

MO Democratic Insider – March 27, 2020  
Lauren Gepford  
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## **Volume 2, Issue 4 - March 26, 2020**

### **THE WEEK AHEAD**

#### **Coronavirus guidance & our plan to stay safe and make a difference**

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Missouri Democratic Party is taking all necessary steps to help curb its spread in Missouri and to do our part to protect the health and well-being of our staff, supporters, and fellow citizens. As of Friday, March 13th, MDP has postponed all in-person party events, meetings, and fundraisers through at least Friday, May 1st. MDP offices will be closed and all staff will be working remotely until then as well. Wherever possible, we will hold events and meetings virtually; those that cannot be held virtually will be rescheduled.

We urge all county parties, Democratic clubs, and allied organizations to postpone or cancel in-person events and follow the guidance of the CDC and state and local Departments of Health. We're practicing social distancing, rigorous hand-washing, and staying inside as much as possible, and we encourage you to do the same.

On March 15th, the Missouri Democratic State Committee held an emergency meeting and [passed changes to the Delegate Selection Plan](#) to keep Missouri Democrats safe and combat coronavirus. The main takeaways are that Congressional Conventions will now be combined with Mass Meetings and will all be held on May 30th. Congressional District Chairs are securing locations for their Congressional Conventions and Ward, Township, and County Chairs have been advised to cancel their April 6th Mass Meetings. In the event that it is still not advisable to hold in-person gatherings, the meetings will be held virtually. Please email [conventions@missouridems.org](mailto:conventions@missouridems.org) for all questions. Aspiring state and national delegates may file their forms electronically at <https://missouridemocrats.org/2020-2/>

We've developed a [coronavirus FAQ](#), [health guidance for upcoming mass meeting and congressional convention meeting chairs](#), and [webpage on coronavirus](#).

Even in these unprecedented circumstances, the important work of this organization moves forward. This is an election year and we are continuing a robust advocacy of our candidates, policies, and values. We will monitor the situation closely and adjust steps as necessary but until we're through the thick of this, we're making a quick transition to online campaigning. While door-knocking is on hiatus right now, we are committed to making more phone calls, sending more texts, creating more digital content, and connecting to even more voters online.

### **Announcing the 2020 Train the Trainer T3 Webinar Training Program**

The Missouri Democratic Party, together with the DNC and ASDC Best Practices Institute, are excited to announce the launch of our 2020 Train the Trainer (T3) Webinar Training Program! T3 is a free six-week, twelve-part webinar course, covering several aspects of grassroots campaigning. This program seeks to expand the skills of progressive activists and volunteers, by ensuring that comprehensive training is free and accessible for Democrats all over the country. [Register for T3 today, and help us take our country back in 2020!](#)

T3 trainings are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. ET, from April 7, through May 14. The deadline to register is Sunday, April 5 at 10:59 p.m. CST.

Participants must complete all twelve sessions in order to receive certification. All training sessions will include a skills test to track retention and participation. Trainings will be recorded and made available following each session via a weekly wrap-up email, delivered on Fridays.

[CLICK HERE](#) to submit your registration for the 2020 T3 Training Program! Registration will close at 10:59 p.m. CST, on Sunday, April 5.

### **Our March End-of-Quarter deadline is THIS TUESDAY**

We're facing challenges to fund our statewide GOTV efforts for this critical election cycle due to the changes made in light of the Coronavirus pandemic. Organizing events, door-knocking, and postcard parties drive our campaign to flip seats and win back the Governor's mansion, but with those postponed for the rest of the spring, we must work even harder to off-set that impact. That's why we're asking for your support to sustain our new digital and virtual programs to host remote phone banks and text banks, hold town halls, register and follow up with new voters, update our voter file, and recruit an army of volunteers to organize online and on the ground as soon as we can.

**[If you've already contributed in 2020, I'm asking you to please do so again. If you can give monthly and fund our organizing and GOTV activities up until Election Day - we need your support today. Just click "Make it Monthly" and you'll be all set.](#)**

When Democrats show up, we win. And Democrats are fired up like never before. We are going to flip seats, we are going to vote in a new Congresswoman, and we are going to win

back the Governor's mansion - with your help and support and persistence. **If you're able, step up your personal commitment with a \$10 contribution right now.**

### Missouri Democrats Voter Registration Efforts Underway

Please check out and share [ShowMeVotes.com](http://ShowMeVotes.com), our website that features updated information on how and where to vote AND a really cool Sponsor-A-Voter Map. Pick a county or precinct to see how many unregistered, likely Democratic voters there are and choose how many folks you want to sponsor - just \$2 gets one new voter registered! They will receive a pre-filled registration form in the mail which automatically tracks if it's been returned so that we have a unique ability to follow up until that form arrives at their Board of Elections office.

**Fund Our Voter Registration Efforts!**

MISSOURI DEMOCRATS Show Me Voter Registration MAP HOW TO USE FAQ CONTACT

← BACK SHOW: COUNTIES

Start typing an address or a place

Missouri Counties

BOONE  
0% Completed  
6,707 Remaining voters to register

MISSOURI REGISTER +  
Unregistered: 154,914 20 VOTERS -  
\$40 CHIP IN

Map data ©2020 Google, INEGI Terms of Use Report a map error

### Candidate & Elected Spotlights & Recruitment

Look forward to our candidate spotlights that will begin once candidate filing closes on March 31st. In the meantime, we and partners are still hard at recruiting candidates. Check out where state legislative candidates are already recruited and help us recruit more at our [Candidate Recruitment Hub](#).

### **Welcoming our new team member and Political Director, Naeem Jenkins-Nixon**

We are excited to welcome our new team member, Naeem Jenkins-Nixon. Naeem is MDP's Political Director who joined us last week. He is based in St. Louis and will be working out of the St. Louis HQ (once it reopens). His MDP work portfolio will include party affairs work, liaising with elected officials, Democratic committees, campaigns, affiliate and partner groups, and caucuses, and he will be supporting organizing campaigns and events.

Tara Logan, our wonderful Rural Director, will continue being the frontline contact for rural areas while Naeem oversees the entirety of the political program with a focus on more suburban and metropolitan areas.

His first steps will be getting to know Missouri and our stakeholders. With that, you can reach out to set up an intro 1-1 call with him. Contact him at by email at [nnixon@missouridems.org](mailto:nnixon@missouridems.org) and by telephone at (573) 607-4745.

Naeem joined the Missouri Democratizing Party after serving as the Communications Manager for the University of Delaware's Biden Institute. Prior to that he spent six years in Buffalo, New York serving in Mayor Byron Brown's administration, first as a Communications Specialist and then as Confidential Aide to the Mayor. During his time in Buffalo, he coordinated and executed the Mayor's digital media strategy, managed the city's My Brother's Keeper and Cities United programs, assisted with the formation of the annual legislative agenda and fiscal year budget, and executed policy initiatives in the areas of economic development, public safety, affordable housing, equal rights and education.

In 2017, he served as the Campaign Manager to Mayor Brown's successful re-election.

Naeem was born and raised in Buffalo, New York and is a graduate of Hampton University with a B.A. in Journalism and Communications.



## **THE WEEK IN REVIEW**

### **Void of Leadership in Governor's Coronavirus**

As the [Kansas City Star reported](#), there has been a stark contrast between Missouri Governor Mike Parson and Kansas Governor Laura Kelly. In Missouri, local elected officials have been leading the charge to keep Missourians safe and taking the pandemic seriously. As Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas said, ["it's time, and Lord knows we can't wait on our governor to do it."](#) Governor Parson has reduced himself to giving updates on the important actions that local governments are taking while not providing direction from the Governor's Office, such as the case with [school closures](#) that local government entities decided upon.

The Missouri Democratic Party has been trying to lift up non-partisan entities in their calls for more safety and preparation measures to take place and ask that you help us disseminate broadly factual information and safety precautions from trusted sources such as your local health officials during this time. Disappointedly, the Governor's Campaign has also been politicizing the pandemic by encouraging people to sign up for his campaign (not official) texts to get updates and mimicking his campaign entities as though they are official information, while continuing to provide a dearth of information all together while he's been taking a ["frighteningly leisurely approach."](#)

Lastly, we'd like to highlight the impact this is having on workers. While DC Republicans are pushing for a corporations first bill instead of a workers first relief bill, our state is following in the national Republicans stead. We've called on the Missouri Governor to support grocery and pharmacy workers to be [considered emergency first responders too](#). Thank you to the UFCW for highlighting these issues. Additionally, we call on Governor Parson to loosen restrictions on unemployment benefits in Missouri, where workers have the [3rd shortest time span in the country for unemployment benefits](#) and ensure all those affected by coronavirus can receive benefits.

### **Nicole Galloway has been leading by putting out plans to combat the coronavirus... after which Parson sometimes follows her recommendations**

From the beginning, Galloway has been leading and issuing plans to combat coronavirus. She called on Parson to issue an emergency declaration in order for the state to access federal funds... and Parson later did so. Galloway has also issued plans and calls for a relief package to protect Missouri's workers, businesses, and our most vulnerable via relief for workers who can't receive paid sick leave through their employer, suspending fines and penalties for late renewals, extending the tax filing deadline, suspending termination of SNAP and TANF, and much more. Some of these proposals the Governor later took under consideration and proposed himself, but many he still needs to address and we urge him to address these problems more quickly. Missouri was considered one of the bottom four states in preventative measures until a few days ago, and we are still looking for leadership from our government.

### **Rep. Joe Runions (D - Grandview), while hospitalized with coronavirus, advocates for Governor Parson to do more to provide supplies**

[We commend and thank Representative Joe Runions for sharing his story and, while ill due to the coronavirus, using his platform for advocacy. We wish Joe a speedy recovery.](#)

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

- Check out our calendar of [Virtual Events](#) going on all across the state!
- 3/31 Candidate Filing Ends
- [4/6 Missouri Democratic Party Monthly Webinar Series with Jen Slavik Lohman](#)
- 5/9 Quarter 2 State Committee Meeting & Delegate Selection Proceedings - Jefferson City [this may have to be postponed due to DNC rules on PLEO elections]
- 5/30 Congressional Conventions
- 6/12 State Convention - Welcome Night
- 6/13 State Convention - Columbia Convention Center
- 7/13 National Convention - Milwaukee, WI
- 8/4 Primary Election
- 9/12 Quarter 3 State Committee Meeting & Truman Dinner - St. Louis
- 11/3 General Election

## **TRAININGS & WEBINARS**

- [Greater Good - How to Adapt your Fundraising Strategy - 3/27](#)
- [Nonprofit + Campaign Strategies for COVID-19 - 3/31 and 4/1](#)
- [DNC Digital Organizing 201 - 3/31 & 4/1](#)
- [Actblue - Digital Fundraising during COVID-19: Best Practices - April 2](#)
- [DNC Storytelling via Selfie Videos - 4/3](#)
- [Transitioning to remote teams & organizing with "physical distance"](#)
- [How to Lead Better Online Meetings and Trainings - NonProfit Learning Lab](#)
- [Shifting Your Focus: Raising Funds and Engaging Donors During a Crisis - NonProfit Learning Lab](#)
- [Missouri Democratic Party Monthly Webinar Series - Monday, April 6 with Jen Slavik Lohman](#)

Onward,  
Lauren Gepford  
Executive Director, Missouri Democratic Party

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