



Dear DNC Member,

As we prepare to gather in Chicago for our August DNC meetings, we wanted to update you on the work of the Rules and Bylaws Committee (RBC) with regard to the recommendations of the Unity Reform Commission (URC). Included with this letter is a copy of the proposed [2020 Delegate Selection Rules](#), [2020 Call for the Convention](#), and [Charter & Bylaws amendments](#) that will be voted on at the DNC meeting.

Over the past six months, the RBC has worked to build on the comprehensive recommendations provided in the URC's report last December. With your approval, our party is poised to make our presidential nominating process the most transparent, fair, and open in our history. These new reforms will strengthen our party and put our 2020 nominee in the strongest position to defeat Donald Trump. As co-chairs of the RBC, we're proud of these historic reforms and the success they'll bring us at the ballot box.

The reforms crafted by the RBC will make our caucuses more accessible for voters who have found it difficult to participate — such as shift workers, overseas military personnel, and people with disabilities — by requiring absentee voting. You'll see that the proposed changes expand same-day voter and party registration opportunities, opening our doors wider to unaffiliated voters who want to join our Democratic family during the primary and caucus process. And the rules encourage primaries in states so that more people have the opportunity to make their voices heard in the presidential primary process.

Over the last decade, a perceived lack of transparency in our presidential primary process has eroded the trust of voters. Perceptions of undue influence in favor of particular candidates have created additional challenges in our primaries and caucuses, as well as in the general election. We cannot afford to ignore these issues. We must regain that trust, heal our divisions, and forge ahead as a stronger and more united party than ever before.

While unpledged delegates, now called “automatic delegates,” have never overruled the will of the grassroots voters who form the base of our party, the RBC has proposed a plan that will eliminate any possibility, as well as the perception, that it could happen going forward. Under the proposed reform, automatic delegates will only cast a vote on the first convention ballot if one of the candidates has already secured enough pledged delegates in primaries and caucuses to guarantee their nomination. The new system continues to preserve the right of party leaders to express their support for a candidate of their choosing — a right they've earned through their dedication to Democratic values — and it retains all of the other rights of the automatic delegates, from floor access to voting on every other matter before the convention. A [fact sheet](#) on the automatic delegates proposal is included in the materials to answer the most frequent questions that we anticipate you may have about how this is being operationalized in our process.

Chairman Perez has asked us to have the delegate selection documents prepared and give you ample opportunity to review the proposed changes and offer any suggestions before they are considered at the August meeting. We recognize that there is a lot of information contained in

the enclosed documents and we encourage you to let us know if you any questions. Using the same longstanding process that our DNC and Convention Standing Committees follow, we are asking that DNC members submit any proposed amendments in advance of our meeting so that we are able to address any suggested changes. If you do wish to offer suggested changes, we ask that you send proposed amendments to the documents in writing to partyaffairs@dnc.org no later than August 16. This will allow the RBC time to review the proposed changes at its August meetings to ensure their conformity with the Rules, the Call, and our Charter and Bylaws. We are required to complete our work on these documents at this point in the cycle so that states can begin drafting their Delegate Selections plans

The Democratic Party, like the country we fight for, is profoundly diverse — even when it comes to intra-party political opinions. But that diversity is not a burden, it's a strength. And it makes it all the more exciting and satisfying when we successfully come to a consensus over how to best grow our Party and serve the will of our members.

The reforms recommended by the RBC will usher in a new era of transparency and accountability in the highest ranks of Democratic Party politics. They will grow our Party and restore trust among many who have come to feel politically homeless and question who our Party is really serving. Most importantly, these reforms will strengthen our candidates and put Democrats in a stronger position to win up and down the ballot.

By all of us standing together to support these updates to our rules, we will reclaim our title as the party of the people. We will unite voters and party leaders around our common values. And, we will head into the next election with our eyes fixed on the future.

Thank you for everything you contribute to the Democratic Party. We look forward to seeing you in August!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Lorraine Miller and Jim Roosevelt in blue ink.

Jim Roosevelt and Lorraine Miller
Co-Chairs, DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee