

## 2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

### PROPOSITION #11:

## **Direct Election of the Global Democrats Abroad Chair**

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WHEREAS, the global officers of Democrats Abroad (DA) are chosen every two years at a convention, typically in Washington DC. The people who have votes are officers or voting representatives of the recognized country chapters.

WHEREAS, excluded from any representation at these conventions are the many Democrats Abroad members in countries without recognized chapters. Substantial country chapters, through internal discord, their officers' neglect or arbitrary decisions from above, may be ruled "out of compliance" and denied a say in who the global DA officers are. Democrats Abroad members in countries with conditions ranging from small or scattered members of Democrats to social and political climates that make it dangerous or difficult for foreigners to congregate and form country chapters are also excluded.

WHEREAS, the officers and voting representatives of country chapters may be unrepresentative of the opinions of rank-and-file Democrats in their countries.

WHEREAS, each chapter's delegation to the DA conventions is given a voting weight according to calculations that imprecisely reflect the number of active Democrats in its country.

WHEREAS, the electoral math of becoming and remaining a global DA officer is more conducive to paying great attention to a few large country chapters' needs and wishes and little attention to the Democrats in countries with small chapters or no chapters. This usually results in less attention to building the DA membership and organization in all regions of the world where there are Democrats.

WHEREAS, every four years DA holds a global presidential primary in which all DA members in all countries are given one vote if they choose to cast it. Although these elections will lack the participation of Democrats who choose to vote in those US state primaries or caucuses in which they are eligible to cast ballots, the global primaries more accurately reflect the thinking of Democrats living outside of the USA than do the DA conventions.

WHEREAS, it would not be very difficult to add a second line to the quadrennial Democrats Abroad global primary ballot, in which the general membership directly elects the global DA chair. Nor would it be all that complex to allow those Democrats

who do not participate in our presidential primary because they decide to vote in a state primary or caucus to participate in the DA primary by voting for global chair only.

WHEREAS, such a change would expand the global chair's term from two years to four years, and give the chair a more authoritative mandate to make recommendations to the organization's members and leaders.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter be amended to directly elect the global chair to a four-year term as a second line on the global presidential primary ballot.

#### **Section 4.2 (Election)**

a) The officers other than the International Chair and the Regional Vice Chairs shall be elected at the first meeting of the DPCA held in odd-numbered years, to serve for a term of two (2) years or until their successors have been elected. Election shall be by majority of the votes cast by the DPCA, subject to the provisions of Article 3.

b) The Regional Vice Chairs shall be elected and replaced pursuant to Section 6.2.

c) No officer, including Regional Vice Chairs, may serve in the same office for more than two (2) consecutive full terms. In the event that there is no candidate for a DPCA Executive Committee office, an officer who has served two (2) consecutive terms in that office may be elected to a third term of that office by a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority vote pursuant to Section 4.1.

d) The International Chair shall be elected for a four-year term by the global membership of Democrats Abroad at the same time and manner that ballots are cast in the Democrats Abroad global Presidential Primary. The candidate with the most votes for International Chair shall be elected.

e) In the first global direct election of the International Chair an incumbent may seek that position without being bound by previously existing term limits. Subsequently no person shall serve consecutive terms as International Chair.

f) The global Executive Committee shall, in the November and December of the odd-numbered year immediately preceding a US presidential election year, receive nominations from any Democrats Abroad member who seeks to be elected as International Chair or nominates another member to do so. Any member of any country committee is qualified to run for International Chair. The Executive Committee shall determine the qualifications and if necessary the willingness and ability to serve of all nominees and place all qualified, willing and able members on the ballot by the end of said odd-numbered year, with provisions for any aggrieved person to appeal that decision and have the dispute resolved by a prompt online DPCA meeting that decides the issue before the notice of election for the Presidential Primary and the International Chair election is sent to the global membership. Notice of the Presidential

Primary and International Chair election and all procedures related to that event shall be sent out to the entire membership at the same time.

g) A Democrats Abroad member who, for whatever reason, chooses to vote in a state's presidential primary or caucus shall not, for that reason, be disqualified from voting for International Chair.