

Summary of Unity Reform Commission Changes to be voted on at August DNC Meeting

Charter & Bylaws

1) DNC Transparency

- All candidates and DNC members receive text of all documents, fundraising agreements, etc. prior to each presidential cycle, including information about vendors.
- The unit rule (recording all majority votes as unanimous) is disallowed.
- Any meeting where national DNC members will vote requires 30 days notice and list of candidates to be nominated must be provided 7 days in advance of the vote. Between the 30 day notice and the 7 day notice, DNC members can submit nominations to chair.
- Budget & Finance Committee must provide reports to DNC members, avoid conflicts of interest, and require diversity disclosure of vendors.
- Ombudsman committee created to review violations of Charter & Bylaws.

2) Gender Inclusive Wording Changes

- Individual's gender identification used for inclusion purposes.
- Male/female ratio should not vary by more than one.

Call to Convention

1) Superdelegates (Unpledged Delegates)

- Unpledged delegates to be called automatic delegates. They will remain automatic delegates to the convention, and when they vote, they still vote according to their own conscience as before.
- On first ballot, the automatic delegates cannot cast a vote for the presidential nominee IF their vote will overturn the pledged delegate vote and affect the end result. If the candidate in the lead already has enough pledged votes to win the nomination outright, the automatic delegates can vote on the first ballot. Candidate who receives over 50% of the vote in any round wins.
 - Example: 2000 pledged delegates and 500 automatic delegates
 - First scenario: Candidate A has 1001 pledged votes and Candidate B has 999
 - Automatic delegates do not vote on first ballot
 - Candidate A wins
 - Second scenario: Candidate A has 1251 pledged delegates and Candidate B has 749
 - Automatic delegates do vote on first ballot
 - Candidate A wins
 - Third scenario: Candidate A has 900 pledged delegates, B has 600, and C has 500
 - Automatic delegates do not vote on first ballot
 - Voting proceeds to second ballot since no candidate has 1001 votes
 - Automatic delegates vote on second ballot and any subsequent ballots
 - The first candidate who receives 1251 votes wins
 - See DNC document entitled RBC Proposal Explained for another example.
- On second ballot and any subsequent ballots, the automatic delegates have full voting rights.
- Automatic delegates can vote on first ballot with all other matters, including vice presidential nomination, rules, and platform changes.
- Automatic delegates are free to endorse the candidate of their choice during the primary.
- Automatic delegates do have the option to run for pledged delegate for the candidate of their choice in their state to ensure their ability to vote on the first ballot, but if they do so, they will become pledged rather than automatic delegates for that year's convention.

2) Democratic Pledge

- Each Democratic presidential candidate must sign a pledge and publicly identify as a Democrat.
- Delegates and standing committee members must pledge to support the nominee.
- Electors must sign a pledge stating they will vote for the nominee.

3) Disability Accommodations:

- Seating for delegates with disabilities must be within or close to seating for their delegation.
- Assistants must be allowed onto the floor for those with wheelchairs.

Delegate Selection Rules

1) Voting Security & Voter Protection

- State parties must submit description of actions to be taken (or already taken) to seek enactment of legislation, rules, and policies to enhance election security, including:
 - Protection of personal voter information
 - Ensuring every eligible voter stays on voter rolls
 - Keeping paper records to verify votes
 - Conducting manual audits post-election
 - Securing voting systems to prevent tampering

2) Increasing Voter Participation

- State parties must submit description of actions to be taken (or already taken) to establish year round voter protection and to assess and improve voter participation, including:
 - Expanding access via early voting, absentee voting, vote by mail, same day registration
 - Voting locations must be easily accessible and sufficient in number to avoid long lines
 - Eliminating onerous voter ID requirements
 - Counting presidential votes for voters who mistakenly voted in wrong precinct
 - Facilitating military and overseas voting
- State parties are encouraged to support efforts to expand voting, including:
 - Online voter registration
 - Pre-registration of high school students
 - Restoration of voting rights to ex-felons
 - Automatic and same day registration

3) Making it Easier for Voters to Join and Participate in the Democratic Party

- State parties should ensure an open, inclusive process and resist attempts at voter suppression or disenfranchisement.
- State parties are encouraged to revise state party rules, administrative rules, legislation, and/or litigation to remove onerous barriers and allow for:
 - Same day party registration, or
 - Party registration deadline no earlier than the normal registration deadline

4) Caucus Reform

- States are encouraged to hold primaries rather than caucuses.
- Caucuses must allow absentee ballots and early voting.
- Caucus states must demonstrate competence and finances to properly run caucus.
- Caucuses must allow same day registration and party affiliation.
- Caucuses must have a way to publicly report all votes and recount votes if needed.
- Allocation of delegates must be locked in on completion of the first determining step of caucus.
- Caucuses must make accommodations for disabled voters, military, working people, etc.

5) Providing Information about Election Deadlines

- State parties need to educate voters about registration and party affiliation deadlines.
- State parties must provide public information about how to run for delegate.

6) Outreach and Inclusion Plan

- State parties must submit an Outreach and Inclusion program for their state.
 - Affirmative Action plans would remain in place.
 - All previous categories from inclusion programs would still be included.
 - Inclusion based on economic status, religion, and national origin should be considered.
 - DNC will help ascertain presence of various groups in each state.

7) Democratic Pledge

- Delegates must be registered as a Democrat in states that permit party registration.
- Presidential candidates must support the principles, interests, and welfare of the Democratic Party as determined by their record of public service and statements.

8) Limit Fees for Filing Petitions

- State party must take provable, positive steps to ensure presidential candidates are not required to pay more than \$2500 to have their names placed on the ballot.
- If state party is unsuccessful in changing law, they must apply to DNC to be granted a waiver.

9) Proxy Voting Rules

- No person may hold more than 1 proxy vote at a state meeting for delegate selection.

10) Rules & Bylaws Committee Oversight

- Review state party delegate selection plans
- Review state party affirmative action, outreach, and inclusion plans
- Resolve complaints regarding those plans that were not resolved by state party