



Friday, June 3, 2022

Democratic National Committee  
430 South Capitol Street Southeast  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Members of the Rules and Bylaws Committee:

During the Nevada 2021 Legislative Session, the Culinary Union supported AB126 which established a Primary Election in lieu of a State Caucus.

In the 2020 Democratic Presidential Election, the majority of the caucus participants chose to early vote rather than to participate on Caucus Day. The Culinary Union hosted an early vote site for the first time in 85 years, for union and community members to participate in this democratic process. Culinary Union mobilized members and their families to vote early. We are proud that over 2,500 Nevadans casted their ballot in 4 days at the Culinary Union early vote site location. In addition, several Las Vegas Strip casinos hosted 24-hour voting sites, which gave hospitality workers the option to vote during their shift.

Nevada is more representative and reflective of the diversity of our country. As Nevada's largest organization of Black/AAPI/Latinx/immigrant workers, the Culinary Union believes that Nevada's diverse communities should be the first in selecting a presidential candidate.

The Culinary Workers Union Local 226 and Bartenders Union Local 165, represent 60,000 workers in Las Vegas and Reno, including at most of the casino resorts on the Las Vegas Strip and in Downtown Las Vegas. The Culinary Union has a diverse membership which is 55% women and 45% immigrants. The demographics of Culinary Union members are approximately: 54% Latinx, 18% white, 15% Asian, 12% Black, and less than 1% Indigenous Peoples.

Nevada is among the states with the highest per capita union population in the country, and certainly in the West and early four nominating states, with 12% of the workforce belonging to a union. With a Democratic legislature and Governor, it has increased its union presence with the passage of collective bargaining laws.

Unions in Nevada grew their membership ranks by 50,000 between 2010 and 2019, to a total of 201,000 members or 14.6% of the workforce until COVID related reductions in the workforce level reduced union numbers to 12.1% as of 2021. (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

The Culinary Union urges the DNC to select Nevada to host the nation's first Democratic Presidential nominating contest.

*Ted Pappageorge, Secretary-Treasurer for the Culinary Union*

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**CULINARY WORKERS UNION LOCAL 226**

*Affiliated with UNITE HERE INTERNATIONAL UNION*

1630 SOUTH COMMERCE STREET LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89102  
(702) 385-2131 • CULINARYUNION226.ORG • @CULINARY226