



# PROPOSED 2025 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 beginning with the National Committee meetings on February 9, 1989, through the elections held on January 21, 2021.*

*These Rules were approved by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee at its meeting on December 12, 2024, and are recommended for approval by the full DNC at its meeting on February 1, 2025.*

## **I. ELECTION OF NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON**

### **A. NOMINATIONS**

1. Not later than 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on January 25, 2025, each candidate for National Chairperson shall file with the Secretary a nominating statement signed by 40 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 speakers. 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 fewest number of votes on each preceding ballot beginning at the second ballot, shall be eliminated.

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

### **A. NOMINATIONS**

1. Not later than 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on January 25, 2025, each candidate for a National Committee Officer position other than the National Chairperson, shall file with the Secretary a nominating statement signed by 40 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 speakers. 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 Chairperson for Civic Engagement and Voter Participation, 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 Participation, 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 Participation shall automatically be considered candidates for the other three Vice Chairperson positions, unless a candidate indicates otherwise on the 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 Committees ("ASDC"), the officers shall be as equally divided as practicable according to gender in accordance with Article 3, Section 1(e) of the Charter. In the case of gender non-binary candidates and Officers, they shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the Officer positions shall be equally divided. 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 fewest number of votes on each preceding ballot beginning at the second ballot, shall be eliminated.

### **III. ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES OF NATIONAL CHAIR & OTHER NATIONAL OFFICERS**

#### **A. Nominations**

1. Not later than 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time seven days before the scheduled election to fill a vacancy for National Chair and/or National Committee Officer, each candidate shall file with the Secretary a nominating statement signed by fifteen percent of DNC members and indicating the state of residence of the candidate and such DNC members.

2. Each candidate for National Chair shall be entitled to a total of ten minutes, and each candidate for other National Officers shall be entitled to a

total of five minutes, for all nominating and seconding speeches, which may be divided among no more than four speakers for Chair and three speakers for other National Officers. The candidate may also use a portion of this time to address the DNC, if desired.

3. Pursuant to the Charter, Article Three, Section 1(e), except for the National Chair, candidates nominated to fill DNC Officer vacancies that occur outside of the regularly scheduled elections of the President of the Association of State Democratic Committees, shall continue to ensure DNC Officers are as equally divided as practicable according to gender.

#### 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. 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 written ballot. If only one person has been nominated to fill a vacancy, the Chair may declare that the nominee is elected by acclamation.

2. If a new officer to fill the vacancy is not elected on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be conducted. If a new officer is not elected on the second ballot, additional ballots shall be conducted until a new officer is elected, but the candidate receiving the fewest number of votes on each preceding

ballot beginning at the second ballot, shall be eliminated.

3. At the discretion of the Chair, candidates nominated to fill a DNC Officer vacancy may be authorized to have one or more representatives on the floor prior to the conclusion of the election for the office they are seeking.

### IV. 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. Upon application to the Chair, any candidate who has qualified for an election for an office and withdraws from the election for that office may request that their name be placed in nomination for an office other than the one for which they initially qualified. This application must be in writing and be received by the Chair prior to the announcement that either the initial office or the new office is the next order of business. The foregoing sentence does not prevent an unsuccessful candidate for Vice Chair of Civic Engagement and Voter Participation from being automatically considered as a candidate for the other three Vice Chair positions.

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 or paper ballot, subject to the discretion of the Chair. A period of two minutes will be allowed for voting. For all elections, the period of time for voting may be modified at the discretion of the Chair. The Chair will give a 30 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. For the office of National Chairperson, there will be a period of at least 10 minutes between ballots. For all elections, the period of time between ballots may be modified at the discretion of the Chair.

3. A vote shall be final when announced by the Chair. At the discretion of the Chair, subsequent elections can occur while prior elections are being counted.

4. As secret ballots are not permitted, a paper or electronic record of the vote as recorded by electronic mechanism or roll call, shall be made available to an authorized representative for each of the candidates as soon as practicable following each election. Also, on reasonable request, all votes as recorded electronically or by paper ballot shall be made available by the Secretary for inspection following the meeting.

5. Each officer candidate shall be authorized to have representatives on the floor prior to the conclusion of the election for the office sought. 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. Each proxy and any transfer of a proxy must be submitted to the Secretary 24 hours prior to the stated time of the meeting at which the vote in which the proxy will be voted will occur except proxies may be given in person by a member to the Secretary or their designee during the course of the meeting. 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. The Office of the Secretary can be reached at [secretaryoffice@dnc.org](mailto:secretaryoffice@dnc.org).*

*If you have questions regarding these Rules, or for more information, please contact the DNC Office of Party Affairs and Delegate Selection at [partyaffairs@dnc.org](mailto:partyaffairs@dnc.org).*