



KIMBERLY ELLIS
FOR CA DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIR

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Unanimous Endorsement from Central Valley Democrats and Leading LGBTQ Activists

OAKLAND, Calif. (March 10, 2017): Kimberly Ellis has received the unanimous endorsement of the **Tulare County Stonewall Democrats** along with dozens of other progressive voices representing California's LGBTQ community.

"The Tulare County Stonewall Democrats unanimously endorsed Kimberly for the State Democratic Party Chair as we all feel she is the best candidate to bring expertise not only to the State but to the Central Valley and to turn the Central Valley blue." **John Coffee, Chair, Tulare County Stonewall Democrats**

"Kimberly is the progressive leader who will take the California Democratic Party into the future. She has always been a strong advocate and ally for the LGBTQ community. She knows how to build coalitions and motivate and inspire grassroots volunteers to help our progressive Democratic candidates win. I am proud to call her my friend and the next Chair of the CA Democratic Party!" **Zoe Dunning, LGBTQ activist, veteran and former 1st Vice Chair of the San Francisco Democratic Party**

"Kimberly's strength and inspirational leadership is proof she will lead the California Democratic Party with progressive values we can all understand and support." **Gregory Rivera, Chair, San Benito Democratic Central Committee**

"I've known Kimberly for many years and can attest to her unshakeable moral compass, compassion for all people and courage to take on bullies. With our party at such a critical crossroad, Kimberly is the only person who has the ethics, vision and energy to take the CDP where we need to go. What makes her such a remarkable leader is her ability to move people to action, while ensuring no one is left behind." **Peggy Moore, LGBTQ activist, former advisor to Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf**

"Kimberly Ellis has walked the road for progressive values with her work to earn seats at the table for women in the political arena. You can't get any more courageous and progressive than she has shown to be." **Dave Lara, LGBTQ veteran of the Navy and newly elected Democratic State Central Committee member from Eastside LA's 51st Assembly District**

The backing from the LGBTQ community in the Central Valley and other leading activists around the state comes at a time when the LGBTQ community is under attack across the country, as evidenced by the Trump team's abysmal attitude toward transgender youth.

As executive director for Emerge California, Ellis' work (emphasizing a need to ensure more demographic diversity in elected offices, including recruiting LGBTQ women) showcases a track record of commitment to

issues that have gotten the notice of the LGBTQ community and other social justice organizations.

Emerge California has trained more than 400 women, with over 75 percent accomplished under Ellis' leadership. Over half have already run for or been appointed to office with a nearly 70 percent overall win rate. Of that number, half of the Emerge alumnae are women of color, with 12 percent identifying as LGBTQ.

"It's a tremendous honor to have the unanimous support of so many good Democrats who are working tirelessly in Tulare County, as well as the many leading activists throughout the state who are supporting my campaign," Ellis said. "Sexual orientation and gender expression are not the only parts of us that define who we are - but tragically that's the only lens through which the world chooses to view many people. The arguments being put forth today about bathroom use are the same ones used 60 years ago about water fountains. Hate may take new forms, but it really never changes."

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