



Proposed Amendments to the
*Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic
Party of the United States*

The following amendments to the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States have been reviewed and approved by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee at its meetings on June 8, 2018 and July 11, 2018, and are recommended for adoption by the full Democratic National Committee at its meeting on Saturday, August 25, 2018.

Synopsis of Amendment

Proposed By:

1. Proposed amendments incorporate transparency-related party reforms as incorporated from the Unity Reform Commission's Report.

DNC Rules & Bylaws Committee

2. Proposed amendments update equal division language to make it consistent with the *2020 Delegate Selection Rules* and *2020 Call for the Convention*, and to allow for inclusion of gender non-binary members and delegates.

DNC Rules & Bylaws Committee

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2 United States have been reviewed and approved by the DNC Rules and Bylaws
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4 adoption by the full Democratic National Committee at its meeting on Saturday,
5 August 25, 2018.

6
7 Submitted by: DNC Rules & Bylaws Committee

8
9 *[Proposed amendments update the Charter and Bylaws to incorporate transparency-related Party Reform*
10 *recommendations from the Unity Reform Commission Report.]*

11
12 New language is indicated with a double underline ("abc").

13 Deleted language is indicated with a strikeout ("~~abc~~").

14 Insert sections and renumber or re-letter accordingly.

15 16 CHARTER

17 18 Article Nine

19 General Provisions

20
21 Section 9. The Democratic National Committee shall maintain and publish a code of fair
22 campaign practices, which shall be recommended for observance by all candidates campaigning
23 as Democrats. The Democratic National Committee Chair shall put in place a code of
24 Democratic National Committee conduct concerning Presidential candidates and campaigns
25 prior to each presidential cycle to ensure fairness and transparency. The code shall address
26 areas including, but not limited to: providing information to campaigns; agreements between
27 the Democratic National Committee and campaigns; fundraising; and common vendors. This
28 code shall be made readily available to Democratic National Committee and all bona fide
29 Democratic presidential campaigns.

30
31 Section 12. All meetings of the Democratic National Committee, the Executive Committee,
32 and all other official Party committees, commissions and bodies shall be open to the public and
33 votes shall not be taken by secret ballot or use of the unit rule.

34 35 BYLAWS

36 37 Article Two

38 Democratic National Committee

39
40 Section 3. *Selection of Members.*

41
42 (e) Members of the Democratic National Committee apportioned pursuant to the
43 provisions of Section 2(u) of this Article shall be elected by the membership provided that
44 notice of any such election must be sent to all Democratic National Committee Members no less
45 than thirty (30) days prior to the election and notice of any nomination must be ~~mailed~~ sent to
46 the membership no less than seven (7) days prior to the election.

47
48 Section 10. *Committees.*

49
50 (d) (v) the Rules and Bylaws Committee shall conduct a continuing study of the
51 Bylaws, Rules and Charter which shall include a regular review of the Charter and Bylaws by

52 the Rules and Bylaws Committee every four years, following the presidential general election
53 and make periodic recommendations for amendment, extension or other action, provided that
54 any such recommendations by the Rules and Bylaws Committee be submitted to the members
55 of the National Committee at the time the agenda is presented;

56
57 (e) Budget and Finance Committee

58
59 (ii) the Budget and Finance Committee shall in full consultation with the
60 National Chairperson of the Democratic National Committee, review the budget of the
61 Democratic National Committee on an on-going basis, make periodic reports including an
62 annual report in writing to the Executive Committee and the full Democratic National
63 Committee on the goals, purposes of expenditures and results of expenditures of the
64 Democratic National Committee and its staff;

65 (iii) the Budget and Finance Committee shall, working with the National
66 Chairperson, Chief Financial Officer and counsel, develop, ~~and~~ present to the Executive
67 Committee, and ensure that the any operating entity of the Democratic National Committee
68 adopts adequate policies and procedures with respect to:

69 (a) contracting and procurement of goods and services by the Democratic
70 National Committee, including affirmative action policies, and specifically requiring all vendors
71 to disclose the composition of their leadership and the diversity of their organization; and

72 (b) avoidance of conflicts of interest.

73
74 (v) the Budget and Finance Committee shall ensure that any operating entity of
75 the Democratic National Committee has adopted policies and procedures requiring prior
76 approval from the Democratic National Committee Chair or the Chair's designee(s) for all
77 contracts and expenditures exceeding \$100,000 annually.

78
79 **Article Three**
80 Executive Committee

81
82 Section 1. Powers and Duties.

83
84 (d) The Executive Committee shall include a sub-committee charged with an
85 ombudsman role for reviewing allegations of violations of the Charter or Bylaws by elected or
86 appointed Officers.

87 (i) Membership of the sub-committee shall be made up of the Co-Chairs of the
88 Rules and Bylaws Committee, and the Chairs of the Regional Caucuses or their representatives,
89 with others appointed by the Chair of the Democratic National Committee as needed to ensure
90 diversity. Membership shall be subject to ratification by the Executive Committee;

91 (ii) No member shall be involved in reviewing a matter in which they are alleged
92 to be implicated;

93 (iii) The sub-committee shall be charged with the adoption of a set of rules of
94 procedure to establish uniform standards for review of any alleged violation of the Charter or
95 Bylaws and all sub-committee operations, which shall be subject to review and approval by the
96 Rules and Bylaws Committee.

97

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9 *[Proposed amendments to update equal division language in the Charter and Bylaws to make it consistent*
10 *with the 2020 Delegate Selection Rules and Call for the Convention, and to allow for inclusion of gender*
11 *non-binary delegates and members.]*

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15 Insert sections and renumber or re-letter accordingly.

16 17 CHARTER

18 19 Article Two 20 National Convention

21
22 Section 4. The National Convention shall be composed of delegates equally divided between
23 men and women, as defined in the Democratic National Committee Charter Article Nine,
24 Section 16. The delegates shall be chosen through processes which:

25 26 Article Three 27 Democratic National Committee

28
29 Section 1. (e) providing for the election or appointment of a Chairperson, five Vice
30 Chairpersons, one of whom shall be the President of the Association of State Democratic Chairs
31 and one of whom shall be the Vice Chairperson for Civic Engagement and Voter Participation, a
32 Treasurer, a Secretary, and a National Finance Chair, who, with the exception of the
33 Chairperson, shall be as equally divided as practicable according to gender at the quadrennial
34 election, as defined in the Democratic National Committee Charter Article Nine, Section 16, and
35 for the filling of vacancies that occur outside of the regularly scheduled elections of the
36 President of the Association of State Democratic Chairs, all in accordance with Rules of
37 Procedure adopted by the Democratic National Committee; and other appropriate officers who
38 shall be as equally divided as practicable according to gender; and

39
40 Section 3. Members of the Democratic National Committee apportioned to the states and those
41 provided for in Article Nine who are not otherwise members by virtue of Party office, shall be
42 selected by each state Democratic Party in accordance with standards as to participation
43 established in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party for terms commencing on the day the
44 National Convention adjourns and terminating on the day the next Convention adjourns. Such
45 members shall be selected during the calendar year in which a National Convention is held,
46 through processes which assure full, timely and equal opportunity to participate. Vacancies
47 shall be filled by the state party as provided in the Bylaws. The members of the National
48 Committee from each state shall be divided as equally as practicable between committeemen
49 and committeewomen, as defined in the Democratic National Committee Charter Article Nine,
50 Section 16. Members of the Democratic National Committee who serve by virtue of holding

51 public or Party office shall serve on the Committee only during their terms in such office.
52 Members of the Democratic National Committee added by the other members shall serve a term
53 that runs coterminously with the Chairperson of the Democratic National Committee, through
54 the election of the new Chairperson, and until their successors are chosen; members in this
55 category shall have the right to vote for the new Chairperson. Members of the Democratic
56 National Committee who serve by virtue of holding state Party office shall be selected by such
57 parties in accordance with standards as to participation established in Bylaws.

58
59 **Article Eight**
60 Full Participation

61
62 Section 6. Notwithstanding Section 5 above, equal division at any level of delegate or committee
63 positions between delegate men and delegate women or committeemen and committeewomen,
64 as defined in the Democratic National Committee Charter Article Nine, Section 16, shall not
65 constitute a violation of any provision thereof.

66
67 **Article Nine**
68 General Provisions

69
70 Section 16. Except as otherwise provided herein, the membership of the Democratic National
71 Committee, the Executive Committee, Democratic state central committees, and all national
72 official Party Conventions, committees, commissions, and like bodies shall be as equally
73 divided as practicable between men and women (determined by gender self-identification)
74 meaning that the variance between men and women in the group cannot exceed one (1). State
75 Parties shall take provable positive steps to achieve legislative changes to bring the law into
76 compliance with this provision wherever this provision conflicts with state statutes. In the case
77 of gender non-binary delegates or committee members, they shall not be counted as either a
78 male or female, and the remainder of the delegation shall be equally divided.

79
80 **BYLAWS**

81
82 **Article Two**
83 Democratic National Committee

84
85 Section 1. *Duties and Powers*

86
87 (f) providing for the election or appointment of a Chairperson, five Vice Chairpersons,
88 one of whom shall be the President of the Association of State Democratic Chairs and one of
89 whom shall be the Vice Chairperson for Civic Engagement and Voter Participation, a Treasurer,
90 a Secretary, and a National Finance Chair, who, with the exception of the Chairperson, shall be
91 as equally divided as practicable according to gender at the quadrennial election, and for the
92 filling of vacancies that occur outside of the regularly scheduled elections of the President of the
93 Association of State Democratic Chairs, all in accordance with Rules of Procedure adopted by
94 the Democratic National Committee; and other appropriate officers who shall be as equally
95 divided as practicable according to gender, as defined in the Democratic National Committee
96 Charter Article Nine, Section 16; and

97
98 Section 3. *Selection of Members*

99
100 (d) When the number of members apportioned to a state or territory pursuant to Section
101 2(b) of this Article or Article Nine of the Charter is even, there shall be equal division of

102 members between men and women, as defined in the Democratic National Committee Charter
103 Article Nine, Section 16. In such cases where the number is odd, the variance between men and
104 women may not be greater than one.

105
106 **Article Three**
107 **Executive Committee**
108

109 Section 2. *Membership*
110

111 (b) Four members elected by each of the Regional Caucuses of the Democratic National
112 Committee, who shall be equally divided between men and women, as defined in the
113 Democratic National Committee Charter Article Nine, Section 16, and all of whom shall be
114 members of the Democratic National Committee;

115
116 (q) Eleven members at large, elected by the Democratic National Committee, who shall
117 be equally divided between men and women, as defined in the Democratic National Committee
118 Charter Article Nine, Section 16, all of whom must be members of the Democratic National
119 Committee;

120
121
122
123 Further, throughout the Charter and Bylaws, the phrase “of the opposite sex” will be replaced
124 with the phrase “of another gender.”

125
126 *Note: If adopted the sections of the Charter and Bylaws that will be changed include:*

- 127 • *Charter, Article Three, Section 2;*
- 128 • *Charter, Article Nine, Section 6; and*
- 129 • *Bylaws, Article Two, Sections 2, 6 and 8.*