

Proposed ADP Bylaw Amendment

Creation of a State Convention

Purpose and Goals:

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) Charter (Article Nine, Section 16) requires that “the membership of the Democratic National Committee, the Executive Committee, Democratic state central committees, and all national official Party Conventions, committees, commissions, and like bodies shall be as equally divided as practicable between men and women (determined by gender self-identification) meaning that the variance between men and women in the group cannot exceed one (1)... In the case of gender non-binary delegates or committee members, they shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the delegation shall be equally divided.”

The DNC rules for national convention delegate selection call for At-Large and Party Leaders/Elected Official (PLEO) delegates to be chosen by a state convention or a committee consisting of a quorum of district-level delegates or the state party committee, but only if a state committee is in full compliance with DNC rules. The 2020 DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee (RBC) rejected ADP’s Delegation Selection Plan’s election of At-Large and PLEO delegates via the State Committee because that body was greater than 60% women and did not comply with the gender parity rule. The 2020 plan was amended for the district-level delegates to elect the remainder of the state’s delegation.

A 2022 proposed bylaw amendment to achieve gender parity did not progress. In January 2023, the State Committee passed a resolution to ask the RBC to consider changing the gender parity rule or granting discretion to the ADP in this matter. Consistent with this, the 2024 Delegate Selection Plan adopted in April 2023 kept the State Committee as the body designated to elect At-Large and PLEO delegates. On June 16, 2023, the RBC rejected the Delegate Selection Plan, stressing the importance of gender parity and raising serious concerns about the make-up of the State Committee in electing At-Large and PLEO delegates as well as DNC members themselves.

This bylaws proposal attempts to move our state party into compliance by creating a State Convention that will be comprised of the party’s leadership (state, county, and LD), given the greater gender balance typically achieved in these positions, as well as appointees from among State Committee members to be made by the State Chair in consultation with the ADP Equity Committee. The proposed State Convention represents our geographic diversity, recognizes leadership roles within our party, and achieves gender parity once appointments are made.

ADP bylaws call for compliance with DNC rules in regard to delegate selection and to election of DNC members. If ADP fails to adopt bylaw changes, the party could face credential challenges to Arizona’s delegation to the 2024 National Convention and to 2024-2028 Democratic National Committee members.

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ARTICLE I ORGANIZATION

Section 1. STATE COMMITTEE.

There shall be a State Committee, with membership as provided by law and in Article II of these bylaws, which shall have duties and responsibilities as provided by law and these bylaws. The State Committee shall be the governing body of the ADP and shall have authority over all actions of the Executive Committee, Executive Board, and other committees of the ADP.

Section 2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

There shall be an Executive Committee, with membership as provided by law and in Article IV of these bylaws, which shall have duties and responsibilities as provided by law and these bylaws, subject to the direction of the State Committee.

Section 3. EXECUTIVE BOARD.

There shall be an Executive Board, with membership as provided in Article ~~III~~IV of these bylaws, which shall have duties and responsibilities as provided by these bylaws, subject to the direction of the State Committee

Section 4. STATE CONVENTION.

There shall be a State Convention with membership as provided in Article VI of these bylaws, which shall have the duties and responsibilities as provided by these bylaws and subject to the charter, bylaws, and rules of the Democratic National Committee.

ARTICLE VI. STATE CONVENTION

Section 1. MEMBERSHIP.

A. The State Convention shall consist of the following members: (1) the County Chairperson from each county; (2) the first and second County Vice Chairpersons from each county; (3) the National Committee Members elected pursuant to Article XII of these bylaws; (4) the Chairperson from each legislative district; (5) the other State Officers in Article III of these bylaws; and (6) appointments made by the State Chair to achieve gender parity to be as equally divided as practicable between men and women (determined by gender self-identification) meaning that the variance between men and women in the group cannot exceed one. In the case of gender non-binary committee members, they shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the State Convention shall be equally divided.

B. The State Chair will consult with the ADP Equity Committee as defined in Article VII, Section 2, C(1) and Article XI of these bylaws on the appointments established in Part A of this section. Appointments shall be made from among State Committee members and shall not exceed the minimum number needed to achieve gender parity based on the membership listed in Section 1 (A.1 through A.5).

C. The State Chair shall serve as Chair of the State Convention.

Section 2. STATE CONVENTION DUTIES.

The State Convention duties shall be to (1) convene to elect Democratic National Committee members; and (2) convene to elect Democratic National Convention Party Leader and Elected Officials and At-Large delegates pursuant to the state's delegation selection plan and subject to the charter, bylaws and rules of the Democratic National Committee.

Section 3. MEETINGS.

A. The State Convention shall convene twice every four (4) years, during the Presidential election year.

B. The first State Convention shall be held the day before or on the day of the first State Committee meeting of the year for the purpose of electing Democratic National Committee members.

C. The second State Convention shall be held the day before or on the day of the second State Committee meeting of the year for the purpose of electing Party Leader and Elected Officials and At-Large delegates.

D. In the event of a vacancy of a Democratic National Committee member, the State Chair will call for a State Convention.

D. Meeting notices, quorum, use of proxies, and other meeting requirements shall be consistent with State and Executive Committee requirements prescribed by Article X of these bylaws.

Conforming Changes (including renumbering Articles as is appropriate):

ARTICLE II. STATE COMMITTEE

Section 2. STATE COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS.

C. The State Committee Organizational Meeting shall be governed by the requirements set forth in Article IX of these bylaws.

ARTICLE III. STATE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Section 1. OFFICERS.

D. The Democratic National Committee Members who are elected pursuant to Article *XII*, Section 2 also shall be State Committee Officers.

Section 3. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

I. National Committee Members. The duties of the National Committee Members elected pursuant to Article *XII* of these bylaws shall be to (1) perform the duties described in Article *XII*, Section 3 of these bylaws; and (2) perform other duties as assigned by the State Chair.

ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. MEMBERSHIP.

The Executive Board shall consist of the following members: (1) All State Committee Officers elected pursuant to Article III or Article *XII*, Section 2 of these bylaws; (2) the Chair of the Council of County Chairs; and (3) the National Committee Members elected pursuant to Article *XII* of these bylaws. The State Chair shall serve as the Chair of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII. OTHER COMMITTEES

Section 2. STANDING COMMITTEES.

C. Standing Committees and their responsibilities:

1. Equity Committee. The duties of the Equity Committee shall be to undertake the responsibilities stated in Article *XI* of these bylaws.

ARTICLE XI. MEETINGS

Section 4. VOTING.

Voting within the State Committee, **the *State Convention***, the Executive Committee, or any of their sub-committees shall be on an individual basis and may be actual roll call vote, by county, by division of the body in commonly accepted manner, or by voice vote, as may be appropriate. No slate or title identification shall be made on any ballot or in balloting.

Section 6. PROXY ATTENDANCE.

Members of the State ***Committee, State Convention***, or Executive Committee meeting pursuant to these bylaws may vote by proxy at meetings held in person, in which event the following regulations (A – J, below) apply. Policies ~~specific to~~ **regarding** proxy attendance and voting at virtual meetings shall be developed within seventy-five (75) days following the adoption of this ~~bylaw~~. ***adopted and maintained by the ADP Executive Board.***

Section 8. WRITTEN RECORD.

A written record of all State Committee, ***State Convention***, and Executive Committee meetings shall be kept on file at the ADP headquarters, with the exception of Executive Sessions.

ARTICLE XII. NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Section 1. MEMBERSHIP.

Pursuant to the rules of the Democratic National Committee, the State Chair and the First Vice-Chair along with the National Committee Members elected pursuant to Section 2 of this Article shall be the Arizona members of the DNC.

Section 2. ELECTION OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

A. The ~~State Committee~~ *State Convention* shall elect by a majority vote the number of National Committee Members authorized by the DNC, all of whom are qualified Democratic electors ~~and who have been elected or appointed as Precinct Committee persons~~, to represent the state of Arizona on the DNC for a term of four (4) years.

B. These elected National Committee Members shall be divided equally between male and female members as closely as is possible.

C. The normal election for the National Committee Members shall be held at the first ~~State Committee~~ *Convention* meeting in the year of the National Convention to select a presidential nominee.

D. Should a vacancy occur in the Arizona membership of the DNC, the ~~State Committee~~ *Convention* shall elect a qualified Democratic elector to fill the unexpired term.

ARTICLE XXIV. BYLAWS

Section 2. AMENDMENTS.

A. These bylaws may be amended by a vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the State Committee present, in person or proxy, at a regular or specially called meeting of the State Committee. The Rules Committee shall oversee revisions to these bylaws, as described in Article VI, Section 2.~~BC.25~~.