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Fletcher touts support of state Democratic legislators

Fletcher, Alvarez get new endorsements

By [Lori Weisberg \(/staff/lori-weisberg/\)](#) 2:02 P.M. SEPT. 24, 2013 Updated 4:05 P.M.

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State Sen. Ben Hueso (right) joins state Sen. Marty Block (rear) and Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzales at news conference to endorse Nathan Fletcher (left) for mayor. — Lori Weisberg

Nathan Fletcher's mayoral campaign on Tuesday sought to highlight the former assemblyman's state-wide support among a coalition of current and former Democratic legislators.

In a news conference held hours before the San Diego County Democratic Party's central committee meets Tuesday evening to consider its own endorsement, state Sen. Ben Hueso explained why he is backing Fletcher.



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"Oftentimes you will see people with very specific interests take a position in this race. Their interests are defined to their cause and their constituency," said Hueso, whose former San Diego City Council seat is now occupied by David Alvarez, a Democrat who is also running for mayor. "Life is not about philosophies and about black and white, it's

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about working in the gray area, and Nathan is the best person in this race to bring people together to solve real world problems and move our city forward."

Also Tuesday, David Alvarez picked up endorsements from three former chairpersons of the San Diego County Democratic Party -- Maureen Steiner, Bob Jellison, and Kennan Kaeder -- as well as the Environmental Health and Justice Campaign.

Diane Takvorian, the campaign's executive director, said in a statement that Alvarez is an inclusive leader who has a fresh take. "For too long our communities have shouldered the burden of environmental injustice, and Alvarez represents a sea change for the entire region," Takvorian said.

Earlier, on Sunday evening, Alvarez was endorsed by the Chicano Democratic Association.

"We believe his years of experience fighting for communities in San Diego and his voting record show that he has always been on the right side of issues facing Latinos and all City residents," the group said in a statement published on social media.

Hueso cited close to 20 Democrats who have served in the state Assembly and Senate who are endorsing Fletcher's candidacy, including one of the newest mayoral supporters, Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg.

Joining Hueso at the news conference at Chicano Park were Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez and state Sen. Marty Block, both of whom had previously announced their formal backing of Fletcher.

Asked about the upcoming meeting of local Democrats, Fletcher sought to minimize the role party politics will play in his own campaign. A former Republican while in the state Assembly, Fletcher later switched to independent mid-race during his unsuccessful run for mayor last year and then announced in May he was joining the Democratic party.

During his eight years as a GOP lawmaker, Fletcher frequently voted against bills carried and supported by many of those legislators now supporting him.

"I'm proud to be a Democrat, I'm comfortable as a Democrat," said Fletcher, now an executive at Qualcomm. "Party politics have never been my strength; finding solutions is. Whatever decision is made tonight I will respect and I will do what I do every single day, which is step forward and build coalitions and deliver results and get things done."

Also vying for the formal backing of the party is former City Attorney Michael Aguirre, a Democrat who is seeking to replace Bob Filner. He resigned Aug. 30 following repeated allegations of sexual harassment.

The lone Republican among the major candidates in the race is San Diego City Councilman Kevin Faulconer, Former Councilman Carl DeMaio had hoped to run for mayor as well, but he backed out



following behind-the-scenes deliberations among Republican power brokers who urged DeMaio to stick with his original bid for a congressional seat and then agreed to back Faulconer.

Staff writer Roxana Popescu contributed to this report.



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Ouch, having Hueso, Gonzalez and Block endorse Fletcher is 100 times worse than Emerald and Cole endorsing Alvarez. Either way though, they are ALL stout Filner supporters and on election day, the voters will never forget what he did to this city....

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