

DELEGATE SELECTION RULES

For the 2028 Democratic National Convention

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DELEGATE SELECTION RULES

For the 2028 Democratic National Convention

Rule 1
Publication and Submission of State Party Rules

A. State parties shall adopt a Delegate Selection Plan, including an Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program (as defined in Rules 6 and 7) which contain explicit rules and procedures governing all aspects of the delegate selection process. These rules shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Procedures for electing and certifying delegates and alternates at all levels;

2. Timing of primary/caucuses/ conventions;

3. Procedures providing for equal division in each state's convention delegation;

4. Particulars concerning the scheduling of delegate selection meetings including methods by which each meeting or event will be publicized;

5. Affirmative Action Plans and Outreach and Inclusion Programs which include affirmative action and inclusion obligations of presidential candidates;

7. All filing and petition requirements, including filing fees, if applicable, and corresponding deadlines prescribed by state law for delegate and alternate candidates and for presidential candidates;

8. All filing and petition requirements, including filing fees, if applicable, and corresponding deadlines prescribed by State Party rules for delegate and alternate candidates and for presidential candidates;

9. Procedures for ascertaining delegate/alternate preference at all stages;

10. Procedures for presidential candidate right of approval;

11. Method of awarding delegates and alternates to presidential candidates;

12. Methods and timetable for the selection of standing committee members;

13. Procedures for challenges of the delegate selection, affirmative action, and outreach and inclusion processes;

14. Methods and timetable for the selection of convention pages;

15. Methods and timetable for the nomination of Presidential Electors; and

16. Other appropriate provisions from these Rules, the Call, and the Regulations.

B. The following items are to be routinely included at an appropriate place in each state Delegate Selection Plan:

1. Eligibility requirements for participation in the delegate selection process in conformance with Rule 2 [Rule 2.A.];

2. Prohibition of cost and fees [Rule 2.D.];

3. Prohibition of participation by those participating in another party's process [Rule 2.E.];

4. One-meeting limitation for first-stage participants [Rule 3.E.];

5. "Six basic elements" of an open party [Rule 4];

6. Non-discrimination principles [Rule 5];

7. Requirement that all steps take place within calendar year of convention [Rule 12.B.];

8. Required identification of preference of candidates for delegate and alternate [Rule 13.A.];

9. Protection against coerced vote [Rule 13.I.];

10. Quorum requirements [Rule 16];

11. Proxy voting rules, if any [Rule 17];

12. Unit rule prohibition [Rule 18.A.];

13. Slate making limitations [Rule 18.B.]; and

14. Succession of alternates to delegate status and filling of vacancies in delegate positions [Rule 19].

C. Each State Party shall provide for a thirty (30) day[1] period of public comment to solicit opinion on the State's Delegate Selection Plan, Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program prior to adoption. All written public comments submitted to the state Democratic Committee shall be submitted along with the plans to the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Democratic National Committee ("DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee").

D. State Delegate Selection Plans, including Affirmative Action Plans and Outreach and Inclusion Programs, shall be submitted to the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee for approval on or before May 4, 2027.

E. The DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee shall act on the proposed plans as soon as practicable, but in no case later than November 15, 2027, or four months before the respective State's first determining step, whichever is earlier. Its decision shall be final and binding.

F. Implementation of state Affirmative Action Plans and Outreach and Inclusion Programs shall begin no later than November 15, 2027, or four months before the respective state's first determining step, whichever is earlier.

G. State Delegate Selection Plans shall specify the methods and timetable to be followed in selecting members of standing committees of the national convention. These procedures shall be in conformity with the rules to be contained in the Call for the 2028 Convention.

H. The Democratic National Committee ("DNC") and the state parties shall publish and make available at no cost to the public their rules, the 2028 National Delegate Selection Rules, and a clear and concise explanation of how Democratic voters can participate in their state delegate selection process. The DNC shall prepare and provide at no cost to state parties a clear and concise explanation of the 2028 National Delegate Selection Rules. This shall be done no later than October 4 of the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year of the national convention. The DNC is committed to ensuring that language access should not be a barrier to participation in the delegate selection process. The DNC, Association of State Democratic Committees, and state parties shall take all reasonable efforts to ensure this process is accessible to Democrats in different languages.

Rule 2
Participation

A. Participation in the delegate selection process shall be open to all voters who wish to participate as Democrats.

1. Democratic voters shall be those persons who publicly declare their Party preference and have that preference publicly recorded.

2. Implementation of this administrative matter shall be delegated to the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee.

B. Nothing in these rules shall be interpreted to encourage or permit states with party registration and enrollment, or states that limit participation to Democrats only, to

[1] Unless otherwise explicitly specified, reference in these Rules to "day" or "days" means "calendar days." If the last day of a period falls on a Saturday, Sunday or a federally recognized holiday, the time shall be extended to the next business day.

amend their systems to open participation to members of other parties.

C. State parties shall take all feasible steps to encourage non-affiliated and new voters to register or enroll, to provide simple procedures through which they may do so and to eliminate excessively long waiting periods for voters wishing to register or to change their party enrollment status. All Democrats who comply with Rule 2.A. shall be allowed to participate in the delegate selection process.

D. At no stage of the delegate selection process shall any person be required, directly or indirectly, to pay a cost or fee as a condition for participating in the delegate selection process. Voluntary contributions to the Party may be made, but under no circumstances shall a contribution be mandatory for participation.

E. No person shall participate or vote in the nominating process for a Democratic presidential candidate who also participates in the nominating processes of any other party for the corresponding elections.

F. In accordance with Article Nine, Section 12 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States, votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any stage of the delegate selection process, including processes leading up to the selection of DNC Members or State Chairs and Vice Chairs, who serve as DNC members by virtue of their office, except that use of such voting by secret ballot may be used in a process that is the first determining stage of the delegate election process and in which all individual voters are eligible to participate in accordance with the provisions of this Rule 2.

G. The casting of ballots over the Internet may be used as a method of voting in a vote only for presidential preference in a State Party-run process constituting the first determining stage in the presidential nominating process, and only if such casting of ballots over the Internet:

1. Is used in a system in which voters may cast their ballots in person on the day of such process and/or by mail, and in which casting of ballots over the Internet is an alternate means of voting;

2. Is accompanied by a comprehensive, proactive education and outreach program on the use of Internet voting that is set forth in the state's delegate selection plan and approved by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee;

3. Is conducted in accordance with a plan approved by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee that is included in the state's delegate selection plan, and that provides adequate measures to achieve security, reliability, access to eligible voters and transparency, including contractual and other safeguards to secure exclusive ownership and control by the State Party of voting data; and

4. Is accomplished through a system which provides the voter with an opportunity to verify the voter's ballot and correct any error before the voter's vote is cast; which can be permanently maintained by the voter at the voter's option in paper, electronic or other form; and which produces a paper record of the voter's vote that is preserved and maintained by the State Party in the event of a manual audit, until the expiration of the time for filing an implementation challenge under these Rules.

H. State Delegate Selection Plans shall include a description of actions taken or to be taken by the State Party to seek enactment of legislation, rules, and policies at the state and local level to enhance voter and election security and combat election subversion, that will:

1. Maintain secure and accurate state voter registration rolls, so that every eligible American who registers to vote has their personal information protected and secure;

2. Implement transparent and accurate voter registration list maintenance procedures that comply with federal requirements and ensure that every eligible voter stays on the rolls;

3. Promote the acquisition, maintenance, and regular replacement of precinct based optical scan voting systems;

4. Ensure that any direct recording electronic systems in place have a voter verified paper record;

5. Implement risk limiting post-election audits such as manual audits comparing paper records to electronic records;

6. Ensure that all voting systems have recognized security measures;

7. Use accessible and secure voting machines that make it possible for individuals with disabilities to vote securely and privately, with votes verifiable by voters;

8. Provide educational materials to enhance public knowledge and confidence in election administration and counter disinformation;

9. Actively engaging with state and local officials to implement fair and honest election policies and practices;

10. Support adequate funding for state and local election administration.

I. Each State Party shall include in its Delegate Selection Plan a description of steps taken or to be taken to assess and improve participation with respect to presidential preference and delegate selection contests and procedures.

1. Such steps shall include establishment, with DNC assistance, of year-round voter protection programs. As part of such programs, state parties are encouraged to support educational, administrative, legislative, and litigation based efforts to protect and expand the vote and advance election fairness and security. Such efforts may include the goals set forth below.

a. Expand access to voting, including by early voting, no excuse absentee, same-day voter registration, drop boxes and voting by mail;

b. Ensure that voting locations are accessible, fairly placed, and adequate in number, and have a sufficient number of voting machines;

c. Speed up the voting process and minimize long lines;

d. Eliminate onerous and discriminatory voter identification requirements;

e. Count and include in the final total ballots from voters who are eligible to vote but cast their ballot in the wrong precinct, for offices for which they are eligible to vote; and

f. Facilitate military and overseas voting.

2. As part of encouraging participation in the delegate selection process by registered voters, state parties are encouraged to support efforts to make voter registration easier including:

a. Voter registration modernization, including online voter registration and automatic and same-day registration;

b. Pre-registration of high school students so that they are already registered once they reach voting age;

c. Restoration of voting rights to all people who have served the time for their criminal conviction, without requiring the payment of court fees or fines; and

d. Allow same-day or automatic registration for the Democratic presidential nominating process.

J. When employing government-run voting systems, it is imperative for State Parties to oppose attempts at voter suppression, disenfranchisement, and ensure an open and inclusive process. These efforts include revising State Party rules and encouraging administrative rules, legislation, or considering litigation to:

1. Allow same-day party switching for the Democratic presidential nominating process or to achieve state laws that allow voters to switch parties at least as late as the deadline for registering to vote.

K. While parties are encouraged to use government-run primaries, in states where the State Party chooses to hold a Party-run process to establish presidential preference, the State Party's Delegate Selection Plan shall prevent attempts at voter suppression, disenfranchisement, and ensure an open and inclusive process. Further, the Rules and Bylaws Committee shall determine whether the State Party's Delegate Selection Plan meets the requirements specified in this section, including:

1. Incorporating mechanisms with reasonable safeguards against error and fraud to vote absentee or vote early;

2. Demonstrating that the State Party has the financial and technical ability to successfully run the process;

3. Implementing same-day voter registration and party-affiliation changes at the voting location;

4. Creating a process for publicly reporting the total statewide and district level results for each candidate based on the first expression of preference by the participants at the first determining step, as determined in the State's Plan;

5. Requiring that the allocation of all national delegates, be locked in at the final expression of preference at the first determining step, as determined by the State's Plan, subject to recount;

6. Ensuring final expressions of preference as part of the presidential nominating process are securely preserved, in a method to be specified in the State's Plan, that ensures the availability of a prompt and accurate recount or recanvas;

7. Providing a standard and procedure by which a presidential candidate may request a recount or recanvas that is paid for by the candidate and carried out in a timely manner;

8. Creating mechanisms that allow voters who are unable to be a part of the process in person to participate. This can include, but is not limited to those serving in the military, those with a disability or illness preventing participation, those who are not able to take time off from work or obtain child care, and other reasons; and

9. Taking appropriate steps to ensure voters in party-run processes, like those in primary states, have a right to participate in the process. These steps could include any required rules changes and the proper education and outreach to ensure accessibility, including specifically for people with disabilities and for people with limited English proficiency in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act and Sections 203 and 208 of the Voting Rights Act.

Rule 3
Scheduling of Delegate Selection Meetings

A. All official Party meetings and events related to the national convention delegate selection process, including caucuses, conventions, committee meetings, filing dates, and Party enrollment periods, shall be scheduled for dates, times and publicly accessible places which would be most likely to encourage the participation of all Democrats, and must begin

and end at reasonable hours. It shall be the responsibility of the State Party to select the dates, times and to locate and confirm the availability of publicly accessible facilities for all official party meetings and events related to the national convention delegate selection process. All reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that the publicly accessible facilities are ADA compliant.

B. All such meetings or events which are the first meeting or event in the delegate selection process shall be scheduled at times and dates which are uniform throughout the state, except where it is established by the State Party and approved by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee that such uniform times and dates would significantly reduce participation in the delegate selection process.

C. The times, dates, places, and rules for the conduct of all caucuses, conventions, meetings and other events involved in the delegate selection process shall be effectively publicized with reasonable notice, including but not limited to distribution through press lists, digital platforms including websites and social media, email distribution lists, and reasonable outreach to community-based organizations, including multilingual communication, by the Party organization, official, candidate or member calling the same.

D. Concise statements in advance of all meetings and events concerning the relationship between the business to be conducted and the delegate selection process shall be effectively publicized by the Party organization, official, candidate or member calling the same.

E. No person shall participate in more than one meeting which is the first determinative step in the delegate selection process.

Rule 4
An Open Party

A. The Democratic National Committee reaffirms its commitment to the 1964 resolution, and requires the national and state parties to incorporate the Six Basic Elements, as updated, into their Party rules and to take appropriate steps to secure their implementation.

B. The 1964 Democratic National Convention adopted a resolution which conditioned the seating of delegates at future conventions on the assurances that discrimination in any State Party affairs on the ground of race, color, creed or national origin did not occur. The 1968 Convention adopted the 1964 Convention resolution for inclusion in the Call for the 1972 Convention. In 1966, the Special Equal Rights Committee, which had been created in 1964, adopted six anti-discrimination standards — designated as the Six Basic Elements. As our Party strives to progress in the fight against discrimination of all kinds, these Six Basic Elements have evolved and grown along with the constant push for more inclusion and empowerment. These working principles, as updated, are as follows:

1. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party in each state should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, economic status or disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as "status").

2. No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party in any state should be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination based on "status."

3. The time and place for all public meetings of the Democratic Party on all levels should be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.

4. The Democratic Party, on all levels, should support the broadest possible registration without discrimination based on "status."

5. The Democratic Party in each state should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures should be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of each State Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Democratic Party organization. Each State Party should develop a strategy to provide education programs directly to voters who continue to experience confusing timelines for registration, changing party affiliation deadlines, or lack of awareness of the process for running for delegate, to ensure all Democratic voters understand the rules and timelines and their impact on voter participation.

6. The Democratic Party in each state should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications of all positions as officers and representatives of the state Democratic Party. Such publication should be done in a timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within each State Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

C. These provisions demonstrate the intention of the Democratic Party to ensure a full opportunity for all "status" (as defined in Rule 4.B.1) members to participate in the delegate selection process.

Rule 5
Non-Discrimination

A. In order that the Democratic Party at all levels be an open Party which includes rather than excludes people from participation, a program of effective affirmative action and inclusion is hereby adopted.

B. Discrimination on the basis of "status" in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited.

C. In order to continue the Democratic Party's ongoing efforts to include groups historically under-represented in the Democratic Party's affairs, by virtue of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, economic status or disability, each State Party shall develop and submit Party outreach programs, including recruitment, education and training, in order to achieve full participation by such groups and diversity in the delegate selection process and at all levels of Party affairs.

Rule 6
Affirmative Action

A. The promises of a democratically elected government and the right to vote have not always been extended equally to all Americans. Historically, certain groups of Americans have been explicitly denied the right to vote or have been subjected to discriminatory and exclusionary practices with the intended effect of denying them voting rights. In recognition of this past history of discriminatory denial of the franchise and in order to encourage full participation by all Democrats in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs, the national and state Democratic Parties shall adopt and implement affirmative action programs with specific goals and timetables for African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and women.

1. The goal of such affirmative action shall be to achieve participation in the delegate selection process and in Party organizations at all levels by the aforementioned groups as indicated by their presence in the Democratic electorate.

2. This goal shall not be accomplished either directly or indirectly by the Party's imposition of mandatory quotas at any level of the delegate selection process or in any other Party affairs.

3. In the selection of each state's at-large delegation, priority of consideration shall be given to African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and women, if such priority of consideration is needed to fulfill the affirmative action goals outlined in the state's Delegate Selection Plan. Such remedial action is necessary in order to overcome the effects of past discrimination. Use of the at-large delegation to fulfill the plan's affirmative action goals does not obviate the need for the State Party to conduct outreach activities such as recruitment, education and training. Priority of consideration shall also be given to other groups as described in Rule 5.C, which are under-represented in Democratic Party affairs, in order to assist in the achievement of full participation by these groups.

4. The DNC will work with the State Party to ascertain the demographic make-up of the aforementioned groups of the state's Democratic electorate.

B. Performance under an approved Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program and composition of the convention delegation shall be considered relevant evidence in the challenge to any state delegation. If a State Party has adopted and implemented an approved affirmative action program, the State Party shall not be subject to challenge based solely on delegation composition or primary results.

C. State Delegate Selection Plans shall provide for equal division between delegate men and delegate women and alternate men and alternate women within the state's entire convention delegation (determined by gender-self-identification). For purposes of this rule, the entire delegation includes all pledged delegates and alternates and automatic delegates (including automatic party leaders and elected official delegates). Gender non-binary delegates shall not be counted as either male or female, and the remainder of the delegation shall be equally divided.

   1. State Delegate Selection Plans shall, as far as mathematically practicable, also provide for equal division between district-level delegate men and delegate women and district-level alternate men and alternate women, as described in Rule 6.C.

   2. The DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee shall have continuing jurisdiction to ensure compliance with this equal division requirement. No at-large delegate or alternate from a state shall be placed on the temporary roll of the 2028 Democratic National Convention unless the Rules and Bylaws Committee has certified to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee that such state's delegation complies with this equal division rule. It shall be the duty of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee to determine such compliance as soon as practicable following the State Party Chair's certification of the state's at-large delegates and alternates.

   3. Notwithstanding sub-paragraph A.2 above, equal division at any level of delegate or committee positions between delegate men and delegate women or committeemen and committeewomen shall not constitute a violation of any provision thereof.

D. For purposes of providing adequate notice of the delegate selection process under Rule 3, the times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of all caucuses, conventions,

meetings and other events involved in the delegate selection process shall be effectively publicized to encourage the participation of minority groups. Parties will make a good faith effort to publicize this information in an accessible manner and multilingually where necessary.

E. State Democratic Parties shall take steps to ensure that district lines used in the delegate selection process are not gerrymandered to discriminate against African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders or women.

F. Each state Affirmative Action Plan shall provide for the appointment of a representative state Affirmative Action Committee by March 1, 2027. Before the State Party submits its Plan to the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee, the Affirmative Action Committee shall review the proposed outreach program required in Rule 5.C.

G. Each State Affirmative Action Plan shall include outreach provisions to encourage the participation and representation of persons of low and moderate income, and a specific plan to help defray expenses of those delegates otherwise unable to participate in the national convention.

H. State Parties in their Delegate Selection Plans shall impose reasonable specific Affirmative Action and Inclusion obligations upon presidential candidates consistent with the delegate selection system employed by the state.

1. State Parties shall require presidential candidates to submit statements that specify what steps such candidates will take to encourage full participation in their delegate selection process, including, but not limited to, procedures by which persons may file as candidates for delegate or alternate. Provided further that presidential candidates submit such full participation statements to the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee at the same time they are submitted to state parties.

2. State Parties shall require presidential candidates to submit demographic information with respect to candidates for delegate and alternate pledged to them.

I. Each State Party shall certify to the Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) has used best efforts to ensure that their respective delegations at each level within a state's delegation shall fulfill the requirements of Rule 6 and Rule 7 established by the state's Delegate Selection Plan and that the respective delegations of each presidential candidate within the state's delegation shall be as equally divided as practicable between men and women (as described in Rule 6.C).

Rule 7
Outreach and Inclusion Programs

The Democratic National Committee recognizes that other groups of Americans in addition to those described in Rule 6 may be under-represented in Party affairs. These groups include members of the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities, and youth. The National and State Parties shall adopt and implement Outreach and Inclusion Programs in order to achieve the full participation of members of these and other groups in the delegate selection process and in all party affairs, as indicated by their presence in the Democratic electorate. The DNC will work with the State Party to ascertain the presence of these groups in the State's Democratic electorate. State Parties should use goals to achieve these ends; however, in no event may such participation be accomplished by the use of quotas.

Rule 8
National Convention Delegate Apportionment

A. For states with more than one congressional district, apportionment of district-level delegates within the state shall be based on one of the following:

1. A formula giving equal weight to total population and to the average of the vote for the Democratic candidates in the two most recent presidential elections;

2. A formula giving equal weight to the vote for the Democratic candidates in the most recent presidential and gubernatorial elections;

3. A formula giving equal weight to the average of the vote for the Democratic candidates in the two most recent presidential elections and to Democratic Party registration or enrollment as of January 1, 2028; or

4. A formula giving one-third (1/3) weight to each of the formulas in items (1), (2), and (3).

B. Apportionment for each body selecting delegates to state, district, and county conventions shall be based upon population and/or some measure of Democratic electoral strength.

C. The Call for the 2028 Convention shall state the base delegation for each delegation. Seventy-five percent (75%) of each state's base delegation shall be elected at the congressional district level or smaller. Twenty-five percent (25%) of each state's base delegation shall be elected at large. Delegates so elected shall hereafter be termed "district-level" and "at-large" delegates, respectively. Each State Democratic Chair shall certify all delegates in writing to the Secretary of the DNC.

D. In those states with more than one congressional district, after the election of district-level delegates and prior to the selection of at-large delegates, each State Democratic Chair shall certify pledged party leader and elected official delegates equal to 15% of the state's base delegation selected pursuant to Rule 10.

E. The election of district-level and at-large delegates and alternates may take place at the same meeting, provided that district-level delegates are selected first. In all cases, affirmative action, inclusion and fair reflection guidelines must be met and the Democratic Chair of each such state shall make the certifications required by subsection 8.D.

Rule 9
Automatic Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates

A. For the purpose of these rules, the term "automatic" used in this Rule corresponds with the term "unpledged," as used in Article Two, Section 4(h) of the Charter. The procedure to be used for certifying automatic party leader and elected official delegates is as follows:

Not later than March 8, 2028, the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee shall officially confirm to each State Democratic Chair the names of the following automatic delegates who legally reside in their respective state and who shall be recognized as part of their state's delegation unless any such member has publicly expressed support for the election of, or has endorsed, a presidential candidate of another political party:

1. The individuals recognized as members of the DNC (as set forth in Article Three, Sections 2 and 3 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States); and,

2. The Democratic President and the Democratic Vice President of the United States, if applicable; and,

3. All Democratic members of the United States House of Representatives and all Democratic members of the United States Senate; and,

4. The Democratic Governor, if applicable; and,

5. All former Democratic Presidents, all former Democratic Vice Presidents, all former Democratic Leaders of the U.S. Senate, all former Democratic Speakers of the U.S. House of Representatives and

Democratic Minority Leaders, as applicable, and all former Chairs of the Democratic National Committee.

B. Except as provided in 9.A. above, no person shall serve as an automatic delegate at any level of the delegate selection process by virtue of holding a public or party office.

Rule 10
Pledged Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates

A. Following the selection of district-level delegates under 8.E., pledged party leader and elected official delegates are to be selected subject to the following procedures:

1. Persons shall be considered for pledged party leader and elected official delegates and alternates according to the following categories: big city mayors, state-wide elected officials, elected officials from the executive branches of federally recognized tribal nations, state and tribal legislative leaders, state and tribal legislators, and other state, tribal, county and local elected officials and party leaders.

2. These slots shall be allocated on the same basis as the state's at-large delegates.

B. A state's party leader and elected official delegates may be chosen by a state convention or by a committee consisting of a quorum of district-level delegates. They may also be chosen by the State Party Committee, as recognized by the Democratic National Committee, but only if the state's Delegate Selection Plan is in full compliance with these rules, and provided:

1. Membership on the State Party Committee is apportioned on the basis of population and/or some measure of Democratic electoral strength;

2. Members of the State Party Committee have been elected through open processes in conformity with the basic procedural guarantees utilized for delegate selection;

3. Such delegates are elected at a public meeting subsequent to the election of district-level delegates;

4. Members of the State Party Committee exercising such authority shall have been elected no earlier than the calendar year of the previous national convention; and

5. Membership of the State Party Committee complies with the equal division requirements of Article Nine, Section 16 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States.

Rule 11
Selection of At-Large Delegates

A. The selection of at-large delegates shall be used, if necessary, to achieve the equal division of positions between men and women and the representation goals established in the State Party's Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program. Such goals apply to the state's entire delegation considered as a whole. For purposes of this rule, the entire delegation includes all automatic as well as all pledged delegates. Delegates and alternates shall each, as a group, be equally divided and, to the extent possible, each as a group shall reflect the representation goals established in the state's Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program.

B. A state's at-large delegates and alternates shall be selected by one of the bodies, subject to the same conditions specified in Rule 10.B. above, provided, however, the State Party Committee may choose such delegates and alternates only if the state's Delegate Selection Plan is in full compliance with these rules.

C. At-large delegates and alternates (including pledged party leader and elected official delegates, which shall include those to be allocated to uncommitted status) in primary states shall be allocated according to the state-wide primary vote. In non-primary states, at-large delegates shall be apportioned according to the final expression of preference

at the first determining step. If a presidential candidate entitled to an allocation under this rule is no longer a candidate at the time at-large delegates are selected, their allocation shall be proportionately divided among the other preferences entitled to an allocation.

Rule 12
Timing of the Delegate Selection Process

A. No meetings, caucuses, conventions or primaries which constitute the first determining stage in the presidential nomination process (the date of the primary in primary states, and the date of the first tier caucus in caucus states) may be held prior to the first Tuesday in March or after the second Tuesday in June in the calendar year of the national convention. Provided, however, that the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee may provide waivers to State Parties to hold their first determining stage before the window, within the calendar year. All waivers of this rule as approved by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee are subject to ratification by the DNC.

B. All steps in the delegate selection process, except the filing of presidential candidates as allowed by Rule 15.D, must take place within the calendar year of the Democratic National Convention (except as otherwise provided in these rules or specifically allowed by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee).

Rule 13
Presidential Preference

A. All candidates for delegate and alternate in caucuses, conventions, committees and on primary ballots shall be identified as to presidential preference or uncommitted status at all levels of a process which determines presidential preference. Candidates may state a preference for only one presidential candidate, including uncommitted, at any time. In no case shall a candidate for delegate or alternate indicate more than one such presidential preference at each level.

B. All persons wishing to be elected to a district-level or at-large delegate position must file a statement of candidacy designating the presidential or uncommitted preference of the delegate candidate and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) the person favors, if any, with the State Party by a date certain as specified in the state's Delegate Selection Plan.

C. All candidates considered for district-level alternate positions must meet the same requirements as candidates for district-level delegate positions, except that the state may allow candidates who were not chosen at the delegate level to be considered at the alternate level.

D. Prior to the selection of national convention delegates and alternates, the State Party shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate positions pledged to that presidential candidate. All such delegate and alternate candidates shall be considered eligible for election as a supporter of the presidential candidate whom they have pledged to support, unless the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), signifies otherwise in writing to the State Party by a date certain as specified in the state's Delegate Selection Plan.

1. Presidential candidates shall certify in writing to the Democratic State Chair the name(s) of their authorized representative(s) by a date certain.

2. In states where delegates are voted upon on the ballot, the date by which the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), signifies approval or disapproval of the list of delegate and alternate candidates in writing to the State Party as required by Rule 13.D., must allow sufficient time to ensure that names removed from the list do not appear on the ballot.

3. Presidential candidates or their authorized representatives shall not be required to exercise their right of candidate approval with respect to pledged party leader and elected official (PLEO) delegate candidates until such time after the district-level delegates have been elected.

4. Presidential candidates or their authorized representatives shall not be required to exercise their right of candidate approval with respect to at-large delegate candidates until such time after the pledged party leader and elected official (PLEO) delegates have been elected.

E. National convention delegate and alternate candidates removed from the list of supporters by a presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), may not be elected as a delegate or alternate at that level pledged to that presidential candidate.

   1. Presidential candidates may not remove any candidate for a district-level delegate or alternate position from the list of eligible supporters unless, at a minimum, three (3) names remain for every such position to which the presidential candidate is entitled. Provided, however, that in states where individual district-level delegates and alternates are voted upon on a primary ballot, the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), may approve a number of delegate candidates or alternate candidates equal to or greater than the number of delegates or alternates allocated to the district.

   2. Presidential candidates, in consultation with the State Party, may remove any candidate for at-large and pledged party leader and elected official delegate or alternate position from the list of eligible supporters as long as, at a minimum, one (1) name remains for every national convention delegate or alternate position to which the presidential candidate is entitled, except that a state may provide in its delegate selection plan, if the plan is approved by the Rules and Bylaws Committee, that presidential candidates may remove any candidate for an at-large and party leader and elected official delegate or alternate position from the list of eligible supporters as long as, at a minimum, two (2) names remain for every position to which the presidential candidate is entitled.

F. State parties shall ensure that state Delegate Selection Plans provide fair and adequate time for persons to file for delegate or alternate positions, and for presidential candidates, or their authorized representative(s), to review the list of persons who have filed, and to remove from that list persons not confirmed by the presidential candidate or their representative(s).

G. Except in states where individual delegates and alternates are selected on the primary ballot, district-level national convention delegates and alternates pledged to a presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) shall be selected or nominated by a caucus of persons from the district electing the delegates and alternates who sign statements of support for that presidential candidate. Uncommitted delegates and alternates shall be elected by the uncommitted caucus from the appropriate district.

H. A district-level delegate and alternate candidate may run for election only within the district in which they are registered to

vote. For purposes of these rules, all delegates and alternates at any level of the delegate selection process must be bona fide Democrats (which shall include being registered as a Democrat in states that permit Democratic Party registration) who have the interests, welfare and success of the Democratic Party of the United States at heart, who subscribe to the substance, intent and principles of the Charter and the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States, and who will participate in the Convention in good faith.

I. No delegate at any level of the delegate selection process shall be mandated by law or Party rule to vote contrary to that person's presidential choice as expressed at the time the delegate is elected.

J. Delegates elected to the national convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them.

K. 1. Based on the right of the Democratic Party to freely assemble and to determine the criteria for its candidates, it is determined that all candidates for the Democratic nomination for President or Vice President shall:

a. be registered to vote, and shall have been registered to vote in the last election for the office of President and Vice President; and

b. as determined by the National Chairperson of the Democratic National Committee, be a bona fide Democrat whose record of public service, accomplishment, public writings, and/or public statements affirmatively demonstrates that the candidate is faithful to the interests, welfare, and success of the Democratic Party of the United States at heart, who subscribes to the substance, intent, and principles of the Charter and the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States, and who will participate in the Convention in good faith.

2. It is further determined that these requirements are in addition to the requirements set forth by the United States Constitution and any law of the United States.

Rule 14
Fair Reflection of Presidential Preferences

A. Delegates shall be allocated in a fashion that fairly reflects the expressed presidential preference or uncommitted status of the primary voters or, if there is no binding primary, the convention and/or caucus participants.

B. States shall allocate district-level delegates and alternates in proportion to the percentage of the primary or caucus vote won in that district by each preference, except that preferences falling below a fifteen percent (15%) threshold shall not be awarded any delegates. In accordance with section F. of this rule, states shall have a threshold of fifteen percent (15%).

C. In a state that uses a caucus and/or convention to determine presidential preference of voters, the plan must provide for the timely reporting of the election results to the State Party.

D. A presidential candidate or their authorized representative(s) should act in good faith to slate delegate and alternate candidates, however, in any event, if a presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) has qualified to receive delegates and alternates but has failed to slate a sufficient number of delegate and alternate candidates, then additional delegates and alternates for that preference will be selected in a special post-primary procedure. The State Party will administer special post-primary procedures according to rules approved by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee and such procedures should be set forth in the state's delegate selection plan, where applicable.

E. District-level delegates and alternates shall be allocated according to the following procedures:

Step 1: Tabulate the percentage of the vote that each presidential preference (including uncommitted status) receives in the congressional district to three decimals.

Step 2: Retabulate the percentage of the vote to three decimals, received by each presidential preference excluding the votes of presidential preferences whose percentage in Step 1 falls below 15%.

Step 3: Multiply the number of delegates to be allocated by the percentage received by each presidential preference.

Step 4: Delegates shall be allocated to each presidential preference based on the whole numbers which result from the multiplication in Step 3.

Step 5: Remaining delegates, if any, shall be awarded in order of the highest fractional remainders in Step 3.

F. At-large and pledged party leader and elected official delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated to presidential preferences by reference to primary or convention votes or to the division of preference among district-level delegates or alternates, as the case may be, as specified in Rule 11.C., except that a preference falling below a threshold of fifteen percent (15%) shall not be awarded any delegates or alternates at this level. Such delegates and alternates in primary states shall be allocated to presidential preference (including uncommitted status) according to the statewide primary vote.

G. In all situations where no preference reaches the applicable threshold, the threshold shall be half the percentage of the vote received at each level of the delegate selection process by the front-runner.

H. For the purpose of fairly reflecting the division of preferences, the non-binding advisory presidential preference portion of primaries shall not be considered a step in the delegate selection process and is considered detrimental. State Parties must take steps to educate the public that non-binding presidential preference events, including straw polls, are meaningless, and State Parties and presidential candidates should take all steps possible not to participate.

Rule 15
Petition Requirements and Filing Deadlines

A. If a state requires the filing of petitions with the signatures of registered/enrolled voters as the sole method to place a presidential candidate's name on the primary ballot in connection with the Democratic presidential nominating process, such number of valid signatures shall not exceed 5,000.

B. No fee in excess of $3,500 may be charged (either to a presidential campaign or State Party) as the sole method to place a presidential candidate on the ballot in connection with the Democratic presidential nominating process. If state law requires such a fee in excess of $3,500, such law was in place prior to 2018, and a State Party has taken provable, positive steps to change such law, then a State Party may seek a waiver of this provision to charge such a fee to presidential campaigns.

C. If a state requires the filing of a petition with the signatures of registered/enrolled voters in order to have a delegate/alternate candidate gain access to the primary ballot in connection with the Democratic presidential nominating process, the number of valid signatures shall not exceed either one half of one percent (.5%) of the registered/enrolled Democrats in such district or one half of one percent (.5%) of the total votes in such district for all Democratic presidential candidates (including uncommitted) during the immediately preceding presidential nominating process, whichever is lower, but in no event shall the number of valid signatures required exceed 500.

D. No deadline for the filing of petitions for participation in the presidential nomination process by a presidential candidate shall be less than 30 days in advance of the primary or caucus nor more than 90 days in advance of the primary or caucus.

E. No candidate for delegate or alternate shall be required to file a statement of candidacy or a pledge of support as required by Rule 13.B. prior to 30 days before such delegate or alternate candidate is to be selected or elected in a primary, caucus or pre-primary caucus; provided, however, that in states holding a presidential primary where individual district-level delegates or alternates are to be voted upon on the ballot, no candidate for delegate or alternate shall be required to submit or file a statement of candidacy or a pledge of support prior to 90 days before the date on which they are to be voted upon.

F. No candidate for at-large or pledged party leader and elected official delegate or alternate shall be required to file a statement of candidacy or a pledge of support required by Rule 13.B. prior to 30 days before the date when the delegate or alternate is to be selected or voted upon.

G. No state's delegate selection rules may require the filing of district-level delegate or alternate candidates pledged to a presidential candidate or uncommitted status as a condition of access by a presidential candidate to the primary ballot for voting upon presidential preference.

Rule 16
Quorum Requirements

No less than forty percent (40%) of the members of any Party body above the first level of the delegate selection process shall constitute a quorum for any business pertaining to the selection of convention delegates.

Rule 17
Proxy Voting

To ensure full participation in the delegate selection process, State Party rules may, at their discretion, provide for proxy voting. Such rules shall allow an accredited participant in a caucus, convention or committee meeting, after having established credentials, to register the non-transferable proxy with another duly accredited participant in that meeting (except where an accredited alternate is present and eligible to serve as a replacement). Unless otherwise specified, a proxy shall be deemed to be general and uninstructed. No such rule shall allow a person to hold more than one (1) proxy at a time.

Rule 18
Unit Rule and Slate-Making

A. The unit rule, or any rule or practice whereby all members of a Party unit or delegation may be required to cast their votes in accordance with the will of a majority of the body, shall not be used at any stage of the delegate selection process.

B. Any individual or group of Democrats may sponsor or endorse a slate of candidates for convention delegates. But no slate may, by virtue of such endorsement, receive a preferential place on a delegate selection ballot or be publicly identified as the official Democratic Party organization slate, and all slates must meet identical qualifying requirements for appearing on a ballot at all levels of the delegate selection process.

Rule 19
Alternates and Vacancies

A. Alternate delegates shall be selected by primary, convention or committee processes subject to the same National Party Rules applicable to the selection of delegates, except that the provisions of Rule 9.A. shall not apply to the election of alternates. Each State

Democratic Chair shall certify all alternates in writing to the Secretary of the DNC.

B. If a given presidential preference is entitled to one or more delegate positions in a state but would not otherwise be entitled to an alternate position, that preference shall be allotted one at-large alternate position.

C. The proportions of alternates elected at the district level, and at-large, and as pledged party leader and elected official alternates, may be the same as the proportions of delegates elected in those categories.

D. Each state Delegate Selection Plan shall specifically provide how and under what conditions an alternate is to replace or act in lieu of (collectively referred to as "replace" or "replaces") a delegate.

1. Delegate Selection Plans may specify one or any combination of the following alternatives for permanent and temporary replacements:

   a. The delegate chooses the alternate;

   b. The delegation chooses the alternate;

   c. The alternate who receives the highest number of votes; or

   d. Such other process as protects the interests of presidential candidates, delegates and alternates.

2. If a delegate or alternate candidate who has been elected but not yet certified to the Secretary of the DNC resigns, dies or is no longer eligible to serve, the delegate-elect or alternate-elect shall be replaced, after consultation with the State Party, by the authorized representative of the presidential candidate to whom the delegate or alternate was pledged.

3. A permanent replacement occurs when a delegate resigns, dies or is no longer eligible to serve prior to or during the National Convention and the alternate replaces the delegate for the remainder of the National Convention. Any alternate who permanently replaces a delegate shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the DNC by the State Democratic Chair. They shall be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) and, to the extent possible, the same gender and from the same political jurisdiction within the state as the delegate; except in the case where the presidential candidate has only one alternate, in which case, that alternate shall become the certified delegate.

4. A temporary replacement occurs when a delegate is to be absent for a limited period of time during the convention and an alternate temporarily acts in the delegate's place. Any alternate who temporarily replaces a delegate must be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) as the delegate they replace, and to the extent possible shall be of the same gender and from the same political jurisdiction within the state as the delegate.

E. A vacant alternate position shall be filled by the delegates in the delegation unless otherwise specified in the State's Delegate Selection Plan. The replacement shall be of the same presidential preference (or uncommitted status), and, to the extent possible, the same gender and from the same political jurisdiction as the alternate being replaced. Each replacement of a vacant alternate position shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the DNC by the State Democratic Chair.

Rule 20
DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee

A. The DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee will assist in the administration and enforce affirmative action, inclusion and delegate selection requirements for the national and state Democratic parties.

B. The DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee shall implement the Delegate Selection Rules in a manner consistent with these rules.

C. The DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee will provide State Parties with a model Delegate Selection Plan and an Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program.

D. The DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee shall:

1. review Affirmative Action Plans, Outreach and Inclusion Programs and Delegate Selection Plans submitted by State Parties and approve or recommend changes in such plans;

2. conduct periodic evaluations and provide technical assistance to state parties on Affirmative Action Plans, Outreach and Inclusion Programs and delegate selection implementation; and

3. hear and recommend solutions to resolve complaints regarding Delegate Selection Plans, including Affirmative Action Plans and Outreach and Inclusion Programs, unresolved by appropriate state party bodies.

E. The DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee shall retain jurisdiction over the approval of amendments to state Delegate Selection Plans and state delegation compliance with equal division requirements, even after the Convention Credentials Committee assumes jurisdiction over challenges to the credentials of delegates.

F. No later than December 21, 2026, the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee shall send to state parties its regulations adopted pursuant to these rules and a checklist.

G. The DNC shall allocate sufficient financial resources and staff to implement this rule.

Rule 21

Challenges

A. Jurisdictional Challenges. Any challenges to a State Party organization in respect to its status as the body entitled to sponsor a delegation from that state must be presented to the DNC at any time up to thirty (30) days prior to the initiation of the state's delegate selection process. Such a challenge must be brought by at least fifteen (15) Democrats from the state.

B. Submission, Non-Implementation and Violation Challenges. Failure to submit or implement an approved Affirmative Action Program and Outreach and Inclusion Program by the deadline specified in these rules shall constitute grounds for a challenge with the burden of proof on the challenged party.

1. At any time up to thirty (30) days prior to the initiation of the state's delegate selection process, any group of not fewer than fifteen (15) Democrats in that state can challenge the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program on the basis of non-implementation of a specific requirement of a state plan, which challenge shall include reasonable documentation of alleged violations. (In such challenges, the challenging party shall have the burden of proof, but the challenged party shall present its case first.)

   a. In the absence of any such challenge, the implementation of any such program shall be presumptively in compliance.

   b. If challenged and upheld, the compliance of such implementation programs shall be conclusive but not as to compliance or non-compliance that may occur after the date of the challenge.

2. Challenges regarding alleged violation of an approved Delegate Selection Plan shall first be brought to the appropriate state Democratic Party body for a decision to be rendered within twenty-one (21) days. After due notice, any aggrieved party

shall have the right to appeal to the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee within ten (10) days following the decision of the state body according to procedures established by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee.

3. The DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee shall either certify compliance, certify non-compliance or require corrective action after which compliance or non-compliance shall be certified.

C. 1. Violation of timing:

a. In the event the Delegate Selection Plan of a State Party provides or permits a meeting, caucus, convention or primary which constitutes the first determining stage in the presidential nominating process to be held prior to or after the dates for the state as provided in Rule 12 of these rules and the State Party does not submit for approval an alternative process for the first determining stage that complies with these rules by May 4, 2027 or the date a State Party has been approved to submit their plan via a waiver; or in the event a state holds such a meeting, caucus, convention or primary prior to or after such dates, the number of pledged delegates elected in each category, alternates, standing committee members, and pages allocated to the state pursuant to the Call for the National Convention shall be reduced by one hundred (100%) percent. In addition, no automatic delegates allocated pursuant to Rule 9.A. from that state shall be seated.A $270,000 fine shall be due 60 days from the time the state party has violated Rule 21.C.1.a. If the state party does not pay within that time frame, all members from the state are suspended from exercising their membership rights on the Democratic National Committee until the fine has been paid in full.

b. A presidential candidate who campaigns in a state where the State Party is in violation of the timing provisions of these rules, or where a primary or caucus is set by a state's government on a date that violates the timing provisions of these rules, shall not receive pledged delegates or delegate votes from any state that has been issued a Rule 12 waiver. Candidates may, however, campaign in such a state after the primary or caucus that violates these rules. "Campaigning" for purposes of this section includes, but is not limited to, placing a candidate's name on the ballot or failing to take action to remove it from the ballot; failing to publicly denounce viable/substantial independent efforts to promote a candidate's campaign; purchasing print, internet, or electronic advertising that reaches a significant percentage of the voters in the aforementioned state; hiring campaign workers; opening an office; making public appearances; holding news conferences; coordinating volunteer activities or direct voter contact; sending mail, other than fundraising requests that are also sent to potential donors in other states; using paid or volunteer phoners or automated calls to contact voters; sending emails or establishing a website specific to that state; holding events to which Democratic voters are invited; attending events sponsored by state or local Democratic organizations; or paying for campaign materials to be used in such a state; further, no candidate shall assist state parties, with paying fines, either directly or indirectly, levied against a State Party found in violation of Rule 21.C. The Rules and Bylaws Committee will determine whether candidate activities are covered by this section. Upon a determination of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee that a candidate is in violation of this rule,

the National Chair shall prohibit participation in DNC sanctioned debates and take any other appropriate action to enforce these rules.

c. Sanctions applied under this section may not be undone by further action from the DNC, Democratic National Convention or any subcommittee thereof. None of the aforementioned bodies shall have jurisdiction to undo any applied sanctions.

2. Violation of proportional representation: In the event the Delegate Selection Plan of a State Party provides or permits the pledged delegates or alternates to be allocated to a presidential preference (including uncommitted status) other than as provided under Rule 14 of these rules, or in the event a State Party, in fact, allocates its pledged delegates or alternates to a presidential preference (including uncommitted status) other than as provided under Rule 14 of these rules, the delegation of the state shall be reduced by the same amount and as provided in section C.(1) of this rule.

3. Violation of the threshold: In the event the Delegate Selection Plan of a State Party provides or permits a threshold other than 15% as set forth in Rule 14 of these rules, or in the event a State Party in fact permits the implementation of a threshold other than 15% as provided in Rule 14 of these rules, the delegation of the state shall be reduced by the same amount and as provided in section C.(1) of this rule.

4. Upon a determination of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee that a state is in violation as set forth in subsections (1), (2) or (3) of section C. of this rule, the reductions required under those subsections shall become effective automatically and immediately and without further action of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee, the Executive Committee of the DNC, the DNC or the Credentials Committee of the Democratic National Convention.

5. Nothing in the preceding subsections of this rule shall be construed to prevent the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee from imposing additional sanctions, including, without limitation, those specified in subsection (6) of this section C., against a State Party and against the delegation from the state which is subject to the provisions of any of subsections (1) through (3) of this section C., including, without limitation, establishing a committee to propose and implement a process which will result in the selection of a delegation from the affected state which shall (i) be broadly representative, (ii) reflect the state's division of presidential preference and uncommitted status and (iii) involve as broad participation as is practicable under the circumstances.

6. Nothing in these rules shall prevent the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee from imposing sanctions the Committee deems appropriate with respect to a state which the Committee determines has failed or refused to comply with these rules, where the failure or refusal of the State Party is not subject to subsections (1), (2) or (3) of this section C. Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to: reduction of the state's delegation; pursuant to Rule 22.C., recommending the establishment of a committee to propose and implement a process which will result in the selection of a delegation from the affected state which shall (i) be broadly representative, (ii) reflect the state's division of presidential preference and uncommitted status and (iii) involve as broad participation as is practicable under the circumstances; reducing, in part or in whole, the number of the state's members to the Standing Committees; reducing, in part or in whole, the number of guests, VIP and other passes/tickets to the National Convention and related functions; assignment of location of the state's delegates and alternates in the Convention hall; and assignment of the state's housing and other convention related facilities.

7. In the event a state shall become subject to subsections (1), (2) or (3) of section C. of this rule as a result of state law but the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee, after an investigation, including hearings if necessary, determines the State Party and the other relevant Democratic party leaders and elected officials took all provable, positive steps and acted in good faith to achieve legislative changes to bring the state law into compliance with the pertinent provisions of these rules and determines that the State Party and the other relevant Democratic party leaders and elected officials took all provable, positive steps and acted in good faith in attempting to prevent legislative changes which resulted in state law that fails to comply with the pertinent provisions of these rules, the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee shall determine that all or a portion of the state's delegation shall not be reduced. The State Party shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that it and the other relevant Democratic party leaders and elected officials took all provable, positive steps and acted in good faith to achieve legislative changes to bring the state law into compliance with the pertinent provisions of these rules and that it and the other relevant Democratic party leaders and elected officials took all provable, positive steps and acted in good faith in attempting to prevent the legislative changes which resulted in state law that fails to comply with the pertinent provisions of these rules.

8. Except as provided by subsection (7) of this section C., the fact that a State Party took provable, positive steps as provided in Rule 22 of these rules shall not preclude the state's delegation from being subject to the sanctions set forth in subsections (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) of this section C.

D. Unresolved Challenges and Report to the Credentials Committee. The DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee shall report its activities, together with all challenges and complaints, to the Credentials Committee of the Democratic National Convention. In cases involving unresolved challenges which are appealed to the Credentials Committee, the burden of proof shall rest with the party presenting the challenge.

Rule 22
State Legislative Changes

A. Subject to Rule 21.C. of these Rules, wherever any part of any section contained in these rules conflicts with existing state laws, the State Party shall take provable positive steps to achieve legislative changes to bring the state law into compliance with the provisions of these rules.

B. Provable positive steps shall be taken in a timely fashion and shall include, but not be limited to: the drafting of corrective legislation; public endorsement by the State Party and the other relevant Democratic party leaders and elected officials of such legislation; efforts to educate the public on the need for such legislation; active support for the legislation by the State Party lobbying state legislators, other public officials, Party officials and Party members; encouraging consideration of the legislation by the appropriate legislative committees and bodies.

C. A State Party may be required by a vote of the DNC Executive Committee upon a recommendation of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee to adopt and implement an alternative Party-run delegate selection system which does not conflict with these rules, regardless of any provable positive steps the state may have taken.