



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NMI NEWSLETTER



01.23.24 | BIBA MARIANAS! | ISSUE NO. 2

What's Inside?

- **Timeline: Top 23 of 2023**
- **Elected Democrats of the Northern Mariana Islands**



\$25 | [Paypal @nmidems](#)



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.



Hafa Adai, Tiroow Faay Scho, and greetings to Democrats at home, across the U.S., and around the world! In the lead up to the last general election, I echoed the sentiments of many of our candidates and the beliefs of our party when I said that, "CNMI Democrats are proud to stand with Democrats all across the country fighting at every level of government for transparency, accountability, equity, and good governance." I stand by those words, celebrating the accomplishments of our elected Democrats as this newsletter will attest, and recognizing the challenges of the present moment at home and abroad. As we look forward to the presidential primaries, the CNMI midterm elections, and the US presidential election, I hope you will stand with us to elect Democrats up and down the ballot, hold our leaders accountable, and agitate for the kinds of changes we need at the local and federal levels to ensure all the people of the CNMI can prosper. Our party is only as strong as the people who support it, the people who volunteer their time and energy to build the party, and the people who bravely put their names forward to run for elective office. That person can be YOU or someone you know! If you'd like more information, check out our website or send us an email, and we will gladly send information your way or spend a few minutes talking to you. Together, we will build a safe, healthy, beautiful, sustainable, and truly inclusive Northern Marianas.

Jonathan P. Cabrera
Chairman



Jonathan P. Cabrera
Chairman

Luella I. Marciano
Vice Chair

Melia K. Johnson
Secretary

Shawna E. Indalecio
Treasurer

Nola K. Hix
Executive Director

Make a donation!



1-670-484-3367 (DEMS) info@nmidems.org www.nmidems.org



@nmidems

A YEAR IN REVIEW: TOP 23 IN 2023

23 **January 9, 2023.** Elected officials were sworn into the 23rd CNMI Legislature. The new Independent and Democrat coalition marked a renewed relationship with the executive office. It marks the first ever IND-DEM Supermajority in both the House & Senate.



22 **The 23rd Senate makes history** by electing the CNMI's first female, and Democrat, in over 45 years - Senate President Edith Deleon Guerrero of Saipan. For the first time in CNMI history, three women represent Saipan in the upper chamber, and it is the first time three women have served in the Senate simultaneously.

21 **The 23rd House also makes CNMI history** by electing its first ever Democratic Floor Leader, Precinct 1 Rep. Edwin K. Propst.

20 **Feb 1, 2023.** Governor Arnold Palacios appoints former Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate, Tina Sablan as his Senior Policy Advisor. Tina Sablan also worked pro-bono to help with the financial crisis (-\$1.4 million deficit) left by the previous administration.

19 **Feb 3, 2023.** Introduced by Precinct 3 Rep. Denita K. Yangetmai (D), House Bill 23-8 would require all contractors to be licensed in the CNMI, and House Bill 23-9 would require legislative appropriation for all non-locally-sourced funds allocated for the CNMI.



18 **Mar 9, 2023.** Introduced by Precinct 1 Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D), House Bill 23-29 would establish a whistleblower reward for reporting tax violations and clarifies the mechanism for payment, and House Bill 23-24 would establish and authorize the use of legend drugs and controlled substances for euthanasia by animal control agencies and humane societies.



17 **April 12, 2023.** Governor Arnold A. Palacios & Lt. Governor David M. Apatang swear in former Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate, Leila Staffler as their newly appointed CNMI Secretary of Labor.

16 **April 15, 2023, NMI Democrats reorganize!** The party's General Membership Meeting elects twenty-six members from Saipan, Tinian, & Rota to serve on the Central Executive Committee.



15 **April 24, 2023.** Saipan Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D) brings potential investors from Korea and Guam to perform site visits at various public and private properties on Rota. The trip was to explore future business opportunities that will expand their investments on the beautiful island of Rota.

14 **May 2, 2023. The results are IN!** Chairman Jonathan P. Cabrera is elected by the Central Executive Committee to serve another term for two years.

13 Cabrera's stay committed! Active party member, James Cabrera, was also elected as the party's events and fundraising committee Chair.



12 June 27, 2023. At the request of Saipan Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D), The Core-Tech Foundation from Guam expanded its scholarships to students from the CNMI. Ten students were awarded \$5,000 scholarships, with eight from Guam, and two from the CNMI.

11 July 25, 2023. The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration awarded \$80.7 million to the CNMI to enable the Commonwealth to deploy affordable, reliable high-speed internet service to everyone.



10 July 28, 2023. Introduced by Precinct 1, Rep. Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D), House Bill 23-50 proposes to remove marijuana from the pre-employment test for those applying for local government jobs.

9 August 1, 2023. An anti-corruption measure to address public corruption by expanding and clarifying the offense of official misconduct and establishing felony and misdemeanor punishments, and for other purposes - Public Law 23-6 was authored by Precinct 3, Rep. Vicente Camacho (D).



8 September 7, 2023. Following through with the Unity Pledge formed between last year's Democratic Gubernatorial Candidates and the current administration - NMI Democrats seek election reform that request the inclusion of necessary standard operating procedures.

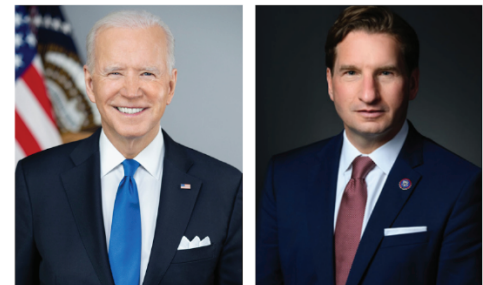
7 September 18, 2023. Eligible patients in the Marianas can now apply for FREE medication through Merck's Patient Assistance Program. Previously, only patients living in the 50 states, D.C., or Puerto Rico were eligible to apply. At the urging of the congressional office Genentech, Pfizer, and Bristol Myers Squibb, too, agreed to extend their free and reduced cost prescription drug programs to low-income and uninsured patients in our islands. **Thank You Congressman Kilili!**

6 October 11, 2023. Under the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law 117-328, The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Rota's Aging Office, Tinian's Public Library, and the Appliance Rebate Program are among the 12 agencies and projects awarded a total of \$4,391,599 in September to lower spending on electricity and help end the Marianas' dependence on expensive and dirty fossil fuel.

5 November 9, 2023, and for the first time ever! The Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas submits their petition filing request to the Federal Election Commission to be recognized as an official state political party committee.

4 November 27, 2023. President Joseph R. Biden Jr. becomes a candidate for the party's Presidential Primary in March.

3 November 30, 2023, It's Official! Minnesota U.S. Representative Dean Phillips will also appear on the party's Presidential Primary ballot.



2 December 8, 2023. The party's Delegate Selection Plan for this year's first ever Presidential Primary was approved by the DNC's Rules & Bylaws Committee.

1

December 27, 2023. A resolution in support of U.S. Congress Resolution H.R. 786, joins other cities in calling on U.S. Congress members to demand an immediate ceasefire; release of all hostages; the unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza; the restoration of food, water, electricity, and medical supplies to Gaza; respect for international law; and calls for a resolution that protects the security of all innocent civilians. CNMI House Resolution 23-15 was adopted making the CNMI the only US territory to call for a ceasefire.



ELECTED NMI DEMOCRATS ^{in the} 118th United States Congress & 23rd Commonwealth Legislature



**U.S. Congressman
Gregorio Kilili Camacho
Sablan**
Northern Mariana Islands
Delegate to the U.S. House of
Representatives



**Rep. Diego Vincent F.
Camacho**
Precinct 1

- Chair of the Cannabis Committee
- Member of the Commerce & Tourism; Natural Resources; and Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committees



**Senator Edith Deleon
Guerrero**
Senate President
Saipan



Rep. Edwin K. Propst
Floor Leader
Precinct 1

- Vice Chair of the Gaming Committee
- Member of the Education; Cannabis; Commerce & Tourism; and Public Utilities, Transportation & Communications Committees



**Senator Celina Roberto
Babauta**
Senate Legislative Secretary
Saipan

- Chair of the Judiciary, Government & Law; and Executive Appointments & Investigations Committees
- Vice Chair of the Rules & Procedures and Federal Relations Committees
- Member of the Health, Education & Welfare; Public Utilities, Transportation & Communication; and Fiscal Affairs Committees



Rep. Vicente C. Camacho
Precinct 3

- Chair of the Federal & Foreign Affairs Committee
- Member of the Commerce & Tourism; Judiciary & Governmental Operations; and Ways & Means Committees



Rep. Denita K. Yangetmai
*Association of Pacific Island
Legislatures (APIL) Representative*
Precinct 3

- Member of the Commerce & Tourism and Federal & Foreign Affairs Committees

Make a donation!



1-670-484-3367 (DEMS) info@nmidems.org www.nmidems.org



@nmidems