

## Global Nominations and Elections Committee

### Elections Guidance

### III. Elections Process/Procedure

#### Nominations from the Floor

- The election meeting will be held during the online Annual Democrats Abroad Global Meeting currently scheduled for May 14 - 16, 2021 depending on timezone. The election meeting is currently scheduled to occur in the middle of that meeting.
- Nominations of qualified candidates from the floor will be permitted and will be solicited for each role's election. Any nominator and nominee who opts for this process, however, will have to be available in the meeting at the time of the call for nominations for that office.
- At the time of the nomination, the Global NEC must be able to verify consent of the nominee, and the nominee must be vetted by Global NEC according to our process and procedures.
- We have a duty under the charter to only allow *qualified* candidates to be nominated, and we will have to do the same vetting checks for nominations from the floor as we have done for all the other candidates. Namely, nominees must (1) provide the same information by completing the same forms previously vetted candidates were required to fill out, and (2) nominees must provide a copy or picture of their passport picture page to [nominations@democratsabroad.org](mailto:nominations@democratsabroad.org)
- All nominees who pass the vetting process will be added to the ballot. Nominees from the floor who were previously nominated candidates, and already passed the NEC vetting procedures, will not have to be re-vetted.

#### Speeches

- All candidates will get 2 minutes each.
- We will be enforcing time limits.

#### Ballots and Tabulating

- Given that ballot and elections infrastructure prep takes weeks, and under the assumption that no changes will be approved at the global meeting that will be implemented for our 2021 elections, we will generally be using the same voting tools and infrastructure as the previous parts of the meeting, in order to preserve continuity and familiarity.
- We also believe maintaining continuity will help ensure we are accurately calculating highly complex charter rules regarding proxy voting and other issues specific to Democrats Abroad Global AGMs.

- We will be voting on a simple ballot. The winner will be the person who receives over 50% of votes cast (50% + 1 vote). If no candidate reaches over 50% of votes cast, per the requirements in the charter, we will move to another round of voting. We will give an opportunity at the end of each round and before the start of a new ballot for changes to the ballot, including candidate withdrawals.
- On a practical level, using any sort of preferential or ranked choice voting method would mean a different system for ballots and tabulating than would be required for the rest of the meeting. It also would have to take into account highly specific rules in the Charter regarding majorities and proxies that would require custom algorithms or software that don't currently exist.
- On a precedent and Charter interpretation level, the Democrats Abroad Charter explicitly uses the term 'simple majority.' From reviewing and consulting with authoritative sources including DA counsel on this term and how it is used in Democrats Abroad, we have determined that 'simple majority' means that the winner is the one who receives 50% + 1 of the votes after the first tabulation.

### **Candidate Observers**

- If requested by a candidate by email by no later than **May 14, 2021 at 8 pm EDT**, we will allow a named candidate observer and an alternate candidate observer in the 'tabulation room.'
- They must be a verified member of Democrats Abroad, and must follow the process and procedures set out by the Global NEC. Candidate observers will only be allowed into 'the room' during the election for the office that the candidate is standing in. Candidate observers must not be the candidate themselves. We reserve the right to mute and/or expel candidate observers who do not adhere to Democrat Abroad's Code of Conduct.