



1. A challenge may be brought alleging that a specific requirement of an approved Plan has not been properly implemented. Jurisdiction over all challenges initiated in a timely fashion shall reside with either the Rules and Bylaws Committee or the Credentials Committee of the National Convention (See Section VII.A. above). However, the Rules and Bylaws Committee may provide advice, assistance or interpretations of the Delegate Selection Rules at any stage of the delegate selection process. (Reg. 3.1.C.)
2. An implementation challenge brought before the Rules and Bylaws Committee is initiated by filing a written challenge with the State Party Committee and with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than fifteen (15) days after the alleged violation occurred. The State Party has twenty-one (21) days to render a decision. Within ten (10) days of the decision, any party to the challenge may appeal it to the Rules and Bylaws Committee. If in fact, the State Party renders no decision, any party to the challenge may request the Rules and Bylaws Committee to process it. The request must be made within ten (10) days after expiration of the above twenty-one (21) day period. (Regs. 3.4.C., E., & H.)
3. Performance under an approved Affirmative Action Plan and composition of the convention delegation shall be considered relevant evidence in the challenge to any state delegation. If a State Party has adopted and implemented an approved affirmative action program, the State Party shall not be subject to challenge based solely on delegation composition or primary results. (Rule 6.B.) The procedures are the same for challenges alleging failure to properly implement the Affirmative Action section of a Plan, except that such challenges must be filed not later than thirty (30) days prior to the initiation of the state's delegate selection process. (Reg. 3.4.C.)
4. Depending on the appropriate jurisdiction (see Section VIII.A. above), implementation challenges must be brought in conformity with the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee or the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee, which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

- e. Any challenge to the credentials of a standing committee member shall be considered and resolved by the affected standing committee in accordance with Appendix A of the *Call for the 2008 Democratic National Convention*. The Rules and Bylaws Committee shall have jurisdiction over challenges brought before the 56<sup>th</sup> day preceding the date of the commencement of the Democratic National Convention. (Call, VII.B.5.)
  - f. Copies of the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee and /or the Call for the 2008 Democratic National Convention, including the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee (Appendix A), shall be made available by the State Party upon reasonable request.
2. Standing: Any group of fifteen (15) Democrats with standing to challenge as defined in Reg. 3.2 or the Call (Appendix A, Sec. 2.A.), may bring a challenge to this plan or to the implementation of this Plan, including its Affirmative Action provisions.

**B. Challenges to the status of the State Party and Challenges to the Plan**

1. A challenge to the status of the State Party Committee as the body entitled to sponsor a delegation from that state shall be filed with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the initiation of the state's delegate selection process. (Rule 20.A. & Reg. 3.4.A.)
2. A challenge to the state's Delegate Selection Plan shall be filed with the Chair of the Rhode Island Democratic Party and the Co-Chairs of the Rules and Bylaws Committee within fifteen (15) calendar days after the adoption of the Plan by the State Party. (Reg. 3.4.B.)
3. A challenge to a Plan must be brought in conformity with the Rules and the Regs. which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

**C. Challenges to Implementation**

- B. The use of at-large delegation to meet the affirmative action goals does not obviate the need for outreach activities by the State Party.

## VIII. Challenges

### A. Introduction

#### 1. Jurisdiction

- a. Challenges related to the delegate selection process are governed by the Regulations of the *DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2008 Democratic National Convention* (Regs., Sec. 3.), and the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2008 Democratic National Convention. (Call, Appendix A.)
- b. Under Rule 20.B. of the 2008 Delegate Selection Rules, the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction over challenges pertaining to the submission, non-implementation and violation of the state Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans. (Rule 19.B)
- c. The Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction to hear and decide any challenge provided it is initiated before the 56<sup>th</sup> day preceding the date of the commencement of the 2008 Democratic National Convention. (Call, Appendix A. & Regs., 3.1)
- d. Challenges to the credentials of delegates and alternates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention initiated on or after the 56<sup>th</sup> day preceding the date of the commencement of the Democratic National Convention shall be processed in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2008 Democratic National Convention. (Call, Appendix A.)

- e. Reach out to build interest in the process and recruit delegate candidates by hosting training events at constituency-based community centers or at meetings of local Democratic groups. Also, provide copies of materials related to running for delegate to local businesses owned and patronized by the particular base communities for distribution.

**VII. Representation Goals**

- A. The Rhode Island Democratic Party has determined the demographic composition of African Americans, Hispanic and Latinos, Asian Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, and LGBT Democrats in Rhode Island’s electorate. These constituency percentages shall be used to establish goals for representation in Rhode Island’s Delegation to the 2008 Democratic Convention. (Rule 6.A.) *See Appendix B for Representation Goals Chart.*

The Rhode Island Democratic Party has adopted special affirmative action goals for persons with disabilities, LGBT individuals and young Democrats, as well as goals for African Americans, Asian Americans, and Hispanic and Latino Americans.

The Rhode Island Democratic Party computed the Representation Goals for the 2008 Delegate Section plan using adjusted data from the 2005 U.S. Census and 2006 CNN exit polling, as well as information from out voter file.

**Appendix B: Representation Goals and Breakdown**

Total Delegates: 32 + 4 alternates = 36

| Underrepresented Constituent Group | Percentages in Democratic for 2008 Delegates | Numeric Goals for RI’s 2008 Delegates |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| African-American (Non-Hispanic)    | 6.2%   | 2                                     |
| Asian-American                     | 2.7%   | 1                                     |
| Disabled                           | 2.0%   | 1                                     |
| Hispanic                           | 6.4%   | 2                                     |
| LGBT                               | 5.78%  | 2                                     |
| Youth 18-35                        | 7%   | 2                                     |

American, Hispanic American, Native American, Asian American Pacific Islander, LGBT individuals, American, ethnic, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities. Appoint at least one member from each constituency to the State Party's Affirmative Action Committee. These appointees can be the constituency point person described above, or other leaders from the specific communities.

- b. The State Party does not already have established constituency caucus groups, Party leaders should meet with key Democrats within each Base community to encourage them to establish a Caucus organization – for at least the presidential election cycle. The State Party would commit to educate members of each Caucus about the delegate selection and outreach process, and provide them with the information they need to successfully participate in the process. In turn each Caucus will be asked to assist the Party with community outreach and delegate training.
- c. Ensure the State Party's press lists include specialty media outlets (weekly or monthly newspapers, magazines and newsletters), and distribute information about the Delegate Selection Plan to each specialty media outlet during the 30-day public comment period before the State Central Committee approves the plan. It will also send media advisories and press releases to the specialty press to keep each Core community informed about the Democratic Party, our elected officials and candidates, as well as our Platform, programs and accomplishments.
- d. Make sure delegate training programs include segments targeted at Core and Base Vote delegate candidates. This will include Base Vote delegates from previous conventions and other leaders familiar with the process in the delegate candidate training segments.

Presidential Candidates shall be accessible to persons with disabilities. Upon consultation with the State Chair, the Delegate Selection Committee may issue such public statements as may be appropriate to promote compliance with this Plan, to assist recruitment of delegate and alternate candidates from among the target groups, to encourage Presidential Candidates in their recruitment efforts, and to report on the Progress (or lack of progress) of those efforts.

7. **Fundraising Assistance:** Each Presidential Candidate shall make every effort to assist the financial aid committee for which section D of this plan provides. Any funds raised for this purpose by a Presidential Candidate or a candidate for delegate or alternate shall first be earmarked in the fund specifically for those delegates or alternates who are pledged to support the Presidential Candidate who has raised the funds. The deadline for completion of all fundraising activities as set forth in paragraph 2(c) of section D of this Plan shall not apply to the fundraising obligations of each Presidential Candidate pursuant to this paragraph.

#### **F. Inclusion Program**

1. In order to achieve full participation of other groups that may be under-represented in Party affairs, including LGBT individuals and people with disabilities, the Rhode Island Democratic Party has adopted and will implement Inclusion Programs. (Rule 7)
2. The State Party has taken reasonable steps to determine the composition of members of the LGBT community and people with disabilities, and youth in the state's Democratic electorate.
3. In securing this level of full participation, the State Party will conduct the education and publicity outreach efforts outlined in Section B and C of this Section respectively.
4. The state Party will make accommodation to facilitate greater participation by people with disabilities.
5. To accomplish these goals, the Rhode Island Democratic Party will:
  - a. Identify and appoint a staff person to seek out leaders within each community – African

- (b) Each Presidential Candidate that proposes names or slates of candidates to the State Convention shall take into account the composition of the district delegates and alternates pledged to that Presidential Candidate who were elected in the Primary so as to assist the State Committee in achieving the representation goals set forth in the Plan. Each Presidential Candidate shall make a good faith effort to include persons with disabilities as candidates among the names or slates of candidates that the Presidential Candidate proposes to the State Convention.

**5. Reports:**

- (a) Not later than 4 PM on February 15, 2008, each Presidential Candidate shall file with the State Chair at the State Committee Office demographic and other information (including gender, race, ethnic group, and age) of each candidate for district delegate and alternate pledged to that Presidential Candidate in each Congressional District whom the Presidential Candidate has not rejected.
- (b) Not later than 4 PM on June 17, 2008, each Presidential Candidate shall file with the State Chair at the State Committee Office demographic and other information of all delegates and alternates pledged to that Presidential Candidate.

- 6. Monitoring and Reporting:** The Delegate Selection Committee shall actively monitor each Presidential candidate's compliance with this Plan and may require each such Candidate to file periodic reports with the State Chair, in addition to other filings this section requires, specifying, among other things, the delegate selection programs being conducted by such Candidate, the Candidate's success in recruiting candidates for delegate and alternate among the target groups, and the target groups as to which and/or the geographic areas where the candidate may require assistance in such recruitment efforts, the Delegate Selection Committee shall take necessary steps to offer and provide such assistance. The Delegate Selection Committee shall also ensure that all headquarters and offices of

- (a) Each Presidential Candidate shall take all steps necessary to ensure that, in each Congressional District, candidates for district delegate or alternate pledged to such Candidate are, as a whole, equally divided between men and women, and subject to that objective, fairly reflect the population of the Congressional District.
  - (b) To the greatest degree possible, each Presidential Candidate will ensure that such Presidential Candidate's district delegates and alternate candidate, if taken together as a statewide group, fairly reflect the population of the Democratic Electorate. Each Presidential Candidate shall provide such assistance as is necessary, reasonable, and practical to assure ballot access for delegate and alternate candidates with disabilities and to provide campaign assistance as so provided to all other candidates.
  - (c) In the preparation of district slates of delegates and alternates, each Presidential Candidate shall take all appropriate steps to ensure:
    - (i) That each position on slate is occupied by a candidate whose gender is opposite to that of the candidate on the next position on the slate.
- 4. Election of Pledge Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates & Pledged At-large Delegates & Alternates:**
- (a) Prior to the respective nomination processes for Pledged Party and Elected Official delegates and Pledged At-large delegates and alternates, each Presidential Candidate shall contact those groups, media and publications representing and/or reporting to women, African American, Latinos, Asian/Pacific Americans, Native Americans, persons with disabilities, seniors, youth, labor, LGBT individuals and other target groups as are contained in Appendix B of this plan to encourage the candidacies of members of groups for positions as *bona fide* supporters of that presidential candidate.

2. **Contents of Plans:** The plan of each presidential candidate shall specify the steps that such candidates will take to encourage full participations in his or her delegate selection process, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - (a) Each Presidential Candidate shall appoint a liaison for the State who will be available to consult with and coordinate the Candidate's activities with the Delegate Selection Committee pursuant to this Plan.
  - (b) Each Presidential Candidate shall send mailings to those groups, media and publications representing and/or reporting to women, African-Americans, Latinos, Asian/Pacific Americans, Native Americans, persons with disabilities, seniors youths, labor, LGBT individuals and other target groups as are contained in Appendix B of this plan to inform these groups of how to become a delegate or alternate pledged to that Presidential Candidate.
  - (c) Each Presidential Candidate shall produce and distribute a brochure explaining to the general public the delegate selection procedures that the Presidential Candidate will take in the State in screening candidates for delegate and alternate positions.
  - (d) Each Presidential Candidate shall hold educational seminars to encourage the candidacies for delegate and alternates pledged to that Presidential Candidate of persons from among the National Committee.
  - (e) All mailings and educational seminars must be timed by the Presidential Candidate so as to ensure maximum success in achieving the objectives of this Plan.
  - (f) Each Presidential Candidate shall recruit, through his her best possible efforts, women, African-Americans, Latinos, Asian/Pacific Americans, Native Americans, LGBT individuals and Democrats who are members of other legal target groups for positions as delegates and alternates.
  
3. **Election of District-Level Delegates and Alternates:**

shall seek to raise funds and to locate low-cost housing accessible to the National Convention site.

- (b) The financial aid committee, together with a subcommittee of the Delegate Selection Committee (the members of which the State Chair will designate) and the State Chair (Collectively referred to as the “Financial Review Committee”) will review the applications for funds submitted by those delegates who, in sworn “Affidavits of Need” state that they are unable to participate in the National Convention solely because of financial hardship. The Financial Review Committee will award financial assistance from the specifically designated fund based on (i) the number of applicants, (ii) the needs of each applicant and (iii) the amount raised for the specifically designated fund.
- (c) All fundraising activities for the purpose set forth in this paragraph shall be concluded by June 2, 2008. All applications for financial assistance shall be filed no later than forty-five (45) days prior to, and all awards shall be made by the Financial Review Committee no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the National Convention. All decisions of the Financial Review Committee shall be final, but nothing in this section shall preclude an applicant from seeking assistance from the Democratic National Committee, the Presidential Candidate to whom the delegate or alternate is pledged, or other lawful sources.

**E. Obligations of Presidential Candidate to Maximize Participation**

- 1. **Submission of Plans:** Each Presidential Candidate shall submit to the State Chair, and implement within this State, a plan for promoting participation in the delegate selection process by underrepresented groups. With respect to individuals who have announced their candidacies for President on or before October 1, 2007, such plans shall be submitted to the State Chair no later than 4 PM on September 16, 2007; with respect to individuals who become Presidential Candidate after October 1, 2007, such plans shall be submitted no later than 4PM on the tenth business day following their announcements.

consistent with Democratic voting population as a whole, young Democrats, senior Democrats, labor, persons with disabilities, persons of low and moderate income or with a high school education or less, lesbians, gays, transgender and rural Democrats, if necessary by selecting members of those group as At-large delegates.

- (b) The State Party has ensured that district lines used in the delegate selection process are not gerrymandered to discriminate against African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian /Pacific Americans, LGBT individuals and women.

**2. Allocation among Presidential Candidates:**

The targets set forth in this section shall apply to the delegates as a whole and, separately, to the alternates as a whole. To assist the State Committee in obtaining these goals, presidential candidates shall use their best efforts to ensure that the delegates pledged to them, as a group, and the alternates pledged to them, as a group, achieve such targets. (Rule 6.1)

**D. Efforts to Defray Certain Expenses**

**1. Responsibility for Expenses:**

Delegates and alternates to the National Convention are responsible for their own financial expenses in attending the Convention.

**2. Fundraising Assistance:**

- (a) To raise funds and/or make other financial arrangements for the specifically designated purpose of defray the expense of those delegates who are otherwise unable to attend and participate in the National Convention, the State Chair will appoint a special financial aid committee. The chair of such committee shall be an individual acknowledged to be a Democratic Party fundraiser or a fundraiser for philanthropic enterprises. The financial aid committee

- (c) Periodic press releases to all media outlets shall be issued throughout the delegate selection process.
- (d) On or before September 16, 2007, a press kit will be compiled and provided to each media outlet listed on Appendix C setting forth (i) a summary of all pertinent rules, (ii) a map of Congressional Districts, (iii) an explanation of the operation and importance of the Democratic National Convention, and (iv) materials designed to encourage participation by prospective candidates for delegate and alternate.

**3. Brochure:**

- (a) On or before September 16, 2007 a special brochure will be produced that will explain to the general public the delegate selection and affirmative action procedures for the Democratic National Convention. The brochure will cite and describe this Plan, relevant State Statutes, and the State Party Rules, and will contain a clear and concise statement of how Democratic voters will be eligible to vote and become a delegate, the time and location of each stage of the delegate selection process, and where to get additional information. The brochure will be produced in sufficient number and will continue to be distributed and /or be available throughout all stages of the delegate selection process.
- (b) The information set forth in the brochure will also be made available in other languages where the Delegate Selection Committee deems the same to be necessary or appropriate.

**C. Representation Goals**

**1. Goals:**

- (a) The State Convention shall ensure that representation in the Delegation fairly reflects,

- (c) The State Party has developed outreach programs that include recruitment, education, and training. (Rule 5.C.)
- (d) The State Party has adopted and will implement affirmative action programs with specific goals and timetables for African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans, and women. (Rule 6.A.)
- (e) The State Party Chair will appoint and provide assistance, meeting space, and guidance of a representative Affirmative Action Committee no later than March 1, 2007. (Rule 6.F.)

**B. Efforts to Publicize the Delegate Selection Process**

**1. Press Conferences:**

- (a) On or before September 16, 2007, the State Chair will hold an initial press conference to articulate the goal of the election of a broadly based and representative Delegation. Efforts will be made to have prominent Democratic elected officials attend this press conference as a further demonstration of the importance the should be attached to this goal.

**2. Mailings:**

- (a) On or within thirty (30) days after September 16, 2007, the State Chair will send a letter to editorial pages and publishers stressing the importance of broad-based participation in the selection process for delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention.
- (b) Priority mailings will be sent to the print media. The target dates for the respective commencement and completion of these priority mailings are October 1, 2007 and November 16, 2007.

and each voting machine is equipped with a hard copy “paper trail” record.

## VI. Affirmative Action Plan

### A. Statement of Purpose and Organization

1. **Objectives:** This plan is designed to encourage participation and representation of all Democrats in the selection of delegates and alternates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention, including African-Americans, Latinos, Asian/Pacific Americans, women, Native Americans, persons under 30 years of age, persons over 65 years of age, persons of low and moderate income, workers, persons with a high school education or less, persons with disabilities, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals (LGBT), rural Democrats, and ethnic and others groups historically underrepresented in Party affairs. This goal shall not be accomplished either directly or indirectly by the imposition of mandatory quotas at any level of the delegate selection process. The Party reaffirms it will be open at all levels (Rule 5.A.)
2. **Structure of Organization:**
  - (a) The Delegate Selection Committee shall be responsible for implementing this plan. The Rhode Island Democratic State Committee shall provide financial and staff support for the Delegate Selection Committee to the greatest extent feasible, including but not limited to, the Committee’s use of the State Committee’s staff and facilities upon consultation with the State Chair.
  - (b) The Delegate Selection Committee shall design a uniform procedure for reporting by the liaisons to ensure that the implementation of this Plan can be verified.

Democratic Party of the United States, and who will participate in the Convention in good faith. (Call II.C)

7. Rhode Island is participating in the state government-run presidential preference primary that will utilize government-run voting systems. The State Party has taken (or will take) provable positive steps to:
  - a. Promote the continued acquisition of accessible precinct based optical scan systems, wherever possible. (Rule 2.H.(1))
  - b. Seek enactment of legislation, rules, and policies at the state and local level to continue to ensure that direct recording electronic systems include a voter verified paper trail (Rule 2.H.(2))
  - c. Seek enactment of legislation, rules and policies at the state and local level to ensure that both optical scan and direct recording electronic systems include recognized security measures. These measures include automatic routine annual audits comparing paper records to electronic records following every election and prior to certification or results where possible; parallel testing on election day; physical and electronic security for equipment; banning use of wireless components and connections; public disclosure of software design; use of transparent and random selection for all auditing procedures; and effective procedures for addressing evidence of fraud or error. (Rule 2.H.(3))
  - d. These provable positive steps have included: public endorsement by the state party of such legislation; efforts to educate the public on the need for such legislation; active support for the legislation by the state party lobbying state legislators, other public officials, Party officials and Party members; and encouraging consideration of the legislation by the appropriate legislative committees and bodies. RI currently employs optical scan voting equipment in all precincts throughout the state

be used at any stage of the delegate selection process.  
(Rule 17.A.)

- L. Any individual or group of Democrats may sponsor or endorse a slate of candidates for convention delegates. But no slate may, by virtue of such endorsement, receive a preferential place on a delegate selection ballot or be publicly identified on the ballot as the official Democratic Party organization slate, and all slates must meet identical qualifying requirements for appearing on a ballot at all levels of the delegate selection process. (Rule 17.B.)
- M. All steps in the delegate selection process, including the filing of presidential candidates, must take place within the calendar year of the Democratic National Convention, except with respect to the implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan. And the presidential candidate filing steps allowed by the Rule 11.B. waiver. (Rules 1.F. & 11.B.)
- N. In electing and certifying delegates and alternates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention, Rhode Island thereby undertakes to assure all Democratic voters in the state full, timely and equal opportunity to participate in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs and to implement affirmative action programs toward that end and that the delegates and alternates to the Convention shall be selected in accordance with the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2008 Democratic National Convention adopted by the Democratic National Committee on August 19, 2006. Furthermore, the voters in the state will have the opportunity to cast their election ballots for the presidential and vice presidential nominees selected by said Convention, and for electors pledged formally and in good conscience to the election of these Presidential and vice presidential nominees, under the label and designation of the Democratic Party of the United States, and the delegates certified will not publicly support to campaign for any candidate for President or Vice President other than the nominees for the Democratic National Convention. (Call, II.B.)
- O. All delegates, alternates and standing committee members must be bona fide Democrats who are faithful to the interests, welfare and success of the Democratic Party of the United States at heart, who subscribe to the substance, intent and principles of the Charter and By-laws of the

representatives of the Rhode Island State Democratic Party. Such publication should be done in timely fashions so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within each Rhode Island Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office. (Rule 4.B. (6))

- E. Discrimination on the basis of “status” in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited. (Rule 5.B.)
- F. Rhode Island’s delegation shall be equally divided between delegate men and delegate women, and alternate men and alternate women. Such goal applies to the entire delegation, which includes all pledged delegates and alternates and all unpledged delegates. Delegates and alternates shall be considered separate groups for purposes of achieving equal division. (Rule 6.C.)
- G. No delegate at any level of the delegate selection process shall be mandated by law or Party rules to vote contrary to the person’s presidential choice as expressed at the time the delegate is elected. (Rule 12.I)
- H. Delegates elected to the national convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them. (Rule 12.J.)
- I. No less than 40% (forty percent) of the members of any Party body above the first level of the delegate selection process shall constitute a quorum for any business pertaining to the selection of convention delegates (Rule 15)
- J. An accredited participant in a caucus, convention or committee meeting, after having appeared at such meeting and having established credentials, may register a non-transferable proxy with another duly accredited participant at that meeting (except where an accredited alternate is present and eligible to serve as a replacement), provided that no individual may hold more than three (3) proxies at one time. (Rule 16 & Reg. 4. 21.)
- K. The unit rule, or any rule or practice whereby all members of a Party unit or delegation may be required to cast their votes in accordance with the will of a majority of the body, shall not

1. All public meeting at all levels of the Democratic Party in Rhode Island should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status, or physical disability hereinafter collectively referred to as “status”. (Rule 4.B. (1))
2. No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to the Democratic Party should be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination based on “status.” (Rule 4.B.(2))
3. The time and place for all public meetings of the Democratic Party in Rhode Island on all levels should be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons. (Rule 4.B. (3))
4. The Democratic Party in Rhode Island, on all levels, should support the broadest possible registration without discrimination based on “status.” (Rule 4.B.(4))
5. The Democratic Party in Rhode Island should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party officers and representatives on all levels. Publications of these procedures should be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of each Rhode Island Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Democratic Party organization. (Rule 4.B.(5))
6. The Democratic Party in Rhode Island should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties, a complete description of the legal and practical qualification of all positions as officers and representatives as officers and

2. The Convention Pages shall be as evenly divided between men and women as possible under that state allocation and shall reflect as much as possible, the Affirmative Action guidelines in the Affirmative Action Plan. (Reg. 5.5.A)
3. The Rhode Island Democratic State Chair shall certify the individuals to serve as Rhode Island's Convention Pages in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the selection. This certification shall be made not later than the time Rhode Island certifies its standing committee members (Call, IV.D. IV.E.3. & Reg. 5.5.B.)

#### **V. General Provisions and Procedural Guarantees**

Participation in Rhode Island's delegate selection process is open to all voters who wish to participate as Democrats. Democrat are identified as those registered on the RI Voter Registration roles as Democrats. Unaffiliated voters who wish to vote in the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary may do so in accordance with RI Election Law (Rule 2.A. & 2.C.)

- A. At no stage of Rhode Island's delegate selection process shall any person be directly or indirectly, to pay a cost or fee as a condition for participating. Voluntary contributions to the Party may be made, but under no circumstances shall a contribution be mandatory for participation. (Rule 2.D.)
- B. No persons shall participate or vote in the nominating process for the Democratic presidential candidate who also participates in the nominating process of any other party for the corresponding elections. (Rule 2.E.)
- C. No person shall vote in more than one meeting which is the first meeting in the delegate selection process. (Rule 3.E. & Reg. 4.6)
- D. The Rhode Island Democratic Party reaffirms its commitment to an open party by incorporating the provisions listed below. These provisions demonstrate the intention of the Democratic Party to ensure a full opportunity for all minority groups to participate in the delegate selection process.

the election procedures specified in this section and must be certified in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the substitute member is selected. (Call, VIII.B.4)

#### **IV. Selection of the Delegation Chair and Convention Pages**

##### **A. Introductions**

1. Rhode Island will select one (1) person to serve as Delegation Chair and two (2) to serve as Convention Pages. (Call, IV.DI., E.1. & Appendix C.)

##### **B. Delegation Chair**

###### **1. Selection Meeting**

- a. The Delegation Chair shall be selected by a quorum of the state's National Convention Delegates, at a meeting to be held on June 19, 2008. (Call, IV.D.)
- b. A quorum shall consist of no less than 40% of Rhode Island's delegates to the Democratic National Convention. (Rule 15)
- c. All members of the delegation shall receive timely notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the Delegation Chair. (Rule 3.C.)

2. The Rhode Island Democratic State Chair shall certify the Delegation Chair in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after his or her selection. (Call, IV.D.)

##### **C. Convention Pages**

1. Two (2) individuals will be selected to serve as Rhode Island's Convention Pages by the Rhode Island State Democratic Chair in consultation with the members of the Democratic National Committee from the state. This selection will take place June 19, 2008. (Call, IV.E. 3 & Reg. 5.5.)

- a. Presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) shall use their best efforts to ensure that their respective delegation of standing committee members shall achieve Rhode Island's affirmative action goals and that the respective members are equally divided between men and women. (Rule 6.C.1 & Reg. 4.8, Call VII.D.2)
  - b.
    - (1) A separate election shall be conducted for membership on each standing committee.
    - (2) The membership of the standing committee shall be as equally divided as possible under Rhode Island's allocation; if the number is even the membership shall be equally divided between men and woman: If the number is odd, that variance between men and women may not exceed one (1), and the advantage gender musty not remain constant for the three standing committees.
    - (3) The positions allocated to each presidential candidate on each committee shall be voted on separately, and the winners shall be the highest vote-getter(s) of the appropriate sec.
5. Certification and Substitution
- a. The Rhode Island Democratic State Chair shall certify the standing committee members in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after their selection. (Call, VIII.B.3.)
  - b. No substitution will be permitted in the case of standing committee members, except in the case of resignation or death. Substitutions must be made in accordance with the rules and

candidate whose original figure of representation is farthest from its eventual rounded-off total shall be denied that one (1) additional position. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation falling short of the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is closest to the next rounding level shall be allotted an additional committee positions. (Call, VII.C.3)

- d. Standing committee positions allocated to the presidential candidate shall be proportionately allocated, to the extent practicable, to each of the three (3) standing committees. When such allocation results in an unequal distribution of standing committee positions by candidate preference, a drawing shall be conducted to distribute the additional positions. (Call, VII.C.4.)

### 3. Presidential Candidate Right for Approval

- a. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), shall be given adequate notice of the date, time and location of the meeting of the Rhode Island Delegation authorized to elect standing committee members. (Call, VII.D.1)
- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must submit to the Rhode Island Democratic State Chair, by May 26, 2008, a minimum of one (1) name for each slot awarded to that candidate for members of each committee. The delegation shall select the standing committee members submitted by the presidential candidates (including uncommitted status). Presidential candidates shall not be required to submit the name of more than one (1) person for each slot award to such candidate for members of standing committees. (Call, VII.D.2.)

### 4. Selection Procedure to Achieve Equal Division

1. Selection Meeting
  - a. The members of the standing committees shall be elected by a quorum of the Rhode Island National Convention delegates, at a meeting to be held on June 19, 2008. (Call, VII.B.1)
  - b. A quorum shall consist of no less than 40% of the state's delegates to the National Convention. (Rule 15)
  - c. All members of the delegation shall receive timely notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the standing committee members. (Call, VII.B.1)
  
2. Allocation of Members
  - a. The members of the standing committees allocated to Rhode Island shall proportionately represent the presidential preference of all candidates (including uncommitted status) receiving the threshold percentage used in Rhode Island's delegation to calculate the at-large apportionment pursuant to Rule 13.E. of the Delegate Selection Rules. (Call, VII.C.1. & Reg 5.7.)
  - b. The presidential preference of each candidate receiving the applicable percentage or more within the delegation shall be multiplied by the total number of standing committee positions allocated to Rhode Island. If the result of such multiplication does not equal 0.455 or above, the presidential preference in question is not entitled to representation on the standing committee. If the result of such multiplication is 0.455 but less than 1.455, the presidential is entitled to one (1) position. Those preference securing more than 1.455 but less than 2.455 are entitled to two (2) positions, etc. (Call, VII.C.2.)
  - c. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation exceeding the total number of committee positions, the presidential

- b. Members of the Democratic National Committee and Unpledged Add-on delegates shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except in the case of death of such delegates. In the case where the state's DNC member changes following the DNC Secretary's official confirmation, but prior to the commencement of the 2008 Democratic National Convention, acknowledgement by the Secretary of the new DNC member certification shall constitute verification of the corresponding change of unpledged delegates. (Call, IV.C.2B.)
- c. [If applicable] Unpledged Distinguished Party Leader delegates allocated to the state pursuant to Rule 9.A.(5), shall not be entitled to name a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to name a replacement. (Call, IV.C.2C.)
- d. In no case may an alternate cast a vote for an unpledged delegate. (Call, VIII.F.D.)

### **III. Selection of Standing Committee Members**

- A. Introduction
  - 1. Rhode Island has been allocated 1 member(s) on each of the three standing committees for the 2008 Democratic National Convention (credentials, platforms and rules), for a total of 3 members. (Call, VII.A. & APPENDIX D.)
  - 2. Members of the Convention Standing Committees need not be delegates or alternates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention. (Call, VII.A.3)
  - 3. These members will be selected in accordance with the procedures indicated below. (Rule 1.G.)
- B. Selection of Members



State Committee shall, at the time of a subsequent permanent replacement, replace a delegate with a person of the opposite sex, in order to return the delegation to equal division of men and women.

- b. Temporary Replacement of a Delegate: (Rule 18.D. (3))
  - (1) A temporary replacement occurs when a delegate is to be absent for a limited period of time during the convention and an alternate temporarily acts in the delegate's place.
  - (2) Any alternate who temporarily replaces a delegate must be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted statues) as the delegate he/she replaces, and to the extent possible shall be of the same sex and from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.
- c. The following system will be used to select permanent and temporary replacements of delegates: (Rule 18.D. (1))
  - (1) The delegation chooses the alternate. The alternate that receives the most votes from the delegation becomes the delegate.
- d. Certification of Replacements
  - (1) Any alternate who permanently replaces a delegate shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the DNC by the Rhode Island Democratic State Chair. (Rule 18 D (2))
  - (2) Permanent replacement of a delegate (as specified above) by an alternate and replacement of a vacant alternate position shall be certified in writing by the Rhode Island Democratic Chair to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the replacement is selected. (Call, IV.C.1.)

be allotted one At-large alternate position. (Rule 18.B., Call I.J & Reg. 4.29)

5. The Rhode Island Democratic State Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's At-large delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within three (3) days after their election (Rule 8.C. & Call IV.A.)

#### **G. Replacement of Delegates and Alternates**

1. A pledged delegate or alternate may be replaced according to the following guidelines:
  - a. Permanent Replacement of a Delegate: (Rule 18.D)
    - (1) A permanent replacement occurs when a delegate resigns or dies prior to and during the National Convention and the alternate replaces the delegate for the remainder of the National Convention. (Rule 18.D.(2))
    - (2) Any alternate permanently replacing a delegate shall be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) and sex of the delegate he/she replaces, and to the extent possible shall be from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate. (Rule 18 D. (2))
      - (a) In the case when the presidential candidate has only one alternate, that alternate shall be come a certified delegate. (Rule 18.D (2))
      - (b) If a presidential candidate has only one alternate, and that alternate permanently replaces a delegate of the opposite sex, thereby causing the delegation to no longer be equally divided, the delegation shall not be considered in violation of Rule 6.C. In such a case, notwithstanding Rule 18.D.(2), the Rhode Island Democratic

- d. The selection of the At-large delegates and alternates will occur on June 19, 2008 after all Unpledged Delegates and Pledged Party Leader and Elected Officials Delegates have been selected. (Rule 8.E. & Call, III.) Delegates will be elected by voice vote.
- e. These delegates and alternates will be selected by:  
(Rules 10.B. and 9.D.)
  - (1) The Rhode Island Democratic State Committee
- f. In the selection of the At-large delegation, priority of consideration shall be given to African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, women, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals (LGBT) in order to continue the Democratic Party's ongoing efforts to include groups historically underrepresented in the Democratic Party's affairs, priority of consideration shall be given other groups by virtue of race-ethnicity, age, sexual orientation or disability. The election of At-large delegates and alternates shall be used, if necessary to achieve the equal division of positions between men and women, and may be used to achieve the representation goals established in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan. Delegates and alternates are to be considered separate groups for this purpose (Rules 6 A. (3), 10.A. & Reg. 4. 19). Use of the At-large delegation to achieve the affirmative action goals established by this Plan does not obviate the need for the State Democratic Party to conduct outreach activities such as recruitment, education and training.
- g. If a presidential candidate is no longer a candidate at the time of selection of the At-large delegates, then those At-large delegate slots that would have been allocated to the candidate will be proportionally divided among the remaining preferences entitled to an allocation. (Rule 10.C.)
- h. If a given presidential preference is entitled to one or more delegate positions but would not otherwise be entitled to an alternate position, that preference shall

candidates for At-large alternate positions unless they specify otherwise when filing.

3. Presidential Candidate Right of Approval
  - a. The Rhode Island Democratic State Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than May 26, 2008 a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. (Rule 12.D)
  - b. Each Presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the file Rhode Island Democratic State Chair, within 15 minutes following the selection of PLEOs on June 19, 2008, a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, provided that, at a minimum, one (1) name remains for every national convention delegate or alternate position to which the presidential candidate is entitled. (Rule 12E.(2) & Reg. 4.23)
  - c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate or the authorized representative(s) signifies otherwise in writing to the Rhode Island Democratic State Chair not later than June 2, 2008.
4. Selection of At-large Delegates and Alternates
  - a. At-large delegate and alternate position shall be allocated among the presidential preferences according to: (Rule 10.C.)
    - (1) The Statewide Primary Vote
  - b. Preference which have not attained a 15% threshold on a statewide basis shall not be entitles to any At-Large delegates (Rules 13.E. & 13.F)
  - c. If no presidential candidate reached a 15% threshold, the threshold shall be the percentage of the statewide vote received by the front-runner, minus 10%. (Rule 13.F.)

- (e) Membership of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee complies with the equal division requirements of Article 9, Section 16 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States. (Rule 9.D. (5))
    - d. Alternates are not selected at the Pledge Party Leader and Elected Official level. These alternates are combined with the At-large alternates and selected as one unit. Voting will be by voice vote.
  - 5. The Rhode Island Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates to the Democratic National Convention within three (3) days after their election. (Rule 8.C & Call, IV.A)
  - 6. The Rhode Island State Chair will certify to the RBC whether a presidential candidate has used their best efforts to submit a list of pledged PLEO delegate candidates that meets the affirmative action considerations within (3) business days of receiving the list of approved delegate candidates. (Rule 6.1)

**F. At-large Delegates and Alternates**

- 1. The State of Rhode Island is allotted 5 At-large delegates and 2 At-large alternates. (Rule 8.C, Call I.B & I.I)
- 2. At-large Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements
  - a. Persons desiring to seek At-large delegate or alternate positions may file a statement of candidacy designating their presidential or uncommitted preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) with the Rhode Island Party by May 26, 2008 at 4 PM. (Rules 12.B. & 14.G., Regs. 4.21 & 4.27)
  - b. The statement of candidacy for At-large delegates and for At-large alternates will be the same. (Rule 18.A.) After the At-large delegates are elected by the Rhode Island Democratic Committee, those persons not chosen will then be considered

- b. Selection of the Pledged PLEO delegates will occur at a time and location to be publicly announced on June 19, 2008, which is after the election of district-level delegates and the add-on delegates and prior to the selection of At-large delegates and alternates. (Rule 9.C.) The alternative filing deadline for PLEO delegate candidates, if a special post-primary caucus is necessary is June 19, 2008 within 30 minutes after the selection of district-level delegates. If persons eligible to Pledged Party and Elected Official delegate positions have not made their presidential preference as candidates for congressional district-level or At-large delegate position, their preference shall be ascertained by filing the certificates of candidacy and pledges of support to be filed with the State Party at the State Committee meeting.
- c. These delegates will be selected by: (Rule 8.D.)
  - (1) The Rhode Island Democratic State Committee
    - (a) Membership on the Rhode Island State Democratic Committee is apportioned on the basis of population. Two (2) members are elected per state representative district of which there are seventy-five (75) equally apportioned. (Rule 9.D.(1))
    - (b) Members of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee have been elected through open processes in conformity with the basic procedural guarantees utilized for delegate selection. (Rule 9.D. (2))
    - (c) Such delegates are elected at a public meeting subsequent to the election of district-level delegates. (Rule 9.D. (3))
    - (d) Members of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee shall have been elected on September 12, 2006. (Rule 9.D. (4))



- (2) The list from which the selection body chooses the unpledged add-on delegates shall contain at least one (1) name for every Unpledged Add-on positions to be filled. (Rule 9 B. (3))
  - (3) Unpledged Add-on delegate candidates may be selected whether or not they previously filed a statement of candidacy for a delegate position or submitted a pledge support for a presidential candidate. (Rule 9.B. (5) & Reg. 4.14)
  - (4) Any individual can qualify as a candidate for the position of Unpledged Add-on delegate by submitting a statement of candidacy and pledge of support to the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee by May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 4 pm to declare one's candidacy for Unpledged Add-on delegate to the 2008 Democratic National Convention. Forms available at the RIDP Headquarters, RI Secretary of State's Office and online at [www.ridemocrats.org](http://www.ridemocrats.org) (Reg. 4.14.B)
- d. Unpledged Add-on delegates, elected pursuant to Rule 9.B., shall be certified in writing by the Rhode Island Democratic State Chair to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the selection. (Call, IV.B.2.)

**E. Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) Delegates**

1. Rhode Island is allowed three (3) Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates. (Call, I.C. & D.)
2. Pledged PLEO Delegate Filing Requirements
  - a. Individuals shall be eligible for the Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegate positions according to the following priority: big city mayors and statewide elected officials (to be given equal consideration); Rhode Island legislative leaders, state legislators, and other state, county and local elected officials and party leaders. (Rule 9.C. (1) & Reg. 4.15)

- (2) These delegates will be selected by voice vote of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee, which is the same selecting body used to select the pledge Party Leader and Elected Official and/or At-large delegates and alternates pursuant to Section II.E.4C. (Rule 9.B.(1))
  - (a) Membership on the Rhode Island State Democratic Committee is apportioned on the basis of population. Two (2) members are elected per state representative district of which there are seventy-five (75) equally apportioned. (Rule 9.D.(1))
  - (b) Members of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee have been elected through open processes in conformity with the basic procedural guarantees utilized for delegate selection. (Rule 9.D. (2))
  - (c) Such delegates are elected at a public meeting subsequent to the election of district-level delegates. (Rule 9.D. (3))
  - (d) Members of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee shall have been elected on September 12, 2006. (Rule 9.D. (4))
  - (e) Membership of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee complies with the equal division requirements of Article 9, Section 16 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States. (Rule 9.D. (5))
- c.
  - (1) The equal division and affirmative action provisions of Rule 10.A. apply to the selection of these Unpledged Add-on delegates. (Rule 9.B. (2))

- (3) The Democratic Governor (if applicable): (Rule 9.A. (4) Call I.H & K.)
  - (4) “Distinguished Party Leader” delegates who legally reside in the state (if applicable); [Persons who qualify as Distinguished Party Leader” delegates are: all former Democratic Presidents or Vice Presidents, all former Democratic Leaders of the U.S. Senate, all former Democratic Speakers and Democratic Minority Leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives, and all former chairpersons of the Democratic National Committee.] (Rule 9.A (5) & Call I.G.)
- b. The certification process for the unpledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates is as follows:
- (1) Not later than March 1, 2008, the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee shall officially confirm to the Rhode Island State Democratic Chair the names of the unpledged delegates who legally reside in Rhode Island. (Rule 9.A.)
  - (2) Official confirmation by the Secretary shall constitute verification of the unpledged delegates from the categories indicated above. (Call, IV. B.1.)

## 2. **Unpledged Add-On Delegates**

- a. Rhode Island will select 1 unpledged add-on delegates. (Rule 9.B Call, I.I & Reg. 5.1.)
- b. The procedures to be used in selecting the one (1) unpledged add-on delegates will be as follows:
  - (1) Selection of the Unpledged Add-on delegate will occur on June 19, 2008 at a time and location to be announced publicly, which is after the election of district delegates and alternates and prior to the selection of the pledged Party Leader and Elected Officials delegates. (Rule 9.B.)

7. Equal Division of District-Level Delegates and Alternates
  - a. In order to ensure the district-level delegates are equally divided between men and women, delegate positions within each district will be designated by presidential preference beginning with the highest vote getting presidential preference. This assignment of delegate positions, alternating by sex as mathematically practicable, will continue with the next highest vote getting preferences in descending order until the gender of each position has been assigned. The delegate allocation within each district will begin with the delegate of the advantage gender who received the highest number of votes being assigned to the presidential candidate who received the highest number of votes. (Rule 6.C. (1) & Reg. 4.8 A B)
  - b. After the delegates are selected, the alternates will be awarded, using the same process describe above.
  
8. The Rhode Island Democratic State Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) the election of the Rhode Island district-level delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention by March 7, 2008 in accordance with Rhode Island General Laws 17-15-36. (Rule 8.C. & Call, IV.A.)

#### **D. Unpledged Delegates**

1. **Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials.**
  - a. The following categories (if applicable) shall constitute the unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials delegate positions:
    - (1) Members of the Democratic National Committee who legally reside in the state; (Rule 9.A. (1), Call, I.F., I.K., & Reg. 4.13)
    - (2) All of RI's Democratic Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; (Rule 9.A (3), Call I.H. & K.)

1. All persons wishing to be a delegate candidate or alternate must file a statement of candidacy form designating the presidential or uncommitted preference and a signed pledge of support form for the presidential candidate the person favors, if any with the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee on or before 4:00 PM on May 26, 2008
2. The state chairman shall convey to the presidential candidate or that candidate's authorized representative no later than 4:00 PM on May 27, 2008, a list of all persons who have filed a delegate pledge of support form to the presidential candidate.
3. Each presidential candidate authorized representative or steering committee shall cause to be transmitted to the Rhode Island Democratic State Chair on or before 4:00 PM on May 27, 2008, documentation that said delegate candidate has the approval of such candidate for presidential nominee.
4. National Convention delegate and alternate candidates removed from the list of bona fide supporters by a presidential candidate or that candidate's authorized representative(s) may not be elected as a delegate or alternative to that presidential candidate at that level. (Rule 12. E)
5. The selection of these delegates and alternates shall take place prior to the selection of pledged and unpledged party leader and elected official delegates and At-large delegates on June 19, 2008. Members of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee shall elect delegates and alternates. (Rule 12.C)

on January 7, 2008 – January 9, 2008. If such delegate candidates do not receive approval from the authorized representative of the presidential preference to which they have pledged, the delegate candidate is eligible to be elected at the level as a delegate pledge to uncommitted preference. (Rule 12E.)

- e. The State Chair will certify to the RBC whether a presidential candidate has used their best efforts to submit a list of district level delegate candidates that meets the affirmative action considerations on or before February 5, 2008 (Rule 6.C)

6. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference

- a.
  - (1) Presidential Primary – Proportional Representation Plan (Rules 13.A & 13.D)

The Rhode Island Presidential Primary election is a “binding” primary. Accordingly, delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated so as to fairly reflect the expressed presidential (or uncommitted) preference of the primary voters in each district. The National Convention delegates and alternates at the district level shall be allocated in proportion to the percentage of the primary vote won in that district by each preference, except that preferences falling below a 15% threshold shall not be awarded any delegates or alternates. (Rule 13.B)

- b. Within a district, if no presidential preference reaches a 15% threshold, the threshold shall be a percentage of the vote received in that district by the front runner minus 10%. (Rules 13F.)
- c. If a presidential candidate is to be allocated delegate(s) but cannot reach this goal because of the lack of delegate candidates, the Democratic State Committee shall elect such delegates using the following procedures:

not chosen at the delegate level to be considered at the alternate level. (Rule 12.C.)

5. Presidential Candidate Right of Approval for District-level Delegates and Alternates

- a. The Rhode Island State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than January 11, 2008 at 4PM, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. (Rules 12.D & 12. F.)
- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the Rhode Island State Democratic Chair and the Secretary of State by January 31, 2008 a list of all such candidates he or she has approved. (Rule 12.D(2), Reg. 4.22)

The presidential candidate or that candidate's authorized representative(s), may approve a number of delegate candidates or alternate candidates equal to or greater than the number of delegates or alternates allocated to the district. (Rules 12.D. (2) & 12.E. (1))

- c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate and alternate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate, or authorized representative(s), signifies otherwise in writing to the Rhode Island State Democratic Chair no later than January 31, 2008.
- d. National convention delegate and alternate candidates removed from the list of bone fide supporters by a presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), may not be elected at that level as a delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate (including uncommitted status). (Rule 12.E) Furthermore, pursuant to the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2008 Democratic National Convention, delegate candidates may be elected as a delegate only for the presidential preference or uncommitted status to which he/she pledged when filing his/her statement of candidacy

Democratic voters from their Congressional District from which said voter seeks to be a delegate.

- (5) Each nomination paper shall be submitted on or before 4PM on January 18, 2008 to the local board of canvassers of the city or town where the signers appear to be voters. The nomination papers shall be checked, processed and certified to the Rhode Island Secretary of State by January 24, 2008 for placement on the ballot.
  - (6) Any persons wishing to be elected to a Democratic National Convention Delegate or Alternate position must file a statement of candidacy designating the presidential candidate the person favors with the Rhode Island Secretary of State by 4PM on January 9, 2008 at the Elections Division 148 West River Street, Providence, RI 02904. (Rule 12. B. & Reg. 4.21)
- d. The number of signatures required in the aforementioned districts do not exceed one half of one percent (.5%) of the total registered / enrolled Democrats in the district or one half of one percent (.5%) of the total votes in such district for all Democratic presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) cast during the 2004 presidential nominating process.
  - e. Candidates for delegate or alternate positions are required to file a statement of candidacy designating their presidential or uncommitted preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) with the Rhode Island Democratic Party and the Rhode Island Secretary of State by January 9, 2008. (Rules 12.B. & 14.F.)
  - f. All candidates considered for the district-level alternate positions must meet the same requirements as candidates for district-level delegate positions, except that the state may allow candidates who were

requirements as outlined in the Rhode Island General Laws, Title 17, section 12.1, as amended:

- (1) From January 7 , 2008 until 4PM on January 9, 2008 (Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excluded), preceding the Presidential Preference Primary, each voter desiring to be a delegate shall file a declaration of candidacy with the Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of State, 148 West River Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02904. Said form shall require the following:
  - (a) The voter to sign one's name as it appears on the voting list.
  - (b) Print one's name and address as they appear on the voting list, party designation, place of birth, and length of residence in the state and in the city or town in which one resides.
  - (c) Candidates must include their gender on the pledge of support form.
  - (d) A statement that if elected one would comply with all party rules of the Rhode Island State and National Committees of the Democratic Party.
- (3) Upon receipt of the Declaration of Candidacy form, the Secretary of State shall prepare nomination papers for each candidate who has qualified. By the next business day after filing the Rhode Island Secretary of State must deliver nomination papers to the proper candidate or to such persons designated in writing.
- (4) The nomination papers of a candidate for delegate to the Democratic National Convention shall be signed in aggregate by at least one hundred fifty (150) qualified

- c. Rhode Island's total number of district-level delegates will be equally divided between men and women. (Rule 6.C.(1) & Reg. 4.8)
- d. The district-level delegates and alternates are apportioned to districts as indicated in the following chart:

| District     | <u>Delegates</u> |         |       | <u>Alternates</u> |         |       |
|--------------|------------------|---------|-------|-------------------|---------|-------|
|              | Males            | Females | Total | Males             | Females | Total |
| #1           | 3                | 3       | 6     | 1                 |         | 1     |
| #2           | 4                | 3       | 7     |                   | 2       | 1     |
| <b>Total</b> | 7                | 6       | 13    | 1                 | 2       | 3     |

- e. The apportionment of male and female delegates to be elected from each of the Congressional Districts is based upon the percentage of Democratic males and females in each district. According to the latest voter registration figures, 44.1% of the Democrats in the First Congressional District are males, while 55.9% are females. Similarly, 43.5% of the Democratic voters are males and 56.5% are females in the Second Congressional District. (Rule 8.A., Regs. 4.10, 4.11)
4. District-level Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements (Rule 12.B)
- a. All delegate and alternate candidates must be identified as to presidential preference, uncommitted or unpledged status at all levels which determines presidential preference. (Rule 12.A.)
  - b. A district-level delegate and alternate candidate may run for election only within the district in which he or she is registered to vote. (Rule 12.H.)
  - c. An individual can qualify as a candidate for the district-level delegate or alternate to the 2008 Democratic National Convention by fulfilling the

candidate shall at least forty-three (43) days prior to the date for the primary file an affidavit with the Rhode Island Secretary of State stating his or her name may not be placed on the ballot and the Rhode Island Secretary of State shall not place that candidate's name on the ballot. Names of delegates committed to the withdrawn candidate shall appear on the ballot as uncommitted.

2. Each presidential candidate shall certify in writing to the Rhode Island State Democratic Chair, the name(s) of his or her authorized representative(s) by January 11, 2008. (Rule 12.D (1))
3. Each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) shall use his or her best efforts to ensure that his or her respective delegation within the Rhode Island delegation achieves affirmative action goals established by this Plan and is equally divided between men and women.

### **C. District-Level Delegates and Alternates**

1. Rhode Island is allocated 13 district-level delegates and 2 district-level alternates. (Rule 8.C., Call 1.B & 1.I)
2. District-level delegate positions will be allocated to presidential preference through a proportional representation system based on a primary with the first determining step on March 4, 2008. (Rules 11.A. & 13.A)
3. Allocation of District-Level Delegates and Alternates
  - a. The district-level delegates and alternates shall be elected by a two part primary: presidential preference plus election of delegates. This Presidential Preference Primary shall occur on Tuesday, March, 4, 2008.
  - b. Rhode Island's district-level delegates and alternates are apportioned among the districts based on a formula giving equal weight to the vote for the Democratic candidates in the 2004 presidential and 2006 gubernatorial election. (Rule 8.A)

## II. Selection of Delegates and Alternates

### A. Introduction

1. Rhode Island has a total of 32 delegates and 4 alternates. (CALL, I.)
2. The delegate selection process is governed by the *Charter and By-laws of the Democratic Party of the United States*, the *Delegate Selection Rules for the 2008 Democratic National Convention* (“Rules”), the *Call for the 2008 Democratic National Convention* (“Call”), the *Regulation of the Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2008 Democratic National Convention* (“Regs”), the rules of the Democratic Party of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Election Code, and this Delegate Selection Plan (CALL,II. A)
3. Once the Plan has been found in Compliance by the RBC, any amendments or revisions must be approved by the Committee.

### B. Presidential Candidates

1. A presidential candidate gains access to the Rhode Island ballot by meeting the following conditions: (RULES 14.A.-E & H)
  - (A) Any person seeking the endorsement of a national political party for which a primary is being held shall between December 5, 2007 and December 7, 2007 (Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excluded) submit a statement of intent to the State Party and Secretary of State.
  - (B) The petition paper of a candidate for president shall be signed, in the aggregate, by at least one thousand (1,000) eligible voters and shall be submitted on or before 4PM on December 26 to the local city or town board of canvasser where the signers reside. Petition papers will be provided by the Rhode Island Secretary of State Elections Division starting on the next business day after filing.
  - (C) If any candidate whose name has been announced as a presidential nominee does not thereafter wish his or her name to appear on the ballot, the

Delegate Selection Plan for the 2008 Democratic National Convention

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|---------------|--|
| March 4, 2008 | <b>Presidential Preference Primary.</b> District-level delegates selected on 2-part primary ballot.  |
| March 7, 2008 | Rhode Island State Board of Elections certifies results of primary. Based on the primary results, the State Committee will determine which delegates and alternates were elected and certify them to the DNC Secretary.  |
| May 26, 2008  | Pledged PLEO and At-large delegate or alternate candidate deadline for filing a statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms with the Rhode Island State Party Committee. Deadline by which individuals must file for the unpledged add-on delegate position.                  |
| May 27, 2008  | State Party will provide the lists of PLEO and at-large delegate candidates to the presidential campaigns for review. Deadline for presidential candidates to submit names of standing committee member candidates.  |
| June 2, 2008  | Presidential candidate approval deadline for pledged PLEO delegate candidates.   |
| June 19, 2008 | Rhode Island State Committee meeting convenes. Special post-primary caucus, if necessary. Unpledged add-ons and pledged PLEO delegates selected. Following the selection of PLEO delegates, presidential candidate approval deadline for At-large delegate and alternate candidates. |
| June 19, 2008 | Rhode Island State Committee selects At-large delegates and alternates, National Convention Delegates select National Convention Standing Committee Members and Delegation Chair. Rhode Island State Chair names Convention Pages.   |
|               |  |

Delegate Selection Plan for the 2008 Democratic National Convention

|  |  |
|--|--|
| August 12, 2007  | Period for public comment on state plan is completed. Responses are compiled for review by the Rhode Island State Party Committee.   |
| August 13, 2007  | Rhode Island State Party Committee reviews public comments and adopts revised Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans. Press releases mailed.  |
| August 18, 2007  | Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans are forwarded to the Rules and Bylaws Committee.   |
| September 16, 2007   | Implementation of Affirmative Action Plan begins. Press kits are sent to all state media.  |
| October 15, 2007   | Deadline for presidential candidates to submit their statement for promoting participation in the delegate selection process by under-represented groups.  |
| (1) December 5 – December 7, 2007<br>(2) December 6 – December 8, 2007 | (1) Presidential candidate statement of intent;<br>(2) petitions available to presidential candidates on the next business day after filing.   |
| December 26, 2007  | Presidential candidate deadline for filing petition papers with the local boards of canvassers.  |
| (1) January 7 – January 9, 2008<br>(2) January 8 – January 10, 2008    | (1) District-level delegate and alternate deadline for filing statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms with the RI Secretary of State; (2) petitions available to delegate candidates on the next business day after filing. |
| January 11, 2008   | Presidential candidate deadline for certifying name(s) of authorized representative(s) to RI Democratic State Chair.   |
| January 11, 2008   | State Party will provide the lists of delegate candidates to presidential campaigns for review.  |
| January 18, 2008   | Deadline for district-level delegate and alternate candidates to submit nomination papers (150 valid signatures) to local boards for canvassers for placement on the ballot.   |
| January 31, 2008   | Presidential candidate approval for district-level delegate and alternate candidates.  |

|   |   |               |   |
|---|---|---------------|---|
| 1 | 3 | June 19, 2008 | candidate or authorized representative(s) to the RI State Chair by May 27, 2008. Elected by RI's National Convention Delegates. |
|---|---|---------------|---|

**C. Selection of Delegation Chair and Convention Pages (REG. 2.2.A.)**

The Delegation Chair will be selected by on June 19, 2008. 2 Convention Pages will be selected by the Rhode Island Democratic State Chair on June 19, 2008.

**D. Presidential Candidate Filing Deadline (REG 2.2.A)**

Presidential candidates must certify the name of the authorized representative(s) to the Rhode Island Democratic State Chair by January 10, 2008. The filing deadline for all Presidential candidates is December 5, 2007 – December 7, 2007, inclusive (Saturday, Sundays, and holidays excluded), by which Presidential candidates file a statement of intent with the Office of the Secretary of State, Elections Division, 148 West River St., Providence, RI 02904 by 4PM. Candidates must then return the petitions to the local boards of canvassers where the signers are from by December 26, 2007.

**E. Timetable (REG 2.2.B)**

| Date          | Activity   |
|---------------|--|
| March 1, 2007 | Delegate Selection Affirmative Action Committee members are appointed by the Rhode Island State Chair.       |
| July 9, 2007  | Affirmative Action Committee reviews proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans.               |
| July 11, 2007 | Proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans are finalized by the RI State Party Committee.      |
| July 12, 2007 | Public comments solicited on proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans. Press release mailed. |

Delegate Selection Plan for the 2008 Democratic National Convention

|  |    |                                     |               |   |
|--|----|-------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| <b>Pledged Party Leaders &amp; Elected Officials (PLEOs)</b> | 3  | (selected with At-large alternates) | June 19, 2008 | <u>RI Democratic State Committee</u><br>File with the RI Democratic State Committee by 4 PM on May 26 2008.<br><br>Presidential Right of Approval by June 2, 2008. Elected by the RI Democratic State Committee on June 19, 2008  |
| <b>At-large</b>  | 5  | 2                                   |               | The selection of the At-large delegates and alternates will occur on June 19, 2008 which is after all Unpledged Delegates and Pledged Party Leader and Elected Officials Delegates have been selected by voice vote of the RI Democratic State Committee. Filed with the RI Democratic State Committee by 4 PM on May 26, 2008. |
| <b>Total</b>   | 32 | 4                                   |               |   |

*\* Unpledged PLEO Delegates includes the following categories, if applicable, of Party Leaders and Elected officials who legally reside in the state: The Democratic National Committee Members, the Democratic President, the Democratic Vice President, all Democratic Members of Congress, the Democratic Governor, and any Distinguished Party Leaders, as specified in Rule 9.A. of the 2008 Delegate Selections Rules. The exact number of Unpledged PLEO Delegates is subject to change due to possible deaths, resignations, elections, or special elections.*

*\*\* Unpledged Add-on Delegates refers to those delegates chosen according to Rule 9.B. of the 2008 Delegate Selection Rules*

**B. Selection of Standing Committee Members (for the Credentials, Platform and Rules Committees) (REG. 2.2.A.)**

Standing committee members will be selected by the state's National Convention Delegates as summarized below:

| Members per Committee | Total Members | Selection Date | Filing Requirements & Deadlines                            |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|--|
|                       |               |                | Names of individuals must be submitted by the presidential |

**I. Summary of Plan**

**A. Selection of Delegates and Alternates (Reg. 2.2.A.)**

Rhode Island will use a proportional representation system based on the results of the primary for apportioning its delegates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

The “first determining step” of Rhode Island’s delegate selection process will occur on March 4, 2008, with a Presidential Preference Primary.

Delegate and alternates will be selected as summarized in the following chart:

| <b>Type</b>                         | <b>Delegates</b> | <b>Alternates</b> | <b>Date of Selection</b> | <b><u>Selecting Body / Filing Requirements &amp; Deadline</u></b>  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <b>District Level</b>               | 13               | 2                 | March 4, 2008            | <u>Presidential Preference Primary</u><br><br>January 7 - January 9, 2008 filing period, January 8 – January 10, 2008, nomination papers available, 150 signatures returned to the local board of canvassers by January 18, 2008, Presidential Right of Approval deadline January 31, 2008, Election March 4, 2008 |
| <b>Unpledged PLEO Delegates*</b>    | 11               | N/A               | N/A                      | Automatic  |
| <b>Unpledged Add-on Delegates**</b> | 1                | N/A               | June 19, 2008            | <u>RI Democratic State Committee</u><br><br>File with the RI Democratic State Committee May 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2008<br>Elected by the RI Democratic State Committee on June 19, 2008   |

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# *Rhode Island Delegate Selection & Affirmative Action Plan*

For the 2008 Democratic National Convention

A Proposal Issued by the:  
Rhode Island Democratic Party  
249 Roosevelt Ave., Suite 202  
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[www.ridemocrats.org](http://www.ridemocrats.org)