

# CALL TO CONVENTION

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## 2012 State Convention Democratic Party of Virginia Fairfax, Virginia June 2, 2012

### I. Call to Convention

Pursuant to the authority provided by the Virginia Democratic Party Plan (“Party Plan”), and the Virginia Delegate Selection for the 2012 Democratic National Convention (“Delegate Selection Plan”), as approved by the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Democratic National Committee, the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Virginia hereby calls a State Convention to convene at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 2, 2012 at the Patriot Center, George Mason University, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. The Convention shall continue until all business set forth in this Call, and any subsequent agenda to be provided by the Convention Rules Committee, shall be completed.

The Party Plan and the Delegate Selection Plan are hereby incorporated into this Call, and shall govern where applicable. The provisions of the final Call to the 2012 Democratic National Convention shall govern where inconsistent with this Call, the Party Plan or the Delegate Selection Plan.

The State Convention shall: Elect 14 pledged Party Leaders and Elected Official (“PLEO”) Delegates, 23 At-Large Delegates, and 2 At-Large Alternates to the Democratic National Convention; elect 2 Democratic Electors; elect 4 Members (2 men and 2 women) to the

Democratic National Committee; and conduct any other business properly placed before the convention by the Rules Committee, pursuant to the Party Plan and the Delegate Selection Plan. The State Chair shall certify the appropriate number of Automatic PLEO Delegates, as directed by the Democratic National Committee.

## **II. General Provisions**

Times, dates, locations, and rules for the conduct of all caucuses, conventions and procedures relevant to the selection of delegates and alternates to the State and National Conventions shall be effectively publicized in accordance with Articles 3 and 9 of the Party Plan, and in accordance with the Affirmative Action provisions of the Delegate Selection Plan.

Caucuses, county or city conventions, Congressional District Conventions, and the State Convention shall be governed by Articles 10, 14-20 of the Party Plan.

Delegates and alternates elected at county or city caucuses or convention shall serve as delegates and alternates to both the Congressional District and State Conventions (“State Delegates and Alternates”). There shall be elected 2,500 State Delegates and 500 State Alternates. The apportionment of State Delegates and Alternates among counties and cities is detailed in Section VIII of this Call, as determined by the State Central Committee, based on a formula giving equal weight population and to average of the Democratic Vote for President in 2008, for Governor in 2009, and for U.S. Senator in 2008 (method (a) of Section 15.1 of the Party Plan). *See Attachment A.*

Prefiling of candidates for State Delegates and alternates, and delegate and alternate to any county or city convention is required. Each person prefiling must designate a Presidential

candidate preference. Only persons designating President Barack Obama as their Presidential candidate may be elected as State Delegates or Alternates.

State Party Headquarters shall make available for purchase prefiling forms to the county and city committees, or the committees may print their prefiling forms provided State Headquarters approves the text in advance. The prefiling form is included in this Call as Attachment B.

There will be a voluntary administrative fee of \$10.00 for each candidate for State Delegate and Alternate. A Congressional District Committee may request an additional administrative fee of \$5.00; a county or city committee may request an additional fee of no more than \$10.00. The total maximum voluntary administrative fee is then \$25.00. No person shall be denied the right to participate in the delegate selection process due to nonpayment of the voluntary administrative fee.

Persons wishing to be elected at the State Convention as National At-Large Delegate or Alternate, Pledged PLEO, Democratic National Committee member, or Democratic elector must prefile with the State Party by 5:00 p.m. May 25, 2012.

The State Party Chair shall appoint four National Convention Pages on June 2, 2012.

### **III. Caucuses and Conventions**

Caucuses shall be called by each county and city Democratic Committee to elect State Delegates and Alternates. City and County caucuses may be assembled or unassembled and will be held either on April 21, 2012 beginning at 12:00 noon or on April 23, 2012 beginning at 7:30 p.m., at the option of the committee.

If any county or city Democratic Committee calls a convention to elect State Delegates and Alternates, that convention shall be held no later than April 28, 2012, and the April 21 or 23 caucuses shall elect delegates and alternates to the county or city convention.

The prefiling deadline for State Delegate and Alternate candidates shall be 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 16, 2012 for caucuses held on Saturday, April 21, 2012. The prefiling deadline will be Wednesday, April 18 at 5:00 p.m., for caucuses held on Monday, April 23, 2012. The prefiling deadline for any county or city convention shall be specified in the call to that convention and shall be at least five (5) days, but no more than seven (7) days before the convention.

The county or city committee calling the caucus or convention will determine whether State Alternates shall be elected separately from State Delegates or whether the Alternates shall be those persons with the next highest number of votes after the persons with the highest number of votes have been elected State Delegates.

Each county and city Democratic Committee shall meet to determine the day (April 21 or 23, 2012, time, and location of the caucus (and, if applicable, the convention), the type of caucus (assembled or unassembled), the method of selecting alternate delegates, voluntary administrative fees (if any), and the apportionment of delegates and alternates among the electing units, if applicable, and shall advise the State Party headquarters of such information no later than February 22, 2012.

Any county or city committee holding an unassembled caucus on Saturday, April 21, 2012 or Monday, April 23, 2012, may provide an opportunity for voters to appear in person and cast an absentee ballot to be counted in the final totals for delegates and alternates in such

caucuses. Such absentee voting may be scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2012 beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending at a reasonable time. The day, time for beginning and ending of such absentee voting and the location shall be publicized under the Affirmative Action provisions of the Delegate Selection Plan. The chairs of committees exercising this option of absentee voting shall ensure that sites are fully staffed to serve the voters, properly supervised, information materials and ballots are provided, declaration forms are available, and that voted ballots are secured and properly counted in the caucus voting totals.

Any person attending a caucus, before participating in that meeting, shall sign a standardized declaration form, included in this Call as Attachment C, stating that he or she is a Democrat; does not intend to support any candidate who is opposed to a Democratic nominee in the next ensuing election; is not a member of any other political Party; has not participated and will not participate in the nominating process of any other Party for the 2012 Presidential election; and is a registered voter in such jurisdiction.

Pursuant to the Delegate Selection Plan provisions, only President Barack Obama qualified for the March 6, 2012 Presidential Preference Primary, and therefore all State Delegates and Alternates shall be pledged to President Obama.

Congressional District Conventions to elect Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention (“National Delegates and Alternates”), to elect Democratic electors, and to accomplish any other business required by the Party Plan, shall be held on May 12, or May 19, 2012. The apportionment of National Delegates and Alternates to be elected at the Congressional District Conventions is as follows:

District	Delegates			Alternates		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
#1	3	3	6	0	1	1
#2	2	3	5	0	0	0
#3	4	4	8	1	0	1
#4	3	3	6	1	0	1
#5	3	3	6	0	0	0
#6	3	2	5	0	0	0
#7	3	4	7	1	0	1
#8	4	4	8	0	1	1
#9	2	2	4	0	0	0
#10	4	3	7	0	1	1
#11	3	4	7	1	0	1
Total	34	35	69	4	3	7

Each Congressional District Democratic committee shall meet to determine the day (May 12 or 19, 2012), time, and location of the Congressional District convention and the voluntary administrative fees (if any) for State Delegate filings, and shall advise the State Party headquarters of such information no later than February 28, 2012.

Pursuant to the Delegate Selection Plan provisions, only President Barack Obama qualified for the March 6, 2012 Democratic Presidential Preference Primary, and therefore all National Convention Delegates and Alternates shall be pledged to President Obama.

Persons wishing to be elected as a District-level Delegate or Alternate to the National Convention or as a congressional district elector should prefile with the Congressional District Chair (and with a copy to the State Party Chair) fifteen (15) days prior to the Congressional District Convention.

Election of State Delegates and Alternates shall be conducted as provided in the Delegate Selection Plan. Ballots used in county and city caucuses shall list the Presidential preferences.

The stated Presidential preference shall be binding at the Congressional District and State Conventions for all elected delegates and alternates and shall prevail in all caucuses and voting for National Delegates and Alternates. Only those State Delegates elected through presidential caucuses shall be eligible to vote for members of the Democratic National Committee and Presidential Electors at the State Convention.

**IV. State Convention Committees**

Temporary Credentials, Rules, and Resolutions committees shall be established for the State Convention with one (1) member of each temporary committee being elected by each Congressional District Committee and five (5) elected by the State Central Committee. In addition, the State Party Chair shall appoint six (6) members of the temporary Resolutions Committee. All members of temporary committees shall be selected no later than February 28, 2012.

The temporary Credentials Committee shall make its report to the permanent Credentials Committee of the State Convention. The temporary Rules Committee shall report to the State Steering Committee by May 1, 2012, and such report as approved shall be distributed to members of the State Central Committee and county and city Democratic Committee chairs. The temporary Rules Committee shall also report to the permanent Rules Committee of the State Convention.

The temporary Credentials Committee shall consider challenges to delegates and alternates properly filed as provided in Section V of this Call and in the Delegate Selection Plan, and shall report its findings to any affected Congressional District Convention. The temporary

Resolutions Committee shall make its report as provided in the Delegate Selection Plan and Party Plan. Proposed resolutions should be submitted by May 7, 2012.

The State Party Chair shall appoint the chair of each temporary committee from among its members.

Each Congressional District Convention shall nominate three (3) members each to the permanent Credentials and Rules Committees of the State Convention. The permanent Committees on Credentials and Rules shall be elected at the State Convention and shall elect their chairs and secretaries from among their members. The temporary Resolutions Committee shall serve as the permanent Resolutions Committee at the State Convention.

**V. Challenges to Delegates and Alternates**

A challenge to any State Delegate or Alternate elected at any county or city caucus or convention must be submitted in writing to any member of the temporary Credentials Committee or to the Democratic Party of Virginia, 1710 East Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23223, Telephone: 804-644-1966 (or toll-free 1-800-322-1144), Fax: 804-343-3642. Such challenge shall be submitted not more than 10 days after the election of such delegate or alternate.

The temporary Credentials Committee shall begin hearing challenges within seven (7) days of the deadline for filing such challenges. The rules and procedures for the temporary Credentials Committee shall provide for adequate notice for meetings and hearings.

The staff of the State Party Headquarters shall provide adequate support for the work of the temporary Credentials Committee.



**VI. Delegation Meeting**

The Virginia delegation to the Democratic National Convention, including National Delegates and Alternates elected at both the State and Congressional District Conventions, shall meet on June 2, 2012 immediately following the adjournment of the State Convention. The delegation will elect its chair and other officers as needed, elect members of the Permanent Committees of the Democratic National Convention as provided in the final Call to that Convention, and complete any related arrangements for the National Convention.

**VII. Attachments**

- A. Allocation of State Convention Delegates and Alternates
- B. State Convention Delegate Pre-Filing Form
- C. Caucus Declaration Form
- D. 2012 Delegate Selection Calendar

Adopted by Democratic Party of Virginia, State Central Committee

February 11, 2012

**ATTACHMENT A**

