



DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING PROCESS CODE OF CONDUCT FEBRUARY 27, 2019

A primary function of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) is to nominate and assist in the election of Democratic candidates to the offices of president and vice president of the United States. As the governing body of the Democratic Party, we recognize that if we wish to lead our country, we must listen to the people. And if we want to earn the people's trust, we must prove that we trust them first. To carry out the DNC's presidential functions in keeping with our core principles, we are committed to operating in a manner that is impartial and evenhanded. The voice of the voters will be honored, and all bona fide presidential candidates will have the opportunity to make their case to the American people.

Every four years, the DNC establishes rules that govern the presidential nominating process. This Code of Conduct, which will be in place until the Democratic Party has a nominee or presumptive nominee, is intended to supplement those rules. Pursuant to Article 9, Section 9, of our Charter, it addresses DNC engagement and interaction with presidential candidates and campaigns for the 2020 presidential cycle to ensure fairness and transparency.

Our goal is to take back the White House in 2020 while achieving a majority in the United States Senate, maintaining our majority in the House of Representatives, and electing Democrats at every level, including governors and state legislators. To achieve that goal, the party must build trust and confidence with Democrats across the country and ensure that the grassroots of the party can participate in the nominating process. Accordingly, the following rules apply:

IMPARTIALITY AND EVENHANDEDNESS

Article 5, Section 4 of our Charter, requires impartiality and evenhandedness in its preparation and conduct of the presidential nominating process. We reaffirm that the DNC will be impartial and evenhanded in conducting and administering the presidential primary process. The DNC will highlight the overall contrast between Democratic presidential candidates and Republican presidential candidates. Elevating our candidates and communicating our shared values widely is critical to our success as a party, but this must be done fairly and transparently. So while the DNC may highlight presidential candidates at different and various times, places, and functions, the DNC will not create rules or make decisions for the purpose of favoring one candidate over another.

The DNC will also maintain a policy for DNC officers and staff concerning the endorsement of presidential candidates to ensure neutrality until a nominee or presumptive nominee is determined.



INFORMATION TO BONA FIDE AND ELIGIBLE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS

In order to be invited to DNC briefings and be eligible for other kinds of DNC engagement, a presidential candidate must be both a bona fide Democrat and meet the DNC's eligibility requirements.

Pursuant to the Delegate Selection Rules and the Call for the 2020 Democratic National Convention, a "bona fide" Democrat has a record of public service, accomplishment, public writings and/or public statements affirmatively demonstrating that the candidate is faithful to the interests, welfare and success of the Democratic Party of the United States and will participate in the Convention in good faith. An "eligible" presidential candidate is one that has: (1) publicly declared their intention to run for the Democratic nomination; (2) completed the affirmation for all Democratic candidates required under our rules; and (3) established a level of public support for their nomination as the Democratic candidate for the Office of President of the United States commensurate with a viable candidate for the nomination at each stage in the election cycle.

The DNC will always be impartial and evenhanded in establishing its engagement criteria and will never set a threshold for the purpose of benefiting a specific candidate over another.

AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE DNC AND BONA FIDE AND ELIGIBLE CAMPAIGNS

The DNC will offer DNC resources to all bona fide and eligible presidential campaigns under fair terms and equitable conditions. For campaigns that seek access to the national voter file, the DNC will have standard agreements that will be made available to all bona fide and eligible campaigns. Pursuant to the long standing data swap agreement between the DNC and state parties, access to the first four early state voter files is provided directly by those state parties.

Any additional agreements (including Joint Fundraising Agreements or other Memoranda of Understanding) will be available to all bona fide and eligible campaigns under the same terms and conditions.

FUNDRAISING

To ensure the party has the necessary resources to conduct a vigorous election effort, both during the nominating process and the general election, the DNC will encourage Democratic candidates to participate in DNC fundraising events and solicit their supporters to assist in those efforts.



USE OF COMMON VENDORS

The DNC anticipates that in some instances a consultant or vendor to the DNC may also serve as a vendor or consultant to one or more presidential campaigns. To avoid any improper conflict, the DNC will implement the following procedures: (1) all proposed common-vendor or consultant arrangements must be disclosed in advance and approved by the Chair of the DNC or his designee as is in the best interest of the DNC; (2) where approved, agreements between the DNC and any common vendor or consultant must provide that confidential information obtained from the DNC will not be shared with any presidential campaign without the DNC's prior consent and that the vendor or consultant has instituted appropriate safeguards to protect the confidentiality of DNC information; and (3) any such vendor or consultant must agree that in the event of a dispute between the DNC and a campaign, the vendor will not participate in the resolution of the dispute without the agreement of both the campaign and the DNC.