



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NMI NEWSLETTER



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What's Inside?

- **Timeline: Top 24 of 2024**
- **Elected Democrats of the Northern Mariana Islands**



The Northern Mariana Islands, which is part of Micronesia, comprises the former Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

It consists of three main islands—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—and several small islands and atolls.

Citizens of the CNMI elect a governor and lieutenant governor, a 20-member House of Representatives, a 9-member Senate, and a non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.



Håfa Adai meh Tirow Faischo, NMI Democrats! Felis Año Nuevo meh Ammeseighil Rááílil Ráágh Ffé! Greetings from the Elm City!

Though I am away from the NMI at the moment, I am delighted to know that NMI Democrats remain committed to our party, to our values, and to our belief in good governance and trusted leadership. We experienced some victories and some losses in the recent election, and like the national party, we must endeavor to move our party forward. Whatever we decide to do, however we decide to do it, one thing remains true: We must remain committed to stand as a vanguard for good governance, accountability, responsibility, inclusivity, transparency, and equity.

What do we have to look forward to in the new year?

- We welcome back to the NMI House of Representatives Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai who will continue working for the people of precinct three.
- We join the people of precinct one in celebrating Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho who not only won his reelection bid but has been elected Vice Speaker. It has been eighteen years since a Democrat was Vice Speaker, so I am doubly thrilled that Rep. Camacho has been accorded this honor. We look forward to his leadership in the House!

(LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN - CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



Jonathan P. Cabrera
Acting Chairman

Luella I. Marciano
Vice Chair

Nasima Uddin
Secretary

Shawna E. Indalecio
Treasurer

Nola K. Hix
Executive Director

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A YEAR IN REVIEW: TOP 24 IN 2024



24 **January 4, 2024**, following the party's request in Nov 2023, the Democratic Party of the NMI becomes the first U.S. Territory to be recognized by the Federal Election Commission as an official state political party committee.

23 **January 18, 2024**, NMI US Delegate to the US House of Representatives, the honorable Congressman Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan announces his retirement after 16 years of service.

22 **February 1, 2024**, the party signs a deal with a popular state-party media provider, and their very first stateside service provider, Clipbook.



21 **February 21, 2024**, Lilian Ada Tenorio makes history as the fourth female court judge in the NMI. Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigation Chair Celina R. Babauta (D), made the motion to adopt the committee report recommending Tenorio's confirmation.

20 **LET THE BOOST HEARINGS BEGIN!** The House Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-Related Funding began to investigate the funds spent to promote and/or advertise the \$17 million Building Optimism, Opportunities and Stability Together program implemented by the administration of then-Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in 2022.

19 **March 5 – 12, 2024**, and with a historic turnout - the party hosts its first-ever Presidential Primary, on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, & Rota.

18 **March 12, 2024**, with a 94% voter turnout, NMI Democrats deliver President Joe Biden as the winner of their Presidential Primary while also selecting their delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

17 **April 1, 2024**, the CNMI mourned the loss of former Democratic Speaker of the House, +Pedro Rogolofoi Guerrero popularly known as "Paduna". He served in the fourth, sixth, and seventh CNMI House of Representatives and lived a life till he was 80 years old.

16 **April 5, 2024**, Precinct 2, Representative Manny Gregory Tenorio Castro (IND) announces his candidacy for the Senate under the Democratic Party of the NMI.



15 **April 8, 2024**, Governor Arnold I. Palacios, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang swore in Democratic Party of the NMI, Interim Vice Chair, Luella I. Marciano as the new resident executive of the Indigenous Affairs Office.



14 **April 12, 2024**, DPNMI Interim Chair, Jonathan P. Cabrera steps down to relocate stateside. He is currently pursuing his PhD at the prestigious Yale University, in New Haven, Connecticut. In August 2024, Chairman Jonathan reconnected with the party for the Democratic National Convention, and since then has been assisting with party initiatives where he can.

13 **April 26, 2024**, NMI Democrats endorse their incumbents for Precinct 1, Precinct 3, and Precinct 1 Representative, Ed Propst as the party's candidate for NMI Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

12

May 31, 2024. DPNMI Central Executive Committee member, Nasima Uddin is elected to serve as the party's Secretary. Nasima replaced former Interim Secretary, Melia Johnson who also stepped down in April to focus on work, and to further her education.

11

July 10, 2024, The Democratic Party of the NMI becomes to first U.S. Territory to receive their non-profit mailer status from the U.S. Postal Service.



10

July 21, 2024, in a shocking turn of events, President Joe Biden ends his Presidential campaign and endorses Vice President, Kamala Harris for President.

9

August 2, 2024, Joining Democrats across the country, the NMI delegates for the Democratic National Convention cast their historic votes virtually to elect Vice President Kamala Harris, as the party's official nominee for President.

8

August 19, 2024, NMI Democrats arrive at the Democratic National Convention, in Chicago, Illinois. During the event's roll call vote, they also ceremoniously and unanimously cast her to be the official candidate for President with her running mate Minnesota Governor, Tim Walz.

7

August 21, 2024, Viral on Vogue & Tik-Tok! Wearing leis, mwaaars and traditional island attire, the NMI delegates to the Democratic National Convention at United Center in Chicago, Illinois caught the attention of Vogue magazine, which covered the four-day event.



6

August 5, 2022, Making history! Our Democrats joined their Independent colleagues (IND-DEM) and filed their candidacies with the Commonwealth Election Commission.

5

September 24, 2024, H.B. 23-48 became Public Law 23-25. It aims to increase the number of U.S. highly skilled workers, establish systems for employees to hire and train apprentices, and authorize tax deductions for eligible costs directly associated with an approved registered apprenticeship program. Way to Go - Rep. Denita Yangetmail!

4

October 2, 2024, Authored by Rep. Diego Vincent F. Camacho, H.B. 23-50 is now Public Law 23-27. With some exceptions, the law removes marijuana from pre-employment drug testing for government job applicants. Biba Representative Diego Vincent Camacho!

3

November 5, 2024, The IND-DEM Coalition win crucial races all over the island to secure another super majority in the House. First time, Democratic candidate, Manny Gregory Castro also wins big to secure a spot in the NMI Senate.

2

CONGRATULATIONS! The incoming House leadership selects Precinct 1 Rep. Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D) to be the new Vice Speaker, making him the youngest Vice Speaker in CNMI History.



1

BIBA! PERSON OF THE YEAR! Gregorio Kili Sablan (D), became the first person to represent the people of the CNMI in the U.S. House of Representatives. Among his achievements was securing much-needed federal resources for the Commonwealth in relief legislation after the 2016 and 2018 super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu, and in the multiple COVID-19 pandemic aid bills enacted in 2020, which prompted Saipan Tribune to choose him as 2024 Person of the Year.



(LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

- Senator Manny Gregory Castro is ready to work for the people of the third senatorial district, and we anticipate great things as he collaborates with the other Democrat in the Senate, Senator Celina Roberto Babauta.
- We can also look forward to seeing former Delegate Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan on Saipan and around the NMI. As our party moves forward, we will look to leaders like Congressman Kili for guidance and wisdom. He may have retired from the U.S. House of Representatives, but he remains an active member of our community and is a linchpin of our Commonwealth's future.



Jonathan P. Cabrera
Acting Chairman

The work we do to build our party and to support our elected officials would not have been accomplished without the help and support of our stalwart Central Executive Committee and intrepid party officers. Thank you, CEC! I am grateful to Vice Chair Luella I. Marciano (and her right hand man Tomei!), Secretary Nasima Uddin, Treasurer Shawna E. Indalecio, and Executive Director Nola K. Hix for their usual brand of enthusiasm and hard work. I couldn't have asked for a better team to keep the party moving in my absence.

As we plan for the General Membership Meeting, let's encourage people to join our party, and let's encourage prospective CEC members to consider volunteering to lead our party as one of its officers. If you want to talk to me about the Chair's responsibilities and duties, send an email to cabrerajjp@gmail.com, and we'll set up a time to talk.

We look forward to the challenges ahead, we look forward to the General Membership Meeting, we look forward to the next election, we look forward to Democrats in the NMI and across the United States working to ensure that people know that we are their party, that we are THE PEOPLE'S PARTY. Together, we—all of us—will build a safe, healthy, beautiful, sustainable, and truly inclusive Northern Marianas!

Biba Democrats! Biba Marianas! Let's get to work!

ELECTED NMI DEMOCRATS

in the 24th Commonwealth Legislature



Sen. Celina Roberto Babauta

*Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD)
Vice Chair
Saipan*

Member of the committee on:

- Health, Welfare, and Programs



Sen. Manny Gregory Tenorio Castro
Saipan

Member of the committees on:

- Federal Relations and Military Affairs
- Health, Welfare, and Programs
- Education and Youth Affairs
- Fiscal Affairs
- Public Utilities, Transportation & Communications
- Resources, Economic Development and Workforce



Rep. Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho
Vice Speaker
Precinct 1

- Vice Chair of the Cannabis Committee
- Member of the Judiciary & Governmental Operations and Rules Ad Hoc Committees



Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai
Precinct 3

- Chair of the Cannabis Committee
- Member of the Tourism and Ways & Means Committees