change of pace. But no one was stepping up
22 to run against Mary Fallin. And just like was said,
23 "If you're not happy with the job someone is doing,
24 step up and do something about it". And while
25 41 percent was not a victory, it wasn't the majority,

1 it spoke volumes. Mary Fallin --

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. JOE DORMAN: -- the third worst
4 percentage of the Republicans incumbent across the
5 United States. And that was with \$1.6 million spent
6 against her \$4 million, plus however much money the
7 Coke brothers and everyone else was putting in behind
8 the scenes that we can't track. We scared them. And
9 it was because of each and every one of you working
10 hard to make that a reality. We've got to fight
11 back, we've got to speak about the issues, we've got
12 to have the candidates out there with the resources
13 who can deliver the victories. We've got to make
14 sure that we send the right people to our
15 courthouses, our state house and the White House to
16 deliver those promises --

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. JOE DORMAN: I was honored to be your
19 Democratic nominee. And these guys down here in the
20 front will tell you it's an amazing experience to
21 travel around the state. And I will also tell you
22 four of our last seven governors lost their first
23 race for governor. George will point out it was a
24 primary, but he also met his lovely wife during that
25 break in public service, so I'm trying to follow in

1 his footsteps. But if at first you don't succeed,
2 try, try again.

3 Thank you for allowing me to speak to you. I
4 look forward to --

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. HAMMONS: I am pleased to recognize the
7 most energetic, the most likeable, the hardest
8 working candidate I have ever seen, the best
9 spokesman for Oklahoma. What a shame it is that we
10 do not have her as our ambassador right now as
11 lieutenant governor, Cathy Cummings.

12 (Applause.)

13 CATHY CUMMINGS: Thank you all very much.
14 How honored and privileged I am to be up here looking
15 at all of my friends. So, thank you all so much for
16 that. And for those of you who don't remember me,
17 let me reintroduce myself. My name is Cathy Cummings
18 and I'm the woman who walked across the state of
19 Oklahoma.

20 (Applause.)

21 CATHY CUMMINGS: And I'm also the woman who
22 lived on minimum wage.

23 (Applause.)

24 CATHY CUMMINGS: Yes. And I'm also the
25 woman who went undercover as a lunch lady in the

1 Oklahoma City public schools.

2 (Applause.)

3 CATHY CUMMINGS: And I'm the woman that got
4 that company fired for serving low-quality food to
5 our students and our children in our Oklahoma City
6 public schools. Yes.

7 (Applause.)

8 CATHY CUMMINGS: And I am so proud of that.
9 Now, they only gave me a couple of minutes, so how
10 about we get this party started.

11 So, I did not lose for lack of effort, let me
12 just say that. So, but I'm here today to talk to you
13 about what's next. Now, people are asking me every
14 single day if I'm going to run for office again, and
15 honestly what I tell them is, "I don't know". I
16 think we have a few things we need to discuss first.
17 Now, I wasn't invited to the meeting in Tulsa that we
18 did all -- you know, with ideas on how to move our
19 party forward and the problems that existed, but I
20 thought this was a great opportunity for me to tell
21 all of you firsthand what it was like for me running
22 for office, town to town to town, across Oklahoma.
23 But I want you to keep in mind, and I'm going to go
24 through these very quickly, that we're just looking
25 for solutions. I'm not just listing complaints. So,

1 I need everybody's help. So, a lot of people,
2 Democrats and Republicans, they would ask me, "Did
3 you vote for President Obama?" And honestly they
4 weren't that nice about it when they asked me if you
5 know what I mean. And when I said I did, they said
6 they couldn't vote for me, and it was their polite
7 way of showing their bigotry. Yes.

8 (Applause.)

9 CATHY CUMMINGS: And it was everywhere, it
10 was everywhere. But you know what, his term is up in
11 17 months. I want to move on past that issue.

12 So, they beat me over the head with gay
13 marriage. They told me I was part of the degenerate
14 party. Yes. And I told them, "Hey, I love everybody
15 just the same, even Republicans". So -- yes. Since
16 the Supreme Court has ruled and made that decision,
17 hopefully that won't be used against us Democrats in
18 the next election.

19 So let's move on to the next one. And this
20 one is actually big; this is the elephant in a room,
21 no pun intended. But, once again, I'm just telling
22 you about my experience on the campaign trail. And
23 this one actually might make you all a little
24 uncomfortable. And I'm -- you know, we have to talk
25 about abortion. I'm not trying to get anyone to

1 change their mind, I am not trying to get anyone to
2 change their position, but I was viciously attacked
3 verbally and I was humiliated on a regular basis in
4 nearly every bipartisan -- bipartisan, town hall
5 meeting, pie auction, chili cook-off in nearly every
6 small town -- town hall forum I attended. And
7 believe me, there were many. I was called out on it
8 and I was told very publicly that all Democrats were
9 for abortion, by preachers, by ministers and angry
10 and vocal Christians and even though I told them I
11 was Catholic. But I don't honestly know what made
12 them angrier, the fact that I was a Democratic or the
13 fact that I was Catholic. But, collectively, we need
14 to decide how we need to handle this. Nobody is for
15 abortion. Nobody is for abortion.

16 (Applause.)

17 CATHY CUMMINGS: But when a preacher calls
18 you out in front of 300 people and asks why you kill
19 babies and every one of those people in that audience
20 stands up and cheers for that preacher, you better
21 believe you have to have an answer for that. Now, we
22 all answer that we want a woman to have the right to
23 choose. We're concerned for women's health. And
24 that's actually the right answer.

25 (Applause.)

1 CATHY CUMMINGS: But they don't want to
2 hear that answer. And let me tell you why this issue
3 is going to be so important right now. Because it's
4 in the media right now. And this is one of the
5 reasons we are losing a lot of our elections. And
6 many Democrats are voting Republican because of the
7 single issue and they are told by their preachers
8 they can't be a Christian and be a Democrat. Now, it
9 is the truth and I heard it firsthand.

10 Now, I am for people making their own medical
11 choices between themselves and their doctor. But in
12 my personal life, which is separate from my political
13 life, I'm pro life. And a lot of Democrats are. We
14 have to give Christians a way to be able to vote
15 Democrat. And, honestly, I don't have the answer,
16 and that's why I'm up here, because I'm asking for
17 your help. I need your help. And if we're ever
18 going to be relevant in Oklahoma politics again, we
19 have to come up with a better way to handle this.
20 We're waiting for the Hispanic vote to come and save
21 us. Well, guess what? A lot of Hispanics are
22 Catholics and the Pope is not going to change his
23 stance on it and the issue is not going away; it's
24 only getting bigger. So, how about we work on the
25 solution together and let it bring us together

1 instead of tearing us apart as a party.

2 So, now that I've gotten that out of the way,
3 let's move on to a couple of things we can agree on.
4 Like how about feeding our hungry?

5 (Applause.)

6 CATHY CUMMINGS: How about not being last
7 in education?

8 (Applause.)

9 CATHY CUMMINGS: How about standing up and
10 raising the standard -- standard of living for all
11 hard-working Oklahomans?

12 (Applause.)

13 CATHY CUMMINGS: And how about not being
14 embarrassed to be a Democratic?

15 (Applause.)

16 CATHY CUMMINGS: Be proud -- and be proud,
17 my friends. The Democrats can make a comeback and we
18 are going to come back stronger and prouder than
19 ever. I was so honored and privileged to represent
20 you for lieutenant governor and I appreciate your
21 time. Thank you all so much.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. HAMMONS: The next person we're
24 recognizing is Dr. Potts who ran for state
25 superintendent. And I must apologize both to the

1 speakers and to the assembly, we're running behind
2 and there are people who have taken time out and have
3 got to get to work and back home again, so --

4 SUPERINTENDENT TONY POTTS: I'll be brief.

5 MR. HAMMONS: -- be brief.

6 SUPERINTENDENT TONY POTTS: I'll do that.

7 I am following Cathy Cummings, and that is always a
8 tough task because she has all the energy in the
9 world.

10 But I want to say thank to Joe Dorman and
11 Cathy, and because the three of us crisscrossed paths
12 all across the state and it kind of helped each of
13 us. But I am really here for Rhonda and I today,
14 because I'm representing the both of us, my wife,
15 Rhonda, because we made a lot of good friends across
16 this state. And if I made contact with you sometime
17 in the past two years, raise your hand. All right.
18 All right.

19 Well, it looks like I have a little bit more
20 work to do also. But we made great friends going
21 across the state. And that's what I've learned from
22 the campaign trail and also seeing the issues that
23 are important to you. But you know what's important
24 to me is that I want to help a child and I want to be
25 there for a child. And it was talked about helping

1 the most disabled also. Because right now we have a
2 testing process in our public schools that really
3 degrade our children with disabilities.

4 (Applause.)

5 SUPERINTENDENT TONY POTTS: And so, the
6 response to it right now is that, "Well, federal
7 government says this, so we can't do anything", but I
8 believe absolutely we can help these children out.

9 But I'm really only here to say thank you.
10 Thank you for your hard work. Because we got 360,000
11 votes because of you. And if we would have gotten --
12 if I can convince 45,000 more first where we would
13 have gotten 90,000 more Democrats, we would have won
14 this position. And I absolutely completely believed
15 all the way up to that final minute that we were
16 going to win. But, you know, we did win because we
17 made a step forward and we made a dent in what we're
18 doing.

19 The message is out there, the message about
20 public schools. The Democratic Party is about public
21 schools. We take care of everyone at our doorsteps
22 and we've got to stop these for-profit companies from
23 coming in and taking all our money.

24 (Applause.)

25 SUPERINTENDENT TONY POTTS: Without giving

1 you a real long speech and getting you back on time
2 again, I just want to say thank you so much. And I
3 really appreciate what the Governors have said and I
4 appreciate your support, but most of all I need you
5 out there fighting for our public schools. I'm still
6 a public school superintendant, just finished my 21st
7 year, working on my 30th year in education. And it
8 is so important that you, as Democrats, are out there
9 helping me fight for our public schools and not
10 letting all these charter schools invade our rural
11 areas and take our money.

12 (Applause.)

13 SUPERINTENDENT TONY POTTS: Thank you.

14 MR. HAMMONS: Our next speaker is Mike
15 Workman who was nominated for our labor commissioner.

16 MIKE WORKMAN: Fellow Democrats, in 1973
17 when I went to my first Democratic precinct
18 convention, I've learned how to think big but I never
19 thought I would be a statewide nominee for office.

20 I'm not the one that had most the most votes
21 and won the most counties. That was John Cox who won
22 21 counties.

23 (Applause.)

24 MIKE WORKMAN: I'm not the one who had the
25 most money and the most volunteers. That was Joe

1 Dorman who won six counties.

2 (Applause.)

3 MIKE WORKMAN: I'm not the one that visited
4 all 77 counties. Cathy, you were the champion on
5 that one.

6 (Applause.)

7 MIKE WORKMAN: But I'm proud that I was the
8 third best performer of the 6th statewide nominees
9 for office, four statewide and two U.S. Senate. I
10 won the efficiency award. I got more votes per
11 dollar than any candidate.

12 (Applause.)

13 MIKE WORKMAN: Those -- I campaigned in
14 Tahlequah and I won Cherokee. I campaigned in
15 Wilburton; I won Latimer. Would those people from
16 those two counties please raise their hand? Those
17 are the core Democratic counties we have. They voted
18 for some others here as well.

19 (Applause.)

20 MIKE WORKMAN: But I also -- I never
21 campaigned in Coalgate or Holdenville but I won Coal
22 and Hughes County and no one is here from those
23 counties. We accidentally discovered a new path to
24 success at the ballot box. There's no Democratic
25 county there, but the good news is, is we have

1 Democrats in counties like that. They're still
2 voting. They're still voting for Democrats, but we
3 need to push them along. The old joke that if God
4 intended us to vote, he'd send us candidates. But
5 it's our job to push things along. You've heard the
6 once was, the now are's and the not yet's. I hope
7 I'm one of those not yet's. The once future
8 candidate you may or may not see my name on a ballot
9 again, but I also know that, because I was the only
10 one that had a hand gesture that was the best hand
11 gesture. Those of you remember the Workman 4 Labor
12 (indicating). Okay. Come on, do it with me one
13 time, Workman 4 Labor (indicating).

14 Now, on -- on the ballot this next cycle it
15 might be Workman 4 Oklahoma (indicating).

16 Thank you very much for your time and vote
17 for the Democrat --

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. HAMMONS: We have one more person who
20 is inexplicitly -- inexplicitly -- inexplicably, I'm
21 sorry, not listed and should have been. She has been
22 a leader of the Democratic Party for years. She has
23 been a leader within the state senate for years. She
24 is the first African-American female to carry the
25 nomination of the Democratic Party for a statewide

1 office for the U.S. Senate. She should have been
2 listed. We see her everywhere. She does everything.
3 She is part of our daily lives. And I guess somehow
4 we took her for granted, which we should never do,
5 because she is a treasure for this party and for me
6 and for each of you. She is the first person who
7 volunteered to be a speaker for the Democratic Party
8 to go to your county organizations and speak to your
9 groups.

10 I would welcome Senator Connie Johnson.

11 (Applause.)

12 SENATOR CONNIE JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank
13 you so how much, Mark. And thank you, all of you
14 Democrats, for being here and let's get this work
15 done.

16 I believe and I think that experience taught
17 me that it is possible for Democrats to win in
18 Oklahoma. All we have to do is work. It's not
19 rocket science. You will hear me all across this
20 state in the next year talking about absentee voting.
21 In fact, everyone in here should apply. You don't
22 have to use it but you get it. And that's my point.
23 That is the one thing we want to do, to help make
24 sure that people vote. When you absentee vote, you
25 don't have to worry if someone doesn't tell you

1 there's an election. You don't have to worry about
2 ID. You just get your ballot certified, notarized.
3 So, let's get this job done. I'm glad to hear from
4 all the other statewide candidates, and, yes, we did
5 run into each other on the road to the nooks and
6 crannies of Oklahoma. But I think they're all
7 inspired, too. So, I'm not going to say a lot. I'm
8 just going to challenge us to get this job done.
9 Let's elect Democrats, let's be strategic about it,
10 let's figure out what our issues are, and then let's
11 be unified and together win back Oklahoma.

12 Thanks so much.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. HAMMONS: Our report from the
15 credentials committee.

16 MR. RATCLIFF: All right. Good afternoon.
17 Of the 701 eligible delegates, we have credentialed
18 283 in person, we have 93 proxies credentialed for a
19 total of 376. The magic number of quorum is 281.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. RATCLIFF: We also have six alternates
22 credentialed and six ex-officios credentialed. That
23 concludes the report of the credentials committee. I
24 will move adoption.

25 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Second.

1 MR. HAMMONS: All of those in favor.

2 Is there any objection?

3 The report is adopted. We have a quorum
4 present.

5 Under a recessed convention or what is
6 sometimes called adjournment to a date certain, you
7 commence where the prior convention ended. The prior
8 convention had ended by consolidating by a more than
9 2-to-1 margin the vote and discussion on opening the
10 primaries for the resolution and for the bylaws
11 amendment.

12 Under the rules there would be two minutes of
13 debate for and against a motion. There is -- correct
14 me if I'm wrong -- five minutes or six minutes a side
15 for a bylaws change, which seems to me to be an
16 inadequate amount of time to fairly discuss and
17 debate such an important issue; therefore, the
18 Chairman would request a motion to extend the time
19 for debate on these issues to four speakers of
20 four minutes apiece alternating pro and con so that
21 we can have a fair and reasoned discussion on this
22 issue.

23 Is there such a motion?

24 MR. MACK MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I so move.

25 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. A motion is

1 recognized. Is it seconded?

2 MR. MACK MILLER: Second.

3 MR. HAMMONS: This is a motion which would
4 move -- which would amend the rules as provides for
5 the time and, therefore, it requires a two-thirds
6 majority vote.

7 Is the body prepared to vote on that motion?

8 Then at this time is there a call for the
9 question?

10 TO BE IDENTIFIED: The question.

11 MR. HAMMONS: Call of the question has been
12 called. We will -- because it's a two-thirds
13 majority, we'll just do a standing vote count. If we
14 will start to the right, count to the center. Please
15 show your proxies.

16 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Move consent.

17 MR. HAMMONS: Is there -- if there's no
18 objection, we can do it by consent. Is there
19 objection to the motion pending? That would be four
20 speakers, four minutes apiece, alternating pro and
21 con? Is there any objection?

22 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Objection.

23 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. Start the count then
24 to the right. All those in favor, please stand.
25 Please show your proxies if you have a proxy. If you

1 wouldn't move to different sections while the vote is
2 being count. We're starting on the right side. Do
3 we have enough counters where we can count
4 simultaneously?

5 Then everyone that's in favor, stand. If you
6 favor, signify so by standing. I tell you what.
7 Stop the voting. Sit down. Those opposed stand.
8 Those opposed stand.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. HAMMONS: The chair sees a two-thirds
11 majority.

12 (Applause.)

13 JED GREEN: Mr. Chairman, point of
14 privilege, please. Point of privilege.

15 MR. HAMMONS: Yes. What is your point?

16 JED GREEN: Mr. Chairman, Jed Green,
17 delegate out of Oklahoma County.

18 I ask that we be given a five-minute recess
19 to allow the opposition to the motion to select their
20 speakers. On the sign-up sheets we were just
21 provided this morning we had 11 delegates who would
22 like to speak in opposition and have not yet been
23 afforded the opportunity, given the process, to
24 actually determine who we will have speak.

25 MR. HAMMONS: The Chair would not object.

1 We would ask that you reconvene by 1:55. So,
2 four minutes, if you can.

3 JED GREEN: Sounds good. I've got 11
4 people on the list. If you signed this list, meet me
5 over there in that foyer.

6 MR. HAMMONS: We will recognize four on
7 each side, so please try and have a consensus.

8 JED GREEN: Yes, sir.

9 MR. HAMMONS: In three minutes you need to
10 be in your seats so we can get started.

11 (A break was taken.)

12 MR. HAMMONS: I need us to reconvene. I
13 need to start promptly.

14 DENNIS WEESE: Delegates, please take your
15 seats out of respect to the Chairman. We're trying
16 to get out of here on time. Please take your seats
17 and keep your conversations to a minimum, please.
18 Take your seats, please, so we can vote.

19 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. I have a list of the
20 speakers for and against. Each speaker will have
21 four minutes. They can yield their time to another
22 speaker, but the total cannot exceed four minutes.
23 Together there will not be more than 16 minutes. I
24 will ask the Sergeant of Arms to keep track of the
25 time and whack them on the head if they go too long.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. HAMMONS: So, I have that the speakers
3 and order of speakers will be Joe Dorman first for
4 the proponents, Jim Frasier first for the opponents,
5 Mr. Olson second for the proponents, Debbie Leftwich
6 second for the opponents, Representative Emily Virgin
7 third for the proponents, Tiffany Phillips third for
8 the opponents --

9 TO BE IDENTIFIED: You've got it backwards,
10 Mark. You used the opponents for proponents
11 backwards.

12 MR. HAMMONS: No. Proponents first,
13 opponents second.

14 TO BE IDENTIFIED: But proponents are for
15 the motion and you're listing them --

16 MR. HAMMONS: Right. The proponents are
17 for. Emily Virgin is for it, Tiffany Phillips is
18 opposed to it. They are the third of the speakers.
19 Representative Inman will be the final speaker on the
20 proponents and Jed Green will be the final speaker
21 for the opponents.

22 I will apologize at this time Joe Dorman to
23 begin for the proponents speaking in favor.

24 MR. JOE DORMAN: Delegates, let us first
25 say thank you very much for proving Will Rogers

1 wrong; apparently the Democratic Party can be
2 organized as we did have a quorum here today to
3 conduct business. So, thank you for taking time on a
4 Saturday to come up here and complete the duties of
5 the party.

6 This is a very important issue. As I just
7 finished my statewide race, traveling around
8 Oklahoma, having the opportunity to visit with
9 people, we've seen the product of Fox News, we've
10 seen the product of our opponents, the Republican
11 party, and what they've done to demonize politics in
12 general around the state and around the nation.
13 Young people, as we've seen, are changing their party
14 registration or they're registering for the first
15 time as Independents because they've lost faith in
16 the system. That's what we've seen as a result of
17 Newt Gingrich, the moral majority, and the efforts
18 that have been going on since the early 1990s to
19 discourage individuals to participate in the system.
20 As we have fewer people involved, they have the
21 opportunity to channel their resources and win their
22 races. We have to find a way to engage with these
23 Independents and these younger voters to get them
24 involved. When you go out and you look at the
25 numbers, when you look at the analytics, we used

1 these in my race which helped us tremendously to
2 reach out to young people. I won Oklahoma City, I
3 barely lost Tulsa. We managed to get the message out
4 to the younger generation, many of whom were young
5 Republicans and young Independents, to cast votes for
6 the best candidates. We've got to work hard to get
7 that message out. We've got to reach individuals
8 across the spectrum. And when I say "we", it's the
9 candidates. The candidates need that help to go out
10 and win the votes. The Democrats need to be
11 solidified behind Democrats and working hard for
12 Democrats. I had many well-known, well-named
13 Democrats that supported Mary Fallin. That was their
14 choice. If we would have had people working
15 together, we would have been successful. If we would
16 have had the tools in the toolbox to reach this
17 younger generation that believe the lies and
18 misleadings, we would see success. We have to have
19 every opportunity to reach out to these Independents
20 and win them back into the poll where they should be.
21 They should be Democrats but we have to welcome them
22 with open arms. We have to be the party of the big
23 tent and encourage them to get involved. In visiting
24 with Keith Gaddie, a professor at OU, he visited with
25 me about the numbers. Young people, unfortunately,

1 in high numbers are registering Independent but
2 they're voting for our issues. We've got to get them
3 involved in the party so we can win the best races so
4 we won't see Jim Rogers elected in the Democratic
5 primaries again and we can win these elections.

6 Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield the rest
7 of my time to Tom Guild.

8 MR. HAMMONS: You're allowed to do that.

9 MR. TOM GUILD: Thank you, Joe. Ladies and
10 gentlemen, there are -- as of the 5th of January this
11 year, 261,429 Independents in the state. We have a
12 historic and golden opportunity to invite them to our
13 party. Now, you might say, "What difference will it
14 make?" Well, actually, I did the research. The
15 Libertarians in 1996 and 2000 invited Independents to
16 vote in their primary. There was the uni --
17 Libertarian primary, and, as a result of that, she
18 got 2.65 times more votes than the presidential
19 nominee in Oklahoma. In 2000 there was a corporation
20 commission primary in the Libertarian party, and
21 their nominee, he got 3.27 times more than the
22 presidential nominee. So, we have a historical
23 opportunity to make common cause with more than a
24 quarter million people who otherwise might not
25 consider voting for our candidates in the general

1 election.

2 Seize this golden opportunity, restore the
3 rich Democratic tradition of Will Rogers and Robert
4 S. Kerr and vote for this.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. HAMMONS: The next speaker is Jim
7 Frasier.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. JIM FRASIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 I'll be brief. And I've been informed that I -- if I
11 have any time remaining, it will pass to one of my
12 fellow speakers next in order.

13 This is not about electing candidates; it is
14 about choosing candidates.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. JIM FRASIER: If every corporate body
17 that I belong to, be it the Democratic party, the
18 Presbyterian church, the Baptist church, the Catholic
19 church, my LLC or a corporation or my labor union, is
20 it -- the -- only those people within that group get
21 to choose their party representatives. And that's
22 what the real question is. I want to hold up my
23 party constitution bylaws and we all have access to
24 our platform. I identify with that. We all know
25 about the Republican platform.

1 Ladies and gentlemen, here is the platform of
2 the Independents (indicating). That is a blank
3 sheet. They don't know what they stand for. We
4 cannot let them choose our candidates.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. JIM FRASIER: Those -- those people
7 have made a conscious decision to be Independent.
8 Those persons are invited to vote for our candidates.
9 They are alike to a ship without a runner or a boat
10 without an oar; they don't know where they belong.
11 They need to take time to examine not only our
12 platform but our candidates.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. JIM FRASIER: We vote for the
15 Independents at every opportunity, but we should
16 never let them select our candidates. Stand with me.
17 Let's select our own candidates. Let's stand up for
18 that party platform that we're so proud of.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. HAMMONS: The next speaker in favor is
22 Mr. Olson, if you will step forward.

23 MR. JOHN OLSON: Thank you. Thank you all
24 for giving me a moment to speak in favor of opening
25 up the primaries to Independent voters. Some of you,

1 I see her, helped me out quite a bit when I ran for
2 Congress in 2012 and I appreciate all the support
3 that you gave me then and I appreciate all of your
4 continued appreciation as we move forward.

5 And when I think back to that campaign, one
6 of the things that I asked everybody that ever heard
7 me speak was I asked them for a favor, and that favor
8 was to welcome not just Independents but Republicans
9 to help support me when my -- in my run. I welcomed
10 them because our platform was one where we were for
11 something, not opposed to something. We were for a
12 strong public education system, we were for
13 good-paying jobs, we were for healthcare for
14 everyone, we were for women's rights, we were opposed
15 to discrimination in all of its forms. That's what
16 we ran on. And you know what, that is salient
17 (phonetic) not just to Democrats but it's salient to
18 Independents and it's salient to Republicans, too.
19 And we have an opportunity here to show that we are
20 actually going to put our money where our mouth is.
21 And when we say that we're opposed to cutting off
22 voting rights for anybody, we have an opportunity to
23 open ourselves up, we have an opportunity to be the
24 big tent party, we have an opportunity to welcome
25 people. And that's what I ask all of you to do when

1 you were supporting me; welcome people who are going
2 to vote for us, show some consistency.

3 If you're an Independent, you're looking at
4 whether or not you're going to affiliate yourself
5 with one party or another. You have a choice. Okay?
6 You have a choice and you're going to listen to what
7 people are saying for both parties. And if you have
8 a party that's telling you that you're welcome,
9 you're welcome to vote in primaries, you're going to
10 consider that. And if you have a party that's going
11 to be opposed to you joining their party and they
12 want to exclude you or that they look at you like
13 you're not worth their time, the choice is really,
14 really easy for you.

15 And, by comparison, if we do this today, if
16 we open up our primary elections to independent
17 voters, they're going to be getting to identify
18 themselves as Democrats and we're going to see a
19 trend in support --

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. JOHN OLSON: So, the Republican party,
22 the party in opposition to everything, the party in
23 opposition to all of those things that I just said we
24 were for, they're going to be in sharp contrast
25 because they're never going to do this. And if

1 you're an Independent, the choice becomes clear.
2 This is how we grow our party. This is how we move
3 forward.

4 And so, I'm going to ask that favor again and
5 I'm going to ask you all to welcome Independents in
6 the process.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. HAMMONS: Part of John's time has been
10 yielded, so I'll need to know who will take that,
11 whether it will be Representative Virgin or
12 Representative Inman.

13 REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT INMAN: I'll take it.

14 MR. HAMMONS: The next -- okay.

15 The next speaker that is in opposition is
16 Debbie Leftwich and she has how much total time?
17 Four minutes and --

18 SARA BAKER: Five minutes and 35 seconds.

19 MR. HAMMONS: Five minutes and 35 seconds.

20 MS. DEBBIE LEFTWICH: That may not be
21 enough. I appreciate the opportunity in having a say
22 in this very important issue that we're taking up
23 here today.

24 Now, we've heard a lot of talk today about
25 the Independent voter. I know a few, probably

1 everyone in this room knows a few. And while we're
2 getting excited about the Independent voter, though,
3 how many of you all know that the majority of the
4 applications the election board receives, these
5 people do not mark Democratic, Republican or
6 Independent. If nothing is marked, they default to
7 the Independent category. That is a flaw in the
8 system. I've taken it up in the past with the
9 election board people. They're going to leave it
10 like it is probably from now on. So, I'm not calling
11 all these Independent voters, I'm calling some of
12 them default voters. They just happen to slide in
13 that category.

14 But having a said that, you might wonder,
15 well, why are they -- those that really did register
16 as Independent, why are they that way? Well, maybe
17 they don't know any better, maybe they don't pay
18 attention to either party, maybe they listen to too
19 much Fox News or both, maybe they just vote for the
20 man, for the woman, for the candidate.

21 That's all good. However, I became a
22 Democratic and I'm still a Democratic today because
23 of our issues, because they are relevant in my
24 everyday life. They're relevant in your everyday
25 life or you wouldn't be here today.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. DEBBIE LEFTWICH: Especially on a hot
3 summer afternoon. And you've got to wonder where do
4 they stand on the issues that are important to us?
5 Okay? They may help us on -- they might help us on
6 minimum wage; I know a few that might. That's a
7 pretty big might. But when it comes to issues like
8 choice, where do they stand? I know the ones I know
9 don't stand in our corner. Where do they stand on
10 same-sex marriage? I guarantee you they're not in
11 our corner. Where are they on school vouchers? I
12 guarantee you they're not in our corner. Where are
13 they on the Affordable Care Act? Can some of them
14 even say the words "President Obama"?

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. DEBBIE LEFTWICH: I guarantee you they
17 can't. And they won't.

18 The reasons, the issues that we all became
19 Democrats are relevant. They're relevant to us.
20 They should be relevant to other voters. Maybe we're
21 not doing a good enough job teaching.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. DEBBIE LEFTWICH: Maybe we need to be
24 looking in the mirror and all of us do a better job
25 of telling people out there why we are right,

1 Republicans are wrong, they need to register as a
2 Democratic, they need to turn out at the polls and
3 help us at the primaries and everything else. It
4 seems to me like that, by letting them in our
5 primaries, we are taking an easy route.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. DEBBIE LEFTWICH: Okay? We're taking
8 the easy route. But at what cost? Let me tell you,
9 those shortcuts come with a high price many times. I
10 know that only too well, but let me tell you, if we
11 lose our relevance, if we don't stand up for our
12 issues and convince people that we're right and
13 they're wrong, we're not doing our job, but we can do
14 a lot better. I have faith in the people in this
15 room that we can do a heck of a lot better job than
16 what we've been doing.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. DEBBIE LEFTWICH: I want this party to
19 stand up and stand for these issues that made us all
20 Democrats.

21 I became a Democratic at the early age of 16
22 because of public education. Coming from a small
23 rural county school, I saw how it was, the people,
24 and who stood up for us, is the Democrats. When I
25 was a young woman, it was about choice, it was about

1 equal rights for women, and I was -- it was glorified
2 by the Democrats fighting for what I believe in, the
3 issues that are important to me.

4 How many of you became Democrats because of
5 public education? Raise your hand. Raise hands. Is
6 -- is that a core issue for you?

7 What about same-sex marriage? What about gay
8 rights? What about women's rights? Okay.

9 We cannot let these people come in and choose
10 our candidates and dilute the values that we believe
11 and hold --

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. DEBBIE LEFTWICH: I yield my remaining
14 time to Denver Marcel (phonetic).

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. HAMMONS: How much time is remaining?

17 SARA BAKER: A minute and 3 seconds.

18 MR. HAMMONS: There will be a minute and
19 three seconds that will be added to -- to Jed.

20 Representative Virgin is recognized. Come
21 forward. I've been advised that Representative
22 Virgin will be using four minutes and delegating her
23 additional minute to Representative Inman.

24 REPRESENTATIVE EMILY VIRGIN: Thank you
25 very much everyone and thank you for the opportunity

1 to speak on something that's a very important topic
2 and something that I truly believe has the ability to
3 transform our party.

4 I know that this is a really tough issue for
5 a lot of us in this room, because we're the ones
6 putting in the hard work, we're the ones who are the
7 party loyals, we're doing the tough things that
8 nobody else is doing, because we believe deeply in
9 the mission of the Democratic Party. But I also
10 think that it's time for us to admit that, if we're
11 going to continue as a successful political party in
12 Oklahoma, we have to try something different.

13 Allowing the Independents to vote in our
14 primaries is not an admission that anyone in this
15 room is at fault or is weak, but it is an admission
16 that things haven't exactly been going well for us as
17 a party in quite a while. No one speaking in favor
18 of this is blaming anyone for the direction our party
19 has been going. It's been happening nationwide and
20 there are lots of reasons for it, but that's not why
21 we're here today.

22 This is about taking a risk on an experiment
23 that could prove to be a great decision for our
24 party. I think we can all admit that we love to draw
25 distinction between us and the other party, the

1 Republicans. And their party chair certainly has
2 made that easy for us lately.

3 (Applause.)

4 REPRESENTATIVE EMILY VIRGIN: For us,
5 though -- for us the differences have always been
6 clear and the differences have always been obvious.
7 But for many Oklahomans and especially people in my
8 generation, they don't see a whole lot of differences
9 between the two parties. They see both as exclusive
10 clubs that they don't know a lot about. We must do
11 something to welcome the new generation into our
12 parties. And this is --

13 (Applause.)

14 REPRESENTATIVE EMILY VIRGIN: Now, this is
15 not to say that we are going to stop trying to
16 recruit Democrats and try to get people to register
17 as Democrats. That will always be a top priority for
18 us. But this is simply a step in the right
19 direction. We have to show people who don't have an
20 allegiance right now to one party or the other that
21 we want them, that we are willing to let them vote in
22 our primaries because we are the party of inclusion.
23 This distinction will be apparent immediately because
24 Republicans have already said they will never allow
25 this to happen in their party.

1 It's important to know that this is precisely
2 what I characterized it as earlier; this is an
3 experiment. If we don't like the results of this
4 experiment, we don't have to keep doing it. It's a
5 simple process; we go to the election board and we
6 tell them, "We don't want to do this anymore". But I
7 think that it's time to take a risk of the party
8 starting with this experiment.

9 I want to close by reminding all of us,
10 myself included, that we've been saying for years
11 that we want to make it easier for people to vote.
12 Voter ID laws have decreased turnout especially among
13 people who vote as Democrats. Everybody knows that
14 these laws have been enacted by Republicans and
15 they're doing what the Republicans wanted them to do.
16 But, as a Democratic Party, we need and want more
17 people to participate in the Democratic process.
18 That benefits us as a party.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. HAMMONS: Was given to Jed Green, so
21 you'll have four minutes.

22 MS. TIFFANY PHILLIPS: And I just want to
23 say now any time I should have left over shall go on
24 down the line as well.

25 Hi. Tiffany, Tulsa County. Tiffany

1 Phillips, Tulsa County.

2 And when I first heard this, I was keeping an
3 open mind about it hearing why people were suggesting
4 this, but I kept coming back around in my head,
5 "Why?" "Why is this the answer for all the problems
6 we're having in our party right now?" "Why is --
7 when we're not effectively reaching out to all of our
8 Democratic voters already and making sure they're
9 involved and active in the parties, why are we then
10 going ahead and opening up the primaries to the
11 Independents, other people as well?"

12 And so, I started kind of going down the list
13 especially this last week trying to figure this out.
14 "Is it about better candidates?" Because if that's
15 the case, maybe we just need to find better
16 candidates who are going to speak to the issues that
17 these people care about.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. TIFFANY PHILLIPS: We see that right
20 now when across the country we're seeing this
21 groundswell for Bernie Sanders as he's speaking --

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. TIFFANY PHILLIPS: -- far left. So,
24 most of our candidates who run you don't speak to.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. TIFFANY PHILLIPS: Honestly, I didn't
2 expect that kind of a reaction.

3 I think that all of those here are running
4 for Hillary, but there's a lot of flirting with
5 Bernie going on.

6 Are we -- you know, why exactly, you know,
7 are we trying to include them in this process? I
8 just keep going over and over that in my head.
9 Obviously, as Jim has spoken to, party activism. You
10 know, there's a lot of people in this room I've heard
11 saying, "Well, then why bother being a Democratic?
12 Why bother being involved?" And, as a party, I can
13 still support the candidates, I can still go ahead
14 and vote in the primary. Why am I going through all
15 of this? Especially when sometimes you feel like
16 we're beat down on.

17 And then the real key that I was trying to
18 figure it out on is voter -- is it about voter
19 turnout and getting voters out to the polls? So, I
20 started looking at the various places that do have
21 open primaries in various forms. And it's hard to
22 find another state that's going to have a quorum like
23 we're going to have. South Dakota is probably the
24 only one who's recently done it. In 2010 they --
25 their state Democratic Party decided to open the

1 primary.

2 TO BE IDENTIFIED: California did it.

3 MS. TIFFANY PHILLIPS: California went to a
4 top two.

5 TO BE IDENTIFIED: That's right.

6 MS. TIFFANY PHILLIPS: It's a different
7 system. And in the -- in the -- they're open. You
8 don't really have enough elections that are similar
9 to tell for sure, but voter turnout has been staying
10 about the same; it's not going down. And to the
11 point of California, you know, Governor Hall in his
12 letter spoke about how they changed their system.
13 With all due respect to Governor Hall, the -- you
14 know, the statistics that I've seen on it, the exact
15 vote turnout, in 2012 primary and general as well as
16 the 2014 primary and general, since they changed to
17 the top two where all candidates are in one primary,
18 everybody votes in that primary and the top two
19 vote-getters go on. So, you could end up with two
20 Republicans in a general, two Democrats in a general,
21 whatever. And since going to that, California has
22 actually had record lows in voter turnout.

23 So, what is it we're looking to do?

24 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Let her speak.

25 MS. TIFFANY PHILLIPS: So, that's what I

1 keep coming back to. What is it we are trying to do
2 here? You know, Tom brought up the Libertarian
3 party. If we're going to do this, like do we also
4 try to them be a party in the state like they're
5 trying to do right now? Because in the end I think
6 that will help us. Libertarian candidates will help
7 take off some of those Republicans votes kind of like
8 what Gary Richardson did back in 2002 when Brad Henry
9 was first elected. He took votes from Largent; and,
10 in addition too, he increased turnout from
11 cock-fighting being on the ballot. I hope we look at
12 voter initiatives because the threshold is extremely
13 low now. I hope we do talk about putting an
14 Independent redistricting commission on the ballot,
15 things like that. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. HAMMONS: The final speaker in favor is
18 Representative Inman who will have five minutes and
19 three seconds.

20 REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT INMAN: Thank you,
21 Mark. Thank you all for being here.

22 And let me say before I get into my comments
23 that I appreciate each and every one of you. On
24 behalf of my caucus and the senate Democratic caucus,
25 we are unified on this issue. Just so you know, we

1 are unified on this issue. We understand that there
2 are those of you in this room --

3 (Applause.)

4 REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT INMAN: There are
5 those of you in this room who -- who disagree with us
6 on this issue, but we still appreciate you, we
7 appreciate all you do to try to get Democrats
8 elected. And so, despite the fact that we have some
9 -- some bitterness, at least in appearance, up here,
10 understand that at the end of the day we are all
11 Democrats all moving in the same direction, and I
12 sure do appreciate --

13 (Applause.)

14 REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT INMAN: I was going to
15 say this. Those of you who remember 1992 and
16 remember the -- the vice presidential debate on
17 which, one side you had Al Gore, on the other side
18 you had Dan Quayle, and right in the middle you had a
19 guy by the name of Admiral James Stockdale. Right?
20 And he's sitting there for a little bit, and looked
21 this way and then he looked that way, then he looked
22 this way and then looked that way, and then finally
23 came to stop and they said -- now, they asked Admiral
24 Stockdale the question. What did he say? He stopped
25 and said, "Who am I? Why am I here?" Right? That's

1 what he said.

2 Well, that is the question I ask each of you.
3 "Who are you and why are you here?" I know why I'm a
4 Democrat and I know why I'm in -- in an elected
5 office. I'm in an elected office because I'm the
6 grandson of a U -- UAW member and the grandson of two
7 World War II veterans. I'm in office -- I'm in
8 office because I'm the son of a copier repairman and
9 a secretary who never made much money at -- at all
10 and never were able to put me through a private
11 school or pay for my education. I had to work for
12 it. So, today, that's the reason, to fight for
13 people like them. That's why I'm in the legislature.

14 But why are we here today? Why are we here
15 as a Democratic Party? And that's the question that
16 you have to answer before you vote today. If you
17 think that we're here, as a Democratic Party, our
18 main goal is simply to increase the number of
19 registered Democrats, so be it. If that's why we're
20 here, then you can't do this. But if you think, as
21 do I, that our main goal as Democrats isn't just to
22 get more people registered but actually to get more
23 Democrats elected, then that is -- that requires --

24 (Applause.)

25 REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT INMAN: But you see --

1 you see while -- while my good friends on the other
2 side are going to say that it's all about choosing --
3 choosing our candidates, they're right. But, you
4 know what, at the end of the day, when the people of
5 Del City voted me in by -- by a 9-point margin. I
6 won by about five or 600 votes, you know what, it
7 wasn't just Democrats that put me there. Thank God
8 that they elected me in the primary, but it wasn't
9 just Democrats who put me in office. I don't stand
10 here today as the Democratic leader solely upon the
11 votes of Democrats in my district. I stand here
12 because Democrats, Republicans and Independents
13 supported me, and I reached out to them in my raise
14 and we got their support.

15 And so, what we're asking to do now is, is
16 we're asking to be that big tent party, be the party
17 of inclusiveness. And by allowing Independents to
18 vote in our primary, what it would do is it takes
19 candidates that I go recruit and candidates that you
20 go recruit, and from the very beginning if they tell
21 the folks in their district that they're running for
22 office, they're knocking Democrats' doors and
23 Independents' doors right off the bat.

24 (Applause.)

25 REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT INMAN: They're not --

1 they're not waiting -- they're not waiting for the
2 very end of the election cycle after a primary then
3 to hopefully turn around and start knocking on -- on
4 Independents' doors. Heaven forbid a Republican not
5 have a primary at all and they would have been
6 talking to everybody while our folks are just talking
7 to Independents. This puts our candidates in front
8 of the base, make a difference come November. And if
9 you don't think it will make a difference, know this.
10 When I was elected in 2006, and there were 44
11 Democrats going into the '06 election and there were
12 44 Democrats in the House coming out of it. We were
13 2,000 votes, 2,200 votes away collectively from being
14 speaker of the house, Danny Morgan, in 2006. True
15 story. We lost Ada by two votes. We lost another
16 seat by 20 or 30 votes. And you know what, I believe
17 that if our candidates in the Democratic primary had
18 had a chance in Pontotoc County and other places to
19 be talking to Independents in 2006, that two-vote
20 margin here and the 20-vote and 30-margin there may
21 have been made up and we could have gone from 44 in
22 the House to 51. After all, that is our primary
23 goal.

24 (Applause.)

25 REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT INMAN: So, you heard

1 my colleagues say that it's not permanent; we can go
2 back. If it doesn't work well, it's not permanent;
3 you can go back and -- next cycle and get rid of it
4 if you so desire. You can. We all know the
5 Republicans aren't going to do this. As a matter of
6 fact, I sat with Republicans who are tired of the
7 party becoming so radical. And those said, "Are you
8 guys really considering this?" And I said, "We are".
9 They said, "Man, if we could only get our party to do
10 the same". I said, "You never will because you're
11 too close-minded and you're not open to
12 Independents". And if you think those Independents
13 --

14 (Applause.)

15 REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT INMAN: If you think
16 those Independents -- it's been alluded to by someone
17 from the opposition that the Independents don't know
18 what they stand for. Au contraire. They know
19 exactly what they stand for. And here's the deal.

20 (Applause.)

21 REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT INMAN: Here's the
22 deal. They know what they stand for and it's time
23 that our candidates go out and talk to them. And so,
24 it's not a matter of looking and saying Independents
25 don't know where they belong or don't know what they

1 stand for. If they truly don't know where they
2 belong, then it's your obligation and my obligation
3 to stand up and offer them an invitation. Because,
4 at the end of the day, if we invite them into our
5 party, our goal, why we're here shouldn't be getting
6 more folks registered; it should be getting more
7 Democrats elected. And that's --

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. HAMMONS: Jed Green will talk for the
10 opposition. He has five minutes and three seconds
11 from the additional time yielded to him.

12 MR. JED GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 My hat is off to the people of this convention.

14 Independents already made their choice. They
15 opted out. They opted out. Why should we opt them
16 in? 50 percent of Democrats showed up last November.
17 Only 25 percent of Independents showed up to vote
18 last November. Our people may drag their feet a bit
19 to the polls, but 75 percent of Independents don't
20 give a rip about our party or voted. We may have
21 enough -- we have enough to do as a party connecting
22 with the people we have already -- who already have
23 declared their affiliation.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. JED GREEN: Why should we increase our

1 commitment and our costs of primaries in a tough
2 fundraising environment?

3 If a campaign wants to -- wants to talk to
4 Independents in a primary, go for it. No one is
5 stopping you. Go talk to them now. I suggest,
6 though, would be just go talk to all Democrats first.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. JED GREEN: I run campaigns. I know
9 how hard it is. Don't lecture me on metrics. I know
10 what it takes to win campaigns. And I know that we
11 don't talk to our Democrats.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. JED GREEN: Here in Oklahoma County we
14 met our green (phonetic), simply by focusing on
15 getting out and -- and talking to our own people. We
16 nearly won our county and we did win the city for Joe
17 Dorman. It's not just what the campaign does; it's
18 about what the party does. We are the base, we are
19 the work.

20 I find it peculiar that the Daily Oklahoman
21 is so, so in favor of us doing this. It's just
22 peculiar, that's all.

23 Assuming that we don't want to bite off more
24 than we can chew, what will the effects be? Hard to
25 call. In Oklahoma City we may get more progressive.

1 In Tulsa we may get more conservative. I want to
2 talk about rural Oklahoma. Part of the process here
3 didn't really give them a real good voice. The
4 opposition has only had a short time to speak. I
5 feel like we've been talking in favor of this for a
6 couple of hours. So, let's talk about what this does
7 in rural Oklahoma.

8 Out west it might not make a difference.
9 Over in eastern Oklahoma it could be pure mayhem
10 where we still have high Democratic registration
11 numbers and we do have primaries. Remember guys,
12 25 percent more money you need to donate, 25 percent
13 more doors you need to knock, 25 percent more to do.
14 We haven't even talked to all of our Democrats yet.

15 I've heard it doesn't work in our favor, that
16 we can just shut the door. How about this, I'm going
17 to invite you to my house for dinner and when you get
18 there I'm going to slam the door in your face. How
19 is that going to make you feel?

20 Well, those Independents that don't donate
21 the money, knock the doors, make the phone calls. To
22 answer that, we must answer this question, "Why are
23 we Democrats?" Look, I don't know why you all are
24 Democrats but here's why I'm a Democratic. I was
25 born to Democrats and raised by Democrats, yet, I

1 didn't register to vote until I was 32 years old.
2 Like a lot of people in my age group, I didn't care.
3 That was nine years ago. And it was here, in the
4 place that we all right now stand. As a returning to
5 student to "O Triple Cheese" as we affectionally call
6 this institution, that I registered to vote for the
7 first time within five feet of where I stand now. I
8 got involved in the Young Democrats, signed voter
9 registration. And we held a bake sale in that foyer
10 right out there. Why? To raise money for body armor
11 for our troops with Jim Inhofe was voting against
12 giving them that body armor.

13 I met my wife here with the Democrats. And I
14 will just say this -- I would just say this, that we
15 are not -- this is not a silver bullet. There are
16 not known Independents. There is no real Oklahoma
17 base data to tell us what they believe. I know a lot
18 of Independents that are progressive and I know a lot
19 of Independents that are more right wing than the
20 right wingers and they're not Republicans because
21 they're more right wing.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. JED GREEN: Let's not shy away from the
24 hard work. We can do this. At the end of the day,
25 if we stand for nothing, we're going to fall for

1 anything, and I feel like we're about to take a fall.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. JED GREEN: And that is this
4 proposition is a Hail Mary thrown by a blind
5 quarterback to a octopus tied -- with his arms tied
6 in knots.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. HAMMONS: We will put the counters in
9 position. Close the area. Those of you who are
10 voting delegates, please sit so that you can be
11 properly counted. Those who are not voting
12 delegates, if you will step out of the voting area.
13 Sergeant of Arms, if you'll advise me when you are
14 ready for the vote to commence.

15 MR. DENNIS WEESE: My appointees for
16 Sergeant at Arms, please seal the doors. If you are
17 a voting delegate, please step onto the carpet. If
18 you are a nonvoting delegate, please step off or in
19 the guest section over here (indicating).

20 MR. HAMMONS: They will do the voting this
21 time by the counters asking a row to rise. So, it
22 will be a row at a time. And please rise when you
23 are asked, sit when you are asked so we can get an
24 accurate count. These measures are a simple majority
25 vote.

1 MR. DENNIS WEESE: You may not leave the
2 assembly and come back during the vote. We are
3 trying to get out of here on time. So, please, if
4 you are a voting delegate, step onto the carpet,
5 please. No coming back. If you are not a delegate
6 for voting, please step off the carpet or back in the
7 guest section. All the counters, please take their
8 place.

9 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. The voting will
10 commence if the counters are in place. Counters,
11 identify by rows, count by row, keep your tally to
12 report at the end. Thank you.

13 (Voting.)

14 MR. HAMMONS: Please pay attention to the
15 proxies, please.

16 (Voting.)

17 MR. HAMMONS: We've completed the tally for
18 those in favor. Now, for those opposed, are the
19 counters in place? Sergeant At Arms, start the
20 count, please.

21 DENNIS WEESE: Counters, start your votes.
22 This is opposed to the measure.

23 (Voting.)

24 DENNIS WEESE: I would like to thank our
25 counters. Thank you very much. You can now enter

1 and leave the room.

2 MR. HAMMONS: I will recognize our
3 secretary to give the totals.

4 MR. RATCLIFF: All right. The total count
5 is as follows, 314 for, 137 against.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. HAMMONS: The Chair declares the
8 resolution to have passed. It requires a simple
9 majority.

10 What's your point of order? What is your
11 point of order?

12 MS. DEBBIE LEFTWICH: There was no mic.
13 Point of order, Mr. Chairman, that totals 451 votes
14 cast on this. Is that correct? By the secretary
15 numbers he just gave? If so, we only credentialed in
16 376 is what --

17 MR. HAMMONS: At the -- at the commencement
18 of the meeting, but, under the Constitution and
19 Bylaws, any person who is properly elected as a
20 delegate may vote at any point in time if they arrive
21 before the question is called. To my observation,
22 all persons who were counted were properly
23 credentialed and, therefore, I will overrule the
24 point of order and declare the -- the --

25 MS. DEBBIE LEFTWICH: Mr. Chairman --

1 MR. HAMMONS: -- resolution passed.

2 MS. DEBBIE LEFTWICH: Mr. Chairman, excuse
3 me, but on -- on quorum'ing, we do have a quorum, and
4 the number is lower than 376. But the 376 is what
5 this body has opted, that no more than 376 should be
6 voting. I'm going to ask for a new credentials
7 report.

8 MR. HAMMONS: I'm going to overrule. The
9 Constitution supercedes the individual report and
10 specifically says that anyone who is elected as a
11 delegate, they vote at any point in time if they
12 arrive prior to the counting of the vote. That is
13 overruled. I have --

14 MS. DEBBIE LEFTWICH: Then I have a
15 question.

16 MR. HAMMONS: -- asked for consent as to
17 the vote on the resolution be the vote on the bylaws.
18 Both require a simple majority. Given the size, I
19 would ask for consent. With no consent, we will
20 continue with the vote on the bylaw amendment. Is
21 there a consent to using the prior vote as the vote
22 on the bylaw amendment or is there an objection?

23 MS. DEBBIE LEFTWICH: Objection.

24 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. If there's an
25 objection, then, Sergeant of Arms, if you will

1 prepare, we will count the votes on the bylaw
2 amendment. While you're getting your people in
3 order, the Chair will explain. The resolution
4 expresses the will of the delegates. A bylaw change
5 is necessary in order to put that will of the
6 delegates into effect because the bylaws prohibit
7 that. So, there has to be -- there were two
8 measures, there are going to be two votes as to the
9 consent. So, that's the reason why we're doing two
10 votes notwithstanding.

11 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Point of information.

12 MR. HAMMONS: Yes. Point of information.

13 TO BE IDENTIFIED: I'm not sure how to turn
14 this on.

15 MR. HAMMONS: If the light is on, it's on.

16 TO BE IDENTIFIED: The light's on.

17 In the -- in the past, at every convention
18 that I've attended, there's always been an updated
19 credentials report prior to a vote so that we would
20 know exactly how many there were. So -- so that we
21 could go with what you're saying, that late
22 credentialed delegates can vote, can we have an
23 updated credentials report, please?

24 MR. HAMMONS: Well, actually, you can have
25 one, but you cannot ask for an updated credentials

1 vote after the vote has taken place. And that is not
2 supposed to be requested before the vote count has
3 started; however, I will ask the credentialing
4 committee to do that. The -- I will not delay the
5 vote because that would not change the outcome of the
6 -- of the question. And we have much more business
7 to complete.

8 TO BE IDENTIFIED: And I'm not asking --

9 MR. HAMMONS: And I will add -- I will ask
10 Sara, if you will see about an updated credentials
11 report. We will do that.

12 TO BE IDENTIFIED: And I was not asking to
13 reverse the previous vote. I was asking for prior to
14 the next vote.

15 MR. HAMMONS: A request has been made for
16 an updated credentials committee report. I'm going
17 to ask if that has been done. But, in the meantime,
18 we will continue with the vote count under the rules.
19 So, while we are requesting that, Sergeant At Arms,
20 are you prepared to start the count? We will
21 continue in the same manner as before.

22 DENNIS WEESE: Sergeant At Arms appointees,
23 please tell the people in the hall we're getting
24 ready to vote.

25 MR. HAMMONS: We are voting on the bylaws.

1 DENNIS WEESE: We are voting on the bylaws.

2 MR. HAMMONS: They were two related
3 matters. They were consolidated at the end of the
4 last convention, the resolution and the bylaws. We
5 voted on the resolution as the first issue. This is
6 to amend the bylaws. Both matters require a simple
7 majority.

8 So, do you -- does everyone understand the
9 issue? The issue is the vote on the bylaws change to
10 allow Independents to vote. The prior was on the
11 resolution. We combined the debate and the
12 consideration of the two measures. The vote is not
13 to -- we did not vote to combine the voting on the
14 two measures. We voted on the resolution first.
15 This would be on the bylaw change.

16 Yes. You're recognized, yes.

17 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I
18 think, procedure-wise, we should present the bylaws
19 committee report to be adopted first before we can
20 change it.

21 MR. HAMMONS: And normally that would be
22 correct; however, those two matters were consolidated
23 at the end of the last convention. It was done by
24 more than a two-thirds majority which suspends the
25 rules as to that. We do need a report to take up the

1 other changes. That will be the next matter. That's
2 the reason we were able to proceed with the
3 two-thirds majority.

4 Are there any other procedural matters?

5 If not, Sergeant At Arms.

6 TO BE IDENTIFIED: I would just like to ask
7 a question. Why is it in the Constitution and Bylaws
8 it states in one section that you have to have a
9 two-thirds majority to change the Constitution and
10 Bylaws but in the other part of it it says a simple
11 majority vote.

12 MR. HAMMONS: In the Constitution it says
13 to make a constitutional amendment change, it is a
14 two-thirds majority. The provision on excluding
15 Independents is in the bylaws. To amend the bylaws
16 requires a simple majority.

17 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Why is there a
18 difference between the Constitution and Bylaws and
19 the Bylaws?

20 MR. HAMMONS: That was a decision made
21 before today and we're operating under what we have
22 to operate under today. We will proceed with the
23 vote.

24 Sergeant At Arms, if you will commence the
25 vote count, please. We will start with those in

1 favor of the bylaws change. The counting will be in
2 the same method as before.

3 MR. DENNIS WEESE: Counters, take their
4 places. Sergeant At Arms, seal the room.

5 (Voting.)

6 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. I'm going to announce
7 that the total in favor has been counted at 348.
8 Given the number of delegates in attendance, would
9 those who are in opposition, please rise. If you --
10 those in opposition, if you will please rise. If you
11 are in opposition, please rise.

12 The Chair sees a majority in favor of the
13 bylaws change. It only requires a one-vote majority.
14 The majority is clear.

15 The Chair declares the question to have
16 passed.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. HAMMONS: We will -- we will take a
19 four-minute restroom break and reconvene at 3:05, at
20 which time I need the report from the bylaws -- well,
21 we'll go ahead and take the report from the bylaws
22 committee and we will start our restroom break.

23 MR. DENNIS WEESE: The report will be given
24 after the break.

25 (A break was taken.)

1 MR. HAMMONS: We need to gather and come in
2 so we can complete the business. I do want to do
3 some informational things that do not require --
4 David, it was requested that we have another count as
5 to the voters. I want to explain something. Before
6 the count actually, if only the purpose is only that
7 you can do business; it is not a bar to anyone voting
8 if they've been properly elected, and I --

9 DENNIS WEESE: Please respect the speaker
10 and be quiet. Respect the speaker.

11 MR. RATCLIFF: Hello. All right.
12 Everybody is probably interested in these numbers, so
13 quieten down for a second. Updated report of the
14 credentials committee. 328 credentialed delegates,
15 130 credentialed proxies, for a total of 458. We
16 also have six credentialed alternates and eight
17 ex-officios credentialed. So, like I said, 458 --
18 there were 451 votes cast in the last voting. So,
19 good job of participating and we haven't lost very
20 many people. They're all still here.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. HAMMONS: We do need to sit so we can
23 conduct some remaining business. First of all --

24 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Quiet.

25 MR. DENNIS WEESE: Quiet, please. Please

1 respect the chair.

2 MR. HAMMONS: Actually, my feelings aren't
3 necessarily hurt, so if talking over me bothered me,
4 but you don't need to worry about that. As long as
5 you're not throwing things, then I feel sufficiently
6 respected. Okay?

7 Texas County had -- we cannot do fundraising
8 today because of an ethics committee ruling, which we
9 are challenging, but I can make announcements. Texas
10 County had 100 percent of its delegates make
11 contributions in the requested amount. If there are
12 still Texas County representatives here, special
13 buttons recognizing you were printed up so, let me
14 give those out to you and thank you for doing that.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. HAMMONS: Ron Marlett is the one who
17 had, what I considered to be, a wonderful idea count
18 -- countering the horrible statement of the
19 Republicans disrespecting you people and me. I want
20 to mention something to you. When you talk about
21 food stamps and the system, 1 in 4 people you're
22 talking about is a child. The majority of the
23 remainder are elderly or disabled. And at this
24 particular time we're also talking about people who
25 are in need because they were displaced during the

1 flooding and tragedies that were suffered in Oklahoma
2 while our governor was in Paris and our lieutenant
3 governor was just missing in action. I don't know if
4 anybody knows where he is and I'm not sure anyone
5 cares. But he had the idea of not only using words
6 but actions to demonstrate our commitment. There are
7 boxes for Food Bank contributions at the back.
8 Please participate in this. Show that the Democratic
9 Party does more than talk about the interests of
10 people, that we actually do things to help the
11 interests of people. And, Ron, thank you for a
12 brilliant idea. And you know what, there are a lot
13 of brilliant ideas sitting in this room. Please
14 share them with us so that we can move the party
15 forward and do a better job.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. HAMMONS: I want to -- yeah, stand up,
18 Ron. This is Ron.

19 MR. RON MARLETT: (Complies).

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. HAMMONS: I'd like to -- thank you for
22 reminding me. Joe Dorman received a text from
23 Governor Henry while he is out of the country on a
24 preplanned visit. He thought enough about this that
25 he wanted to extend his good wishes and his support

1 for the Democratic Party even though he is hundreds
2 -- thousands, I guess, miles away and time zones
3 away. So, he sent that to our gubernatorial nominee
4 Joe Dorman while the convention was in progress to
5 congratulate us for successfully reconvening taking
6 up business. When we work together, this is what we
7 can do. We've got great leaders. We need to keep
8 those leaders and not forget about them.

9 I would like for our staff to stand up. Sara
10 Baker.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. HAMMONS: Christine is here. Christine
13 has been everywhere. I don't know where she is at
14 this moment. Matthew? Matt? Okay. He's been the
15 one managing our computer systems. Well, trust me,
16 without their help, we could not accomplish anything.
17 They work overtime to make things successful. We're
18 not perfect but we are dedicated to being better at
19 being responsive. We could not do it without their
20 help. We couldn't do it without the good work of the
21 other officers, David, Donna, Connie. You may not
22 realize it, but Jim Frasier and Betty McElderry
23 dedicated an entire day during a weekend to help us
24 get the delegates election plan prepared so that it
25 could be put out for comments so we could be timely

1 with the Democratic National Convention. I think
2 everybody knows who you are, Jim, but stand up. And
3 where did Betty go? There she is.

4 MR. JIM FRASIER: (Complies).

5 MS. BETTY MCELDERRY: (Complies).

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. HAMMONS: Without their help and
8 experience, we could not have done that, and we still
9 have a couple of steps for the final approval on it,
10 but the major hurdles we have done. But we did it as
11 a team. We did it with that help. And trust me,
12 nothing good that happens to the Democratic Party
13 happens as a result of one person; it is always a
14 team effort and people pulling together. And our
15 disagreements don't weaken us like Republicans. They
16 -- they make us stronger. And we are stronger now
17 than we were an hour ago, not because of whether the
18 decision was right or wrong, but because we had the
19 courage to face that question, to debate it and to
20 reach a decision, something the Republicans don't
21 even have the courage to do.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. HAMMONS: I have more thanks. All that
24 will do right is delay us getting to our business.

25 So, the -- would the resolutions committee

1 chairperson step forward and be recognized to
2 identify the remaining resolutions that are carried
3 over from the prior convention? After that we will
4 have the report of the bylaws and constitution
5 committee. At that point in time, if you have a
6 question or an issue about a proposed change, you may
7 remove that from unanimous consent by being
8 recognized and identifying the section that you want
9 separately considered. We would recognize the
10 resolutions committee chair.

11 MS. BERNICE MITCHELL: Thank you, Mark.
12 Thank you, Dennis. I would also like to recognize my
13 committee, because like Mark said, one person can't
14 do all this and I have a wonderful committee. So,
15 those of you that are here, as I call your names,
16 please stand to be recognized or come forward. I may
17 have to lean on you. Patricia Al-Sharif. I saw her;
18 I don't know if she's still here. Is Trenton Von
19 Worth here? Michael Thomas? I know Michael is here.
20 Come forward, Michael.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. BERNICE MITCHELL: Tim O'Connor. Eric
23 Thermonson, Jim Huff, Earl Catley, and Donna
24 Shogenhoff (phonetic).

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. BERNICE MITCHELL: These are the
2 hard-working people that helped put all of these
3 resolutions together. And if we had to do one, one,
4 one, by counting them, there were over 80-some
5 resolutions. We were able to condense them by
6 putting those that were similar together. And you've
7 got the printed ones at the last meeting. And I am
8 happy to say -- I believe it's the first time anyway,
9 that we only, only had about between six and seven
10 that were pulled for debate. And that, to me, is a
11 first, so...

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. HAMMONS: Why don't you identify them
14 and then we'll take them in order.

15 MS. BERNICE MITCHELL: If you will look in
16 your book that you received today, there is a page
17 that shows you all the categories. And then by
18 following through this map, you will find that all of
19 them will show that they passed. If they did not
20 pass and if they are subject to debate, that would be
21 printed out. And the first one I think that was
22 pulled for debate comes under healthcare and it would
23 be item C, which was, "Supports the freedom of women
24 to make decisions regarding their reproductive health
25 and opposes legislative actions which deems to

1 curtail access to such medical care including safe,
2 effective contraceptives and affordable prenatal
3 care".

4 So, do you want to do one at a time or?

5 MR. HAMMONS: Yes. Why don't you -- why
6 don't you announce them and then we'll take the vote.

7 MS. BERNICE MITCHELL: Yeah. That's C.
8 I've read the one under healthcare.

9 The next category would be environment. And,
10 yeah, part C. And, again, a section G was added as
11 an addendum at the last convention, and so there
12 would be two there.

13 The next section would be section 9 -- I
14 mean, 11, I'm sorry. All of the areas under gun
15 rights, that whole section was pulled.

16 And then there was -- under taxation, that's
17 number 16 -- oh, I'm sorry. I missed social justice.

18 So, 12, and it's B and C.

19 And then taxation which is 16.

20 MR. HAMMONS: Madam Chairman, thank you for
21 your report. We will proceed to address the
22 resolutions in the order they've been presented.

23 With regard to the healthcare -- with regard
24 to the healthcare resolution, are there persons who
25 wish to be heard on the healthcare resolution? If

1 there are, then there, by rule, is three minutes per
2 side, a total of six minutes. So, is there one
3 person as a front-runner? Okay. Then are there any
4 opponents? Okay. If you -- are there any --

5 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Previous question.

6 MR. HAMMONS: Yeah. If there are no
7 opponents --

8 TO BE IDENTIFIED: We -- we want to speak
9 to a change.

10 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. To do a change
11 actually requires a Petition signed by 25 percent of
12 the sitting delegates. In order to do an amendment,
13 it will require two-thirds vote to approve. The
14 amendment -- the amendment procedure is very
15 cumbersome as set out in the rules, and I could not
16 recognize an amendment without -- without that.

17 TO BE IDENTIFIED: How many?

18 MR. HAMMONS: 25 percent of those present.
19 I'm sorry.

20 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Mr. Chairman, could I
21 address the body about this amendment as a -- an
22 opponent with the understanding that --

23 MR. HAMMONS: Yes. If -- if you want to
24 say that you oppose because of the way it's worded,
25 then you would be an opponent of that.

1 Is there anyone that wishes to be heard in
2 favor of the amended that wishes to speak to -- I
3 mean to the resolution? Excuse me. Anyone who
4 wishes to be heard speaking to the resolution?

5 TO BE IDENTIFIED: I move previous
6 question.

7 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. Previous question has
8 been called.

9 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Mr. Chairman?

10 MR. HAMMONS: Yes. That is prior --

11 TO BE IDENTIFIED: One of us was for, one
12 of us will speak against.

13 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. Even so, the previous
14 question is a prior motion.

15 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Second.

16 MR. HAMMONS: So, that has been seconded.
17 That would cut off debate. Let me see a show of
18 hands as to all who are in favor of the previous
19 question which is to cut off debate. It's not a vote
20 on the resolution.

21 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Parliamentary inquiry,
22 Mr. Chairman.

23 MR. HAMMONS: Yes.

24 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Is it -- is it not
25 correct that a motion for previous question would

1 stop debate and we would go to an immediate vote?

2 MR. HAMMONS: Only if the previous question
3 is approved by the body.

4 TO BE IDENTIFIED: If --

5 MR. HAMMONS: Yes, if the previous question
6 is approved by the body, then we would go to an
7 immediate vote. So, the question has been called.

8 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Keep in mind that we
9 each would only like one minute.

10 MR. HAMMONS: Take -- if they're each just
11 going to take about a minute.

12 TO BE IDENTIFIED: I'll withdraw the
13 motion.

14 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. If you'll do that,
15 who's the opponent and who's the proponent?

16 Annie, if you would just take that mic and
17 speak. One minute apiece.

18 TO BE IDENTIFIED: I want to thank the
19 resolutions committee for their work which is amazing
20 work.

21 This -- this item under healthcare needed to
22 be fine-tuned, because, as it is, it includes the
23 beginning of a list which needs to be very long. And
24 for our candidates to be affected when they refer
25 back to this, it needed to read, "Supports the

1 freedom of women to make decisions regarding their
2 reproductive health and opposes legislative actions
3 which need to curtail access to such medical care,
4 period".

5 Because after -- it only includes "safe
6 effective contraceptives and affordable prenatal
7 care". It needed to include things like mammograms,
8 like fertility treatments, like miscarriage
9 management. This is an incomplete proposal, but,
10 since it's the proposal we have, we do need to have
11 it.

12 MR. HAMMONS: The time has been called on
13 that. Annie, do you wish to be heard? Are you going
14 to use your minute?

15 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Yeah. I'd like to make
16 a motion to set aside --

17 MR. HAMMONS: That requires a two-thirds
18 vote and would not be in order after debate has
19 started. You have to make that motion before the
20 debate has started before the resolution has been
21 present -- I mean, you can't make the motion while
22 there's a motion pending for that.

23 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Right. Okay.

24 MR. HAMMONS: So, right now it is on the
25 motion. Your time is running.

1 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Okay. So I -- like our
2 first speaker said, we need to put a period after
3 "medical care", so I think people would think that
4 contraception is important as prenatal care. We
5 think that the general statement would be better for
6 candidates to run on, won't box them in. And the
7 types of medical care that fall under women's
8 reproductive care is a long list, and if we're not
9 going to list all of it, we don't need to list some
10 of it.

11 MR. HAMMONS: All right. Thank you. That
12 concludes the discussion on the resolutions.

13 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Mr. Chair, I have a
14 question.

15 MR. HAMMONS: Yes.

16 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Can we -- can this be --

17 MR. HAMMONS: Please do it from the
18 microphone so everyone can hear it.

19 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Can we set aside this
20 vote while they write their -- this is what we did at
21 the Oklahoma County convention.

22 MR. HAMMONS: Well, that would be a motion
23 to table the vote, and that has to be made prior to
24 the time the resolution is presented and debate has
25 commenced.

1 Now, a vote -- let me tell I guys something
2 so that you'll understand. There will actually be
3 another state convention in 2016 because it's a
4 presidential election year. There will be other
5 opportunities to present motions and resolutions.
6 So, regardless of what happens this time, before the
7 2016 elections, there will be a further opportunity.

8 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Mr. Chair?

9 MR. HAMMONS: Yes.

10 TO BE IDENTIFIED: I was just going to try
11 to help them understand that, as we could have
12 written a whole page under that of -- of all the
13 things that are available or not available as to what
14 we really need, but we sliced it down to saying what
15 we did because those candidates that you run into,
16 they will accept the fact on some of those and not if
17 you go into all the details on everything. So,
18 that's why it was condensed down to the way it was.

19 MR. HAMMONS: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I
20 appreciate your explanation in regard to this. We do
21 need to conduct a vote because we have many more
22 matters to consider.

23 Annie, the -- I'm sorry, the other speaker --

24 SARA BAKER: Martha Skeeters.

25 MR. HAMMONS: Skeeters?

1 SARA BAKER: S-K-E --

2 MR. HAMMONS: I apologize. Yes. If the
3 speakers will identify themselves in the future, I
4 would appreciate it.

5 All those in favor -- we'll do a voice vote.
6 Say aye.

7 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Mr. Chairman, could we
8 respond to --

9 MR. HAMMONS: No. I am sorry, but there is
10 a limited amount of time for debate. I indulged the
11 -- the privilege allowing the Chair to explain their
12 activities and reasoning, but it will be unfair to
13 the balance of the resolutions if -- if we don't go
14 forward.

15 All those in favor please say aye.

16 All of those opposed say nay.

17 The ayes have it.

18 The next resolution that is pending is part C
19 of the original resolutions on the environment. Is
20 there anyone who wishes to oppose the matter? In
21 other words, it was removed -- is there any remaining
22 opposition to this, any need for debate, or can it be
23 adopted by consent? If there's no objection to the
24 resolution, it will be adopted by consent. No
25 objection to the resolution, no objection to the

1 resolution, part C of environment will be adopted by
2 consent.

3 On the gun rights resolution, all portions --

4 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Wait.

5 MR. HAMMONS: That was part C of the --

6 TO BE IDENTIFIED: G.

7 MR. HAMMONS: Part G would be the -- I'm
8 sorry, I skipped over. Part G was the addendum. Is
9 there any debate or discussion on part G of the
10 environmental resolutions? If there's no debate or
11 discussion, is there any opposition to this? Seeing
12 no opposition, seeing no opposition, seeing no
13 opposition, subpart G will be adopted.

14 The next area that was in controversy was
15 that in gun rights. That's roman numeral II. All of
16 these subsections of this were removed from unanimous
17 consent. Is there remaining objection to this
18 section -- to these three sections? If there is no
19 remaining objection, I will ask if those three
20 sections, in other words, roman numeral II in its
21 entirety can be adopted by consent? Seeing no
22 objection, seeing no objection, seeing no objection,
23 it will be adopted by consent.

24 On social justice, subpart B had been removed
25 from unanimous -- from the resolutions adopted by

1 unanimous consent. Is there a remaining objection?

2 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Opposed to it.

3 MR. HAMMONS: I'm sorry?

4 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Opposed to it.

5 MR. HAMMONS: Okay.

6 TO BE IDENTIFIED: To a change.

7 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. There's an objection
8 to the social justice change, so there would be a
9 speaker. Those should be limited to three minutes in
10 opposition.

11 Is there anyone who wants to speak for this
12 amendment -- or for this resolution? Excuse me. Are
13 there any speakers for?

14 MS. BERNICE MITCHELL: I will do it.

15 MR. HAMMONS: Who wants to speak for?
16 Earlene (sic)?

17 Is there a speaker for it?

18 TO BE IDENTIFIED: We have one right here.
19 I will do it.

20 MR. HAMMONS: So, I recognize there are
21 at least two speakers in opposition. You would have
22 to share time. There's only three minutes allowed.
23 I'll allow the proponent -- who wants to go first?
24 Earlene (sic), do you want to go first? One and a
25 half minutes. You'll be recognized for three

1 minutes. Please state your name for the record. And
2 who was it that raised their hand back in the back?
3 You'll be recognized in support for the remaining one
4 and a half minutes. Would you share the mic with
5 them? Earlene, you would go first and --

6 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Bernice.

7 MR. HAMMONS: You're recognized for one and
8 a half minutes in support of the resolution. That's
9 social justice part B.

10 MS. BERNICE MITCHELL: All I wanted to say
11 in favor of this is because I think we all know that
12 prisons are overcrowded, and if we change some of the
13 sentencing laws, having worked in the judicial system
14 for eight years and -- and I saw this up close and
15 personal, I think this -- this says it all. We do
16 need change in the sentencing laws and put in more
17 programs in order for us reduce our overcrowding in
18 the prisons.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. HAMMONS: You're recognized in
21 opposition. Please state your name. We're going to
22 split, though -- when possible, I'm going to let both
23 the --

24 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Proponent.

25 MR. HAMMONS: You're a proponent? If

1 you'll can go ahead and speak now.

2 MR. FREDERICK JOHNSON: I'm Frederick
3 Johnson from Muskogee. I -- I would support this
4 resolution in reducing overcrowding. In addition to
5 that, we have to change our judicial system because
6 we have some -- some sentences that are totally out
7 in -- in left field. Your mandatory sentences have
8 to be changed. That is another way of reducing of
9 overcrowding in our prison system.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. HAMMONS: Thank you for your time. The
12 opponent is recognized.

13 MR. MARK FAULK: My name is Mark Faulk. I
14 want to change one word in this. We are Democrats;
15 we do not oppose new private prisons; we oppose
16 private prisons. This is a very simple thing. This
17 is an issue of reform. The first private prison was
18 built in 1994 when Keating was governor. After he
19 was elected before he actually was inaugurated, CCA
20 broke ground on the first private prison. They knew
21 that he would give them the contracts, they knew that
22 they would have private prisons in our state. It was
23 built on property owned by the Keating family. He
24 brought in a former prison bureau head who was then
25 working for CCA to give a recommendation, and that

1 recommendation was to give a contract to private
2 prisons which was CCA. Since that time we have grown
3 700 percent in incarceration. So, this has to be
4 step one. If we oppose private prison, we oppose
5 98 percent contracts to keep them occupied, which --
6 that type of a situation. We -- we have to do this.
7 On this one I want to drop the word "new". This has
8 to be step one in justice reform so that we can put
9 people back to work where they belong and not put
10 them in for nonviolent drug offenses, low-dose drug
11 offenses.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. HAMMONS: That will conclude the
15 debate. All of those in favor of the resolution
16 which has to be as written, you understand, because
17 of the difficulties in amendment. All of those in
18 favor signify so by saying aye.

19 All of those opposed.

20 I declare the resolution to have passed.

21 On taxation it is subpart D on state
22 taxation. This was removed from unanimous consent.
23 Is there still opposition to subpart D? Is there
24 still opposition? Hearing no opposition, hearing no
25 opposition, I will declare the subpart D adopted by

1 unanimous consent.

2 This would conclude the consideration of all
3 the resolutions --

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. HAMMONS: -- which is the first time
6 that happened.

7 Now we will go to the bylaws committee and
8 constitution committee report. Dr. Mitchell, if you
9 would come forward.

10 MR. EARL MITCHELL: Very quickly. The
11 constitution and bylaws committee met on May 16th in
12 which there was a committee meeting. We had a quorum
13 of 40 percent. And we had several resolution -- I'm
14 sorry -- several changes in the constitution and
15 bylaws that were presented to the committee. And, as
16 a result of those changes, you have the results in
17 your program, so what I do is move the -- move
18 adoption of the report.

19 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Second.

20 MR. HAMMONS: The report has been --
21 adoption has been moved and seconded. The Chair
22 will, notwithstanding acceptance of the report, ask
23 if there are any items to be removed for individual
24 consideration. But, as for the report itself, is
25 there any objection to accepting the report? Any

1 objection to accepting the report? Seeing no
2 objections, the report is accepted.

3 And we will start with the constitutional
4 changes. Please recall that these would require a
5 two-thirds vote to be enacted. The first one is a
6 modification to Article 5 on affirmative action,
7 Sections 2 and 3. Does anyone want this removed from
8 the unanimous consent? I see that that will be
9 removed from unanimous consent.

10 There is a new Section 4, Article 5, again on
11 affirmative action, does anyone want that removed? I
12 see that. That will be removed from the unanimous
13 consent section.

14 The committee powers and duties, Section 7A,
15 does anyone want that removed? I see that removed,
16 so that has been removed.

17 Then the last one is the central committee,
18 Section 3G, which allows for phone participation in
19 votes, if I recall correctly. Is there any objection
20 to that? Anyone who wants that removed for separate
21 consideration? Anyone -- I'm sorry. So, all of the
22 constitutional changes are removed for separate
23 consideration.

24 On the bylaw amendments there is an amendment
25 to Article 1 of the bylaws on the Calls and Elections

1 of Officials, Section 1D. Is there any opposition to
2 that proposed change? Anyone who wants that removed?
3 Seeing no opposition, seeing no opposition, seeing no
4 opposition, 1D is adopted by consent of the
5 committee.

6 There is a second amendment to Section 1E on
7 Calls and Elections, is there any opposition to this
8 change? Seeing -- seeing no opposition, seeing no
9 opposition, seeing no opposition, this will be
10 declared adopted by consent of the Convention.

11 The next section is Calls and Elections of
12 Officials in Section 8H. I should have brought my
13 reading glasses. Is there any opposition to this
14 proposed change? Is there any opposition to this
15 proposed change? Seeing no opposition, seeing no
16 opposition, seeing no opposition, the change is being
17 adopted by the Convention.

18 On number -- the fourth proposed amendment is
19 Article 5, Voting. It is Section 10. Is there
20 anyone who wishes this removed for separate
21 consideration? Any opposition to this proposed
22 change? Any opposition to this proposed change?
23 Seeing no opposition, then the amendment to voting on
24 Section 10 is accepted and -- by the Convention.

25 Item number 5 is a wording change which

1 involves the alteration of words where they appear
2 throughout the bylaws. And it eliminates the
3 provision for alternate persons and alternate
4 delegates. Is there any opposition to this change?
5 Anyone who wants to see this removed from the bylaws?
6 Hearing no opposition, hearing no opposition, the
7 Chair will declare this accepted by the Convention as
8 a poll.

9 The 6 and 7, they appear to the Chair to be
10 substantiative the same. If there's no objection, we
11 will consider them together. That is --

12 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Mr. Chairman.

13 MR. HAMMONS: Pardon me?

14 TO BE IDENTIFIED: There is objection.

15 MR. HAMMONS: To what? To considering them
16 together? There's an objection to considering them
17 together? Okay. Then we'll start with number 6.

18 Changes to allow electronically or otherwise
19 after the word "mailing", is there an objection? Is
20 there anyone who wants this removed for separate
21 consideration?

22 Were you standing because you wanted --

23 TO BE IDENTIFIED: For 6.

24 MR. HAMMONS: For 6 the answer is yes, you
25 want to be heard on this?

1 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Yes.

2 MR. HAMMONS: All right. On number 7 it is
3 to add "electronically or otherwise" after the word
4 "mailing". Do you want to be heard on this?

5 TO BE IDENTIFIED: No.

6 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. Is there any
7 objection? Any objection? Hearing no objection,
8 number 7 will be adopted.

9 On number 8, Certificate of Elections,
10 Section 1F on the bylaws amendments, are there any
11 objections to this change?

12 SARA BAKER: You're off.

13 MR. HAMMONS: Am I off one?

14 SARA BAKER: Yeah. You're -- you're
15 calling out the wrong numbers. We're on number 9,
16 bylaws Article 2, Section 1F.

17 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. Actually, this is not
18 my bad. Oh, I'm sorry. The -- I've been corrected
19 that the next one is listed as number 9 in this
20 document, and it refers to Article 2, Section 1F.
21 And it's on receipt by mail. Are there any
22 objections to the proposed change in the bylaws?
23 Anyone who wants that heard separately? Any
24 objections? Hearing no objections, hearing no
25 objections, that will be declared adopted as the will

1 of the Convention.

2 The next one is Article 4, Section 3E. Are
3 there any persons requesting to be heard separately
4 on this proposed change? Anyone who objects to the
5 proposed change? Hearing no objections, hearing no
6 objections, number 10, the amendment to Article 4,
7 Section 3E of the bylaws will be adopted.

8 That -- that would conclude the bylaws that
9 have been adopted by unanimous consent. We will now
10 return to the constitutional changes for debate on
11 the adoption or rejection of those changes.

12 Remember, we are limited by the rules for
13 three minutes per side. The first constitutional
14 change proposed is to Article 5, Section 2 and 3 on
15 affirmative action. Who wishes to be heard? May I
16 ask you first, in favor of the proposed change? Who
17 wishes to be heard in favor of the proposed change?
18 Are there no speakers in favor of the change? Do you
19 want to be heard in favor of the change?

20 MR. EARL MITCHELL: Yes.

21 MR. HAMMONS: Earl, do you want to be heard
22 in favor of the change? Dr. Mitchell, do you want to
23 be heard in favor of the change?

24 MR. EARL MITCHELL: Yes.

25 MR. HAMMONS: Okay.

1 TO BE IDENTIFIED: I only have a procedural
2 motion.

3 MR. HAMMONS: The -- just a moment. And I
4 will recognize the procedural motion because we
5 haven't called for the vote. Let me go ahead and
6 find out who wants to speak one way or the other.
7 Who wants to be heard -- if we've got everyone in
8 favor, who wants to be heard in opposition to this
9 change? Ali, Mike Workman. I'm sorry, sir, what's
10 your name?

11 MR. JAMES DEAN: James Dean.

12 MR. HAMMONS: James Dean? I liked your
13 movies.

14 What is the procedural motion that you wish
15 to raise? Yes, Ali, you're recognized for a
16 procedural motion. I understood you had that --

17 MR. ALI CANADA: Yes. I would like this to
18 be taken back to the Affirmative Action Committee
19 because it never come to us. I'm -- I'm the elected
20 chair of the Affirmative Action State Committee, and
21 I would like the Affirmative Action Committee for
22 consideration.

23 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. That's -- I would take
24 that as a motion to table the matter.

25 MR. ALI CANADA: Yes, sir.

1 MR. HAMMONS: And a motion to table takes
2 precedence over the main motion. Motions to table
3 are not debatable. So, all those in favor of the
4 motion --

5 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Parliamentary --
6 Mr. Chairman, if one is to vote yes to table, the
7 resolution will not be considered by this body but
8 would be going to the resolution committee -- I mean
9 the Affirmative Action Committee. And since there is
10 not another convention until the next convention, it
11 would never be voted on by this body. Is that true?

12 MR. HAMMONS: Yeah. Let me explain the
13 nature of a motion to table in the context of what we
14 are. This convention is a separate body. Unless it
15 adjourns to a date certain or recesses, those terms
16 are pretty much interchangeable, then anything that
17 is not addressed at the conclusion of the meeting
18 dies and has to be presented at the next convention
19 which is a separate body and a separate entity. And
20 there will be one in 2016 because it is the president
21 -- the presidential election year. It would not
22 automatically be brought back; it would have to go
23 back through the procedure again.

24 TO BE IDENTIFIED: So, Mr. Chairman, the
25 motion would actually be a motion to table with the

1 intent to kill which requires a two-thirds vote.

2 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Use the mic.

3 MR. HAMMONS: The point has been made that
4 a motion to table with the intent to kill requires a
5 two-thirds vote. The fact of the matter is, though,
6 that it requires a two-thirds vote to pass the
7 matter, so we're kind of splitting hairs. If the
8 majority of the people are in favor of tabling it or
9 not considering it, then it's not going to pass
10 anyway. I would like to expedite the procedure.

11 Mr. Canada, if you would be willing, the -- I
12 think it would be simpler simply to debate and have
13 the body decide. Constitutional amendments require a
14 two-thirds vote in favor of approval; otherwise,
15 we're going to have two separate votes very possibly
16 on --

17 MR. ALI CANADA: Two separate votes.

18 MR. HAMMONS: Pardon me?

19 MR. ALI CANADA: Two separate votes.

20 MR. MIKE WORKMAN: And a motion and second
21 and motion to table. Mike Workman, Tulsa.

22 MR. HAMMONS: Okay.

23 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Yeah. Parliamentary
24 inquiry. I would ask the Chair to consider, since
25 the effect of tabling -- since -- since the effect of

1 tabling this resolution, not a new resolution, will
2 never be decided, it has the effect of killing the
3 resolution and, therefore, under Robert's rules,
4 should require a two-thirds vote.

5 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. I will rule on the
6 sufficiency of the vote after the vote has taken
7 place. So, let's just go ahead and do the vote.

8 If those in favor of tabling -- I'm going to
9 try this by voice. Those in favor of tabling, say
10 aye.

11 Those opposed, say nay.

12 In my view, the motion to table would fail.
13 I would proceed to a vote on the main motion.

14 Those who are in favor of the alteration, I
15 recognize you, Dr. Mitchell. And who else was
16 speaking in favor?

17 DENNIS WEESE: Over there.

18 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Discussion.

19 MR. HAMMONS: Oh, I'm sorry.

20 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Mr. Chairman --
21 Mr. Chairman, commence discussion.

22 MR. HAMMONS: Well, actually, there can't
23 at this point in time. The next order would be
24 debate on the motion then a vote on the motion. So,
25 the debate is the discussion on it.

1 Okay. We'll take the proponents and
2 opponents. You have a total of three minutes.

3 Dr. Mitchell, you are recognized in support
4 of the proposed bylaws change.

5 MR. EARL MITCHELL: Very briefly. I'm
6 presenting this. It came through the committee, the
7 constitution and bylaws committee. So, as chairman
8 of the committee, this was presented in the normal
9 fashion of resolutions coming to the committee -- I'm
10 sorry, constitution coming to the committee and
11 passed on and approved. And I think we need to
12 debate this, the pros and cons of this particular
13 amendment. We should have pros and cons on it to
14 debate it. So, I -- I'm in favor of it.

15 MR. HAMMONS: This is the debate.

16 MR. EARL MITCHELL: I'm in favor of it.

17 MR. HAMMONS: Okay.

18 MR. EARL MITCHELL: Not -- not opposed.

19 MR. HAMMONS: Yes. Paula, you are
20 recognized in favor of it. How much time is left?
21 Who is keeping track of time for us?

22 Two minutes. You have two minutes.

23 MS. PAULA SOPHIA: I speak in favor of
24 adopting this change. Recognizing the LGBT people as
25 underrepresented people. And I'm going to talk a

1 little bit about how -- before I came out of the
2 closet I was part of the majority. I was a police
3 officer, I was ordained minister. If I said it, it
4 was true. After I came out of the closet I was
5 treated like a liar, and I wasn't believed. And I
6 started having different experiences like worrying
7 about police cars behind me. It opened my eyes. I'm
8 not going to say I understand everything that other
9 minorities experience, but I think that someone with
10 my point of view, someone that share -- people that
11 share my point of view ought to be represented as
12 voices in the Democratic Party in Oklahoma.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. HAMMONS: Those who choose to speak in
16 opposition of the amendment. Ali has been
17 recognized, James Dean has been recognized. Do you
18 want to speak in opposition?

19 MR. MIKE WORKMAN: I was previously
20 recognized, yes.

21 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. Ali was recognized
22 first. I'm sorry, I cannot hear you. What did you
23 say?

24 TO BE IDENTIFIED: How much time for
25 debate?

1 MR. HAMMONS: It's only three minutes on
2 this. Three minutes.

3 MR. ALI CANADA: All right. I'm the Chair
4 of the -- Vice Chair of the Affirmative Action
5 Committee. This was never brung (sic) to us. Okay?
6 What I'm saying is that by being the Chair, I would
7 challenge anything that you did not bring to the
8 Affirmative Action Committee dealing with our
9 committee. Okay? So, I want this to be tabled until
10 I can meet -- can meet and discuss this. That's all
11 I'm asking. Okay? And that's fair. You call
12 yourself Democrats; let's do it in a fair way. Okay?
13 We have an Affirmative Action Committee. Certain
14 things don't come to us, we don't know about it, and
15 we show up at the Convention and this is what we've
16 got. So, I would like this tabled for our committee
17 to discuss this.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. HAMMONS: A minute and a half, just
20 under a minute. Mr. Dean, I would recognize you
21 next.

22 MR. JAMES DEAN: Thank you. My name is
23 James Dean. I minister a nonprofit for the State of
24 Oklahoma's veterans.

25 TO BE IDENTIFIED: We can't hear you.

1 MR. JAMES DEAN: My name is James Dean. I
2 have extensive experience in dealing with disability
3 in the community. I minister a nonprofit for the
4 State of Oklahoma's veterans, people with
5 disabilities, and I've worked with various centers
6 for independent living and opportunities. And I
7 wanted to bring to the Democratic Convention's
8 attention that the use of the word "handicapped" is a
9 disparaging descriptive word used historically to
10 describe people beginning from the beginning part of
11 the 20th Century which originated from the idea that
12 the disabled, they came out and held their caps in
13 their hands and asked for donations. This word
14 should be stricken and it's a disparaging comment and
15 descriptive word and it should be replaced with the
16 word "disabled".

17 MR. HAMMONS: I apologize but the time has
18 expired.

19 (Applause.)

20 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Good point, Mr. Dean.

21 (Applause.)

22 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Point of order.

23 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. I've been advised that
24 there is actually a minute and 23 seconds available
25 for the opponents and proponents. So, for the

1 proponents first, is there anyone who wishes to be --
2 be heard for the remaining time allocated, this
3 minute-23? Seeing no one else, then, Mr. Workman,
4 you are recognized in opposition. And there are --
5 is a person behind you so, there's a total of a
6 minute and 23 seconds left on that.

7 MR. MIKE WORKMAN: Mike Workman, Tulsa.
8 I'm asking you to vote against this motion. Two
9 years ago I brought a set of proposals that would
10 change the way the Affirmative Action people were
11 elected. I took it to the committee so that in the
12 future they would be elected from a caucus of black
13 delegates, Hispanic delegates, Asian-American
14 delegates, and I hope that's the way we do it two
15 years from now. But that was not brought before you
16 because the Affirmative Action Committee wanted to
17 speak on that issue before doing it. We've been
18 trying for several months to find the source of this
19 proposal and no one will step forward and say they
20 proposed this. We don't know if this proposal was
21 even brought forward by a registered Democrat in
22 Oklahoma. It just showed up in the mailbox, and the
23 Chair and the Committee cannot tell me who brought
24 this forward. We don't know who the source is.

25 If it passes or fails, it still can be

1 brought forward at next year's convention, at which
2 time the Affirmative Action Committee will bring a
3 package of proposals that deal with the Affirmative
4 Action Committee.

5 MR. HAMMONS: How much time is left?

6 SARA BAKER: 30.

7 MR. HAMMONS: 30 seconds. Lorenzo, you
8 would be recognized.

9 DENNIS WEESE: Lorenzo.

10 MR. LORENZO THOMPSON: Well, the only thing
11 I've got -- they only gave me 30 seconds, but --

12 SARA BAKER: 20.

13 MR. LORENZO THOMPSON: 20 seconds? Okay.
14 What we're talking about -- what we're talking about
15 is -- is underserved by the Democrat -- the Democrat.
16 How we -- you know, people in the gay, lesbian
17 community have been underserved by the Democratic
18 Party. That's what that is.

19 MR. HAMMONS: All right. The debate time
20 has expired. All those in favor of the amendment --
21 and I'm not going to do this by --

22 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Mr. Chair.

23 MR. HAMMONS: -- voice count; I'm going to
24 do it by standing count as the Chair would not rely
25 on a voice vote for a two-thirds majority to be

1 determined.

2 MR. ALI CANADA: Can I -- can I yield?

3 MR. HAMMONS: Well, there's no time left.

4 MR. ALI CANADA: 30 minutes -- 30 seconds.

5 MR. HAMMONS: It actually requires a
6 suspension of the rules to do that, Ali, I'm sorry.

7 MR. ALI CANADA: This handicapped shouldn't
8 -- this handicapped part shouldn't be in here. This
9 shouldn't be in here.

10 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. All those -- those who
11 are in favor of the amendment, please stand and be
12 counted. Let's see if we can determine from the
13 standing count. Okay. I may be able to determine
14 whether it's a two-thirds. Let's just stand right
15 now. Okay? If you're in favor of the amendment,
16 stand. If you would sit if you are opposed. If you
17 would sit -- sit down.

18 Those who are opposed, please stand. Okay.
19 It appears to the Chair that there is a two-thirds
20 majority in favor of the amendment. The Chair will
21 declare the amendment to have been passed.

22 And I will advise you that if there's a
23 reasonable doubt as to the number, then I'll always
24 ask for an individual count, but that didn't look
25 like an issue on that.

1 The next proposed rationale was to add a new
2 Subsection 4 to the Constitution Article 5. That's,
3 again, on Affirmative Action. That's been removed.
4 I know that there will be debate on it, so those who
5 wish to speak in favor, please identify yourselves to
6 be recognized. Those who wish to speak in favor of
7 it. Paula? Yeah, why don't you stand and we'll --
8 we'll get that started. Anyone else who wants to be
9 recognized in favor of the -- David, if you would
10 come forward. Is there anyone else who wants to be
11 recognized in favor of the change? Those who wish to
12 be heard in opposition to the change, would you -- is
13 there any opposition? Okay. I don't see -- Ali had
14 asked that it be -- Lorenzo, are you asking to be
15 heard in opposition? Okay. Is there anyone else
16 seeking to be heard in opposition? I cannot --
17 there's no procedure for me to apportion time between
18 speakers, so I'll simply remind you that there are
19 two in favor. Consider that.

20 Paula, you're recognized as the first speaker
21 in favor of the proposed change.

22 MS. PAULA SOPHIA: I'm for this -- this
23 change, the gender shall also include transgender.
24 To -- to keep referring to a transgender person by
25 their birth sex is a -- is a form of oppression that

1 denies someone like myself an identity. But the
2 formation of gender identity is a complex process,
3 and I fought trying to be what society expected me --
4 of me all my life, and then I finally decided to be
5 with -- with integrity within myself. And I wish and
6 other transpeople wish to be recognized as how they
7 are publicly identified.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. HAMMONS: You are recognized. How much
11 time remains?

12 SARA BAKER: Two minutes and -- and
13 15 seconds.

14 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. Two minutes.

15 TO BE IDENTIFIED: What Paula just said.
16 Remember that. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. HAMMONS: That would conclude the
19 presentation in favor.

20 Lorenzo, you are recognized.

21 MR. LORENZO THOMPSON: What I want to say
22 is transgender, once that process has been done, you
23 are either male or female. Once you -- once you
24 change, you are either male or female. And to have
25 to put it in writing, something that are -- that's so

1 basic, once that happens, you are either male or
2 female. And the only thing this does -- you might
3 think -- I'm not trying to accuse you. The only
4 thing this does, though, is change the gender.
5 Because, guess what, within the Democratic Party is
6 you are a white male, a female. It -- because
7 females are minorities, not white males. You change
8 from male to female, then you become part of a
9 minority. That's the definition of a minority.

10 So, check -- check this transgender --

11 MR. HAMMONS: Technically speaking, there
12 are more females than males, but I understand your
13 point.

14 MR. LORENZO THOMPSON: What -- what I'm
15 saying is that the truth is, the reason why I'm
16 opposing this is because Paula is a she. I don't
17 think of him -- of her being anything other than
18 that. And that's why I oppose having to do that
19 because it's not necessary to do that, because it is
20 what it is.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. HAMMONS: That concludes the debate.

23 All of those in favor of the amend --
24 proposed amendment adding a new section to the
25 Affirmative Action definition, if you will stand. We

1 will not do an individual count unless that's
2 necessary. Those favoring please stand. Please be
3 seated now.

4 Those opposed, if you would stand. Yeah,
5 you're still standing. Those who are opposed. Okay.

6 The matter passes. The Chair sees a
7 two-thirds majority, so the amendment is adopted.

8 Okay. The next proposed constitutional
9 change is to Article 8, Section 7A, and it would be a
10 change in the manner in which the accounting is done
11 for the party's financing. Those who wish to be
12 heard in favor of the change, please step forward to
13 the microphone to be identified. Donna Russell?
14 Anyone else in favor of the change? Any other
15 speakers in favor of this? Wish to be heard in
16 opposition to the change, if you would please step
17 forward. Yes. I see two people who wish to speak in
18 opposition.

19 DENNIS WEESE: Three.

20 MR. HAMMONS: Three. I'm sorry. Who's the
21 third person?

22 DENNIS WEESE: Here.

23 MR. HAMMONS: She's -- she's for it. Two
24 in opposition. Okay.

25 Donna, you are recognized for three minutes.

1 Lorenzo, yes? What is the -- could you
2 announce what the -- what you're -- are you wanting
3 to speak in opposition?

4 MR. LORENZO THOMPSON: Opposition.

5 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. Then come forward.

6 You are recognized to speak in opposition.

7 Do we have all of the speakers?

8 Donna, you are recognized to speak in favor
9 of the proposed change. You have three minutes.

10 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Point of information.

11 MR. HAMMONS: Yes.

12 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Article 7.

13 MR. HAMMONS: Article 8 is -- according to
14 this -- I'm sorry, I misspoke. This is Article 7,
15 Section 7A. It is as I described, a change to the
16 accounting procedure. I -- I apologize for that.
17 Okay.

18 Donna, you're recognized to explain as a
19 proponent. There are still three opponents for that.

20 MS. DONNA RUSSELL: Donna Russell,
21 treasurer.

22 As treasurer of the Party, now in my third
23 term, I want Democrats to have a true accounting of
24 their finances. When we took over in 2001 (sic)
25 there was an audit in the process for two -- for

1 2010. We had to come up with \$6,000 to pay for it.
2 The audit told us our bookkeeping was correct. It
3 was not a forensic audit to tell if money was spent
4 incorrectly, just that the accounts balanced.

5 This constitutional amendment provides for an
6 annual review and an external audit at the end of
7 each term but not necessarily with a CPA. I talked
8 to an enrolled agent. By the way, that was the one
9 who helped us get out of the \$3,000 IRS issue in our
10 favor. And he said -- I'd like to tell you what he
11 told me. He said that, while he doesn't do audits
12 because his clients aren't required to have one,
13 \$6,000 for one year -- remember that's what we paid
14 for 2010 -- sounded a touch low. Studying it I would
15 guess that 7,500 would be a low average per year.
16 Audit insurance is the main culprit. Most CPAs are
17 not permitted to do audits which the public in
18 general has no idea. Because of several restricted
19 and completely unnecessary accounting changes over
20 the past 15 years or so have driven most CPAs out of
21 the market. In addition to the extremely high
22 insurance cost, CPAs who prepare audits undergo what
23 is called peer review -- a peer review process
24 periodically which adds, from what I am told,
25 at least 2,500 overhead to the process. The board of

1 accountancy has a public list of CPAs who are allowed
2 to do audits, a couple of hundred out of 7,500 or so
3 CPAs. So, your choices are going to be limited. I
4 would say that six -- that \$6,000, whoever it was, in
5 essence, did it for free from the standpoint of money
6 in his pocket when the audit was done after he paid
7 for his insurance and peer review.

8 I think we can prove that our books balance
9 less expensively by adopting this constitutional
10 amendment and spend those thousands of dollars on
11 programs to elect Democrats.

12 MR. HAMMONS: That will conclude the
13 presentation of the proponents.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. HAMMONS: And the opponents, I will
16 start with Mr. Dodd.

17 And I apologize I -- would you state your
18 name again for the record, please? That's the second
19 speaker. Just state your name for the record.

20 MS. ORA HARRISON: Hello, I'm Ora Harrison
21 from Tulsa County.

22 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. You're recognized.

23 MR. DOUG DODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
24 Doug Dodd from Tulsa County. I want to speak very
25 briefly against this amendment simply because it

1 removes the requirement that our treasurer talked
2 about for a certified public accountant. I believe
3 that transparency is essential in the operation of --
4 the financial operation of our party. I'm not
5 suggesting that anything bad is happening, but for
6 the people that look at our party, including
7 ourselves, I think to have the confidence that it has
8 gone through the same type of rigorous audit
9 procedure that companies go through is essential.
10 And I think to have something like this passed, even
11 if everybody was completely qualified to do it from a
12 mathematical standpoint, it would not carry the same
13 weight as a CPA audit.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. HAMMONS: Thank you. You are
16 recognized.

17 SARA BAKER: One minute and -- two minutes
18 and 12 seconds.

19 MR. HAMMONS: Two minutes and 12 seconds.

20 MS. ORA HARRISON: I would like to see this
21 more --

22 TO BE IDENTIFIED: We can't hear you.

23 SARA BAKER: Closer.

24 MS. ORA HARRISON: There? Can you hear me?
25 First I'd like to say thank you to Donna who's done a

1 great job, and it hasn't been easy. But I think, for
2 her protection and the protection of the party as a
3 whole, that we need to not pass this amendment to the
4 bylaws.

5 First of all, there's no way that the five
6 members of the financial committee can be independent
7 in expressing an opinion on the record. We do need
8 an outside party that is independent to review our
9 records. Also, the nomenclature in this amendment is
10 outdated, so I would like to see the central
11 committee reconsider changing but not to pass this at
12 all.

13 MR. LORENZO THOMPSON: I yield my time to
14 -- I yield my time to you. Are you finished? On,
15 no. You're doing a good job. You're saying the same
16 thing I was going to say.

17 MS. ORA HARRISON: As Doug Dodd said,
18 independence is essential to the value of a report on
19 financial condition.

20 MR. HAMMONS: Are you concluded?

21 MS. ORA HARRISON: That's all I have to
22 say. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. LORENZO THOMPSON: I've 40 seconds. I
25 second what she said. We have to have checks and

1 balances.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. That concludes the
5 debate on the amendment to Article 7, Section 7A,
6 concerning the audit provision. We're going to use
7 the same procedure as before. If you favor the
8 proposed change, please signify saying so by
9 standing. Go ahead and stand at this point in time
10 if you favor it.

11 Has everyone voted? If you will sit.

12 Those in opposition, if you will stand,
13 please.

14 Okay. The matter fails. It did not receive
15 the necessary two-thirds vote.

16 Let me ask, the next proposed change -- well,
17 actually number 3 is a proposed change to two
18 sections. I think that this would necessarily
19 require rejection of the other proposed language
20 change. Unless there's objection, we will treat the
21 proposed amendment Article 8, Section 7A as being
22 mooted by the defeat of the amendment. Do I hear any
23 objection? Do I hear any objection? Hearing no
24 objection, that will withdraw that.

25 That will bring us to the last constitutional

1 proposal, and it would add to the Democratic Central
2 Committee the Democratic members of the state
3 election board as nonvoting members of the central
4 committee. Is there anyone who wishes to be heard in
5 favor of this change? Is -- is there anyone who
6 wishes to be heard in opposition to the change?

7 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Move previous question.

8 MR. HAMMONS: Let me ask, is there an
9 objection?

10 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Yes.

11 MR. HAMMONS: There is an objection. You
12 wish to be heard in opposition. Does anyone wish to
13 be heard in favor of the change? Ma'am, are you
14 walking forward to be heard on the subject?

15 TO BE IDENTIFIED: No.

16 MR. HAMMONS: State your name, if you
17 would.

18 TO BE IDENTIFIED: My name is Judy Calhoun.
19 I'm from Cleveland County, 4th District.

20 I was asked by some of our state
21 Representatives to speak up in opposition to this.
22 Their complaint was our central committee is way too
23 large already. They don't want more added on. They
24 weren't really sure about this addition, and I told
25 them that I would -- I'm not sure even who our county

1 election board members we have, who they are. But
2 they felt that we had our board way too big as it is
3 and we should not be adding any on that are not
4 elected. And I stand opposed to this addition.

5 MR. HAMMONS: That would conclude the
6 debate. I'm sorry, you were actually supposed to be
7 -- did you raise your hand to be a proponent?

8 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Yes.

9 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. I did not recognize
10 you. I will treat that as a Chair's error. There is
11 a proponent. Is there any other proponent to the
12 change? You'll have -- there are two proponents for
13 the change that I see. If you will stand when you
14 speak, please, state your name, a total of three
15 minutes.

16 MR. TIM ALDEN: My name is Tim Alden. I'm
17 one of our members of the state election board. As a
18 Democratic, there are two of us that serve in that
19 special capacity. We're talking about adding two
20 nonvoting members to the committee, and given our
21 limited presence at the capitol, I think this would
22 be helpful. Plus, those of us who serve on the
23 election board provide advice and information to our
24 central committee. And I -- the representatives that
25 I spoke to and the senator -- again, we're not

1 talking about the county election board; we're just
2 talking about the two of us who are associated with
3 the state election board.

4 MR. HAMMONS: How much time is left?

5 SARA BAKER: Two minutes and 20 seconds.

6 TO BE IDENTIFIED: It won't be that much.
7 Tim said it very well. I would take it one step
8 further and say there are representatives of -- to
9 the state election board who need to hear what's
10 going on at the state central committee and hear
11 firsthand what the central committee would like to
12 have accomplished at the state election board.
13 They're nonvoting members. I -- I think it would be
14 good to encourage them to attend and to actively
15 participate in discussion that pertains to the
16 election board.

17 MR. HAMMONS: That will conclude the debate
18 on the matter. We will follow the same procedure as
19 before. Those in favor of the constitutional change,
20 please stand. Has everyone voted? If you will sit.

21 Those who oppose the constitutional
22 amendment, please stand.

23 Okay. I cannot determine a two-thirds vote
24 by visual inspection, so we're going to have to do an
25 individual count. So, we will count in the same

1 manner as we have previously.

2 Sergeant of Arms, do you have your counters
3 ready?

4 DENNIS WEESE: Counters, assemble, please.

5 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Point of order.

6 MR. HAMMONS: You can't do a quorum call
7 during the vote.

8 Are you prepared?

9 DENNIS WEESE: Step on the carpet so you
10 can be counted.

11 MR. HAMMONS: Those in favor, go by row.

12 DENNIS WEESE: Counters, begin the count.

13 (Voting.)

14 MR. HAMMONS: Have we concluded the count?
15 Yes? No? Are we ready?

16 MR. RATCLIFF: Yes, sir.

17 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. The votes -- tally
18 clerks, if you would take your places, please, the
19 Sergeant At Arms will start the count for those
20 opposed. If you would start the count on the
21 opponents.

22 (Voting.)

23 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. I would ask -- Dave,
24 as secretary, will you announce the vote?

25 MR. RATCLIFF: Okay. 151 for, 109 against.

1 That leaves us -- two-thirds is 173.333, something
2 like that, so it fails.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. HAMMONS: The Chair will declare the
5 measure to have failed.

6 Am I remembering correctly that the only
7 remaining bylaw to get to is Article 4 -- the Article
8 2, Section 2, is that the only one that...

9 Okay. The only remaining item on the agenda
10 is the bylaws Article 2, Section 1F, which provides
11 for electronic submission of notifications. Who
12 would speak in favor of the proposed bylaw change?
13 This is the last item on the agenda.

14 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Move previous question.

15 MR. MIKE WORKMAN: It's number 6, not
16 number 7.

17 MR. HAMMONS: Number 6? Am I looking at
18 the wrong one?

19 MR. MIKE WORKMAN: Yeah.

20 MR. HAMMONS: Oh, I'm sorry. No, wait a
21 minute. We voted on the alternative -- the one we
22 pulled was on electronic voting. Mike, you pulled
23 out the electronic voting? No, you did not. The
24 matter that is before us is electronic voting. Are
25 you saying that you have no objection to that?

1 MR. MIKE WORKMAN: I have objection to
2 number 6 and that's what I pulled for discussion.

3 MR. HAMMONS: You did not. I'm sorry.
4 It's --

5 MR. MIKE WORKMAN: It's in writing on the
6 paper.

7 MR. HAMMONS: That's not --

8 MR. MIKE WORKMAN: I objected to 6 and 7.

9 MR. HAMMONS: That's -- Mike, the -- the
10 matter that was withdrawn, to the Chair's
11 recollection, was the other electronic voting
12 section --

13 MR. MIKE WORKMAN: Point of order.

14 MR. HAMMONS: Will you allow me to finish,
15 Mr. Workman, please? That is my recollection, that
16 is the secretary's recollection as to what was
17 withdrawn. So, you did not, from the Chair's
18 recollection -- Ms. Johnson, let me interrupt you for
19 a moment. Do you have a recollection on the bylaws?
20 My recollection is that Mr. Workman pulled the
21 electronic bylaw voting section, not the alternative
22 vote and that that change was adopted without
23 objection at the time. It's my recollection and the
24 secretary's. Do you have a different recollection of
25 that?

1 MS. CONNIE JOHNSON: (Indicates.)

2 MR. HAMMONS: Then I would rule that out of
3 order, and the matter before the body is the proposed
4 change which would allow electronic voting. Is there
5 any objection to that change?

6 MR. MIKE WORKMAN: Point of order.

7 MR. HAMMONS: Is there any objection to
8 that change? It's not a point of order. If you want
9 to appeal the ruling of the Chair, that's the
10 appropriate motion. If you want to appeal, then you
11 can make an appeal to -- to the bylaw.

12 MR. MIKE WORKMAN: Point of order. A
13 quorum is not present.

14 MR. HAMMONS: Mike, that's not going to
15 accomplish what you want. The alternate section has
16 already been done.

17 By the way, so that you understand, when a
18 quorum is established at the beginning, under
19 Robert's Rules of Order, it is presumed to continue.
20 A momentary absence of people from the room does not
21 defeat that. In order to do a quorum call, we would
22 have to scour through the building, ask all people
23 absent and bring them back in. In order to do that
24 is a challenge. Now, that is a proper request --

25 MR. MIKE WORKMAN: Mr. Chairman.

1 MR. HAMMONS: -- if you wish.

2 TO BE IDENTIFIED: On information I believe
3 the last vote totaled quorum, therefore, 30 or
4 40 seconds ago a quorum was present and a vote --

5 MR. HAMMONS: I am not sure. It was
6 certainly very close to that, so I would hope that we
7 would not waste the credentials time by that.

8 The matter before the body is the electronic
9 voting section, which, if I recall correctly, is
10 Article 2, Section 1F, on here.

11 Is there still objection to that change? Is
12 there an objection to that change? If there's no
13 objection to that change, then that will be the
14 accepted as the will of the Convention.

15 That is the last item of business.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. HAMMONS: And I would like to thank
18 you, Members of the Convention, for actually having
19 gone through each item on the agenda and debated and
20 decided those matters.

21 Are there any new business? Hearing none,
22 are there any announcements? I would -- I'm going to
23 ask for an adjournment. I will entertain a motion.
24 As a matter of courtesy, after the adjournment, you
25 don't have to, but I would like to recognize Paula

1 Sophia on a matter of personal privilege to explain a
2 personal situation. Paula, can you hear me? If you
3 can move this way.

4 I hear a motion for adjournment. I don't
5 know that it requires a second, but if there is
6 one --

7 TO BE IDENTIFIED: Second.

8 MR. HAMMONS: I see a second. All in favor
9 say aye.

10 The convention is adjourned.

11 Would you listen for a moment as a matter of
12 personal privilege?

13 Paula, would you share one of the issues that
14 has been important to you?

15 MS. PAULA SOPHIA: Our -- our Chairman
16 asked me to speak on this issue. On May 16th of this
17 year my daughter was diagnosed with Hodgkin's
18 lymphoma. She's 17 years old. And when that
19 happened, you know, of course, it's a scary moment
20 and there's all kinds of things that were running
21 through my mind about her life and what it means and
22 what -- how much it's going to cost. And if you
23 watch social media at all, you see all these links to
24 sites for "Go Fund Me" and "Indiegogo" asking people
25 to donate for medical procedures, you know,

1 life-saving medical procedures fairly often. I,
2 myself, I'm a fellow motorcycle rider. I've ridden
3 on poker runs raising money for people to -- to pay
4 for medical expenses and stuff like that. And then I
5 also know people in my own family, people who have a
6 devastating illness and they end up losing their
7 property trying to pay for their medical bills or,
8 because of their debt load from their medical bills,
9 they can't sell their property or they can't buy new
10 property. They're -- they're just sunk in. And
11 those -- those issues came through my mind as my
12 daughter was diagnosed like, "What is this going to
13 mean?"

14 Well, among all the problems, I often had
15 told my kids that, if I get terminal illness, no
16 heroic measures because I have a -- a small legacy
17 for them that I want them to have. I don't want them
18 to do heroic measures and spend their legacy on
19 trying to save my life.

20 But when my daughter was diagnosed, I had to
21 learn about how successful now it is to treat
22 Hodgkin's lymphoma. I was like, yeah, I'll sell my
23 house and I'll sell whatever I have to do to have her
24 get well. But the thing is, though, I have good
25 health insurance. I was a police officer with the

1 Oklahoma City Police Department, I retired after
2 22 years, I had excellent benefits and then, upon
3 retirement, had access -- have access to excellent
4 benefits. And then I have the resources between her
5 mother and I, when we bought a cancer rider policy,
6 and that gives us extra money to cover a lot of costs
7 like co-pays and different things, so we're not going
8 to be in the poorhouse.

9 And I really do believe that, as the
10 Democratic Party of Oklahoma, that expansion of
11 Medicaid is a human right.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. PAULA SOPHIA: Every family ought to be
14 able to face a devastating diagnosis and be secure
15 that they're not going to lose their home, they're
16 not going to lose the ability to give their children
17 a legacy. I have the privilege and I wish that
18 everybody had shared that privilege.

19 That's really all that I wanted to say. So,
20 thank you for your time.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. HAMMONS: Okay. Thank you. I want to
23 thank the Sergeant at Arms and the tally clerks for
24 their exceptional work in moving this along.

25 Thank you all so much. I'm forgetting

1 people. I thank everybody.

2 Thank you for your time. The meeting is

3 concluded.

4 (Record concluded, 4:51 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 SS

4 OKLAHOMA COUNTY

5 I, Cheryl D. Glenn, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
6 Registered Professional Reporter, within and for the
7 state of Oklahoma, certify that the foregoing
8 proceeding was taken in shorthand and thereafter
9 transcribed; that it is true and correct; and that it
10 was taken on July 25, 2015, in Oklahoma City, county
11 of Oklahoma, state of Oklahoma, and that I am not an
12 attorney for nor relative of any of said parties or
13 otherwise interested in the event of said action.

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
15 and official seal this 10th day of August, 2015.

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CHERYL D. GLENN, CSR, RPR

State of Oklahoma, No. 1448

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