

Virginia Democratic Party Plan

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VIRGINIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLAN

PREAMBLE

The Democratic Party of Virginia exists to facilitate and encourage the full participation of all Virginians in choosing their elected officials and controlling their political destiny. It is dedicated to the preservation of all the rights enumerated in Article One of the Constitution of Virginia. The Democratic Party of Virginia exercises full equality with Democratic parties in other states in controlling the activities and establishing the principles of the National Democratic Party.

ARTICLE 1

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF VIRGINIA

Section 1.1 Statement of Principle

The Democratic Party of Virginia endorses the principles contained in the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States of America, bound always by the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Section 1.2 Cooperation with Democratic National Party

The Democratic Party of Virginia pledges full cooperation with all rules and requirements promulgated in connection with any Call to the Democratic National Convention or Democratic Party Conference. This pledge is made both to the substance and to the spirit of the Call.

ARTICLE 2

MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Section 2.1 Membership

Every resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia who believes in the principles of the Democratic Party is hereby declared to be a member of the Democratic Party of Virginia.

Section 2.2 Participation

Every person who participates as a candidate or voter in a Democratic primary, convention or caucus must be qualified to vote in the next ensuing general election or special election. No person shall participate in a Democratic primary, convention or caucus who intends to support a candidate opposed to any Democratic nominee in that general or special election.

ARTICLE 3

FULL PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION

Section 3.1 Full Participation

Every Democratic committee shall adopt and implement an affirmative action program to encourage participation in any delegate selection process and in all organizations at every level for all Democrats. Particular concern should be given to young people, women, blacks and other minority groups. Every Democratic committee, as well as every member and officer thereof, shall work to the end that all Democratic committees and delegations to Democratic conventions contain young people, women, blacks and other minority groups. Mandatory quotas, however, shall not be imposed at any level of the delegate selection process or in any other party affairs.

Section 3.2 Registration

The Democratic Party of Virginia supports the broadest possible registration of voters without discrimination on grounds of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity or economic status.

ARTICLE 4

DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Section 4.1 Membership

There shall be a Democratic State Central Committee (herein the Central Committee) composed of twenty (20) members from each congressional district. In addition, the following persons shall be voting members of the Central Committee: the chair, first vice-chair, second vice-chair, the vice-chair for operations, the vice-chair for finance, the vice-chair for development and organization, the secretary and the treasurer of the Central Committee; the Virginia members of the Democratic National Committee elected by the State Convention, and any other member of the National Committee elected under the national charter and rules who resides in Virginia; the president, national committeeman and national committeewoman of the Young Democrats of Virginia; the president and first vice-president of the Virginia Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs; the Chair of the Association of Democratic Chairs; the Chair of the Association of Democratic Elected Officials; the Chair of the College Democrats; the president of the Teen Democratic Clubs; the Democratic members of the U.S. Congress from Virginia; the Democratic Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General; the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates, provided they are Democrats; and the chairs of the Democratic caucuses of the Senate and the House. In the event that the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker fail to meet this qualification, the chair of the Democratic caucuses of the Senate and House of Delegates shall represent their respective bodies. In addition, those members of the General Assembly and those local chairs of county and city committees who are elected as provided in Section 6.2 of this Plan will be voting members.

Section 4.2 Election of Central Committee

The twenty (20) members of the Central Committee from each congressional district shall be nominated in the congressional district conventions and shall be elected in the State Convention in each gubernatorial election year, each member to serve a term of four (4) years.

Section 4.3 Equal Division

Effective with the election of the Central Committee at the State Convention in 1985 and in the year of a gubernatorial election thereafter, the membership of each district committee and the Central committee shall be divided equally between men and women.

Section 4.4 Election of State Party Officers

The State Convention held in the year of the gubernatorial election shall elect a chair, first vice-chair, second vice-chair, the vice-chair for operations, the vice-chair for finance, the vice-chair for development and organization, the secretary and the treasurer, herein the officers of the Central Committee. The first vice-chair shall be of the opposite sex of the chair. Each officer shall serve a term of four (4) years.

Section 4.5 Election of National Committee Members

The State Convention held in the year of a presidential election shall elect the members of the Democratic National Committee allocated to Virginia, each member to serve a term of four (4) years.

Section 4.6 Vacancies

The Central Committee shall fill any vacancy in the offices set forth in Section 4.4 and 4.5 above.

Section 4.7 Central Committee Meetings

The Central Committee shall meet at least four times a year. Meetings may be called as follows:

- a) By the chair; or
- b) By written call signed by any five (5) Congressional District chairs if the signed call is filed with the secretary of the Central Committee at least fifteen (15) days before the proposed meeting date; or
- c) By written call signed by twenty percent (20%) of the membership of the Central Committee if the signed call is filed fifteen (15) days before the proposed meeting date; or
- d) By a vote of the Central Committee at a properly convened meeting of the Committee.

Section 4.8 Quorum

Forty percent (40%) of the membership of the Central Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4.9 Duties of the Central Committee

The Central Committee shall have entire charge and full control of all party matters arising throughout the Commonwealth. All powers that inhere in the Democratic Party of Virginia or in a State Convention shall be vested in the Central Committee at such times as the State Convention is not in session. It shall be the duty of the Central Committee, as well as each officer and member thereof, to perfect the organization of the Democratic Party throughout the Commonwealth and to do all within its power to aid in the victory of the Democratic Party's nominees in all elections.

Section 4.10 Removal from Central Committee

The Central Committee shall remove from office and membership any member who shall miss three (3) consecutive meetings without cause or who shall be guilty of willful neglect of any duty imposed upon such member. Such action shall be taken only on the recommendation of the Steering Committee. Before making a recommendation of removal, the Steering Committee shall provide the member with ten (10) days written notice of the charges and with an opportunity for a hearing before the Steering Committee.

Section 4.11 Chair of Central Committee

The chair shall be chief executive officer of the Central Committee. He or she may appoint and dismiss any and all personnel of the staff of the Central Committee, including all deputies, assistants, counsel and staff members, subject to ratification by the Steering Committee.

Section 4.12 Vice Chairs of Central Committee

The first vice-chair, when the chair is absent, shall preside at meetings, lead the Virginia delegation to the Democratic National Committee and represent the chair at meetings of the Association of State Democratic Chairs. The second vice-chair shall preside over meetings in the absence of the chair and first vice-chair, shall oversee the Party Plan and other rules, and shall be responsible for drafting amendments to the Plan, delegate selection plans and calls to convention. The vice-chair for operations shall serve as liaison with congressional district, county and city committees, the Association of Democratic Chairs, the Association of Democratic Elected Officials, the Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs, the Young Democrats (including College and Teen Democrats), as chair of candidate development committees, and when required, the Chair's personal representative to the Democratic Caucuses of the General Assembly and any statewide interest groups recognized as supportive of the Democratic Party. The vice-chair for finance shall be responsible for fund raising activities and shall prepare an annual budget for approval by the Central Committee. The vice-chair for development and organization shall be responsible for statewide joint campaign activities, registration of voters and voter turnout in state elections, and in the expansion of candidate assistance programs. All vice chairs may be assigned duties and projects by the chair. Regular reports of the activities of the vice chairs shall be made to the Steering and Central Committees.

Section 4.13 Secretary of Central Committee

The secretary shall keep and make available to members the minutes of the Central Committee and Steering Committee meetings and shall formally certify actions and resolutions of the Central Committee.

Section 4.14 Treasurer of the Central Committee

The treasurer shall safely keep all funds of the committee and shall keep a detailed account of all contributions, other receipts and disbursements. The treasurer shall submit to the members of the Central Committee an oral financial report at each meeting of the Central Committee and an audited report annually.

Section 4.15 Assessments

As a part of the income provisions of the annual budget adopted by the Central Committee, an assessment of funds shall be made upon each county and city committee. Such assessment shall be made by the treasurer of the Central Committee and based on a formula that utilizes the number of delegates apportioned to each county and city in the most recent State Democratic Convention. Such assessments shall be made immediately following the adoption of the fiscal year budget, and forwarded to the treasurer in a timely manner. The chair of the county and city committees shall have the responsibility of insuring that the assessments are paid in a timely manner.

Section 4.16 Amendments to Party Plan

This Party Plan may be amended by an absolute majority of the Central Committee at any time or may be amended by a majority of the Central Committee members present and voting if notice is given and if the proposed amendment is mailed to the membership at least fifteen (15) days before the vote on the amendment.

Section 4.17 Resolutions

Resolutions may be passed by an absolute majority of the Central Committee at any time. Resolutions may be passed by a majority of the Central Committee members present and voting if notice is given and if the proposed resolution is mailed to the membership at least fifteen (15) days before the vote on the resolution.

ARTICLE 5

STEERING COMMITTEE

Section 5.1 Members of the Steering Committee

There shall be a Steering Committee of the Democratic State Central Committee composed of the chair, first vice-chair, second vice-chair, vice-chair for operations, vice-chair for finance, vice-chair for development and organization, secretary, treasurer, immediate past chair of the State Central Committee, the Virginia members of the Democratic National Committee elected by the State Convention, and any other member of the National Committee or Executive Committee elected under the National Charter and rules who resides and is a registered voter in Virginia and so requests in writing to the State Party Chair; the Congressional District Chairs; the President of the Young Democrats of Virginia; the President of the Democratic Women's Clubs; the Chair of the Association of Democratic Chairs; a representative of the Democratic Black Caucus; and a representative of the Democratic Labor Caucus of the Central Committee, and a representative of the Democratic Business Caucus of the Central Committee, such caucus consisting of those members of the committee who are self-employed or who are employed in the private sector of the economy and are not represented in such employment by any collective bargaining agent.

The officers of the Central Committee shall be the officers of the Steering Committee. All members of the Steering Committee shall be members of the Central Committee and members of their respective district committees.

Section 5.2 Duties of Steering Committee

The Steering Committee shall have entire charge and full control of all party matters arising throughout the Commonwealth between meetings of the Central Committee. All powers that inhere in the Central Committee shall be vested in the Steering Committee at such times as the Central Committee is not in session and its actions shall be final unless overruled by the Central Committee or a Democratic Convention, with the following exceptions:

1. the Steering Committee may not amend the Party Plan,
2. the Steering Committee may not change the assessments upon city or county committees,
3. the Steering Committee may not determine the method of nominating Democratic candidates for any public office, except in cases when the nominated candidate dies, withdraws, refuses candidacy or if the nomination is set aside for any reason,
4. the Steering Committee may pass resolutions by a two-thirds majority of all of its members,
5. when vacancies occur among the elected officers of the State Party, the Steering Committee may elect "Acting" officers; the Central Committee shall be convened within 120 days of the occurrence of a vacancy to elect permanent replacements unless a state convention occurs within that period, and
6. the Steering Committee may not fill vacancies to the Democratic National Committee.

Notices of Steering Committee meetings, including specific agenda, shall be mailed to all members of the State Central Committee at least ten (10) days prior to all Steering Committee meetings, except in cases of emergency when the Steering Committee has to be notified by telephone. When a meeting of the Steering Committee is not followed within eight (8) days by a meeting of the Central Committee, the minutes of Steering Committee meeting, including details of all actions taken, but not necessarily of the discussions, shall be mailed to all Central Committee members within thirty (30) days after the Steering Committee meeting.

At each State Central Committee meeting, the actions taken by the Steering Committee since the previous Central Committee meeting shall be reported, questions shall be taken about any such actions, and the chair shall ask if there are any motions to alter or overrule any action taken by the Steering Committee.

Section 5.3 Steering Committee Meetings

Meetings of the Steering Committee may be called as follows:

- a) By the chair; or
- b) By any five (5) members of the Steering Committee if the signed call is filed with the secretary of the Steering Committee at least ten (10) days before the proposed meeting date; or
- c) By a vote of the Steering Committee at a properly convened meeting of the Committee.

All meetings shall be open unless the Steering Committee specifically votes otherwise.

A majority of the members of the Steering Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5.4 Designation of Substitutes

If the chair of a district committee cannot attend a meeting of the Steering Committee, he or she may designate another member of the district committee to attend the meeting in his or her place. The district chair shall inform the chair of the Central Committee of the designation. Such designees shall be counted in determining a quorum and shall be a full voting member of the Steering Committee for that meeting.

Section 5.5 Appeals

The Steering Committee shall constitute an appeals committee for appeals provided in this plan from constitutional officer committees, legislative district committees, senatorial district committees and congressional district committees. The decision of the Steering Committee acting as an appeals committee shall be final unless overruled by the Central Committee or a Democratic State Convention. Appeal procedure shall be as provided in Article 11.

Section 5.6 Complaints

The Steering Committee shall receive and investigate complaints relating to alleged discrimination in party affairs on the grounds of sex, age, race, color, creed, national origin or sexual orientation. Any Democrat aggrieved by such alleged discrimination may file a complaint with the secretary of the Steering Committee. Upon filing of a complaint, the chair of the Central Committee shall appoint a subcommittee of the Steering Committee to review the complaint. If the subcommittee determines that there is a reasonable basis for the complaint, it shall immediately begin an investigation of the complaint in accordance with Article 11. The subcommittee shall complete its investigation and file a written report within thirty (30) days of the filing of the complaint. Within (30) days of receiving the subcommittee report, the Steering Committee shall act on the complaint and provide such remedies as it deems appropriate.

Section 5.7 Executive Committee

The Central Committee or the Steering Committee may by resolution or bylaw establish an Executive Committee to be composed of the chair and such other persons as the resolution or bylaw may direct, in any event, the Executive Committee to be composed of not more than seven (7) persons, a majority of whom shall be district chairs. The Executive Committee shall exercise such powers as may be allocated to it from time to time by resolution or bylaw and may exercise all the powers of the Steering Committee between meetings of the Steering Committee with its actions to be final unless overruled by the Steering Committee or the Central Committee. The resolution or bylaw shall set forth the method of selection of members of the Executive Committee, which method shall provide for reasonable geographical balance among the members who are district chairs.

ARTICLE 6

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT COMMITTEES

Section 6.1 Membership

The members of the Democratic State Central Committee elected as such by the State Convention or their successors and members of the Steering Committee and statewide party officers or their successors, who are voting residents of a congressional district, shall comprise the Democratic congressional district committee for that district.

Section 6.2 Additional Members

Upon the organization of the district committee, one Democratic member of the General Assembly and one county and city chair shall be elected as members of the district committee and shall be members of the Central Committee. Members so chosen shall be counted in determining a quorum and shall be voting members of the district committee as soon as elected by the district committee. Confirmation of the election of both the General Assembly member and the local chair shall be made by the Central Committee. If for any reason a Democratic member of the General Assembly or local committee chair cannot fill these positions, they shall be filled by the district committee. If for any reason such additional members vacate the office(s) they hold which entitle them to this membership, then the seat(s) shall become vacant.

Section 6.3 Officers

Each district committee shall organize by electing from its membership a chair, a secretary and such officers as it deems appropriate.

Section 6.4 Congressional District Committee Meetings

Each district chair shall make reasonable efforts to notify the chair of each city or county committee in the district of all

meetings of the district committee. Meetings of the congressional district committee may be called as follows:

- a) By the chair; or
- b) By any five (5) members of the congressional district committee, if a signed call is filed with the secretary of the district committee at least ten (10) days before the proposed meeting date; or
- c) By a vote of the district committee as a properly convened meeting of the committee.

Section 6.5 Vacancies

Vacancies in any district committee shall be filled by the remaining members of the committee, subject to confirmation by the Central Committee at its next meeting. Members so chosen shall be voting members of the district committee as soon as elected by the district committee. The district chair shall make reasonable efforts to notify each local committee chair of any existing vacancy.

Section 6.6 Duties

Each district committee shall have entire charge and full control of all matters relating to congressional nominations and elections within its district. It shall be the duty of each district committee to perfect the Democratic organization within its district, and see to the proper discharge of their duties by local or other constituent committees within the congressional district.

Section 6.7 Removal from District Committee

Each district committee may remove from office and membership on the Central Committee and the district committee any member who shall miss three (3) consecutive meetings without cause or who shall be guilty of neglect of any duty imposed upon such members.

Before making a recommendation of removal, however, the district committee shall provide the member with ten (10) days written notice of the charges and an opportunity for a hearing before the district committee. The decision of the district committee may be appealed to the Steering Committee.

Section 6.8 Nomination of Candidates for House of Representatives

It shall be the duty of each district committee to fix the time, place and method of nominating in its congressional district a Democratic candidate for the United States House of Representatives. Such nomination shall be made by primary, convention or caucus. Whenever a district committee determines that such nomination shall be by the primary method, the primary shall be held in conformity with the Primary Plan of the Democratic Party contained herein and applicable election laws of Virginia. Whenever such nomination is to be made by convention, the district committee shall fix the basis of representation for such convention.

Section 6.9 Oversight Duties

By January 15th of every even numbered year, each district committee shall ascertain that all Democratic county and city committees (local committees) within its jurisdiction have reorganized as required in Section 8.1. If a local committee has not properly reorganized, the district committee shall immediately cause an election to be held in each noncomplying county or city to select a new local committee and to have officers elected in the manner provided in this Plan.

Section 6.10 New Local Committee Elections

When a local committee fails to carry out its duties as specified in the Party Plan, the district committee acting upon an appeal of any member of the local committee or of any ten (10) Democrats of the city or county may cause an election of a new local committee to be held; provided, however, no such election shall be held without an opportunity for a hearing by the Steering Committee or any appeal under Article 11 from the action of the district committee.

Section 6.11 Supervisory Authority

Whenever a district committee orders the election of a local committee pursuant to the provisions of the Party Plan the district committee shall be charged with the authority and responsibility for supervising such election as provided in the Party Plan.

Section 6.12 Appeals

Any member of a district committee may appeal any decision, deadlock, or the failure of the district committee to act, to the Steering Committee.

Section 6.13 District Committees and Reapportionment

On January 1st of the year following any reapportionment of the congressional districts, and until the next Democratic State Convention at which a new Central Committee is elected, all members of the Central Committee shall become members of the district committee for the congressional district in which they reside. Where, as a result of such reapportionment, a district committee contains more resident members than the specified number to which it is entitled, each such member's vote on the Central Committee shall be the fraction that is obtained by dividing the specified number by the numbers of members of the new district committee. Where, as a result of such reapportionment, fewer than the specified number of the Central Committee reside in a congressional district, the difference in number specified shall be deemed vacancies on the Central Committee and shall be filled as provided for in the Party Plan.

Section 6.14 Special Elections - House of Representatives

Whenever a special election is called to fill a vacancy in the U. S. House of Representatives, the members of the Central Committee residing in the congressional district as defined for purposes of that election shall be deemed the district committee for that election.

ARTICLE 7

DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICER, LEGISLATIVE AND SENATORIAL DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEES

Section 7.1 Definition of Committees

For the purpose of prescribing the method of nominating candidates, there shall be Constitutional Officer, Legislative and Senatorial District Nominating Committees (herein the nominating committee) for every such election district in the Commonwealth, provided, however, when such district lies wholly within the boundaries of one political subdivision, the local committee shall exercise all authority relating to the method of nomination.

Section 7.2 Nominating Process

Nominations shall be made by primary, convention or caucus. Whenever any nominating committee determines that such nominations shall be by primary, then such primary shall be held in conformity with this Plan and applicable election laws in Virginia. Whenever such nominations are to be made by convention, the appropriate nominating committee shall fix the basis of representation for such convention. The nominating committee shall advise State headquarters in writing of the method of nomination for any office within seven (7) days of the decision.

Section 7.3 Composition of Nominating Committees

Except as provided in Section 7.1, the Legislative or Senatorial District Committees shall consist of the chairs of the local committees in whose cities or counties the district lies. In the event any chair does not reside within the Legislative or Senatorial district, such chair shall designate a member of his or her county or city committee who does reside within the district to serve on the district committee. In the event no member of such city or county committee resides within the district, the county or city chair shall designate a Democrat residing within the district to serve.

Section 7.4 Voting

The weight of each member's vote on such nominating committee from each jurisdiction shall bear the same relation to the total vote of the nominating committee as the combined vote in such member's county or city, or part thereof, which is contained in said district for the Democratic candidate who received the highest number of votes in the most recent general election bears to the total vote cast for such candidate in the entire district.

Section 7.5 Officers and Organization

Each nominating committee shall organize by the election of a chair and secretary and such other officers as it deems necessary. The committee shall meet between January 1st and January 15th of each year, and upon the election of a chair and secretary, shall advise the State Party headquarters by February 1st of each year of the names and addresses, and phone numbers of the committee members and officers. Any two (2) members of such district committee may call a meeting of such committee. Any member of such committee may call a meeting if there are less than three (3) members of such committee.

Section 7.6 Appeals

Any member of a nominating committee may appeal any decision, action or failure to act by the committee to the district

committee in which such Constitutional Officer, Legislative or Senatorial District is located. In the case of a Constitutional Officer, Legislative or Senatorial District that is located in more than one congressional district, the appeal provided in this paragraph shall be made to the Steering Committee.

ARTICLE 8

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY AND CITY COMMITTEES

Section 8.1 Time of Election

A Democratic Committee shall be elected for each county and city by the Democratic voters thereof on the first Saturday in December, or during the week immediately following the first Saturday, including the second Saturday, in odd number years; however, a county or city may elect its new committee during the week of, or in a primary, if the previous election of such committee was by primary.

Section 8.2 Organizational Meeting

Caucuses for the purpose of the election of such committees shall be held on Saturday or, if provided by local committee bylaws, on any other weekday evening. Any waiver of this requirement as to the time for elections must be granted by the State Party Chair or the Steering Committee.

Section 8.3 Committee Membership

The existing committee shall in each case determine the basis of representation of the committee; however, each precinct shall be represented by at least one full voting member of the committee who shall be at the time of his or her election a resident of that precinct.

Section 8.4 Organization By Primary

In the event the local committee reorganizes by primary, but due to the absence of a primary contest for public office, and the Commonwealth election machinery cannot be used without cost to the Democratic Party, any candidate for election to the local committee who had duly filed and who is unopposed shall be declared elected. A caucus shall be held at 7:30 p.m. on the date for which the primary election was called to vote on the candidates in contested elections for the remaining positions on the local committee. Upon the written consent of all candidates who have duly filed for such contested elections, and upon the request of the local committee concerned, the district committee may conduct an election by ballot held at a public place within any contested precinct.

Section 8.5 Appeals

Any ten (10) Democratic voters of a county or city who feel that the Democratic committee for that county or city has been elected in a manner inconsistent with the Party Plan may, within fifteen (15) days after such election, appeal in writing to the district committee for the district in which the county or city is situated. If the county or city is divided into two or more congressional districts, the chairs of the affected district committees shall meet and establish a procedure for considering such appeal. The affected district committees may jointly hear the appeal or establish a subcommittee composed of equal members from each committee to conduct a hearing and make recommendations to the full committees. The chair of such subcommittee shall come from the district committee serving the district wherein a major portion of the population of the appealing county or city is located, such population figure to be established from current official estimates by the State Chair. The district committees shall sustain the election of the local committee, or order a new election in which case said election shall be held under the direction of the district committees. The decision of the district committees may be appealed to the Steering Committee.

Section 8.6 Officers

Within forty (40) days following the reorganization of a local committee, each new local committee shall elect a chair, secretary and such other officers as it deems necessary. The secretary shall submit to State Party headquarters within ten (10) days of his or her election the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the officers and members of the committee.

Section 8.7 Bylaws

Each local committee shall have a set of bylaws available for its membership upon request. Such bylaws shall be submitted to State Party headquarters for review as to form and consistency with this Plan. It shall be the responsibility of the local committee chair to submit such bylaws to State Headquarters within ninety (90) days of his or her election as chair.

Section 8.8 Responsibilities

It shall be the duty of every local committee, as well as each officer and member thereof, to seek the registration of voters, to perfect the Democratic organization within the county or city, and to do all within their power to aid in the victory of the Democratic Party's nominees in all elections, except as otherwise provided in Section 10.9.

Section 8.9 Removal

A local committee may remove from both office and membership any person found guilty of neglect of any duty imposed upon him or her. Such action shall not be taken without at least ten (10) days written notice to the accused member and an opportunity for him or her to refute such charges in a hearing before a subcommittee of the local committee. The decision of the local committee may be appealed to the Steering Committee.

Section 8.10 Vacancies

Each local committee shall fill any vacancy occurring in its membership.

Section 8.11 Meetings

All meetings of the local committee shall be open to the public. Such meetings may be called as follows:

- a) upon call of the chair of the committee; or
- b) by at least ten percent (10%) of the members of the local committee if the signed call is filed with the chair at least fifteen (15) days before the proposed meeting date; or
- c) by a vote of the local committee at a properly convened meeting of the committee.

Section 8.12 Nomination

Each local committee shall prescribe the methods to be used within such county or city nominate candidates for county, city and local offices, and to elect members of said committee and delegates and alternate delegates to party conventions. Such nominations and elections shall be made by primary, convention or caucus. Whenever a local committee determines that such nominations of elections shall be by primary, the primary shall be held in conformity with this Plan and applicable election laws of Virginia.

Section 8.13 Nomination Conventions

In the election of delegates and alternate delegates to any county, city, district or state convention, it shall be the duty of the local committee to prescribe whether such election shall be by precinct, magisterial or equivalent district, ward, county or city caucus or convention. The local committees shall also determine the number of delegates and alternate delegates to which each precinct, magisterial or equivalent district, or ward shall be entitled pursuant to the Call to Convention and Delegate Selection Plan issued for said Convention.

Section 8.14 Appeals

Any person aggrieved by any decision, action or failure to act by the committee may appeal to the district committee for the congressional district in which the county or city is situated, disposition of such appeal shall follow the procedure outlined in Section 8.5 when the county or city is divided between two or more districts.

Section 8.15 Assessments

Every local committee shall be responsible for paying to the treasurer of the Central Committee in a timely manner the annual assessment provided for under Section 4.15 under this Plan.

Section 8.16 Ex-Officio Members

Each member of the Central Committee shall, upon election, become a voting ex-officio member of the Democratic committee of the county or city in which he or she resides. Such members shall pay any required filing or membership fees unless waived by the local committee.

Section 8.17 Combination of City and County Committees

Any city committee or county committee may be joined with any contiguous city or county committee and operated jointly under the following conditions and the following procedures:

- a) Each committee to be joined must vote for the combination by a two-thirds majority; or
- b) The proposed combination must be ratified by a two-thirds vote in a duly announced caucus to be held in each of the jurisdictions to be combined; and

- c) The jurisdiction desiring to combine must present to the Steering Committee a petition requesting approval of the combination.

If the required two-thirds majority is obtained in each of the committees to be combined or in each of the caucuses for the jurisdictions to be combined, upon approval by the State Steering Committee, the functions of such city and county committees shall be combined in one joint committee. However, the combination of committee functions shall not include the nominating process for candidates for city, county, and local offices. For such nominations, only the representatives of the jurisdiction served by the office in question shall participate in setting the method of nomination or in nominating such candidates.

Upon the petition of any ten (10) Democrats from any jurisdiction served by a combined committee, the Steering Committee, after consideration, may dissolve the combined committee and order separate reorganization of the committees.

ARTICLE 9

MEETING NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Section 9.1 Notice Requirements

Whenever any Democratic committee shall determine that committee members, delegates and alternate delegates to any convention, or Democratic nominees for any office, are to be selected by any method other than primary, notice of the time, place and method of selection shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the jurisdiction at least seven (7) days, but not more than two (2) weeks, prior to the date of such selection. This notice shall be at least two (2) columns wide and three (3) inches in length and published as a paid political advertisement.

Section 9.2 Declaration of Candidacy

Notice of the need to file a declaration of candidacy for selection as a committeeperson, delegate or alternate delegate shall be given at least seven (7) days, but not more than two (2) weeks, prior to the deadline for filing such declaration. Such notice shall include the substance of the declaration and the time and place and declaration must be filed. Filing declaration of candidacy by mail or messenger shall be permitted as long as such declaration is received before the filing deadline and is signed personally by the prospective candidate. The deadline for filing declaration of candidacy shall not be set for more than ten (10) days prior to the first day of the start of any selection process for the office sought.

Section 9.3 Full Participation

Notice requirements as provided in this article shall be construed as minimum requirements to encourage full participation by all delegates in all phases of convention, committee and nominating procedures. Comprehensive affirmative action programs such as informational fliers for general distribution, radio or television public announcements, print and electronic media news stories, press releases, newsletters, efforts to contact interested individuals and organizations, and any other means deemed appropriate to achieve full participation are strongly encouraged. The appropriate enforcement committee (i.e., credentials, steering or full committee), established by the convention calling such a meeting shall consider all affirmative action taken to encourage such participation when deliberating as to the validity of meeting notice requirements.

Section 9.4 Filing Notice

A copy of the required notice shall be mailed to the Secretary of the Central Committee on or before the day it is to be published or distributed. Such notice shall be kept on file for at least one year thereafter at State Party headquarters and shall be made available at reasonable times to any Democrat.

Section 9.5 Meetings

The time and place of all meetings of the Democratic Party of Virginia at all levels shall be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice (at least seven (7) days before said meeting date) to all interested persons. Such meetings shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party, shall be held in places easily accessible to all Democrats and large enough to accommodate all interested persons. The public may attend all such meetings as observers.

Section 9.6 Special Election Waivers

The chair of any committee responsible for the nomination of a candidate in a special election may apply to the chair of the State Central Committee for a waiver of the notice requirements and declarations of candidacy set forth in Sections 9.1 and 9.2 above. The application shall be in writing and shall state the type of notice that will be given and the reasons that notice complying with the provisions of Sections 9.1 and 9.2 cannot be given. If the chair of the State Central Committee finds that

compliance with Sections 9.1 and 9.2 is impractical, then the chair may issue a waiver excusing noncompliance with the notice provisions of these sections, and requiring such notices as are practical under the circumstances.

ARTICLE 10

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 10.1 Proxy Voting

In no committee, convention or other representative body of the party shall any person be permitted to vote by proxy.

Section 10.2 Bylaws

All Democratic committees shall adopt bylaws, rules or regulations deemed necessary for the proper operation of such committee. Such bylaws, rules or regulations when not in conflict with law or this Plan, shall be considered valid and binding. Such bylaws, rules or regulations shall be mailed to State headquarters within fourteen (14) days of approval by any Democratic committee and shall be kept on permanent file and made available for public viewing.

Section 10.3 Unit Rule

Use of the unit rule is prohibited at all stages and levels of Democratic Committee proceedings.

Section 10.4 Binding Delegates

Except as provided in this section no caucus, convention, or party rule may bind any delegate selected by such caucus or convention to vote in a particular way on any matter or for or against any candidate. This section shall not alter the binding obligation of Democratic electors when elected to vote for the Democratic candidates for President and Vice President. In addition, this section shall not prohibit a committee, caucus or convention from requiring delegates and alternates elected to such caucuses or convention to be bound to vote for the candidate to whom they have pledged or are elected to vote for in a committee, caucus or convention.

Section 10.5 Quorum

A quorum of forty percent (40%) of the members of any Democratic committee or convention shall be required to take any action, except to adjourn a meeting to another time or place.

Section 10.6 Failure to Nominate a Candidate

Whenever an authorized convention or caucus shall fail to nominate a candidate for elective office, the committee that convened the convention or called the caucus may thereafter nominate a candidate who shall be the Democratic nominee for such office.

Section 10.7 Special Election

In the event of a special election called to fill a vacancy, the Steering Committee may provide reasonable deadlines with respect to any requirement of this Party Plan and may waive those herein provided.

Section 10.8 Party Support

No Democratic committee member or officer of any Democratic committee shall publicly support, endorse, or assist any candidate opposed to a Democratic nominee. In the event any Democratic committee member shall undertake such public activity, the appropriate Democratic committee shall remove said person from office. Such action shall not be taken without at least ten (10) days written notice to the accused member and an opportunity for him or her to refute such charges. In the event that no action is taken against such person, the district committee shall initiate the necessary action. The Steering Committee may take further action within the thirty (30) days after the receipt of a written complaint by any member of the Democratic Party in relation to such matters.

Section 10.9 Candidate Support

The obligations and duties imposed on any local or district committee or the Central Committee and their members in this Plan shall not be deemed to require support of any candidate who is publicly supporting a nominee on the ticket of any other political party in any general election where Democratic candidates for office appear on the ballot, or who publicly supports any other candidate opposed to a Democratic nominee.

Section 10.10 Public Information

The procedures governing caucuses, city or county conventions, district conventions and state conventions, shall be furnished to all members of the Central Committee and each local chair, and shall be furnished, at cost to any other Democrat requesting such information. Copies of this Plan and the rules or bylaws of every local committee shall be furnished without charge to any Democratic requesting such documents.

ARTICLE 11

APPEALS

Section 11.1 Appellant Filing

The Appellant shall file with the chair of the appellant committee the following information:

- a) A statement of the decision, action or failure to act from which the appeal is taken;
- b) The points on which the appeal is based;
- c) The individual(s) for whom the appeal is taken; and
- d) What provisions of the Party Plan have been violated or disregarded.

Section 11.2 Notice

The chair of the appellant committee shall determine to whom notice of the appeal and copies of the petition shall be furnished by the appellant. At least ten (10) days written notice shall be given to all persons affected by such appeal.

Section 11.3 Hearings

The persons thus notified shall answer the petition within a reasonable time, to be fixed by the chair of the appellant committee. The chair of the appellant committee shall fix a time and place for a hearing within at least ten (10) days written notice on said appeal, at which time the appellant committee shall determine the validity of the appeal, either upon the petition and answer, or after the taking of evidence as in its discretion it may see fit. Appellants and other interested parties may be represented by counsel in the appellant process.

ARTICLE 12

METHODS OF NOMINATION

Section 12.1 Nominations of Statewide Candidates

Democratic party candidates for United States Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General may be nominated by primary or convention, as determined by the Central Committee.

Section 12.2 Nominations of Congressional Candidates

Democratic party candidates for the United States House of Representatives may be nominated by primary or convention in the congressional districts, as determined by each district committee.

Section 12.3 Nominations of State Legislative Candidates

Democratic party candidates for the State Senate and House of Delegates may be nominated by primary, convention or caucus. A Democratic incumbent shall have the right to designate the method of nomination for the office held by that incumbent if he or she is a candidate for the nomination. If there is no Democratic incumbent, or if the incumbent fails to designate the method of nomination, the nominating committee for the legislative district in which the election will occur, shall determine the method of nomination unless one or more candidates are to be elected by voters in a single city or county, in which case the appropriate local committee shall determine the method of nomination.

Section 12.4 Nominations for Constitutional Officers

Democratic party candidates for county or city offices may be nominated by primary, convention or caucus, as determined by the local committee.

Section 12.5 No Democratic Nominee

Nothing in the foregoing sections shall preclude any Democratic Committee at a meeting to determine the method of nomination for any office from deciding that a Democratic Party nominee will not be selected in a particular election and that no Party nominating procedure will be scheduled.

Section 12.6 Supervisory Authority

Each Democratic party committee responsible for determining the method of nomination of a Democratic Party candidate pursuant to this article shall be responsible for directing the conduct of the primary, convention or caucus.

Section 12.7 Vacancies

If a nominated candidate dies, withdraws, or refuses candidacy or if the nomination is set aside for any reason, or if no candidate qualifies as such for a primary, convention or caucus, then the committee having responsibility of determining method of nomination shall determine the manner by which a new candidate shall be nominated.

Section 12.8 Unopposed Nominees

If the number of persons qualifying as candidates in a primary, convention or caucus does not exceed the number of nominations to be made for a particular office, then the qualified candidate or candidates may be declared the nominees of the Democratic Party.

ARTICLE 13

DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARIES

Section 13.1 Notice for Primaries

Primaries held under this Plan shall be governed by the Code of Virginia. Whenever a committee responsible for determining the method of nomination chooses to nominate by a primary, the chair of the responsible committee shall give at least seventy-five (75) days notice of the proposed primary by posting a notice at each precinct in which the primary will be held or by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the relevant cities and counties.

Section 13.2 Candidacy Filing

Any declaration of candidacy which substantially complies with the form provided in the election laws of Virginia relating to primary elections shall be sufficient for all Democratic primary elections. Delivery of properly signed and attested declarations of candidacy, petitions properly executed when required by law, and receipts for all legal filing fees to the proper committee chair (or his or her successor) in person, within the time prescribed by law, shall be a valid filing regardless of the person by whom or the method by which such delivery is accomplished. All such candidacy documents shall be open to inspection and challenge by any candidate or member of the committee having jurisdiction over such primary election.

Section 13.3 Encouraging Voters

It shall be the affirmative duty of each officer and member of county or city, district and state Democratic Committees to encourage Democrats and voters who may favor Democratic nominees in general elections to participate in primary elections used to select such nominees.

ARTICLE 14

CONVENTIONS AND CAUCUSES GENERALLY

Section 14.1 Nominating Procedures

The Central Committee, district committees, nominating committees and local committees established pursuant to this Plan may call a convention or caucus within their respective jurisdiction for any purpose which is not inconsistent with this Plan. Any such committee calling for nominations or delegate selection by a caucus may utilize the unassembled caucus.

Section 14.2 Call to Convention

The Central Committee shall meet and issue a timely call in any year a state convention is approved by the Committee or

required by this Plan.

Any committee issuing a Call to Convention or to a caucus:

- a) Shall specify the time, place, and purpose of the convention or caucus;
- b) May restrict the convention or caucus to the purpose stated in the call notice;
- c) Shall make all convention and caucus arrangements; and
- d) Shall ensure that the convention or caucus is held in accordance with this Plan.

Section 14.3 Selection of Delegates

Delegates to any state convention shall be elected at convention or caucuses called by the local committee. If a local committee decides to hold a convention for election of delegates to a state convention, then the delegates to the local convention shall be elected at caucuses within the city or county. In addition, the committee calling any convention may designate as ex-officio delegates Democrats holding elective office in that jurisdiction, provided such ex-officio delegates will not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total number of delegates to the convention.

Section 14.4 Fees

No fee of any kind may be charged for the right to attend and vote at a caucus. Reasonable fees may be requested for participation in any convention. However, no party member shall be excluded from participation in a convention because of inability to pay a fee. Any Democrat who desires to participate in a convention but who is unable to pay the requested fees shall sign a Statement of Inability to Pay. Signing of such a Statement of Inability to Pay shall be conclusive.

Section 14.5 Slates

In any convention or caucus, any individual or group of Democrats may sponsor or endorse a slate of candidates for delegates to any convention. However, no slate may receive preferential treatment or a preferential place on a delegate selection ballot, nor may any slate be publicly identified on the ballot or otherwise as the "official slate." A committee calling a convention or caucus may allow voting by slate, but participants must also be permitted to vote for individual delegate candidates. All individuals and slates must meet identical qualifying requirements for appearing on a ballot at all levels of the delegate selection process.

ARTICLE 15

DELEGATE SELECTION AND DELEGATE ALLOCATION

Section 15.1 Allocation of Delegates

Delegates to any Democratic convention may be allocated by one of the following methods:

- a) A formula giving equal weight to population and to the average of the Democratic vote in the most recent elections for Governor, U. S. Senator, and U. S. President;
- b) A formula giving equal weight to population and to the average of the Democratic vote in the most recent elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General;
- c) A formula giving equal weight to the Democratic vote in the most recent elections for Governor, U.S. Senator and U.S. President;
- d) A formula giving equal weight to the Democratic vote in the most recent elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General.

However, in a presidential election year a different allocation formula shall be followed if required by the National Democratic Party. For any local or statewide convention, the local committee shall specify procedures for qualifications as a candidate for delegate or alternate delegate, which procedure shall be consistent with this Plan.

Section 15.2 Pre-filing of Delegates

If candidates for delegate or alternate delegate are required to pre-file as candidates before a convention or caucus, then the committee calling the convention or caucus shall prepare sufficient copies of a written ballot listing the names of all candidates who have pre-filed as required. In conventions and caucuses for which pre-filing is required, voting for delegate candidates shall be by written ballot unless the convention or caucus votes to conduct the election of delegates in a different manner. The deadline for pre-filing as a delegate candidate shall not exceed ten (10) days prior to the convention or caucus. The Committee may establish a final deadline for filing consistent with the need to prepare ballots for such convention or caucus.

Section 15.3 Declaration of Candidate Preference

The committee calling a convention or caucus may determine whether candidates for delegate and alternate delegates are required to make known their preference with respect to candidates for nomination by the Party. If disclosure of candidate preference is required, the delegate candidates may alternatively declare themselves to be uncommitted. If a delegate candidate fails to indicate preference for all offices to be nominated on a filing form, the committee shall list such persons as "uncommitted" rather than declaring the filing as invalid. For state conventions, the Central Committee may determine whether delegates to a state convention will be bound to vote in accordance with their announced candidate preference on one or more ballots. Candidate preferences or uncommitted status shall be indicated for each delegate candidate on the written ballots used in the convention or caucus.

Section 15.4 Certification of Delegates

Within ten (10) days of the election of delegates and alternates to a convention, the chair of the Democratic committee responsible for the election shall certify a list of the delegates and alternates to the secretary of the committee that called the convention. The list shall include names, addresses and telephone numbers, and candidate preference where applicable, of each duly elected and accredited delegate and alternate delegate.

Section 15.5 Disclosure of Pre-filing

Any Democrat may inspect, at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner, lists of pre-filed candidates for delegate or alternate delegate and lists of duly elected and accredited delegates and alternate delegates to any convention.

Section 15.6 Delegate Selection

Except for ex-officio delegates provided under Section 14.3 of this Plan, all delegates and alternate delegates for any convention shall be elected on the basis of the number of votes received. The committee calling a convention or caucus shall provide procedures governing the votes at any stage in the election process.

Section 15.7 Alternate Delegates

The committee calling the convention shall determine whether alternate delegates will be elected separately from delegates or whether the alternate delegates shall be those persons receiving the next highest number of votes after the persons elected as delegate.

Section 15.8 Succession of Delegates and Alternates

If a delegate is unable to undertake or continue in his or her duties as delegate, he or she shall select an alternate to succeed to delegate status or may designate the chair to select the alternate; failing either, the delegation may select the alternate. Whenever the number of alternate delegates is less than the allowable number, the delegation may elect alternate delegates to fill the vacant positions from persons within the congressional district.

Election of delegates and alternates under this section may occur after reasonable notice to the delegation if a quorum of forty percent (40%) assembles for the election. If the convention call requires announcement of candidate preference, new delegates and alternate delegates shall have the same candidate preference as the delegate or alternate they replace.

ARTICLE 16

ROLL OF THE CONVENTION AND CHALLENGES TO CREDENTIALS

Section 16.1 Challenges to Credentials

Any Democrat shall have standing to challenge any delegate or alternate delegate elected from the jurisdiction in which he or she resides by written notification to the chair or secretary of the committee calling the convention. Any such challenge must be filed with the chair or secretary within ten (10) days of the certification of such delegate or alternate delegate to the secretary of the committee calling the convention. The challenging party shall serve a copy of the challenge on the challenged delegate or alternate.

Section 16.2 Temporary Credentials Committee

The committee calling a convention shall establish a temporary credentials committee for the convention. The temporary credentials committee of a state convention shall meet at least six (6) weeks before the convention to consider challenges raised to delegates or alternate delegates elected for the convention. If a timely challenge is made less than six (6) weeks from the date of the convention, then the temporary credentials committee shall meet as soon as practicable to consider the challenge.

Section 16.3 Content of Challenge

A challenge to a delegate or alternate delegate must include at least the following:

- a) A factual statement justifying the challenge; and
- b) Provisions of the rules relied upon as the basis for the challenge; and
- c) The relief requested with respect to the challenge.

Section 16.4 Powers of Temporary Credentials Committee

If the temporary credentials committee sustains a challenge to a delegate or alternate, the committee may take any of the following actions:

- a) Include the challenged delegate or alternate on the temporary roll;
- b) Strike the challenged delegate or alternate from the temporary roll;
- c) Recommend that the committee calling convention order a new election with respect to the challenged delegate or alternate delegate position;
- d) Substitute the name of another delegate candidate in the position of delegate or alternate delegate on the temporary roll; or
- e) Such other action not inconsistent with this Plan as the committee determines to be appropriate.

Section 16.5 New Caucuses or Conventions

Upon the recommendation of the temporary credentials committee, the Steering Committee or any other committee calling a convention may order a new convention or caucus for election of delegates or alternates to replace challenged delegates or alternates.

Section 16.6 Temporary Roll

The secretary of the committee calling a convention shall make a temporary roll of the convention including names certified to the secretary as amended by the temporary credentials committee of the convention.

Section 16.7 Report of the Temporary Credentials Committee

The temporary credentials committee shall report to the permanent credentials committee of the convention.

ARTICLE 17

RULES, RESOLUTIONS, AND OTHER COMMITTEES

Section 17.1 Selection

The committee calling a convention shall select a temporary rules committee and such other temporary committees as are determined to be appropriate. For state conventions, a resolutions committee shall be selected.

Section 17.2 Reports

For state conventions, the temporary resolutions committee shall hold hearings in various areas of the Commonwealth at least thirty (30) days prior to any convention to receive views and ideas for resolutions that might be considered by the convention. Proposed resolutions must be submitted to the committee at least twenty (20) days in advance of the convention unless the committee, by vote of two-thirds percent (2/3%) of its members, agrees to receive a proposed resolution at a later time, except that all resolutions adopted by district conventions shall be considered if presented to the committee prior to its final meeting which shall be not later than one (1) week before the state convention. The committee shall report to the convention and no other resolutions shall be considered by the convention. No floor amendments or substitutes shall be allowed, and floor notes shall be only on the majority or minority reports of the committee. Minority reports of the committee must have the support of at least one-third percent (1/3%) of its members present and voting.

The report of the committee shall be distributed to all delegates when they register for the convention and shall be presented to the convention at the time specified in the agenda by the convention rules committee which shall be no later than 2 p.m. on the second day of any convention. The rules committee shall prescribe the procedure for consideration of the report on the convention floor, including the consideration of any minority reports.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Plan, the temporary resolutions committee shall also serve as the permanent resolutions committee of any state convention, (regardless) of whether its members are convention delegates. Adoption of resolutions by the convention shall require a sixty percent (60%) vote of the delegates present and voting, a quorum being present.

Section 17.3 Additional Committees

If temporary committees other than the credentials, rules and resolutions committees are established, such committees shall report to any corresponding permanent committees of the convention, or to the Steering Committee for state conventions.

Section 17.4 Temporary Rules

The temporary rules committee shall meet and issue its report as soon as possible after the issuance of the Call to Convention. The temporary rules adopted pursuant to this section shall govern conduct of the convention until adoption of permanent rules by the convention. Matters not addressed by temporary or permanent rules of a convention shall be governed by the most recent edition of Roberts' Rules of Order.

Section 17.5 Election of Temporary Committees

For state conventions, the temporary committees, other than resolutions, shall be elected as follows: each district committee shall elect one member, and the Central Committee shall elect five members. For the temporary resolutions committee, each district committee shall elect one member, five members shall be elected by the Central Committee, and six members shall be appointed by the chair of the Central Committee. The chair shall appoint the chair of the temporary resolutions committee, from among its members, who shall serve as chair of both the temporary and permanent committees.

ARTICLE 18

CITY AND CONVENTIONS AND CAUCUSES

Section 18.1 Caucus

The first step in selection of delegates for any convention shall be a caucus in a convenient public place accessible to the Democrats in such city or county. The date for caucuses to be held shall be established by the committee calling the convention.

Section 18.2 Notice of Caucuses

Notice of any caucus shall satisfy all notice requirements of this Plan. In addition, the notice shall clearly identify the purpose of the caucus and any convention for which the caucus directly or indirectly elects delegates.

Section 18.3 Participation in Caucuses

Each person participating in a caucus must provide written certification that he or she:

- a) Is a Democrat;
- b) Is a registered voter within the jurisdiction for which the caucus is held;
- c) Believes in the principles of the Democratic Party; and
- d) Does not intend to support any candidate who is opposed to a Democratic nominee in the next ensuing election.

All such persons present at the caucus at the time stated in the notice are entitled to participate in the caucus if they sign the required certification. The permanent chair of the caucus shall not be elected until all persons entitled to participate have had a reasonable opportunity to complete their written certification.

Section 18.4 Temporary Rules for Caucuses

The chair of the committee calling the caucus shall prepare the temporary rules of the caucus. The temporary rules of the caucus shall be available at least one (1) week before the caucus for inspection and copying by any interested Democrat. The temporary rules shall govern the caucus until adoption of permanent rules, which shall be the first order of business following the election of the permanent chair and appointment of the permanent secretary.

ARTICLE 19

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Section 19.1 Generally

Before each state convention, separate district conventions may be held. The delegates to these district conventions shall be the delegates to the state convention from that congressional district.

Section 19.2 Time of Convention

If the Central Committee does not determine the time and place for holding district conventions, each district committee shall determine a convenient and accessible time and place for the district conventions.

Section 19.3 Temporary Officers

The chair of each district committee shall choose the temporary chair and temporary secretary of the district convention.

Section 19.4 Roll of the Convention

The permanent roll of each district convention shall consist of the delegates from that congressional district on the temporary roll of the state convention. The chair of each congressional district shall prepare the temporary rules for the convention. Other than as provided in this Article, district conventions shall be governed by the provisions of this Plan applicable to other conventions.

Section 19.5 Permanent Committees for State Convention

Each district convention preceding a state convention shall nominate three (3) members to each of the permanent committees established for the state convention.

ARTICLE 20

CONVENTIONS FOR NOMINATING A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Section 20.1 Priority of Calls

In cases where any procedures delineated in this Plan are inconsistent with the call to a national convention issued by the Democratic National Committee, the call of the National Committee shall prevail.

Section 20.2 District Conventions and Presidential Elections

Where the call notice directs, each district convention held before a state convention shall elect the number of delegates and alternate delegates to a Democratic National Convention allocated by the Central Committee. Each district convention shall elect at least one (1) Democratic presidential elector. All disputes or contests regarding elections by the district convention shall be resolved by the state convention. The presidential electors shall be deemed to be nominees and candidates of the Democratic Party of Virginia. Should they be elected in the general election following, they shall cast their votes in the electoral college for the presidential nominee of the National Democratic Party.

Section 20.3 State Convention

The state convention may elect such delegates and alternate delegates to a Democratic National Convention as Virginia is entitled to by decision of the Democratic National Committee, over and above those delegates and alternate delegates allocated to the district conventions. Delegates and alternate delegates are to be elected by the state convention at large and shall be nominated from the floor of the convention.

Section 20.4 Limitations

No person shall participate and/or vote in the nominating process for the Democratic presidential candidate who also participates in the nominating processes of any other party for the corresponding election year.

Section 20.5 Presidential Preference

All candidates for delegate or alternate delegate in caucuses, conventions, committees and/or primary ballots during the presidential nomination process shall be identified as to presidential preference, uncommitted or unpledged status.