

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

PROPOSITION #17:

Change the System by which Democrats Abroad Allocates Votes to Country Committees and to Other DA Leaders

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WHEREAS, DA voted in 2018 to change the DA Charter to implement 1 person 1 vote (1p1v) in order to be more democratic and to comply with Democratic Party rules;

WHEREAS, under current DPCA vote allocation rules, as the organization grows, implementing 1 p 1 v will expand the DPCA voting body and some Country Committee voting delegations to unmanageable size;

WHEREAS, DA needs a manageable-sized diverse representative DPCA voting body, even after implementing 1 person 1 vote;

WHEREAS, under current vote allocation rules some Country Committee chairs and vice chairs are only allocated ½ vote, which is not in keeping with the spirit or intent of 1p1v;

WHEREAS, Democrats Abroad (DA) should reassess its vote allocation system to achieve a more fair, representative, inclusive and proportional system, which would be more easily understood and calculated and would meet the needs of a growing organization of unique Country Committees (CC) in diverse countries;

WHEREAS, DA's current allocation rules result in a ratio of proportionality that is not consistent with the ratios used at the DNC and in state parties;

WHEREAS, the DNC Unity Reform Commission's recommendations to change the duties of and reduce the number of DNC Members (super delegates) were approved by the DNC Member voting body in 2018 and the DNC has or will adopt changes to its charter and bylaws to implement these URC reforms and change the way it allocates votes;

WHEREAS, DA should reform its vote allocation system in line with the new DNC rules and along a ratio of proportionality that is used at the DNC and in state parties;

WHEREAS, DA currently reserves 25% of its DPCA Voting Member slots to provide 1 to each Country Committee. The other 75% of the DPCA Voting Members allocated to CCs are distributed proportionally based on verified membership numbers. This results in an allocation that overemphasizes proportionality over equality, inclusion, fairness and representation;

WHEREAS, DA's current allocation system is not optimal for DA, and is inconsistent with systems/proportions used by the DNC, other state parties, and county parties in two significant ways:

- 1) DA does not give a vote to each chair and vice chair of its constituent units (the current 45 CCs) while the DNC does give a vote to each chair and vice chair of its constituent units (the 57 state parties), and
- 2) the percentage of the total of voting representatives allocated to DA's constituent units (CCs) proportionally by DA (75%) is much higher than the percentage of the total of voting representatives allocated to constituent units (state parties) in 2016 by the DNC (29%).

Consequentially, DA's largest CC is allocated 24 votes, while the smallest are each allocated 1, a ratio of 24 to 1. Within the DNC, the largest state (CA) in 2016 was allocated 22 votes and the smallest (25) states are each allocated 4, a ratio of 5.5 to 1.

(Note: population-wise, California is 67 times larger than the smallest state of Wyoming. California's Democratic turnout in election years is also much greater than Wyoming's, yet it is only allocated 5.5 times as many DNC Members as WY.)

WHEREAS, for reference, the following describes how the DNC allocated DNC Members in 2016 to the state parties, including DA, in the current 2016-2020 cycle.

- Of the total 447 DNC Members, 328 DNC Members were allocated to the state parties. (The other 119 were elected officials, leaders of other Dem groups or nominated by the DNC Chair.)

(Citations: DNC Charter – Article 3, Section 2 (a), (b) and (c); Article 9, Sections 3 (on DC), 4 (on PR), and 6 (on DA); DNC Bylaws – Article 2, Section 2 (a), (b), (c); Article 2, Section 8 (e) (on DA.))

- Of these 328 DNC Members allocated to state parties:

228 of these votes/DNC Members were allocated equally

96 votes are allocated proportionally for a total of 328 DNC Members from the state parties

The 228 votes allocated equally --- are distributed 4 votes each to the 57 "state parties" regardless of size of the state party or its democratic performance or the population of the state.

In nearly all cases*, these votes are carried by the state party chair, vice chair and 1 female DNC Member and 1 male DNC Member. * Democrats Abroad is the exception: its 4 votes are carried by 8 people, each with ½ vote. So these 228 votes are carried at the DNC by 232 DNC Members.

232 DNC Members is 71% of the total 328 DNC Members allocated to the state parties. Again, this part of the allocation does not take into account the size or population of a state party.

- The remaining 96 of these 328 DNC Members for state parties were allocated to 52 of the state parties (the 50 states, plus DC and Puerto Rico) proportionally, based on the population of the state and the state’s turnout in the last Democratic primary or caucus. Thus 29% of the DNC Members allocated to state parties were allocated proportionally.
- Due to size and turnout, 31 state parties -- 25 states + DC + the 5 territories -- were allocated only the 4 “core” DNC Members mentioned above. (Similarly, DA was allocated only the 4 votes, although these votes are carried by 8 people, each with a ½ vote.)

The other 25 state parties were allocated additional DNC Members based on their population and Democratic performance:

7 states received 1 additional DNC Member (AL, AZ, CO, IN, OR, SC, TN)

6 states received 2 additional DNC Members (MD, MA, MN, MS)

4 states received 3 additional DNC Members (GA, NJ, NC, VA)

1 state received 4 additional DNC Members (MI)

1 state received 5 additional DNC Members (OH)

2 states received 6 additional DNC Members (IL, PA)

1 state received 8 additional DNC Members (FL)

2 states received 9 additional DNC Members (NY, TX)

1 state received 20 additional DNC Members (CA)

- The geometric mean was used to make these allocations.
- (The 119 other DNC Members were chosen by virtue of their roles as elected officials, or leaders of other Dem Party groups such as the DNC ExCom, Governor’s Association, College Dems or DNC Caucuses. Some 75 were appointed by the DNC Chair, with approval from the DNC Members. For a total of 447.

See DNC Charter Article 3 and DNC Bylaws Article 2 for a full list.)

WHEREAS, the proposed DA allocation plan described below -- in the 4th “Resolve” clause -- is fair, representative, proportional, flexible, easily understood and calculated system, flexible to adapt to DA’s growing diverse organization and is based on the equality and proportionality of DNC model and in line with other state parties.

WHEREAS, last year DA sent this proposal (in 2018, referred to as proposed bylaws amendment 5c) to the DA Governance Committee for further study;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Democrats Abroad will reassess the system it uses to allocate DPCA votes to Country Committees and other DA leaders now that DA will implement 1 person 1 vote, and the DNC Charter & Bylaws were changed in 2018 per the Unity Reform Commission recommendations.

2. The Democrats Abroad Governance Committee or other designated team will analyze and report back to the DPCA voting body on any changes the DNC made to its (DNC Member) vote allocation system based on Unity Reform Commission changes by August 2019.

3. Democrats Abroad Governance Committee or other designated team will develop an alternate vote allocation plan(s) by the end of 2019 to be considered by DPCA Voting Members by the end of 2019.

4. Democrats Abroad will consider the plan outlined below to amend the DA vote allocation system and Article 3, Section 3.6(a) of the DA Charter:

DPCA Voting Member Allocation Plan Based on the Fair, Representative, Inclusive and Proportional Models used by DNC and Other State Parties

a. DA establishes a manageable base number of DPCA Voting Members. One workable option would be 150.

b. Of those 150, equally reserve 1 vote/DPCA Voting Member slot for each duly elected Chair and Vice Chair of each Country Committee (CC) in compliance. (The current 45 CCs x 2 votes each = 90 DPCA Voting Members, or 60% of the total of 150, would be equally divided among the CCs.)

c. Allocate the remainder (150-90= 60 or 40%) proportionally to CCs as DPCA Voting Representatives, based, depending on the year, either on verified membership or on a combination of verified membership and Global Presidential Primary (GPP) turnout.

d. Do the allocation early in odd-numbered years, shortly after member verification. (This will take into account CC membership growth usually experienced in election years.) In the odd-numbered year after midterm elections, base the allocation only on the CC's verified membership. In the odd-numbered year after presidential elections, base the allocation both on the CC's verified membership and on the CC's GPP turnout. (50% verified membership and 50% GPP turnout.)

e. The calculation for distribution of these 60 DPCA Voting Representatives to CCs would be made using the geometric mean. (As is done at the DNC.)

f. Under this plan, at the current size of DA, 60% of the votes going to CCs (90 out of 150) would be allocated based on equality. 40% (60 out of 150) would be allocated based on proportionality. (These percentages would change as more CCs are formed. The base number could be raised slightly to reflect this.)

g. Consider the following also as DPCA Voting Member with 1 vote each:

i. The 8 International ExCom members. (This number might go up in the next years if the ExCom is expanded.)

ii. The other 6 DA DNC Members elected at regional and national conventions in presidential years.

These 14 DPCA Voting Members would be added to the base of 150 from the CCs for a total of 164.

h. Eventually, when each DA global Caucuses is deemed to be robust and has held global leadership elections under the supervision of a global Nominations and Elections Committee, its duly elected global Caucus chair would become a DPCA Voting Member. There are now 6 global Caucuses, so after such elections, the DPCA voting body would be $164 + 6 = 170$.

i. (The DNC Charter allows for past DNC Chairs to have a vote as DNC Members. If DA were to replicate this, the 9 living past DA International Chairs would bring the total up from 170 to 179.)

j. Using this plan would result in a manageable number (~164 to 179) of DPCA Voting Members, allocated in a fair, representative, equal, proportional, and inclusive way.