



Florida Democratic Party

# FLORIDA DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN

FOR THE 2016 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL  
CONVENTION

ISSUED BY THE  
FLORIDA  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

*Approved by the State Executive Committee on June 14, 2015.  
Approved by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee on July 24, 2015.  
Technical amendments made by State Chair on February 1, 2016.*

# The Florida Delegate Selection Plan For the 2016 Democratic National Convention

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# Florida Delegate Selection Plan For the 2016 Democratic National Convention

## Section I Introduction & Description of Delegate Selection Process

### A. Introduction

1. Florida has a total of 245 delegates and 18 alternates. (*Call I & Appendix B*)
2. The delegate selection process is governed by the *Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States*, the *Delegate Selection Rules for the 2016 Democratic National Convention* (“Rules”), the *Call for the 2016 Democratic National Convention* (“Call”), the *Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2016 Democratic National Convention* (“Regs.”), the rules of the Democratic Party of Florida, the Florida election code, and this Delegate Selection Plan. (*Call II.A*)
3. Following the adoption of this Delegate Selection Plan by the State Party Committee, it shall be submitted for review and approval by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee (“RBC”). The State Party Chair shall be empowered to make any technical revisions to this document as required by the RBC to correct any omissions and/or deficiencies as found by the RBC to ensure its full compliance with Party Rules. Such corrections shall be made by the State Party Chair and the Plan resubmitted to the RBC within 30 days of receipt of notice of the RBC’s findings. (*Reg. 2.5, Reg. 2.6 & Reg. 2.7*)
4. Once this Plan has been found in Compliance by the RBC, any amendment to the Plan by the State Party will be submitted to and approved by the RBC before it becomes effective. (*Reg. 2.9*)

### B. Description of Delegate Selection Process

1. Florida will use a proportional representation system based on the results of a Presidential Preference Primary for apportioning delegates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

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2. The “first determining step” of Florida’s delegate selection process will occur on Tuesday March 15, 2016, with a Presidential Preference Primary.\*
3. Voter Participation in Process
  - a. Participation in Florida’s delegate selection process is open to all voters who wish to participate as Democrats. Florida is a closed primary state and persons interested in voting in the 2016 Presidential Preference Primary must register as a Democrat at least 29 days before the primary, or Monday February 15, 2016. (Rule 2.A & 2.C & Reg. 4.3)

The Florida Democratic Party has taken numerous steps to assess and improve participation in the delegate selection process. The Florida Democratic Party will implement early voting as a standard option for electing district-level delegates. Congressional District Chairs will be allowed to provide for early voting in the CD on Thursday, May 5, 2016, to help maximize participation in the caucus. In addition, the State Party Chair may authorize the Congressional District Chair and State Committeemen and Committeewomen whose county includes a portion of the Congressional District to set multiple caucus meeting locations, depending on the geographical size of the district. (*Rule 2.I*)

- b. At no stage of Florida’s delegate selection process shall any person be required, directly or indirectly, to pay a cost or fee as a condition for participating. Voluntary contributions to the Party may be made, but under no circumstances shall a contribution be mandatory for participation. (*Rule 2.D & Reg. 4.4*)
    - c. No person shall participate or vote in the nominating process for the Democratic presidential candidate who also participates in the nominating process of any other party for the corresponding elections. (*Rule 2.E*)
    - d. No person shall vote in more than one (1) meeting at the Post-Primary Congressional District Caucus, which is the first meeting in the delegate selection process. (*Rule 3.E & Reg. 4.6*)
4. Florida is participating in the state government-run presidential preference primary that will utilize government-run voting systems. The State Party has taken provable positive steps to:

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\* Florida Statute 103.101, paragraph 4, provides, “If, however, a political party has only one presidential candidate, neither the name of the candidate nor the names of the candidate’s delegates shall be printed on the ballot.”

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- a. Promote the acquisition, maintenance and regular replacement of accessible precinct based optical scan systems, wherever possible. *(Rule 2.H.1)*
  - b. Seek enactment of legislation, rules, and policies at the state and local level to ensure that direct recording electronic systems include a voter verified paper trail. *(Rule 2.H.2)*
  - c. Seek enactment of legislation, rules and policies at the state and local level to ensure that both optical scan and direct recording electronic systems include recognized security measures. These measures include automatic routine manual audits comparing paper records to electronic records following every election and prior to certification or results where possible; parallel testing on election day; physical and electronic security for equipment; banning use of wireless components and connections except where required to provide a voter with a disability a secure and approved means to access voting materials and exercise the right to vote; public disclosure of software design; use of transparent and random selection for all auditing procedures; and effective procedures for addressing evidence of fraud or error. *(Rule 2.H.3)*
6. Scheduling of Delegate Selection Meetings
- The dates, times and places for all official Party meetings and events related to the state's delegate selection process have been scheduled to encourage the participation of all Democrats. Such meetings will begin and end at reasonable hours. It shall be the responsibility of the Florida Democratic Party to select the dates, times and to provide facilities for all official party meetings and events related to the national convention delegate selection process. The Florida Democratic Party shall take into consideration any religious observations that could significantly affect the participation of any Democrat. *(Rule 3.A & Reg. 4.5)*

## Section II Presidential Candidates

### A. Ballot Access

A presidential candidate gains access to the Florida presidential preference primary ballot by the following procedure†:

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† Florida Statute 103.101, paragraph 2, provides "By November 30 of the year preceding the presidential preference primary, each political party shall submit to the Secretary of State a list of its presidential candidates to be placed on the presidential preference primary ballot or candidates entitled to have delegates appear on the presidential preference primary ballot."

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- (1) The Florida Democratic Party will prepare and approve a list of recognized Democratic presidential candidates. By Monday, November 30, 2015, the Florida Democratic Party will submit a list of its presidential candidates to the Secretary of State to be placed on the Presidential Preference Primary ballot.
- (2) The Secretary of State shall prepare and publish a list of names of the presidential candidates submitted no later than December 15, 2015‡.
- (3) The Department of State shall immediately notify each presidential candidate listed by the Secretary of State. Such notification shall be in writing, by registered mail, with return receipt requested.
- (4) There is no other procedure (i.e., filing process) by which presidential candidates gain access to the Florida Presidential Preference Primary ballot.

### B. Other Requirements

1. Each presidential candidate shall certify in writing to the State Democratic Chair, the name(s) of his or her authorized representative(s) by December 1, 2015. Individuals who announce their candidacy after this date must provide this information to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party not later than ten (10) days after their announcement. (*Rule 12.D.1*)
2. Each presidential candidate shall use his or her best efforts to ensure that his or her respective delegation within the state delegation achieves the affirmative action goals established by this Plan and is equally divided between men and women. (*Rule 6.I*)

## Section III Selection of Delegates and Alternates

### A. District-Level Delegates

1. Florida is allocated 140 district-level delegates. (*Rule 8.C, Call I.B, I.I, Appendix B & Reg. 4.31*)
2. District-level delegates shall be allocated to presidential preferences through a proportional representation system based on a Presidential Preference Primary held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, followed by a post-primary caucus held within each Congressional District on May 7, 2016. Caucuses will be held from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

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‡ Florida Statute 103.101, paragraph 4, provides, "If, however, a political party has only one presidential candidate, neither the name of the candidate nor the names of the candidate's delegates shall be printed on the ballot."

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- (a) The Congressional District Chair shall determine the location of each Congressional District Caucus by February 15, 2016, and report the location, to the Florida Democratic Party.
  - (b) *Additional Locations:* Depending on the geographical size of the congressional district, the Congressional District Chair and other State Committeemen and State Committeewomen whose county includes a portion of that Congressional District may request that the State Party Chair allow that more than one CD Caucus location be designated to help maximize participation and minimize travel distance and time for Democratic voters who wish to participate in the Caucus. A request for additional CD Caucus locations shall be sent to the State Chair not later than February 11, 2016.
3. *Early Voting:* Article I, Section 4 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States, provides that, “the scheduling of Democratic Party affairs at all levels shall consider the presence of any religious minorities of significant numbers of concentration whose level of participation would be affected.” Additionally, the Florida Democratic Party aims to allow that all Democrats who wish to vote in the district level caucuses have the opportunity to do so. In that spirit, should a Congressional District Chair determine that a significant number of Democratic voters will be unable to participate in the May 7, 2016, Caucus, the CD Chair may request that the State Party Chair allow the Congressional District to provide an opportunity for Democratic voters to appear in person and cast an “early ballot.” Such “early voting” will be scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2016.
- (a) The request to the State Chair shall specify the following information:
    - (i) The projected number of potentially affected Democratic voters;
    - (ii) The beginning and ending times that the CD will observe for the “early voting” process;
    - (iii) The location(s) where “early voting” will be conducted and the lead contact for that location;
    - (iv) The method(s) the Congressional District will use to publicize the “early voting” opportunity;
  - (b) Along with the request to the State Chair to provide an “early voting” option, the Congressional District Chair shall certify that:
    - (i) The opportunity for “early voting” will be fully publicized within the Congressional District and will be available to all Democratic voters;

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- (ii) The site(s) utilized for “early voting” will be fully staffed to serve the voters and properly supervised;
- (iii) All “early ballots” cast will be properly secured and will not be counted until the conclusion of voting at the regularly scheduled District-Level Caucus election on May 7, 2016, at which time the results will be added to the final totals.

### 4. Apportionment of District-Level Delegates

- a. Florida’s district-level delegates are apportioned among the districts based on a formula giving equal weight to the vote for the Democratic candidates in the 2012 presidential and the 2014 gubernatorial elections. Due to the reapportionment of Florida’s congressional districts, the Party was unable to use the other methods provided for apportioning district level delegates and, therefore; the method used is the most inclusive. *(Rule 8.A, Reg. 4.10, Reg. 4.11 & Appendix A)*
- b. Florida’s total number of district-level delegates will be equally divided between men and women. *(Rule 6.C.1 & Reg. 4.8)*
- c. The district-level delegates are apportioned to the 2014 Congressional Districts as indicated in the following table:

District	Delegates		
	Males	Females	Total
#1	2	1	3
#2	3	3	6
#3	2	2	4
#4	2	2	4
#5	3	3	6
#6	2	3	5
#7	3	2	5
#8	2	3	5
#9	3	2	5
#10	3	2	5
#11	2	3	5
#12	2	3	5
#13	3	3	6
#14	3	3	6

District	Delegates		
	Males	Females	Total
#15	3	2	5
#16	3	3	6
#17	2	2	4
#18	3	3	6
#19	2	2	4
#20	3	4	7
#21	4	3	7
#22	3	3	6
#23	3	3	6
#24	4	4	8
#25	1	2	3
#26	2	2	4
#27	2	2	4
Total	70	70	140

### 5. District-Level Delegate Filing Requirements

- a. A district-level delegate candidate may run for election only within the district in which he or she is registered to vote. *(Rule 12.H)*



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- b. An individual can qualify as a candidate for district-level delegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention by filing a Loyalty Oath and a Statement of Candidacy, designating his or her singular presidential preference, and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidate with the Florida Democratic Party online at [www.fladems.com](http://www.fladems.com), or by mail at 214 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 32301. Alternatively, district-level delegate candidates may file this completed form with their respective Congressional District Chair or Vice Chair, or county DEC State Committeewoman or State Committeeman. Qualification forms shall be accepted beginning on Monday, February 1, and must be received by Thursday, April 7, at five o'clock (5:00) p.m. A delegate candidate may modify his or her singular presidential preference by submitting an updated pledge of support no later than the filing deadline. (*Rule 12.B, Rule 14.F & Reg. 4.21*)

### 6. Presidential Candidate Right of Review for District-Level Delegates

- a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than Thursday April 14 at 5 p.m. EDT, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate pledged to that presidential candidate. (*Rule 12.D & Rule 12.F*)
- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the State Democratic Chair by Wednesday April 20 at 5 p.m. EDT, a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, provided that approval be given to at least three (3) times the number of candidates for delegate men and three (3) times the number of candidates for delegate women to be selected. (*Rule 12.E.1 & Reg. 4.24*)
- c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate, or the authorized representative(s), signifies otherwise in writing to the State Democratic Chair not later than Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 5 p.m. EDT.
- d. National convention delegate candidates removed from the list of bona fide supporters by a presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), may not be elected as a delegate at that level pledged to that presidential candidate. (*Rule 12.E & Reg. 4.24*)
- e. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective district-level delegate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this

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Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved district-level delegate candidates and district-level alternate candidates as indicated in Section III.A.5.b of this Plan.

### 7. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference

- a. Presidential Primary - Proportional Representation Plan (*Rule 13.A, Rule 13.B & Rule 13.D*)

The Florida presidential primary election is a “binding” primary. Accordingly, delegate positions shall be allocated so as to fairly reflect the expressed presidential preference of the primary voters in each district. The National Convention delegates selected at the district level shall be allocated in proportion to the percentage of the primary vote won in that district by each preference, except that preferences falling below a 15% threshold shall not be awarded any delegates.

- b. Within a district, if no presidential preference reaches a 15% threshold, the threshold shall be the percentage of the vote received in that district by the front-runner minus 10%. (*Rule 13.F*)
- c. After the results from the presidential preference primary are certified by the Secretary of State, the State Party will use these results to determine the allocation of delegates for each Congressional District accordingly. The State Party will inform each Congressional District Chair the allocation of the delegates in their district. The Congressional District Chairs will then hold post-primary caucuses in their districts to elect the district level delegates. At the caucus, attendees sign in and declare which presidential candidate he or she supports. Attendees will then be given a ballot with the list of district-level candidates pledged to the presidential candidate he or she supports. After all the ballots are tallied, the highest vote getters of the specified gender will be elected. (*Rule 12.G*)

### 8. Equal Division of District-Level Delegates

- a. In order to ensure the district-level delegates are equally divided between men and women, delegate positions within each district will be designated by presidential preference beginning with the highest vote-getting presidential preference. This assignment of delegate positions, alternating by sex as mathematically practicable, will continue with the next highest vote-getting preferences in descending order until the gender of each position has been assigned. (*Rule 6.C.1 & Reg. 4.8*)
- b. District delegate positions shall be pre-designated by the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party so that the gender of the first position to be filled by the winning presidential candidate is pre-determined. Once the

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allocation of district delegates among presidential preference(s) has been calculated, the remaining delegate positions can be assigned to the presidential preference(s), in order of vote won, alternating by gender.

9. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) the election of the state's district-level delegates to the Democratic National Convention within 10 days after their election. (*Rule 8.C & Call IV.A*)

### **B. Unpledged Delegates**

1. Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials
  - a. The following categories (if applicable) shall constitute the Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official delegate positions:
    - (1) Members of the Democratic National Committee who legally reside in the state; (*Rule 9.A.1, Call I.F, Call I.J, & Reg. 4.13*)
    - (2) All of Florida's Democratic Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; (*Rule 9.A.3, Call I.H & Call I.J*)
    - (3) "Distinguished Party Leader" delegates who legally reside in the state (if applicable). (*Rule 9.A.5, Call I.G & Reg. 4.13*)
  - b. The certification process for the Unpledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates is as follows:
    - (1) Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee shall officially confirm to the State Democratic Chair the names of the unpledged delegates who legally reside in Florida. (*Rule 9.A*)
    - (2) Official confirmation by the Secretary shall constitute verification of the unpledged delegates from the categories indicated above. (*Call IV.B.1*)
    - (3) The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the presidential preference of state's unpledged delegates 10 days after the completion of the State's Delegate Selection Process. (*Call IV.C*)
2. For purposes of achieving equal division between delegate men and delegate women within the state's entire convention delegation, the entire delegation includes all pledged and unpledged delegates. (*Rule 6.C*)

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### C. Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) Delegates

1. Florida is allotted 28 pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates. *(Call I.D, E & Appendix B)*
2. Pledged PLEO Delegate Filing Requirements
  - a. Individuals shall be eligible for the pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegate positions according to the following priority: big city mayors and state-wide elected officials (to be given equal consideration); state legislative leaders, state legislators, and other state, county and local elected officials and party leaders. *(Rule 9.B.1 & Reg. 4.15)*
  - b. An individual can qualify as a candidate for a position as a pledged PLEO delegate by submitting a Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support to the Florida Democratic Party online at [www.fladems.com](http://www.fladems.com) or by mail at 214 South Bronough, Tallahassee, FL 32301. The form shall contain all the information specified on the form required of all District-Level delegate candidates. An individual may or may not have previously filed a State of Candidacy and Pledge of Support and still may be eligible to file under this category. Qualifications forms will be available online and at the aforementioned address beginning on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 and must be filed by twelve (12) noon EDT on Monday, May 9, 2016. *(Rule 9.B.3, Rule 14.G, Reg.4.16 & Reg. 4.21)*
  - c. Pledged PLEO delegate candidates must be identified as to a singular presidential preference and may modify his or her presidential preference by submitting an updated Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support before the filing deadline.
  - d. Should a pledged PLEO delegate candidate be selected as a District-Level delegate, the statement of candidacy by that individual for a pledged PLEO delegate position shall be nullified.
3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
  - a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than Friday, May 13, 2016, 5pm EDT, a list of all persons who have filed for a party and elected official delegate pledged to that presidential candidate. *(Rule 9.B.3 & Rule 12.D)*
  - b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must file with the State Democratic Chair, by

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Saturday, May 21, 2016, at 11am EDT, a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, as long as approval is given to at least two (2) names for every position to which the presidential candidate is entitled. (*Rule 12.E.2 & Reg. 4.24*)

- c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate or the authorized representative(s) signifies otherwise in writing to the State Democratic Chair not later than Saturday, May 21, 2016, at 11am EDT.
  - d. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective pledged PLEO delegate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved pledged PLEO candidates as indicated in Section III.C.3.b of this Plan.
4. Selection of Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates
- a. The pledged PLEO slots shall be allocated among presidential preferences on the same basis as the at-large delegates. (*Rule 9.B.2, Rule 10.C, Rule 13.E & Rule F*)
  - b. Selection of the pledged PLEO delegates will occur at 1pm on Saturday May 21 at a location to be determined, which is after the election of district-level delegates and prior to the selection of at-large delegates and alternates. (*Rule 9.B*)
  - c. These delegates will be selected by a committee consisting of a quorum of the district-level delegates. (*Rule 9.C*)
  - d. Alternates are not selected at the pledged Party Leader and Elected Official level. (*Reg. 4.31*)
5. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates to the Democratic National Convention within 10 days after their election. (*Rule 8.D & Call IV.A*)

### **D. At-Large Delegates and Alternates**

1. The state of Florida is allotted 46 at-large delegates and 18 at-large alternates. (*Rule 8.C, Call I.B, II, Appendix B & Reg. 4.31*)
2. At-Large Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements

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- a. Persons desiring to seek at-large delegate or alternate positions may file a Loyalty Oath and a Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support with the Florida Democratic Party online at [www.fladems.com](http://www.fladems.com) or by mail at 214 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL, 32301 beginning on Wednesday, February 17 2016 and must be filed by twelve (12) noon EDT on Monday, May 9, 2016. A delegate or alternate candidate may modify his or her singular presidential preference by submitting an updated pledge of support no later than the filing deadline. (*Rule 12.B, Rule 14.G, Reg. 4.22, Reg. 4.28 & Reg. 4.31*)
  - b. Should a candidate for At-Large delegate or alternate be selected as a District-Level or PLEO delegate, the statement of candidacy by that individual for an At-Large position shall be nullified. (Reg. 4.27.)
  - c. Each Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support shall contain such person's presidential preference for whom she or he seeks to become a delegate. No person shall file more than one (1) Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support at this level.
  - d. The statement of candidacy for at-large delegates and for at-large alternates will be the same. After the at-large delegates are elected by a committee consisting of a quorum of the district-level delegates, those persons not chosen will then be considered candidates for at-large alternate positions unless they specify otherwise when filing. (*Rule 18.A*)
3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
- a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than Friday, May 13, 2016 at 1 p.m. EDT, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. (*Rule 12.D & Reg. 4.23 & Reg. 4.28*)
  - b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the State Democratic Chair, by Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. EDT, a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, provided that, at a minimum, two (2) names remain for every national convention delegate or alternate position to which the presidential candidate is entitled. (*Rule 12.D.4, Rule 12.E.2 & Reg. 4.24*)
  - c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate or the authorized representative(s) signifies otherwise in writing to the State Democratic Chair not later than Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. EDT.

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- d. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective at-large delegate candidates and at-large alternate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved at-large delegate candidates and at-large alternate candidates as indicated in Section III.D.3.b of this Plan.
4. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference
    - a. At-large delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated among presidential preferences according to the state-wide primary vote. (*Rule 10.C*)
    - b. Preferences which have not attained a 15% threshold on a state-wide basis shall not be entitled to any at-large delegates. (*Rule 13.E*)
    - c. If no presidential preference reaches a 15% threshold, the threshold shall be the percentage of the statewide vote received by the front-runner, minus 10%. (*Rule 13.F*)
    - d. If a presidential candidate is no longer a candidate at the time of selection of the at-large delegates, then those at-large slots that would have been allocated to the candidate will be proportionally divided among the remaining preferences entitled to an allocation. (*Rule 10.C*)
    - e. If a given presidential preference is entitled to one (1) or more delegate positions but would not otherwise be entitled to an alternate position, that preference shall be allotted one (1) at-large alternate position. (*Rule 18.B, Call I.I & Reg. 4.31 & Reg. 4.34*)
  5. Selection of At-Large Delegates and Alternates
    - a. The selection of the at-large delegates and alternates will occur at two (2) EDT on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at a location to be determined, which is after all pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates have been selected. (*Rule 8.D & Call III*)
    - b. These delegates and alternates will be selected by a committee consisting of a quorum of the district-level delegates. (*Rule 8.E & Rule 10.B*)

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### c. Priority of Consideration

- (1) In the selection of the at-large delegation priority of consideration shall be given to African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and women. (*Rule 6.A.*)
- (2) In order to continue the Democratic Party's ongoing efforts to include groups historically under-represented in the Democratic Party's affairs and to assist in the achievement of full participation by these groups, priority of consideration shall be given other groups by virtue of race/ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. (*Rule 5.C, Rule 6.A.3 & Reg. 4.7*)
- (3) The election of at-large delegates and alternates shall be used, if necessary, to achieve the equal division of positions between men and women, and may be used to achieve the representation goals established in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan. (*Rule 6.A & Rule 6.C*)
- (4) Delegates and alternates are to be considered separate groups for this purpose. (*Rule 6.A.3, Rule 10.A, Reg. 4.8 & Reg. 4.19*)

6. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's at-large delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within 10 days after their election. (*Rule 8.C & Call IV.A*)

### E. Replacement of Delegates and Alternates

1. A pledged delegate or alternate may be replaced according to the following guidelines:
  - a. Permanent Replacement of a Delegate: (*Rule 18.D.3*)
    - (1) A permanent replacement occurs when a delegate resigns or dies prior to or during the national convention and the alternate replaces the delegate for the remainder of the National Convention.
    - (2) Any alternate permanently replacing a delegate shall be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) and sex of the delegate he/she replaces, and to the extent possible shall be from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.
      - (a) In the case where the presidential candidate has only one (1) alternate, that alternate shall become the certified delegate.



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- (b) If a presidential candidate has only one (1) alternate, and that alternate permanently replaces a delegate of the opposite sex, thereby causing the delegation to no longer be equally divided, the delegation shall not be considered in violation of Rule 6.C. In such a case, notwithstanding Rule 18.D.2, the State Party Committee shall, at the time of a subsequent permanent replacement, replace a delegate with a person of the opposite sex, in order to return the delegation to equal division of men and women. (*Reg. 4.33*)
  - (3) If a delegate or alternate candidate who has been elected but not certified to the DNC Secretary resigns, dies or is no longer eligible to serve, he or she shall be replaced, after consultation with the State Party, by the authorized representative of the presidential candidate to whom he or she is pledged. (*Rule 18.D.2*)
- b. Temporary Replacement of a Delegate: (*Rule 18.D.3*)
  - (1) A temporary replacement occurs when a delegate is to be absent for a limited period of time during the convention and an alternate temporarily acts in the delegate's place.
  - (2) Any alternate who temporarily replaces a delegate must be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) as the delegate he/she replaces, and to the extent possible shall be of the same sex and from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.
- c. The following system will be used to select permanent and temporary replacements of delegate: the delegation chooses the alternate. (*Rule 18.D.1*)
- d. Certification of Replacements
  - (1) Any alternate who permanently replaces a delegate shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the DNC by the State Democratic Chair. (*Rule 18.D.3*)
  - (2) Permanent replacement of a delegate (as specified above) by an alternate and replacement of a vacant alternate position shall be certified in writing by the Florida's Democratic Chair to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the replacement is selected. (*Call IV.D.1*)
  - (3) Certification of permanent replacements will be accepted by the Secretary up to 72 hours before the first official session of the Convention is scheduled to convene. (*Call IV.D.1 & Reg. 4.32*)

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- (4) In the case where a pledged delegate is permanently replaced after 72 hours before the time the first session is scheduled to convene or, in the case where a pledged delegate is not on the floor of the Convention Hall at the time a roll call vote is taken, an alternate may be designated (as specified above) to cast the delegate's vote. In such case, the Delegation Chair shall indicate the name of the alternate casting the respective delegate's vote on the delegation tally sheet. (*Call VIII.F.3.d, Call VIII.F.3.b & Reg. 5.6*)
      - e. A vacant alternate position shall be filled by the delegation. The replacement shall be of the same presidential preference (or uncommitted status), of the same sex and, to the extent possible, from the same political subdivision as the alternate being replaced. (*Rule 18.E*)
2. Unpledged delegates shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except under the following circumstances: (*Rule 18.E & Reg. 4.33*)
  - a. Members of Congress shall not be entitled to name a replacement. In the event of changes or vacancies in the state's Congressional Delegation, following the official confirmation and prior to the commencement of the National Convention, the DNC Secretary shall recognize only such changes as have been officially recognized by the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives or the Democratic Conference of the U.S. Senate. In the event of a change or vacancy in the state's office of Governor, the DNC shall recognize only such changes as have been officially recognized by the Democratic Governors' Association. (*Call IV.D.2.a*)
  - b. Members of the Democratic National Committee shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except in the case of death of such delegates. In the case where the state's DNC membership changes following the DNC Secretary's official confirmation, but prior to the commencement of the 2016 Democratic National Convention, acknowledgment by the Secretary of the new DNC member certification shall constitute verification of the corresponding change of unpledged delegates. (*Call, IV.D.2.b*)
  - c. Unpledged distinguished Party Leader delegates allocated to the state pursuant to Rule 9.A.(5), shall not be entitled to name a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to name a replacement. (*Call IV.D.2.c*)
  - d. In no case may an alternate cast a vote for an unpledged delegate. (*Call VIII.F.3.d*)

## Section IV Convention Standing Committee Members

### A. Introduction

1. Florida has been allocated 9 member(s) on each of the three (3) standing committees for the 2016 Democratic National Convention (Credentials, Platform and Rules), for a total of 27 members. (*Call VII.A & Appendix D*)
2. Members of the Convention Standing Committees need not be delegates or alternates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention. (*Call VII.A.3*)
3. These members will be selected in accordance with the procedures indicated below. (*Rule 1.G*)

### B. Standing Committee Members

1. Selection Meeting
  - a. The members of the standing committees shall be elected by a quorum of Florida's National Convention delegates, at a meeting to be held on Sunday, May 22, 2016. (*Call VII.B.1*)
  - b. All members of the delegation shall receive adequate notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the standing committee members. (*Call VII.B.1*)
2. Allocation of Members
  - a. The members of the standing committees allocated to Florida shall proportionately represent the presidential preference of all candidates receiving the threshold percentage used in the state's delegation to calculate the at-large apportionment pursuant to Rule 13.E. of the Delegate Selection Rules. (*Call VII.C.1 & Reg. 5.8*)
  - b. The presidential preference of each candidate receiving the applicable percentage or more within the delegation shall be multiplied by the total number of standing committee positions allocated to Florida. If the result of such multiplication does not equal 0.455 or above, the presidential preference in question is not entitled to representation on the standing committee. If the result of such multiplication is 0.455 but less than 1.455, the presidential preference is entitled to one (1) position. Those preferences securing more than 1.455 but less than 2.455 are entitled to two (2) positions, etc. (*Call VII.C.2*)

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- c. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation exceeding the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is farthest from its eventual rounded-off total shall be denied that one (1) additional position. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation falling short of the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is closest to the next rounding level shall be allotted an additional committee position. *(Call VII.C.3)*
  - d. Standing committee positions allocated to a presidential candidate shall be proportionately allocated, to the extent practicable, to each of the three (3) standing committees. When such allocation results in an unequal distribution of standing committee positions by candidate preference, a drawing shall be conducted to distribute the additional positions. *(Call VII.C.4)*
3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
    - a. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), shall be given adequate notice of the date, time and location of the meeting of the state's delegation authorized to elect standing committee members. *(Call VII.D.1)*
    - b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must submit to the State Democratic Chair, by noon (12) EDT on Sunday, May 22, 2016, a minimum of one (1) name for each slot awarded to that candidate for members of each committee. The delegation shall select the standing committee members from among names submitted by the presidential candidates. Presidential candidates shall not be required to submit the name of more than one (1) person for each slot awarded to such candidate for members of standing committees. *(Call VII.D.2)*
  4. Selection Procedure to Achieve Equal Division
    - a. Presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) shall use their best efforts to ensure that their respective delegation of standing committee members shall achieve Florida's affirmative action goals and that their respective members are equally divided between men and women. *(Rule 6.1 & Reg. 4.9)*
    - b. Each position on each standing committee shall be assigned by gender. For example, the first position on the Credentials Committee of the presidential candidate with the most standing committee positions shall be designated for a female, the second position for a male, and the remaining positions shall be designated in like fashion, alternating

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between males and females. Positions for presidential candidates on each committee shall be ranked according to the total number of standing positions allocated to each such candidate. After positions on the Credentials Committee are designated by sex, the designation shall continue with the Platform Committee, then the Rules Committee.

- (1) A separate election shall be conducted for membership on each standing committee.
- (2) The membership of the standing committees shall be as equally divided as possible under the state allocation; if the number is even, the membership shall be equally divided between men and women; if the number is odd, the variance between men and women may not exceed one (1), and the advantaged gender must not remain constant for the three (3) standing committees. *(Call VII.E.1)*
- (3) The positions allocated to each presidential candidate on each committee shall be voted on separately, and the winners shall be the highest vote-getter(s) of the appropriate sex.

### 5. Certification and Substitution

- a. The State Democratic Chair shall certify the standing committee members in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after their selection. *(Call VII.B.3)*
- b. No substitutions will be permitted in the case of standing committee members, except in the case of resignation or death. Substitutions must be made in accordance with the rules and the election procedures specified in this section, and must be certified in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the substitute member is selected but not later than 48 hours before the respective standing committee meets. *(Call VII.B.4)*

## Section V The Delegation

- A. Florida will select one (1) person to serve as Delegation Chair and 6 to serve as Convention Pages. *(Call IV.E, Call IV.F.1 & Appendix C)*

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### B. Delegation Chair

1. Selection Meeting
  - a. The Delegation Chair shall be selected by a quorum of the state's National Convention Delegates, at a meeting to be held on Sunday, May 22, 2016. *(Call IV.E)*
  - b. All members of the delegation shall receive timely notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the Delegation Chair. *(Rule 3.C)*
2. The State Democratic Chair shall certify the Delegation Chair in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after his or her selection. *(Call IV.E)*

### C. Convention Pages

1. 6 individuals will be selected to serve as Florida's Convention Pages by the State Democratic Chair in consultation with the members of the Democratic National Committee from the state. This selection will take place Sunday, May 22, 2016. *(Call IV.F.3, Appendix C & Reg. 5.7)*
2. The Convention Pages shall be as evenly divided between men and women as possible under the state allocation and shall reflect as much as possible, the Affirmative Action guidelines in the Affirmative Action Plan. *(Reg. 5.7.A)*
3. The State Democratic Chair shall certify the individuals to serve as Florida's Convention Pages in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the selection. *(Call IV.F.3 & Reg. 5.7.B)*

## Section VI General Provisions and Procedural Guarantees

- A. The Florida Democratic Party reaffirms its commitment to an open party by incorporating the "six basic elements" as listed below. These provisions demonstrate the intention of the Democratic Party to ensure a full opportunity for all minority group members to participate in the delegate selection process. *(Rule 4.A. & Rule C)*
  1. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party in Florida should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status or physical disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as "status"). *(Rule 4.B.1)*

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2. No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party in Florida should be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination based on "status." (*Rule 4.B.2*)
  3. The time and place for all public meetings of the Democratic Party in Florida on all levels should be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons. (*Rule 4.B.3*)
  4. The Democratic Party in Florida, on all levels, should support the broadest possible registration without discrimination based on "status." (*Rule 4.B.4*)
  5. The Democratic Party in Florida should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures should be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of each State Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Democratic Party organization. (*Rule 4.B.5*)
  5. The Democratic Party in Florida should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties, a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications of all positions as officers and representatives of the State Democratic Party. Such publication should be done in timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within each State Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office. (*Rule 4.B.6*)
- B. Discrimination on the basis of "status" in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited. (*Rule 5.B*)
- C. Florida's delegation shall be equally divided between delegate men and delegate women, and alternate men and alternate women. Such goal applies to the entire delegation, which includes all pledged delegates and alternates and all unpledged delegates. Delegates and alternates shall be considered separate groups for purposes of achieving equal division. (*Rule 6.C*)
- D. All delegate and alternate candidates must be identified as to presidential preference or uncommitted status at all levels which determine presidential preference. (*Rule 12.A*)
- E. No delegate at any level of the delegate selection process shall be mandated by law or Party rules to vote contrary to that person's presidential choice as expressed at the time the delegate is elected. (*Rule 12.I*)

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- F. Delegates elected to the national convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them. *(Rule 12.J)*
- G. All delegates, alternates and standing committee members must be bona fide Democrats who have the interests, welfare and success of the Democratic Party of the United States at heart, who subscribe to the substance, intent and principles of the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States, and who will participate in the Convention in good faith. *(Rule 12.H & Reg. 4.25)*
- H. Forty percent (40%) of the members of any Party body above the first level of the delegate selection process shall constitute a quorum for any business pertaining to the selection of National Convention delegates, alternates, standing committee members, and other official Convention participants. *(Rule 15)*
- I. Proxy voting is prohibited. *(Rule 16 & Reg. 4.29)*
- J. The unit rule, or any rule or practice whereby all members of a Party unit or delegation may be required to cast their votes in accordance with the will of a majority of the body, shall not be used at any stage of the delegate selection process. *(Rule 17.A)*
- K. Any individual or group of Democrats may sponsor or endorse a slate of candidates for convention delegates. But no slate may, by virtue of such endorsement, receive a preferential place on a delegate selection ballot or be publicly identified on the ballot as the official Democratic Party organization slate, and all slates must meet identical qualifying requirements for appearing on a ballot at all levels of the delegate selection process. *(Rule 17.B)*
- L. All steps in the delegate selection process, including the filing of presidential candidates, must take place within the calendar year of the Democratic National Convention, except with respect to the implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan. *(Rule 1.F & Rule 11.B)*
- M. In electing and certifying delegates and alternates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention, Florida thereby undertakes to assure all Democratic voters in the state a full, timely and equal opportunity to participate in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs and to implement affirmative action programs toward that end: that the delegates and alternates to the Convention shall be selected in accordance with the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2016 Democratic National Convention: and that the delegates certified will not publicly support or campaign for any candidate for President or Vice President other than the nominees of the Democratic National Convention. Furthermore, voters in the state will have the opportunity to cast their election ballots for the Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees selected by said Convention, and for electors pledged formally and in good conscience to the election of these Presidential and Vice Presidential



nominees, under the label and designation of the Democratic Party of the United States. *(Call II.B)*

## **Section VII Affirmative Action, Outreach and Inclusion Plan**

### **A. Statement of Purpose and Organization**

#### 1. Purpose and Objectives

- a. In order that the Democratic Party at all levels be an open Party, which includes rather than excludes people from participation, a program of effective affirmative action is hereby adopted by Florida. *(Rule 5.A)*
- b. Discrimination on the basis of “status” in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited. *(Rule 5.B)*
- c. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party in Florida should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status or physical disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as “status”). *(Rule 4.B.1)*
- d. Consistent with the Democratic Party’s commitment to including historically under- represented in the Democratic Party’s affairs, by virtue of race/ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or disability, Florida has developed Party outreach programs. Such programs include recruitment, education and training, in order to achieve full participation by such groups and diversity in the delegate selection process and at all levels of Party affairs for 2016. *(Rule 5.C & Reg. 4.7)*
  - (1) The outreach programs will concentrate on all Democratic constituencies, including but not limited to African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans, women, members of the LGBT community, people with disabilities, youth, and military veterans.
  - (2) Targeted organizations for workshops and presentations include but are not limited to educational institutions, labor organizations, Democratic Clubs and Caucuses both at the local and statewide level, and Affirmative Action Committees under county Democratic Executive Committees (DECs).
  - (3) Locations used in conjunction with the outreach program and at any point during the delegate selection process will be convenient to all

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formerly disenfranchised communities, including communities of low to moderate income.

- (4) Outreach efforts will accommodate people with disabilities through sites with wheelchair accessibility and ensuring a sign language interpreter be present at sites where applicable.
  - (5) Any candidate for delegate or alternate who self-identifies with a specific gender, regardless of their assigned sex at birth or their gender expression or perceived gender expression, shall be considered as a candidate in the gender category with which they identify.
  - (6) In addition, the Florida Democratic Party will, in a good faith effort, utilize culturally sensitive and/or appropriate terminology when conducting outreach efforts, including translated printed material.
- e. In order to encourage full participation by all Democrats in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs, the Florida Democratic Party has adopted and will implement programs with specific goals and timetables for African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and women. To further encourage full participation in the process, the State Party has established goals and timetables for other underrepresented groups, including LGBT Americans, people with disabilities, military veterans and youth. *(Rule 6.A & Rule 7)*
- (1) The goal of the programs shall be to encourage participation in the delegate selection process and in Party organizations at all levels by the aforementioned groups as indicated by their presence in the Democratic electorate. *(Rule 6.A.1)*
  - (2) For the delegate selection process, "Youth" is defined as any participant 36 years old and younger. *(Reg. 5.3.A)*
  - (3) For the delegate selection process, individuals identifying as Native Americans should provide their tribal affiliation and indicate if they are enrolled in a tribe. *(Reg. 5.3.B)*
  - (4) These goals shall not be accomplished either directly or indirectly by the Party's imposition of mandatory quotas at any level of the delegate selection process or in any other Party affairs. *(Rule 6.A.2)*

## 2. Organizational Structure

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- a. An Affirmative Action Committee shall be appointed by the State Democratic Chair on March 2, 2015. *(Rule 6.F)*
  - b. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Democratic National Committee the compliance of the State's Affirmative Action Committee with Rules 5.C, 6.A and 7, and submit the names, demographic data and contact information no later than 15 days after their appointment. *(Reg. 2.2.K)*
  - c. The Committee shall consist of members from each delegate district representing the Democratic constituency groups set forth in the Introduction to the Affirmative Action Plan.
  - d. The Affirmative Action Committee shall be responsible for:
    - (1) Reviewing the proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans and making recommendations to the State Democratic Chair.
    - (2) Reviewing the proposed Inclusion Programs and making recommendations to the State Democratic Chair.
    - (3) Directing the implementation of all requirements of the Affirmative Action section of this Plan.
    - (4) Implementing a financial assistance program for delegates and alternates. *(Rule 6.G)*
    - (5) Ensuring, on behalf of the State Party Committee, that district lines used in the delegate selection process are not gerrymandered to discriminate against African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and women. *(Rule 6.E)*
  - e. Financial and staff support for the Affirmative Action Committee shall be provided by the State Party Committee to the greatest extent feasible, including, but not limited to, making available on a priority basis, the State Party staff and volunteers and covering all reasonable costs incurred in carrying out this Plan.
3. Implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan shall begin on September 15, 2015, with the distribution of the press kits, and will continue through the end of the delegate selection process. *(Rule 1.F)*

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### **B. Efforts to Educate on the Delegate Selection Process**

1. Well-publicized educational workshops will be conducted in each of the delegate districts beginning in September 2015. These workshops will be designed to encourage participation in the delegate selection process, including apprising potential delegate candidates of the availability of financial assistance. These workshops will be held in places that are easily accessible to persons with physical disabilities. The times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of all education workshops, meetings and other events involved in the delegate selection process shall be effectively publicized by the party organization and include mailings to various organizations representative of the Democratic voting populace. (*Rule 3.A, Rule 3.C & Rule 3.D*)
2. A speakers bureau of volunteers from the Affirmative Action Committee comprised of individuals who are fully familiar with the process, will be organized to appear before groups, as needed, to provide information concerning the process.
3. The Florida Democratic Party's education efforts will include outreach to community leaders within the Democratic Party's constituencies and making sure that information about the delegate selection process is available to Democratic clubs and Party caucuses representing specific constituencies.
4. The Florida Democratic Party will offer an online presentation series to explain how Democratic voters can participate in the delegate selection process.
5. The Florida Democratic Party will publish and make available at no cost: a clear and concise explanation of how Democratic voters can participate in the delegate selection process; an explanation of how, where and when persons can register to vote; and delegate district maps. As well, the State Party shall also make available copies of the State Party Rules, the Delegate Selection Plan (and its attachments), the Affirmative Action Plan, and relevant state statutes at no cost. Copies of documents related to the state's delegate selection process will be prepared and the Affirmative Action Committee will distribute them in the various delegate districts not later than December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. (*Rule 1.H*)
6. The Florida Democratic Party shall take all feasible steps to encourage persons to register and to vote as Democrats and will seek to ensure simple and easy registration procedures. (*Rule 2.C*)

### **C. Efforts to Publicize the Delegate Selection Process**

1. Special attention shall be directed at publicizing the delegate selection process in the state. Such publicity shall include information on eligibility to vote and how to become a candidate for delegate, the time and location of

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- each stage of the delegate selection process and where to get additional information. The foregoing information will also be published in the State Party communications and on the State Party's website. The Party organization, official, candidate, or member calling a meeting or scheduling an event, shall effectively publicize the role that such meeting or event plays in the selection of delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention. *(Rule 3.C & Rule 3.D)*
2. The Florida Democratic Party will use our various social media platforms to publicize the delegate selection process in the state to our followers. This medium will help the party reach various constituencies and will provide a fast, up-to date means to educate voters.
  3. Newspapers, radio and television will be utilized to inform the general public how, when and where to participate in the delegate selection process. Specifically, this information should provide details as to how to qualify to run as a delegate candidate. Special effort shall be directed to the major daily newspapers, radio and television stations by the State Democratic Chair, Affirmative Action Committee members and staff. Regular releases during the delegate selection process to all other media sources, weekly newspapers, and wire services should complete timely coverage. *(Rule 4.B.3 & Rule 6.D)*
  4. A priority effort shall be directed at publicity among the Democratic Party's constituencies.
    - a. Information about the delegate selection process will be provided to minority newspapers and radio stations, ethnic press, Native American, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Spanish-speaking and other non-English press, radio stations and publications, and women's organizations, student newspapers, LGBTTA press, disability press, and any other specialty media in the state that is likely to reach the Democratic constituency groups set forth in the Introduction of this Affirmative Action Plan.
    - b. The State Party shall be responsible for the implementation of this publicity effort. For purposes of providing adequate notice of the delegate selection process, the times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of congressional district caucuses and the meeting of district level delegates shall be effectively publicized, multilingually where necessary, to encourage the participation of minority groups. *(Rule 6.D)*
  5. Not later than September 15, 2015, a press kit shall be made and provided to each daily and weekly newspaper as well as to the electronic media. The press kit will include:
    - a. a summary of all pertinent rules related to the state's delegate selection process;

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- b. a map of delegate districts and how many delegates will be elected within each district;
- c. a summary explaining the operation and importance of the 2016 Convention; and
- d. materials designed to encourage participation by prospective delegate candidates.

### D. Representation Goals

1. In consultation with the FDP Affirmative Action Committee, the Florida Democratic Party has determined the demographic composition of African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the state's Democratic electorate. These constituency percentages shall be established as goals for representation in the state's convention delegation. (*Rule 6.A*)
2. In addition, the State Party has determined the demographic composition of members of the LGBT community, people with disabilities, military veterans, youth, and members of labor unions in the state's Democratic electorate and furthermore, the State Party has chosen to establish these percentages as goals for representation in the state's convention delegation.

Through a process directed by the Affirmative Action Subcommittee on Delegate Selection, the Florida Democratic Party has determined the goals of representation among the 2016 Delegation as follows:

Whereas we used an independent pollster to help develop our Affirmative Action goals in 2012 in order to compensate for deficiencies in our state party voter file, a review of the data within our voter file this year is now clearly reflective of the findings of the pollster in 2012.

The Affirmative Action Committee took into account whether the goals from 2012 were met in each of the categories listed above in establishing the goals for 2016. If a group met the established goals in 2012, then the committee either kept their goals the same as 2012 or adjusted the figure for 2016. If a group exceeded the goal established for them in 2012, the committee adjusted the goal to better reflect the distribution of this demographic in the electorate. If the goal was not reached in 2012, the committee chose to not raise the goals for these groups in 2016 but develop new outreach plans to better target these communities. In addition to the categories used in 2012, the committee decided to add labor as a targeted constituency.

The Florida Democratic Party relied on the State Party Voter File to determine the ethnic breakdown of Democratic registered voters in Florida. This was

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feasible for determining the ethnic breakdown for the African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders categories.

The State Party Voter File has three categories that classify a voter's ethnicity. The first category combines the ethnicities of Native American and Asian American and Pacific Islander under the category of Other. The second category separates the two ethnicities into different groups. The third category is a voter's self reported ethnicity. The Florida Democratic Party relied on the second category to establish the goals for Native Americans and Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

Figures for LGBT and labor union members were calculated from a statewide estimate and census data.

Census data from 2013 was utilized in developing the Affirmative Action goals for the Categories of People With Disabilities and Veterans.

The State Party voter file was used to determine the Affirmative Action goals for the youth category.

In Florida, small counties are historically under-represented in Party affairs. To address this inequity, the Affirmative Action Committee established a representation goal for counties with less than 30,000 Democratic voters.

	African Americans	Hispanics	Native Americans	Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders	LGBT Americans	People with Disabilities	Youth	Veterans	Small County	Labor Union
Percent in Democratic Electorate	29%	17%	<.5%	1%	12%	12%	24%	8%	13%	20%
Numeric Goals for Delegates/ Alternates	69/5	40/3	1/0	2/0	29/2	29/2	57/4	19/1	31/2	48/3

3. When selecting the at-large portion of the delegation, the demographic composition of the other delegates (district-level, pledged PLEO, and unpledged) shall be compared with the State Party's goals in order to achieve an at-large selection process that helps to bring about a representative balance.
4. Use of the at-large delegation to achieve the affirmative action goals established by this Plan does not obviate the need for the State Party to conduct outreach activities such as recruitment, education and training. (*Rule 6.A.3*)

**E. Obligations of Presidential Candidates to Maximize Participation**

1. Presidential candidates shall assist the Florida Democratic Party in meeting the demographic representation goals reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan. *(Rule 6.H)*
2. Each presidential candidate must submit a written statement to the State Democratic Chair by December 1, 2015 which indicates the specific steps he or she will take to encourage full participation in Florida's delegate selection process, including, but not limited to, procedures by which persons may file as candidates for delegate or alternate. Individuals who announce their candidacy after this date must provide this full participation statement to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party not later than thirty (30) days after their announcement. *(Rule 6.H.1)*
3. Each presidential candidate must submit demographic information with respect to all candidates for delegate and alternate pledged to them. Such information shall be submitted in conjunction with the list of names approved for consideration as delegate and alternate candidates pledged to the presidential candidate. *(Rule 6.H.2)*
4. Presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) shall use their best effort to ensure that their respective delegations within the state's delegate, alternate and standing committee delegations shall achieve the affirmative action goals reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan and that the respective delegations of each presidential candidate shall be equally divided between men and women. Furthermore, presidential candidates shall use their best efforts at the district level to approve delegate and alternate candidates who meet applicable equal division and affirmative action considerations in order to achieve the affirmative action goals and equal division for their respective delegations. *(Rule 6.I & Reg. 4.9)*

**Section VIII  
Challenges**

**A. Jurisdiction & Standing**

1. Challenges related to the delegate selection process are governed by the *Regulations of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2016 Democratic National Convention (Reg. Sec. 3)*, and the "Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2016 Democratic National Convention." *(Call Appendix A)*
2. Under Rule 20.B. of the *2016 Delegate Selection Rules*, the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction over challenges pertaining to the



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- submission, non-implementation and violation of state Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans. (*Rule 20.B & Call Appendix A*)
3. The Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction to hear and decide any challenge provided it is initiated before the 56th day preceding the date of the commencement of the 2016 Democratic National Convention. (*Call Appendix A & Reg. 3.1*)
  4. Challenges to the credentials of delegates and alternates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention initiated on or after the 56th day preceding the date of commencement of the Democratic National Convention shall be processed in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2016 Democratic National Convention.” (*Call Appendix A*)
  5. Any challenge to the credentials of a standing committee member shall be considered and resolved by the affected standing committee in accordance with Appendix A of the *Call for the 2016 Democratic National Convention*. The Rules and Bylaws Committee shall have jurisdiction over challenges brought before the 56th day preceding the date of the commencement of the Democratic National Convention. (*Call VII.B.5*)
  6. Copies of the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee and/or the Call for the 2016 Democratic National Convention, including the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee (*Appendix A*), shall be made available by the State Party upon reasonable request.
  7. Any group of 15 Democrats with standing to challenge as defined in Reg. 3.2 or the Call (*Appendix A, Sec. 2.A*), may bring a challenge to this Plan or to the implementation of this Plan, including its Affirmative Action provisions.

### **B. Challenges to the Status of the State Party and Challenges to the Plan**

1. A challenge to the status of the State Party Committee as the body entitled to sponsor a delegation from that state shall be filed with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than 30 calendar days prior to the initiation of the state’s delegate selection process. (*Rule 20.A & Reg. 3.4.A*)
2. A challenge to the state’s Delegate Selection Plan shall be filed with the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party and the Co-Chairs of the Rules and Bylaws Committee within 15 calendar days after the adoption of the Plan by the State Party. (*Reg. 3.4.B*)
3. A challenge to a Plan must be brought in conformity with the Rules and the Regs., which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

**C. Challenges to Implementation**

1. A challenge may be brought alleging that a specific requirement of an approved Plan has not been properly implemented. Jurisdiction over all challenges initiated in a timely fashion shall reside with either the Rules and Bylaws Committee or the Credentials Committee of the National Convention (See Section VII.A. above). However, the Rules and Bylaws Committee may provide advice, assistance or interpretations of the Delegate Selection Rules at any stage of the delegate selection process. *(Reg. 3.1.C)*
  
2. An implementation challenge brought before the Rules and Bylaws Committee is initiated by filing a written challenge with the State Party Committee and with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than 15 days after the alleged violation occurred. The State Party has 21 days to render a decision. Within 10 days of the decision, any party to the challenge may appeal it to the Rules and Bylaws Committee. If in fact, the State Party renders no decision, any party to the challenge may request the Rules and Bylaws Committee to process it. The request must be made within 10 days after expiration of the above 21-day period. *(Reg. 3.4.C, Reg. E & Reg. H)*
  
3. Performance under an approved Affirmative Action Plan and composition of the convention delegation shall be considered relevant evidence in the challenge to any state delegation. If a State Party has adopted and implemented an approved affirmative action program, the State Party shall not be subject to challenge based solely on delegation composition or primary results. (Rule 6.B) The procedures are the same for challenges alleging failure to properly implement the Affirmative Action section of a Plan, except that such challenges must be filed not later than 30 days prior to the initiation of the state's delegate selection process. *(Reg. 3.4.C)*
  
4. Depending on the appropriate jurisdiction (see Section VIII.A. above), implementation challenges must be brought in conformity with the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee or the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee, which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

## Section IX Summary of Plan

### A. Selection of Delegates and Alternates

Florida will use a proportional representation system based on the results of the primary in apportioning its delegates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

The “first determining step” of Florida’s delegate selection process will occur on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, with a Presidential Preference Primary.

Delegates and alternates will be selected as summarized on the following chart:

Type	Delegates	Alternates	Date of Selection	Selecting Body
				Filing Requirements and Deadlines
District-Level Delegates	140	n/a	5/7/16	Congressional district caucuses
				File a statement of candidacy, pledge of support and loyalty oath with FDP 5 PM, 7 April 2016. Persons eligible to run must be elected at their respective congressional district.
Unpledged Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates*	31	n/a	n/a	Automatic by virtue of respective public or Party office as provided in Rule 9.A. of the 2016 Delegate Selection Rules.
Pledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials (PLEOs)	28	**	5/21/16	A committee consisting of a quorum of the district-level delegates.
				File a statement of candidacy, pledge of support and loyalty oath with FDP by 12PM Noon on 9 May 2016.
At-Large Delegates At-Large Alternates	46	18	5/21/16	A committee consisting of a quorum of the district-level delegates.
				File a statement of candidacy, pledge of support and loyalty oath with FDP by 12PM Noon on 9 May 2016.
TOTAL Delegates and Alternates	245	18		

\* Unpledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates includes the following categories, if applicable, who legally reside in the state: the Democratic National Committee Members, the Democratic President, the Democratic Vice President, all Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, the Democratic Governor, and any other Distinguished Party Leader as specified in Rule 9.A. of the *2016 Delegate Selection Rules*. The exact number of Unpledged PLEO Delegates is subject to change due to possible deaths, resignations, elections or special elections.

\*\* Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) alternates are selected with the At-Large alternates.

## Florida 2016 Delegate Selection Plan

### B. Selection of Standing Committee Members (For the Credentials, Platform and Rules Committees)

Standing committee members will be selected by the state's National Convention delegates as summarized below:

Members Per Committee	Total Members	Selection Date	Filing Requirements and Deadlines
9	27	5/22/15	Presidential candidate(s), or authorized representative(s), will provide the list to State Democratic Chair by noon (12) on 5/22/2016

### C. Selection of Delegation Chair and Convention Pages

The Delegation Chair will be selected by the National Convention Delegates on Sunday, May 22, 2016.

6 Convention Pages will be selected by the State Democratic Chair on Sunday, May 22, 2016.

### D. Presidential Candidate Filing Deadline

By Monday, November 30, 2015, the Florida Democratic Party will submit a list of its presidential candidates to the Secretary of State to be placed on the Presidential Preference Primary ballot.

Presidential candidates must certify the name of their authorized representative(s) to the State Democratic Chair by Thursday, December 1, 2015.

### E. Timeline

Date	Activity
<b>2015</b>	
March 2	Delegate Selection Affirmative Action Committee members are appointed by the State Chair.
April 3	Florida Democratic Party receives extension from DNC allowing for submission of Delegate selection and Affirmative Plans on June 19, 2015.
April 27	Affirmative Action Committee meets to draft proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans.
May 1	Proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans are tentatively approved for public comment by State Party Committee.  Public comments are solicited on the proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans. Press releases are mailed announcing the public comment period.
June 5	Period for public comment on state Plan is concluded. Responses are compiled for review by the State Party Committee.
June 13	State Party Committee reviews public comments and adopts revised Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans for submission to DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee. Press releases are mailed announcing the approval of the Plan.

## Florida 2016 Delegate Selection Plan

Date	Activity
June 19	Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans are forwarded to the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee.
September 15	State Party begins implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan. Press kits, as described in the Affirmative Action Plan, are sent to all state media.
November 30	State Party will submit a list of its presidential candidates to the Secretary of State to be placed on the Presidential Preference Primary ballot.
December 1	<p>Presidential candidate deadline for certifying the name(s) of the authorized representative(s) to the State Party.</p> <p>Deadline for each announced presidential candidate to submit a statement specifying steps the candidate will take to encourage full participation in the delegate selection process. (Individuals who announce their candidacy after this date must provide this full participation statement to the State Party not later than 10 days after their announcement.)</p>
December 15	<p>The Secretary of State shall prepare and publish a list of names of the presidential candidates submitted.</p> <p>The Affirmative Action Committee will distribute copies of documents related to the state's delegate selection process to various delegate districts.</p>
<b>2016</b>	
February 1	District level delegate candidates may obtain the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms and filing instructions from State Party Committee Headquarters, in person, by mail, or from State Party's web site at <a href="http://www.floridadems.org">www.floridadems.org</a> .
February 11	Deadline for Congressional District Chairs, State Committeemen, and State Committeewomen to request additional CD Caucus locations and submit request to the State Party Chair.
February 15	<p>Deadline for Congressional District Chairs to determine the location of each Congressional District Caucus and report the location to the Florida Democratic Party.</p> <p>Deadline for voters to register as a Democrat in order to participate in the Presidential Preference Primary.</p>
February 17	Pledged PLEO and at-large and alternate candidates may obtain the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms and filing instructions from State Party Committee Headquarters, in person, by mail, or from State Party's web site at <a href="http://www.floridadems.org">www.floridadems.org</a> .
March 1	Secretary of the Democratic National Committee shall confirm the names of the unpledged delegates who legally reside in Florida to the State Democratic Chair.
March 15	<b>Presidential preference primary.</b>
April 7	District-level delegate deadline for filing the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms with State Party.
April 14	State Party provides list of district-level delegate candidates to the respective Presidential candidates.
April 15	Secretary of State certifies results of primary.
April 20	Presidential candidates provide list of approved district-level delegate candidates to State Party.
April 23	State Party certifies in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each Presidential candidate has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective district level delegate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action Plan.
May 5	Upon approval by State Party Chair, a Congressional District may offer "early voting" opportunity on this date.
May 7	Post primary caucuses held to elect district level delegates.
May 9	Pledged PLEO, at-large and alternate candidates deadline for filing the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms with State Party.
May 13	State Party provides list of PLEO and at-large and alternate candidates to the respective Presidential candidates.

## Florida 2016 Delegate Selection Plan

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Date	Activity
May 17	State Party certifies the election of the state's district-level delegates to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee.
May 21	<p>Presidential candidates provide approved list of pledged PLEO delegate candidates to State Party.</p> <p>Meeting of district level delegates convened.</p> <p>Pledged PLEO delegates selected. Following selection of PLEO delegates, presidential candidates provide approved list of at-large delegate and alternate candidates to State Party. State Convention selects at-large delegates and alternates.</p>
May 22	<p>Presidential candidates submit list of candidates for standing committee members to State Party.</p> <p>National Convention delegation meeting. Delegates select National Convention Standing Committee Members and Delegation Chair. State Chair names convention pages.</p>
May 24	<p>State Party certifies in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the presidential preference of Pledged PLEOs, at-large and alternate delegates.</p> <p>State Party certifies in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective PLEO, at-large and alternate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved at-large delegate candidates and at-large alternate candidates.</p>
May 25	State Chair certifies in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the State's Delegation Chair, Convention Pages and Standing Committee Members.
May 31	<p>State Party certifies the election of the state's PLEOs, at-large and alternates delegates.</p> <p>State Party certifies in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the presidential preference (including uncommitted) of the state's Unpledged Delegates.</p>