



March 24, 2016

Ed Achorn, Editor of the Editorial Pages
The Providence Journal
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Dear Ed:

I read with interest today's commentary by Lee Ann Sennick, the Rhode Island Republican national committeewoman, which characterized our Democratic Party as being less that 'democratic,' while her party – the Republicans – was a pillar of equal opportunity. There are so many ways to take exception to this narrative, how do I begin?

Her representation of our Delegate Selection Process as not being democratic is just flat out false. Rhode Island's Democratic Party follows closely the rules and bylaws of the Democratic National Committee, which requires extraordinary measures to fully and adequately represent all populations within the state, not just a select handful of party faithful.

Every effort is made to reach out to voters who can qualify as Pledged delegates – through public meetings, use of the media, promotional materials and targeted mailings to our voters, especially the underrepresented populations of women, youth, minority, Native American, Asian American and Pacific Islanders, and People with Disabilities.

Similarly, we require our Unpledged delegates are equally representative of the public, and use at-large delegates to 'balance the ticket' in the end. The reason they are separate from Pledged delegates is so there's a 'fair fight' at the ballot – so people who have huge name recognition, don't deny others of an opportunity to become delegates.

By the way, the Unpledged delegates include people *already* chosen by the public – and coincidentally, include: women, people with disabilities, LGBTQ, Hispanic, and minorities. These are the very communities the Republican Party proudly denounces and impugns with indignity.

Unpledged – or so-called Super Delegates - in fact, make up a mere 15-percent of the total delegate population. The overwhelming majority of delegates nationwide – 85-percent of the people will determine who our nominee is at the Convention.

If the Republican Party wants to throw stones, they need to start at home - within their own Party and at the very top. Their candidates have shown utter disregard for average, workers, for women and their reproductive rights, for immigrants – including and especially Hispanics, for other faiths – especially those of Islam faith, and for those with disabilities – in essence, anyone who doesn't look and act like them....and maybe that's why don't bother with outreach to the true American public.

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