

2016 Delegate Selection Rules for the Democratic National Convention

- 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 which are under-represented in Democratic Party affairs, in order to assist in the achievement of full participation by these groups.
- B. Performance under an approved Inclusion Plan 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. For purposes of this rule, the entire delegation includes all pledged delegates and alternates and unpledged delegates (including unpledged party leaders and elected official delegates).

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.
 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 2016 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 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, 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, multilingual where necessary, to encourage the participation of minority groups.
- E. State Democratic Parties shall 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 Inclusion Committee by March 2, 2015. Before the state party submits its Plan to the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee, the Affirmative Action Committee shall review the proposed outreach program.
- G. Each state affirmative action program 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 equally divided between men and women.

Inclusion Programs

The Democratic National Committee recognizes that other groups of Americans in addition to those described in Rule 6 may be underrepresented in Party affairs. These groups include members of the LGBT community, people with disabilities, and youth. The National and State Parties shall adopt and implement 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. As is already the practice in some states, State Parties may use goals to achieve these ends; however, in no event may such participation be accomplished by the use of quotas.