

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

PROPOSITION #6C:

Amend Charter so that DPCA Voting Representative Gender Balance is minimum 50% Non-Male

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Previously submitted as: 2018 Charter Amendment Proposition 16C (Voting Rep Non-Male Minimum)

WHEREAS country committees often have more women in leadership than other genders; and

WHEREAS gender parity requirements for DPCA voting reps bars women in leadership from having DPCA votes in proportion to their contributions in leadership; and,

WHEREAS DA is committed to ensuring representation by diverse voices, diversity of genders in DA leadership, and appropriate representation among DPCA voting representatives by women providing leadership within DA country committees and chapters; and,

WHEREAS the Democratic National Committee has long-established rules mandating equal representation by women in order to offset historical and present-day discrimination against women; and

WHEREAS Article Nine, Section 16 of the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States requires all party governing bodies to be “as equally divided as practicable according to gender” for the purpose of “conducting their affairs,” and it is not practicable for DA to turn away strong female candidates; and,

WHEREAS the current gender parity rule is preventing capable and interested women from being elected to DPCA membership; and

WHEREAS the proposed amendment below supports and advances the aims and principle of the Democratic Party’s gender parity standard with respect to representation by women, and without limiting opportunities for non-binary individuals;

THEREFORE the following amendment is proposed:

“Section 3.6 (Voting)

- (f) Each Country Committee shall have the option to elect non-voting Representatives, and shall be required to elect at least the minimum number of Voting Representatives necessary to

enable it to cast all its votes. Such election(s) shall be held at the same time as the election of a Country Committee's Chair and Vice Chair. If a Country Committee has more than one (1) Voting Representative, a minimum of 50% shall be non-male. ~~gender balance shall apply.~~ The term of a Voting Representative shall be the same as for Officers of the Country Committee. All Voting Representatives shall be entitled to attend all Democrats Abroad meetings during the same two (2)-year term as for the Country Committee Chair and Vice Chair offices. If a Country Committee is entitled to less than five (5) votes, the Non-Voting DPCA Representative, if any, shall have the right to speak at DPCA meetings but not to vote, except under Section 3.7 below. If a Country Committee is entitled to five (5) or more votes, the distribution of votes among the Chair, Vice Chair, and Voting Representative(s) (if any) shall be determined by the Country Committee at the time of election, failing which by the Country Committee Chair; provided, however, that a Voting Representative shall have no less than one (1) vote nor more votes than the Country Committee Chair or Vice Chair.”