



MEMORANDUM

TO: Democratic National Committee Members

FROM: Alexis Herman and James Roosevelt, Jr.
Co-Chairs, Rules and Bylaws Committee

SUBJECT: Rules of Procedure for DNC Chair Election at the May 4th DNC Meeting

DATE: April 25, 2011

By now, we are sure that you have received the exciting news about the new leadership at the DNC. As you know, Governor Kaine has resigned as Chair of the Democratic National Committee in order to run for the U.S. Senate from Virginia. President Obama has asked Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz to serve as the new DNC Chair and we know you join us in welcoming her to the DNC.

In order to formally elect our new Chair as soon as possible, Interim Chair Donna Brazile has called a DNC Meeting for Wednesday, May 4, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. eastern in Washington, D.C. In anticipation of this meeting, the Rules and Bylaws Committee (RBC) recommends the enclosed Rules of Procedure for adoption by the full DNC.

These Rules are in essence the same Rules the DNC has used to elect officers since Chairman Ron Brown's election in February 1989 and have been used to elect new DNC Chairs in 1993, 1995, 1997, 2001, 2005, and 2009 and have served our Party well.

As announced by Interim Chair Brazile, arrangements are being made to allow DNC Members to participate virtually as well as in-person for the May 4th Meeting. The attached Rules of Procedure contain minor technical edits to accommodate virtual participation for this meeting.

Should you have any questions about these Rules of Procedure, please feel free to contact us directly or staff in the DNC Office of Party Affairs and Delegate Selection at 202-863-8046.

Enclosure: Proposed Rules of Procedure for DNC Chair Election



Rules of Procedure for the Election of Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chairperson – 2011

The following Rules are based on Rules of Procedure adopted by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) for officer elections held at National Committee meetings on February 9, 1989, January 21, 1993, January 21, 1995, January 21, 1997, March 20, 1999, February 3, 2001, February 12, 2005, and January 21, 2009. Pursuant to the action of the Membership of the DNC under Article III, Section 5 of the Charter and Article II, Section 7 of the Bylaws, these Rules are proposed to permit telephonic participation at the May 4, 2011 meeting.

The Rules are recommended by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee for final adoption by the full DNC at its May 4, 2011 single purpose meeting called by the Members to elect a new Chair.

I. ELECTION OF NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

A. NOMINATIONS

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

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

B. MAJORITY ELECTION

A majority of the votes cast by members of the DNC in person or by proxy shall be required for election of the Chairperson. For the purposes of these Rules, if the Chair has indicated the ability to participate by telephone, those Members who elect to do so are deemed to be voting in person.

C. VOTING

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

2. If a new Chairperson is not elected on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be conducted. If a new Chairperson is not elected on the second ballot, additional ballots shall be conducted until a new Chairperson is elected, but the candidate receiving the least number of votes on each preceding ballot shall be eliminated.

II. GENERAL RULES

A. NOMINATIONS

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

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

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

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

B. VOTING

1. Voting by roll call shall be conducted by an alphabetical roll call of the states with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the territories treated as states for the purpose of the alphabetical roll call of states. For purposes of the roll call, each DNC member shall vote with, and shall have his or her vote included as part of the votes of the delegation of the state of his or her current legal residence: (i) individuals who were elected or appointed to serve

on the DNC by any of the following affiliated organizations: Democratic Governors' Association, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, National Conference of Democratic Mayors, Young Democrats of America, Democratic County Officials Conference, Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, National Democratic Municipal Officials Conference, National Federation of Democratic Women, College Democrats of America, National Association of Democratic State Treasurers, National Association of Democratic Lieutenant Governors, Democratic Association of Secretaries of State, Democratic Association of Attorneys General, National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee, National Democratic Seniors Coordinating Council, (ii) DNC members at-large; (iii) and DNC officers.

2. In any roll call, the vote of a delegation as announced may be challenged by any member of the delegation at or prior to the time that the delegation's result is announced by the Secretary. The votes of that delegation shall be recorded as polled. The parliamentarian or his or her designee will then conduct a poll of the challenged delegation to be reported to the Secretary. A demand to poll a delegation may be withdrawn at any time.

3. All written ballots and/or tally sheets must be signed and submitted to the Secretary promptly.

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

5. The vote shall remain open until all categories of DNC members have been permitted to vote. Any changes in vote must be made before the voting is closed for each vote conducted.

6. All tally sheets for roll calls and written ballots shall, on reasonable request, be made available by the Secretary for inspection following the meeting.

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

8. Written ballots will not be counted unless they are returned to representatives of the Secretary's Office within ten minutes of the commencement (as announced by the Chair) of the balloting.

C. PROXIES

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

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

3. Any DNC member voting a proxy shall report the vote of the proxy at the time the proxy voter's state delegation is announced on a roll call and shall indicate the name of the DNC member whose proxy he or she has voted and his or her own name on any written ballot.

D. Quorum

A majority of the full membership of the DNC present in person or by proxy shall constitute a quorum, provided that no less than 40% of the full membership must be present in person. For the purposes of these Rules, if the Chair has indicated the ability to participate by telephone, those Members who elect to do so are deemed to be present in person.

PROXIES & NOMINATING FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE RULES OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE DNC OFFICE OF PARTY AFFAIRS & DELEGATE SELECTION AT 202/863-8043.