

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

PROPOSITION #9:

Change the Titles of DA’s Officers from “International” to “Global”

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WHEREAS – as opposed to fine literature – in technical or legal writing, such as an organization’s bylaws, it is generally desirable not to mix terms when referring to the same concept, and to use precise language based on meaning, not sound; and

WHEREAS when the descriptive term “international” was first applied to DA’s officers it may have been more appropriate than “global” would have been since, at that time, the organization consisted of only a few country committees in Europe; and

WHEREAS the organization has since spread across the globe, with country committees in all regions, and members in almost all countries, even including territories which are not nations; and

WHEREAS in conjunction with that growth and evolution – and regardless of the fact that DA members by definition live outside the U.S. – DA has instituted global caucuses, annual global meetings, and quadrennial global presidential primaries; and

WHEREAS the history of the organization thus suggests that the term “international” as applied to DA’s officers is anachronistic; and

WHEREAS DA members are all Americans and DA is organized by country committees purely as a matter of convenience, so that its global operations – having nothing to do with the nature of the particular countries where DA members may happen to live – are in no sense “international”; and

WHEREAS DA’s officers relate not only to DPCA (which arguably consists only of country-committee representatives) but of all DA members regardless where they live and to DA’s global activities including its annual global meetings and its global presidential primaries; and

WHEREAS more specifically, when, for example, DA’s Chair sends a weekly email to members she is addressing all of them, not merely DPCA members, as their Chair; and

WHEREAS the term “international” may inaccurately suggest to outsiders (including media) that it has something to do with “foreigners”; and

WHEREAS current usage, which is enshrined in the Charter, can only be changed by amendment to the Charter;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that sections 2.2(c), 2.4(a), 3.1, 3.2, 3.3(a), 3.3(b), 3.4(a), 3.4, 3.5, 3.7(c), 3.7(d), 3.8, 4.1(i/a), 4.3 (a), 4.3(c), 4.4, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 5.2, 5.4(a), 5.4(b), 5.4(c), 5.4(f), 5.4(g), 5.5, 5.8(b), 5.9(a)(i), 5.9(b), 6.3, 7.1(a), 7.2 of the Charter of Democrats Abroad shall be amended to refer to “Global” rather than “International” officers.