

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Jaime Harrison Chair, Democratic National Committee 430 S. Capitol Street SE Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear President Biden and Chairman Harrison,

The Midwest is a traditional Democratic stronghold, part of the storied "blue wall" that has been key to Democratic presidential victories for decades. The combination of Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois has voted to send a Democrat to the White House since 1992 with only one exception: In 2016, Donald Trump's unexpected victory relied upon 80,000 votes in just three states, including fewer than 34,000 votes combined in Michigan and Wisconsin. Those states were taken for granted until ominous warning signs flashed on Election Day, at which point they were already lost. That single exception proves the rule: When the future of the country hangs in the balance, we cannot afford to overlook the Midwest.

The election of 2016 is a cautionary tale that the Democratic National Committee, now choosing where to hold its nominating convention in 2024, must take to heart. In an incredibly polarized nation, whose electoral college model has a griphold on election outcomes, the Midwest is utterly indispensable to the party's success and should be the home of its 2024 convention.

To understand what a political party stands for, look no further than where it chooses to hold its convention. Selecting a host city is a powerful statement of what a party values and a reflection of the future it seeks to build. Holding a convention in a state whose policies fundamentally oppose Democratic principles would send a devastating message to voters. The Midwest has been a bastion of strong labor unions for generations, an oasis for reproductive choice, and a stronghold of civil rights protections. The Midwest is well represented by Democratic governors and senators, re-elected by Midwesterners who mandated Democratic leadership. Furthermore, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota have Democratic trifectas, illustrating the region's tight alignment with the policy priorities of the party and the Biden administration.

Convening in an anti-labor, pro-gun, anti-choice, vote-suppressing state would be akin to talking the talk without walking the walk. Bringing the convention to the Midwest means reinforcing the party's commitment not only to the nation's industrial heartland, but also to those voters who have repeatedly propelled Democrats to victory.

The Midwest is the beating heart of America—a place that consistently demonstrates how common-sense, progressive policies work for families and make us all stronger. Here, the unionization movement is thriving. Reproductive freedom is protected. Voting rights are not merely defended but expanded because we know the democratic process is stronger when it includes us all.

Just as important as championing good jobs, healthcare and democracy, the Midwest also reflects America—a place of bustling cities and all the rich cultures that shape them, of diversifying suburbs, of small towns with hard-working families, and of the farms that have fed the nation for generations. It is a true representation of the many colors and creeds that compose our country, and it embodies the same trailblazing spirit that has always set America apart.

The general election in 2024 will be a battle with many fronts, and the Midwest will be the hardest fought of all. That is why in 2024, we must do everything we can to ensure the blue wall becomes an impenetrable blue fortress. Holding the convention in the Midwest is a serious, meaningful endorsement of our values. The Midwest stands ready to do what it has always done—get to work and do it right—because we know what's at stake.

Electing Democrats up and down the ballot in 2024's general election is paramount to our nation's success, and that begins with refusing to overlook the place that wholly, dynamically encapsulates our party's values by hosting the convention in the epicenter of America. Because whether it comes to planning a convention or winning electoral college votes, when the future of our country is at stake, there is no margin for error.

Sincerely,

Tony Evers Governor of Wisconsin JB Pritzker Governor of Illinois

Tim Walz Governor of Minnesota Gretchen Whitmer Governor of Michigan Tammy Baldwin United States Senator, Wisconsin

Tammy Duckworth United States Senator, Illinois

Gary Peters United States Senator, Michigan

Nikki Budzinski United States Representative, Illinois

Danny K. Davis United States Representative, Illinois

Jesús G. "Chuy" Garcia United States Representative, Illinois

Robin Kelly United States Representative, Illinois

Mike Quigley United States Representative, Illinois

Jan Schakowsky United States Representative, Illinois

Eric Sorensen United States Representative, Illinois

Melvin Carter Mayor of Saint Paul, Minnesota

Jacob Frey Mayor of Minneapolis, Minnesota Sherrod Brown United States Senator, Ohio

Richard J. Durbin United States Senator, Illinois

Debbie Stabenow United States Senator, Michigan

Sean Casten United States Representative, Illinois

Bill Foster United States Representative, Illinois

Jonathan Jackson United States Representative, Illinois

Raja Krishnamoorthi United States Representative, Illinois

Delia Ramirez United States Representative, Illinois

Brad Schneider United States Representative, Illinois

Lauren Underwood United States Representative, Illinois

Mike Duggan Mayor of Detroit, Michigan

Craig Greenberg Mayor of Louisville, Kentucky Quentin Hart Mayor of Waterloo, Iowa

Lori E. Lightfoot Mayor of Chicago, Illinois

James Mueller Mayor of South Bend, Indiana

Satya Rhodes-Conway Mayor of Madison, Wisconsin Tishaura O. Jones Mayor of St. Louis, Missouri

Quinton Lucas Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri

Jerome A. Prince Mayor of Gary, Indiana