



## 2017 Rules of Procedure for the Election of Democratic National Committee (DNC) Officers

*The following Rules are based on Rules of Procedure adopted by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) for officer elections held at National Committee meetings on February 9, 1989, January 21, 1993, January 21, 1995, January 21, 1997, March 20, 1999, February 3, 2001, February 12, 2005, January 21, 2009, May 4, 2011, and January 22, 2013. For 2017, these Rules have been updated to utilize electronic roll call voting as used at the 2016 Convention Standing Committee meetings.*

*These Rules are proposed to be considered by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee at its meeting on December 2, 2016, for final approval by the full DNC at its meeting on February 25, 2017.*

### I. ELECTION OF NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

#### A. NOMINATIONS

1. Not later than 8:00 p.m. of the second calendar day before the scheduled election for National Chairperson, each candidate for National Chairperson shall file with the Secretary a nominating statement signed by 20 DNC members and indicating the states of residence of the candidate and such DNC members.
2. Each candidate shall be entitled to a total of ten minutes for all nominating and seconding speeches, which may be divided among no more than four DNC members. The candidate may also use a portion of this time to address the DNC, if desired.

#### B. MAJORITY ELECTION

A majority of the votes cast by members of the DNC in person or by proxy shall be required for election of the Chairperson.

#### C. VOTING

1. At the discretion of the Chair, voting may be conducted by show of hands or other means of division. If the Chair shall so elect or shall be in doubt as to the result of a vote by division (or upon request of 25% of those DNC members voting in person or by proxy), the voting will be conducted by roll call.
2. If a new Chairperson is not elected on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be conducted. If a new Chairperson is not elected on the second ballot, additional ballots shall be conducted until a new Chairperson is elected, but the candidate receiving the least number of votes on each

preceding ballot beginning at the third ballot, shall be eliminated.

## **II. ELECTION OF OTHER NATIONAL COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

### **A. NOMINATIONS**

1. Not later than 8:00 p.m. of the second calendar day before the scheduled election for the other National Committee Officers, each candidate for a National Committee Officer position other than the National Chairperson, shall file with the Secretary a nominating statement signed by 20 DNC members and indicating the states of residence of the candidate and such DNC members.

2. Each candidate shall be entitled to a total of five minutes for all nominating and seconding speeches, which may be divided among no more than three DNC members. The candidate may also use a portion of this time to address the DNC, if desired.

### **B. MAJORITY ELECTION**

A majority of the votes cast by members of the DNC in person or by proxy shall be required for election of the officers.

### **C. VOTING**

1. Elections will be conducted for the Treasurer, Secretary, National Finance Chair, Vice Chair-person for Civic Engagement and Voter Registration, and the three other Vice Chairpersons, in that order.

2. At the discretion of the Chair, voting may be conducted by show of

hands or other means of division. If the Chair shall so elect or shall be in doubt as to the result of a vote by division (or upon request of 25% of those DNC members voting in person or by proxy), the voting will be conducted by roll call.

3. In the election of Vice Chairperson for Civic Engagement and Voter Registration the officer shall be the first candidate for that position who obtains a majority, regardless of gender.

4. All unsuccessful candidates for the position of Vice Chairperson for Civic Engagement and Voter Registration shall automatically be considered candidates for the other three Vice Chairperson positions, unless a candidate indicates otherwise on his/her nominating statement.

5. In the election of the three remaining Vice Chairpersons, provision will be made to elect the appropriate number of persons of each gender to ensure that with the exception of the National Chairperson and the President of the Association of State Democratic Chairs ("ASDC"), the officers shall be as equally divided as practicable according to gender in accordance with Article 3, Section 1(e) of the Charter. At the discretion of the Chair, voting for each Vice Chairperson position will be conducted one at a time among all candidates of the appropriate gender.

6. If an officer is not elected on the first ballot for that office, additional ballots will be conducted, but the candidate receiving the least number of votes on each preceding ballot

beginning at the third ballot, shall be eliminated.

### **III. GENERAL RULES**

#### **A. NOMINATIONS**

1. Nominations and nominating and seconding speeches may be made only by DNC members, unless otherwise determined by the Chair.

2. Once the nominating process has been closed, no additional nominations will be permitted. Ballots cast for persons not nominated will be considered invalid.

3. The order for presentation of nominations shall be determined by lot.

4. Each person making nominating and seconding speeches shall address the meeting from the podium.

#### **B. VOTING**

1. Voting of each individual member shall be conducted by electronic voting mechanism. A period of 30 seconds will be allowed for voting. The Chair will give a 10 second warning before the close of the voting period. A member's vote will be recorded as cast at the close of the voting period.

2. Voting may not be interrupted for any purpose. Once voting has commenced for a particular office, no recesses will be permitted until voting for that office has been concluded.

3. A vote shall be final when announced by the Chair. On a roll call vote, members may change their votes

until the result is announced by the Chair.

4. As secret ballots are not permitted, votes as recorded by electronic mechanism or roll call votes shall, on reasonable request, be made available by the Secretary for inspection following the meeting.

7. Each officer candidate shall be authorized to have representatives on the floor prior to conclusion of the election for the office he or she is seeking. The number of authorized representatives shall be determined by the Chair, but shall be no fewer than four for National Chairperson candidates.

#### **C. PROXIES**

1. No DNC member may, at any time, hold or exercise a proxy for more than one other DNC member. All proxies must be in writing and be signed by the DNC member granting a proxy and shall be transferable if so specified. Proxies may be either general or limited and either instructed or uninstructed. Unless otherwise indicated in writing, a proxy will be presumed to be general, uninstructed and nontransferable. Giving a later proxy will revoke any prior proxies.

2. It is requested that each proxy and any transfer of a proxy be submitted to the Secretary prior to the meeting at which the proxy is to be voted. In any event, no additional proxy or transfer of a proxy will be accepted by the Secretary while a vote is being conducted.

#### **D. QUORUM**

A majority of the full membership of the DNC present in person or by proxy shall constitute a quorum, provided that no less than 40% of the full membership must be present in person

PROXIES & NOMINATING FORMS  
WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS  
REGARDING THESE RULES OR FOR  
MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE  
CONTACT THE DNC OFFICE OF PARTY  
AFFAIRS & DELEGATE SELECTION AT  
202-863-8046.