

## **RESOLUTION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

In the Challenge, as supplemented, before the Credentials Committee (the “Committee”) of the Democratic National Committee (the “DNC”), filed by Josh Coleman and Caroline Self (the “Challengers”) to the credentialing of Donna Foster, Joe M. Reed, and Charlie Staten (the “Challenged Parties”) as DNC members from Alabama, the Committee recommends as follows:

WHEREAS, Josh Coleman, Caroline Self, and Charlie Staten were elected as DNC members from Alabama in 2020;

WHEREAS, the DNC’s Charter, Article III, Section 3, provides that DNC members apportioned to the states shall “be selected by each state Democratic Party...for terms commencing on the day the National Convention adjourns and terminating on the day the next Convention adjourns”;

WHEREAS, the State Party’s Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, provides that “[t]he term of office of the members of the National Committee shall [be] the same as their term on the National Committee”;

WHEREAS, the State Party’s Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, define state party officers to include DNC members and also provide that “[e]ach officer except the Treasurer shall be elected at the organization meeting of the State Committee,” which is held during midterm years, in seeming conflict with the language quoted above;

WHEREAS, in June 2024, the Alabama Democratic Party (the “State Party”) noticed a meeting at which it would elect new DNC members and amend its bylaws to clarify that DNC members must be elected during the year of the National Convention, among other orders of business;

WHEREAS, that meeting did not reach quorum and was not held;

WHEREAS, the State Party’s Bylaws, Article V, Section 6 provides that “other than...to elect officers of the [State Party], the Chair, at his or her discretion, may take a vote of the membership by mail or [sic] any matter except as prohibited by law or these By-laws. The Chair shall fix the time to vote and other details pertaining to such a vote.”;

WHEREAS, in July 2024, the State Party attempted to hold its DNC member elections by mail, and also to amend its bylaws to clarify when DNC members must be elected;

WHEREAS, members of the State Party’s governing committee, the State Democratic Executive Committee (the “SDEC”), have alleged that they did not receive their ballots and/or adequate instructions for their ballots, including when such ballots must be returned by;

WHEREAS, in August, the State Party announced that the Challenged Parties had been elected as DNC members;

WHEREAS, the State Party certified to the DNC's Secretary that the Challenged Parties had been elected as Alabama's newest DNC members;

WHEREAS, the 2024 Democratic National Convention adjourned on August 22, 2024;

WHEREAS, in September 2024, the Challengers filed the instant Challenge, alleging a number of procedural irregularities concerning the election;

WHEREAS, the State Party attempted to hold a second DNC member election on October 19, 2024, which also failed to reach quorum;

WHEREAS, the State Party's Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, provide that "[i]n the event of a vacancy in any other executive office, the same shall be temporarily filled by the Executive Board until the next meeting of the State Committee when the unexpired term will be filled";

WHEREAS, after the October 19 SDEC meeting failed to reach quorum, Chair Randy Kelley called a meeting of the Executive Board to temporarily fill what he considered vacancies to Alabama's three DNC member seats;

WHEREAS, the State Party again certified to the DNC's Secretary that the Challenged Parties had been selected as Alabama's newest DNC members;

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2024, the Challengers submitted an addendum to their Challenge, alleging additional concerns about the Executive Board meeting held on October 19;

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2024, the Committee's Co-Chair, pursuant to their authority under the Committee's Rules of Procedures, sent a letter to the Challengers, Challenged Parties, the State Party, establishing a timeline for the Committee's consideration of the Challenge;

WHEREAS, the Co-Chairs informed the Challenged Parties that their answers to the Challenge, which could be consolidated into a single answer if they wished, would be due on January 10, 2025;

WHEREAS, the letter informed the parties that upon receipt of the Challenged Parties' answer, the Challenge would then be deferred to the State Party until May 30 2025, for its consideration;

WHEREAS, as permitted under Committee Rule 6.I, the State Party intervened in the Challenge on January 7, 2024 and submitted its own answer, which explained that the State Party resorted to the use of the Executive Board in order to comply with DNC Bylaw Article III, Section 3;

WHEREAS, the State Party also informed the Committee in its answer that it intends to hold an “open, well-noticed, and fair election” for its 2024-2028 DNC members at its next meeting in April 2025;

WHEREAS, the State Party also committed to “work[ing] with the Credentials Committee to ensure that its processes for this election meeting with the Credentials Committee’s approval”;

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2025, the Challenged Parties submitted their consolidated answer, arguing that the Challengers’ terms ended at the conclusion of the 2024 Democratic National Convention and that their temporary appointment by the Executive Board was permitted under the State Party’s Bylaws;

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2025, the Challengers objected to the temporary seating of the Challenged Parties as DNC members, raising concerns about notice for that meeting and arguing that because they were seated as Executive Board members on October 19, seats they hold only by virtue of their DNC office, the State Party has conceded that there was no vacancy for the Executive Board of fill on October 19;

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2025, the Committee discussed the parties’ filings during an open Committee meeting, as well as election administration best practices they would like to see the State Party adopt for its upcoming elections;

NOW THEREFORE, the Committee HEREBY RESOLVES that Charlie Staten, Donna Foster and Joe M. Reed be temporarily seated as DNC members from Alabama for the purposes of the 2025 Winter Meeting.

The Committee FURTHER RECOMMENDS that the Alabama Democratic Party take the following measures to ensure a fair and transparent DNC member election this spring:

- (a) Compile a list of each SDEC member’s most current contact information no later than 14 days before notice of the next SDEC meeting and use that contact information to provide each and every member notice of the DNC member election;
- (b) Provide notice to the public of the DNC member election;
- (c) The notice described in subsections (a) and (b) must be given at least 30 days in advance of the DNC member election meeting and must be designed to ensure clear and timely notice to all interested parties, including SDEC member, Alabama voters, and potential candidates;
- (d) Provide clear instructions to SDEC members and the public for what steps an individual must take to become a candidate in the election, including any filing requirements or deadlines in a reasonable amount of time before the deadline;
- (e) Ensure that only current SDEC members are able to vote in the election through an organized and transparent credentialing process;
- (f) Before the new DNC membership election is held, urge SDEC members to amend the State Party’s bylaws, in accordance with the amendment procedures set forth in the State

Party's bylaws, to remove any language conflicting with the DNC's requirement that DNC members be elected during the year of the Democratic National Convention; and

(g) Appoint an election judge at the time the meeting is noticed to administer an impartial election. The election judge shall not be a candidate and shall be an impartial Alabama Democrat in good standing who has not endorsed a DNC candidate and will not be voting in the DNC member election.

## **RESOLUTION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

In the Consolidated Challenges of Tyree Irving, Roosevelt Yarbrough, Everett Sanders, and Gene and Cheron Baines (collectively, the “Challengers”) to the credentialing of Cheikh Taylor, Chair of the Mississippi Democratic Party (the “State Party”), and as such, a member of the Democratic National Committee (“DNC”), before the Credentials Committee (the “Committee”) of the DNC, the Committee recommends as follows:

WHEREAS, Tyree Irving was elected to a four-year term as Chair of the Mississippi Democratic Party on July 25, 2020;

WHEREAS, in June 2023, concerns were raised about Chair Irving’s conduct;

WHEREAS, on July 2, 2023, Chair Irving informed members of the State Party’s State Executive Committee (“SEC”) that he intended to resign, effective July 22, 2023, and that he was calling a meeting of the SEC for that date to accept his resignation and elect a new Chair;

WHEREAS, in late June, members of the SEC circulated a petition to call an emergency virtual meeting for July 6, 2023 at 7 pm to address the actions of the Chair of the Mississippi Democratic Party;

WHEREAS, at least 36 of the 80 members of the SEC signed the petition;

WHEREAS, under the Constitution of the Mississippi Democratic Party, twenty-five percent of SEC members are authorized to call a meeting;

WHEREAS, ten days’ written notice of an SEC meeting is required “except in emergencies whereupon the written notice and time requirements may be waived”;

WHEREAS, at 4:57 p.m. on July 6, 2023, Chair Irving sent an email to SEC members rescinding his resignation as Chair;

WHEREAS, at the July 6 meeting, the SEC voted to remove Mr. Irving as Chair and to elect Mr. Taylor as Chair;

WHEREAS, both parties agree that the meeting was chaotic, with speakers being muted and unmuted in a confusing manner and using disparaging comments about other committee members that do not align with Democratic Party values;

WHEREAS, after the meeting, the Challengers filed the instant Challenges, alleging violations of the Constitution and Robert’s Rules of Order, and also filed a lawsuit against the State Party;

WHEREAS, after a period of deferral to the State Party in accordance with the Committee's Rules of Procedure, the State Party dismissed the challenges because the Challengers refused to participate in the State Party's review process;

WHEREAS, the Challengers have appealed the dismissal of their Challenges to the Committee;

WHEREAS, the Committee held a hearing on April 26, 2024, at which the Challengers and Chair Taylor had an opportunity to present evidence and argument on the Challenges to the Committee;

NOW THEREFORE, based on the record and proceedings before it, which indicate that (1) Chair Irving submitted a letter of resignation to the SEC; (2) this letter of resignation triggered an urgent need to select a new Chair during the height of a critical election year; (3) SEC members followed the Constitution's procedures required to call an emergency meeting; (4) under the Constitution, Chairs serve at the pleasure of the SEC and may be removed by a majority of the SEC; (5) a majority of SEC members voted to remove Chair Irving as Chair and elect Cheikh Taylor as the new Chair, the Committee HEREBY RESOLVES that the Challenge be denied and that Cheikh Taylor be credentialed as a member of the DNC until his successor is elected.