Internal Emails from 2016 GPP Team

# Overview

Below are the emails sent to Leadership and the Voting Center managers from the GPP Team and ExCom.

## Oct 12, 2015

Dear Leaders,

Conducting a neutral, professionally-run and well-attended Global Presidential Primary will be one of the best, most challenging and important things we as Democrats Abroad do next year.  It will of course determine which Democratic candidate(s) overseas voters favor, attract many many new DA members, raise awareness of the presidential election and the need for overseas voters to register or request a ballot, and garner tons of free (earned) media.

I am pleased to announced that several DA leaders have agreed to help us organize on the global level - to ensure clarity and consistency throughout DA, and to give Country Committees guidance and support.

**Will Bakker**of DA Luxembourg has agreed to serve as chair of the 2016 Global Presidential Primary team and **Shari Temple**, of DA Germany, as deputy chair.  Will knows the DSP back and forwards, as he was along every step of the drafting way.  Shari has the invaluable experience of helping on the global level with the 2008 and 2012 DA primaries and of course has the IT expertise.  **Jim Mercereau** of DA Spain and **Tom Schmid** of DA Japan have also joined this team.  (We will add a member(s) from the Americas region.)  Naturally, International Counsel **Orlando Vidal** and other ExCom members will provide support as needed.

The GPP2016 Team's mandate/goals are to:

* ensure the GPP2016 is a success
* ensure the highest and widest possible participation of Democrats abroad
* ensure that we conduct the GPP correctly, legally and transparently
* give needed guidance and support to CC leaders (who will organize Voting Centers, collect local postal mailed ballots and help with publicity) and RVCs (who will have responsibilities in their regions esp. where there are no country committees)
* coordinate with the AAC (Affirmative Action Committee)
* coordinate with the Communications Committee

The GPP2016 team has created a space in the DA Wiki for info on the GPP.  More will be posted there over the next days/weeks/months.  Here's where you can find initial Q&As:

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Questions+about+the+Global+Presidential+Primary>

Very BIG thanks in advance to Will, Shari, Jim and Tom for their efforts!  We look forward to working with all of you to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities presented by our GPP.

Best regards,

Katie

*Kathryn Solon  
International Chair  
Democrats Abroad*

# Oct 30, 2015

Dear DA leaders,

The *Brief Guide to Our Delegate Selection Plan* is now available for general distribution. It is attached to this message and always accessible on the DA wiki at:

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/DPCA+DSP+2015-16+Home>

This document is required reading for all DA leaders, and particularly Country Committee and Chapter officers.

Over the next six months, Democrats Abroad will undertake a great challenge and a great opportunity: running our own Global Presidential Primary (GPP) all over the world and selecting our delegates to the Democratic National Convention. The comprehensive reference for the whole process is our 2016 Delegate Selection Plan, which is based on rules, regulations, and templates provided by the Rules & Bylaws Committee of the DNC.

While the Delegate Selection Plan is the authoritative document, it is also difficult to get an overall sense of the process by reading it straight through. Thanks to our International Counsel, Orlando Vidal, we now have the *Brief Guide to Our Delegate Selection Plan*. It is shorter, logically organized, and written in plain English. Thanks also to those who commented on earlier drafts of the *Brief Guide*.

You are likely to have questions about the details of Voting Centers, delegate applications, or caucus procedures, even after you read the *Brief Guide*. Many of those questions can be answered by reference to the actual Delegate Selection Plan. If that doesn’t help, please pose your clearly-worded question to the GPP Team via the DA wiki:

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Questions+about+the+Global+Presidential+Primary>

Once every four years, Democrats Abroad gets a special opportunity to showcase our unique status in American politics. We’re looking forward to helping all DA leaders make the most of it.

Orlando Vidal

International Counsel

Quaide Williams

Chair, Affirmative Action Committee

Will Bakker

Chair, Global Presidential Primary Team

# Nov 7, 2015

Dear DA leaders,

The Global Presidential Primary (GPP) Team is working through the details of our DSP in order to develop resources and procedures for Country Committees as well as for the "back office" that will coordinate the global effort.

It's time for CC leaders to begin planning for the primary, particularly where and when to open in-person Voting Centers. Most of the details about the Voting Centers need to be decided and communicated by December 31.

The GPP Team created the attached document to put all the decisions and deadlines required of CCs by our DSP into one reference. We hope you will find it useful. The document is also available on the DA wiki, on the main page for information about the DSP:

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/DPCA+DSP+2015-16+Home>

The Global Presidential Primary will be the main focus of Monday's Town Hall meeting and a significant topic at the upcoming EMEA Regional Meeting. The GPP Team is also collecting questions and providing answers on the DA wiki:

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Questions+about+the+Global+Presidential+Primary>

We've already heard from many DA leaders. We're especially grateful for the tough questions and specific scenarios that help us find solutions early in the process. Keep 'em coming!

The GPP Team

Will Bakker (Luxembourg)

Shari Temple (Germany)

Tom Schmid (Japan)

Jim Mercereau (Spain)

David Harwell (DA Executive Director)

# Dec 4, 2015

Dear DA Leaders and especially Country Committee Chairs,

**Summary:** The GPP Team asks that Country Committee (CC) Chairs use two different Google Forms to submit information about your Country Committee’s participation in the Global Presidential Primary.

Send details about each location of your CC's **Voting Center(s)**, and each date of in-person voting at that location, using multiple submissions of the following Google Form:

<https://goo.gl/MAe0Pe>

Send information about your CC's **overall participation** in the Delegate Selection Process using another Google Form, submitted once per Country Committee Chair:

<https://goo.gl/ylGN8B>

***Please read the remainder of this message to ensure that you submit your information easily and accurately!*** This message is available for your reference on the DA wiki: <http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/x/XYKw>

**Voting Centers** are where Democrats living in your country will cast in-person ballots in the Global Presidential Primary during the period from March 1 through March 8, 2016. Our Delegate Selection Plan requires Country Committee (CC) Chairs to submit some information about the Voting Centers within their countries by December 31. I attached the “Deadlines and Decisions” document for your reference.

The GPP Team will collect the information about Voting Centers (on behalf of Katie Solon, International Chair) using a Google Form. ***A CC’s Chair will submit a separate form for each period of time that each Voting Center is open.***

For example, let’s say DA-Freedonia will have Voting Centers in Avalon and Kakariko. Both Avalon and Kakariko will be open during two periods: from 2pm to 10pm local time on Tuesday March 1, and 11am to 3pm on Sunday March 6. Thus, the CC Chair of DA-Freedonia must submit **four (4)** forms in total: two for Avalon, and two for Kakariko.

Each form prompts you for the date, time, and exact location of a Voting Center, as well as contact information for the specific Voting Center Manager. Please use the following link to submit each form:

<https://goo.gl/MAe0Pe>

If you make a mistake or change plans before December 31, simply re-submit the form, naming the relevant Voting Center and answering the final question, "Yes, this is a change or correction." After December 31, changes will be handled one-by-one because, in accordance with our DSP, such changes will require written agreement from the International Chair Katie Solon and additional efforts at public notification.

**Each CC Chair must also submit a distinct form** answering a few questions about his or her CC’s participation in the Delegate Selection Plan. That form asks for:

1. contact information about the individual designated to answer ballot requests
2. contact information about the individual designated to receive completed ballots by post
3. whether your CC will hold a First-Tier Caucus
4. whether your CC requested waiver(s) from any of the requirements to participate in the delegate selection process

Like the Voting Center Forms, this form must be submitted by December 31, and early submissions are welcome. Please use the following link for your CC’s form:

<https://goo.gl/ylGN8B>

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Shari Temple for help with this process. If your questions are not sensitive or singular, please use the GPP Questions page so that all DA leaders benefit: <http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Questions+about+the+Global+Presidential+Primary>

We appreciate your prompt submission of these forms, which will allow us time to verify all the information we receive.

Best regards,

The GPP Team

Will Bakker ([willbakker@democratsabroad.org](mailto:willbakker@democratsabroad.org))

Shari Temple ([shari\_temple@democratsabroad.org](mailto:shari_temple@democratsabroad.org))

Bill Barnard

Jim Mercereau

Tom Schmid

# Dec 5, 2016

Hi Leaders,

A quick response to Rick Wick's query about asking the State Department and  US Embassies or Consulates to advertise the 2015 Global Presidential Primary.

In past years, our experience has been uneven.  Some embassies and consulates have announced our primary or earlier caucuses, or posted info or let us post info or leave flyers in their offices; others have refused because our primary is a partisan activity.  (Isn't every state primary?)

To answer Rick's questions:

1.  The Global Presidential Primary organizing team will reach out to the State Department to ask that a message from Washington be sent to all US Embassies and Consulates giving their American Citizen Services staff authorization to advertise our GPP and that the State Department include the GPP in any messages it sends to posts or published online about 2016 primaries and overseas voting.

2.  Please do reach out to the US Embassy or Consulate in your area! Ask them to advertise your GPP Voting Center and other means of GPP voting available to US citizens in their consular area -- via their regular messages to Americans on their lists, in any signage in their offices, waiting rooms, etc., on their website -- once you have the venue, dates and times nailed down.

The person to ask would be either the Foreign Service Officer or local staff person charged with overseas voting assistance or the American Citizen Services officer or the Consul or Consul General.

This could also be a good opportunity to talk about the core work of DA which is to find US citizens and help them in a nonpartisan way to register to vote, and to discuss possible ways your VR team could work with the Embassy/Consulate staff or at Embassy events to help provide nonpartisan voter registration/ballot request assistance.

It is worth trying.  Please let our global GPP organizing team know how it goes in your country.

We will advise re: the response from the State Department.

Thanks for the nudge, Rick.

Best regards,

Katie

*Kathryn Solon  
International Chair*

# Dec 7, 2015

Dear DA leaders,

Our Global Presidential Primary (GPP) is unique among the Democratic Party’s state primaries in many ways. The most confusing aspect has always been how to apply the strict rule that voters may participate in only one Presidential nominating process.

The GPP Team is eager to provide straightforward language to help you explain the situation to fellow Democrats living abroad. When we finished the “short version” last week, we decided to get that in your hands as early as possible. So here it is:

Many voters living abroad wonder how voting in the Global Presidential Primary affects voting in state primaries. As a Democrat living abroad, you may vote in only one primary ***for a Presidential candidate.*** In other words, you may vote ***for a Presidential candidate*** in EITHER the Global Presidential Primary, OR your home state’s primary (or caucus if you happen to be there).

When you vote in DA’s Global Presidential Primary, you may not vote ***for a Presidential candidate*** in your voting state’s primary. BUT you may still vote in your home state’s primary for US House and Senate and other down ballot races as determined by your local election official.

The GPP Team is working on a more comprehensive resource that will include talking points for why all Democrats living abroad should vote in the Global Presidential Primary, as well as other details about requesting ballots for two primaries. What follows is my own take on voting in two primaries.

Why is it important to let Democrats living abroad know that they can vote in two primaries? The short answer is, "Because nobody wants to keep Democrats living abroad from participating in Democratic primaries for Senate and House candidates. And we don't want Democrats to stay away from our GPP because they care about the candidates in a Senate or House primary.”

The ability to cast ballots in two primaries sounds like "double-voting,” so even well-informed individuals may be forgiven for assuming that it violates some law or internal Party rule. It does not, and we encourage Democrats living abroad to exercise their rights to participate in primary (and caucus) processes to the extent permitted. (This is a marked difference from the Republican Party’s attitude towards voters living abroad who support its principles, as you might expect.)

In 2012 John Eastwood wrote, as International Counsel at the time, a series of helpful messages to this listserv in order to make the situation of Democrats living abroad absolutely clear. Our current International Counsel, Orlando Vidal, confirmed that the situation is the same in 2016.

Please watch for more guidance on making the case for voting in the Global Presidential Primary. In the meantime, your questions about the GPP are welcome on the DA wiki:

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Questions+about+the+Global+Presidential+Primary>

Yours,

Will Bakker

Chair, Global Presidential Primary Team

# Dec 22, 2015

Dear DA leaders,

Please remember that **by December 31, EACH and EVERY Country Committee Chair must** complete the previously-distributed Google forms to provide information about its participation in the Global Presidential Primary. This requirement includes details about ALL Voting Centers. The description of the complete requirements appears below and also at the DA wiki:

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Form+Submissions+for+Country+Committees%27+December+31+Deadlines>

Beginning December 28th, the International Secretary will publish the list of Country Committees, indicating whether or not each has completed these requirement. Failing to submit all the required information may jeopardize a Country Committee's ability to host a Voting Center AND to participate in the Regional Caucus and Global Convention.

**If your Country Committee needs a waiver** from any of the requirements of the Delegate Selection Plan, you must contact Katie, our International Chair ( [chair@democratsabroad.org](mailto:chair@democratsabroad.org) ) immediately with a letter specifying your exact request, and copy Orlando, our International Counsel ( [counsel@democratsabroad.org](mailto:counsel@democratsabroad.org) ). Please copy me ( [willbakker@democratsabroad.org](mailto:willbakker@democratsabroad.org) ) so that I can help you resolve the waiver by December 31.

The DPCA Executive Committee recently decided that the opportunity to receive **a remote ballot will be distributed by a global email blast to all members of Democrats Abroad who have an email address**.

The exact instructions for voting remotely are still under development. In early January, you can expect to receive:

* advance notice of the global email to announce the opportunity to vote remotely,
* language and links to cut-and-paste into your own communications, and
* procedures for responding to individual requests for remote ballots.

**Please note that as many as a third of the members of your Country Committee do not have email addresses!** It is left to your initiative to reach those members using the methods that work best for your circumstances. For example, some Country Committees already plan to send postal notices and others are planning telephone calls or SMS/text messages.

The various global committees stand ready to help you reach members without email addresses as well as non-members who are eligible to vote in the Global Presidential Primary. (The GPP is for all Democrats living abroad, not just those who happen to be members of Democrats Abroad already.)

Finally, the DPCA ExCom urges all Country Committees to **consult local security and public safety authorities regarding their plans for Voting Centers**. Those authorities may include US State Department security personnel and local police.

Democrats Abroad will publish a list of all Voting Centers on the DA website and make it available to the press — just as we did in 2008 and in 2012 and in accordance with our 2016 Delegate Selection Plan. This list will include the dates, open hours, and addresses of all Voting Centers.

We recognize that this may conflict with reasonable security precautions in some areas or with unavoidable arrangements involving the owners or managers of some Voting Center sites. Any such conflict must be resolved before we publish the list!

**If there is such a conflict between security and publicity for your Voting Center, you must contact me immediately** at [willbakker@democratsabroad.org](mailto:willbakker@democratsabroad.org) and copy [counsel@democratsabroad.org](mailto:counsel@democratsabroad.org) .

On a personal note as a CC Chair, I know that detailed information about how Voting Centers and remote voting will work is very useful for planning CC-level activities in 2016. Getting that information to you is a high priority for the whole GPP Team. For urgent needs, please use the GPP Questions page so that all DA leaders benefit from getting early information:

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Questions+about+the+Global+Presidential+Primary>

Yours,

Will Bakker

GPP Team, Chair

*As posted to DPCA-Leadership on Dec 4 and sent directly to CC chairs on Dec 14:*

Dear DA Leaders and especially Country Committee Chairs,

**Summary:** The GPP Team asks that Country Committee (CC) Chairs use two different Google Forms to submit information about your Country Committee's participation in the Global Presidential Primary.

Send details about each location of your CC's **Voting Center(s)**, and each date of in-person voting at that location, using multiple submissions of the following Google Form:  
<https://goo.gl/MAe0Pe>

Send information about your CC's **overall participation** in the Delegate Selection Process using another Google Form, submitted once per Country Committee Chair:  
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1. contact information about the individual designated to receive completed ballots by post
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4. whether your CC requested waiver(s) from any of the requirements to participate in the delegate selection process

Like the Voting Center Forms, this form must be submitted by December 31, and early submissions are welcome. Please use the following link for your CC's form:  
<https://goo.gl/ylGN8B>

Please do not hesitate to contact Will Bakker or Shari Temple for help with this process. If your questions are not sensitive or singular, please use the GPP Questions page so that all DA leaders benefit:  
<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Questions+about+the+Global+Presidential+Primary>

We appreciate your prompt submission of these forms, which will allow us time to verify all the information we receive.

Best regards,  
The GPP Team  
Will Bakker ([willbakker@democratsabroad.org](mailto:willbakker@democratsabroad.org))  
Shari Temple ([shari\_temple@democratsabroad.org](mailto:shari_temple@democratsabroad.org))  
Bill Barnard  
Jim Mercereau  
Tom Schmid

# Jan 8, 2016

Dear DA leaders,

**Global Presidential Primary**

We want as many eligible voters\* in the Global Presidential Primary as possible to cast their ballots in-person at Voting Centers. Our primary covers the globe, however, so our Delegate Selection Plan (DSP) includes several ways of voting remotely, that is, by postal mail, by fax, or by attaching a scanned ballot to an email message.

**Remote Voting Start Date**

According to our DSP, eligible voters may begin to request ballots by mail on January 11. The GPP Team is using January 11th as our target for making remote ballots available online and by mail, and for launching DA's overall ability to receive those ballots.

At the level of Country Committees, that means that the volunteers designated to answer ballot requests and to receive mailed ballots should have what they need by Monday. The GPP Team will provide the PDF file of the remote ballot to be distributed and a comprehensive guide to remote voting as soon as possible. Please watch your inbox for those files.

At the global level, the January 11th launch means that remote ballots will be available to download from the DA website on that date. We will also be ready to receive completed ballots by fax, by postal mail, or by attachment to an email message.

**GPP Promotion**

The global and local push to help eligible voters cast remote ballots (and join DA) should start later in January. The GPP Team just received the information we need from Country Committees and Presidential Candidates, so we would appreciate a slow start to remote voting. This will allow us to work out any bugs and also allow Country Committee volunteers to get comfortable with their work.

Remote ballots will be sent to all current DA members with an email address as part of the internal communications campaign. You will be informed of the date and format of this email blast well in advance.

**Join Date for GPP Participation**

There's another January date in our DSP that could be misunderstood even by careful readers of the document: January 31. The GPP Team together with the International Counsel wish to state clearly that **Americans living abroad may join Democrats Abroad after January 31 and still cast a valid remote ballot by mail, fax, or email, up to the same deadlines that apply to everyone else.**Both the last date to vote remotely and the last date to vote in-person at Voting Centers (where available) is March 8.

**Home state primaries and caucuses vs GPP Voting**

Other state primaries and caucuses approaching and some voters are receiving absentee ballots for primaries. It's important to remember that you may vote for a Presidential candidate in EITHER the Global Presidential Primary, OR your home state’s primary or caucus. When you vote in DA’s Global Presidential Primary, you may not vote for a Presidential candidate in your voting state’s primary. BUT you may still vote in your home state’s primary for US House and Senate candidates and for other down ballot races as determined by your local election official. It's very important to get this message to the Democrats that you serve before they return their absentee ballots from their home states.

**Special Consideration for Delegate Candidates**

One consequence of the prohibition on participating in two presidential nominating processes affects a limited but important group: those who are considering running to be one of DA's delegates to the Democratic National Convention. According to a Democratic Party rule, participating in a presidential primary or caucus of another state disqualifies that individual from participating in another state's presidential nomination process -- which includes serving as an elector or delegate in DA's Regional Caucuses and Global Convention.

**Help with Making the Case for the GPP**

https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/cleardot.gif

Finally, the GPP Team acknowledges that Country Committee leaders need more guidance about the choice of which primary to vote in and particularly the reasons to choose the GPP. We are working across the organization to get a definitive and helpful set of rules and talking points to everyone.

Please feel free to contact Will Bakker ([willbakker@democratsabroad.org](mailto:willbakker@democratsabroad.org)) with your questions about the Global Presidential Primary.

Yours,

The GPP Team

Will Bakker

Shari Temple

Bill Barnard

Jim Mercereau

Tom Schmid

\* Participation in Democrats Abroad’s delegate selection process is open to all United States citizens residing outside the United States who will be eighteen (18) years of age or older on November 8, 2016 and who wish to participate as Democrats. The Declaration on the ballot itself further requires that the voter is a member in Democrats Abroad and that the voter did not and will not participate in any other Presidential nominating process for 2016.

# Jan 11, 2016

Dear DA leaders,

You will find attached three documents that are crucial for remote voting globally and in your Country Committee. Please ensure that these documents are read and understood by all those responsible for handling remote ballots in your Country Committee. The documents are always available on the DA wiki:

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Global+Presidential+Primary+2016>

The remote ballot will be available to voters on the DA website by the end of the day today. CC volunteers designated to respond to ballot requests should begin fulfilling individual requests immediately. As the GPP Team mentioned last week, we ask Country Committee leaders to wait for further information about the full, global launch of remote voting before distributing remote ballots widely.

Today, the GPP Team will also publish to the DA website the attached list of cities that will host Voting Centers. Please review this list and notify Will Bakker immediately if you find an error or an omission ([willbakker@democratsabroad.org](mailto:willbakker@democratsabroad.org)).

Once we have verified the exact addresses and security conditions for all the Voting Centers, we will publish the official and final list of dates, times, and places for all Voting Centers. *If there are security concerns with publishing any of this information for your Country Committee*, contact Will Bakker as soon as possible.

Please review the instructions for the attached remote ballot (pages 2-5 of the remote ballot document) in order to verify that the address designated for your Country Committee is correct. (The addresses will also be posted in a large-type document on our website.)

Thank you for your attention to all the details in the complex system of remote voting.

The GPP Team

https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/cleardot.gifWill Bakker

Shari Temple

Bill Barnard

Jim Mercereau

Tom Schmid

## Jan 22, 2016

Dear Country Committee Chairs and Global Presidential Primary volunteers,

Please excuse this direct email message, especially if you receive it more than once. The contents of this message are important enough to warrant the inconvenience. Please read it carefully and entirely.

**1. Remote Voting**

Remote voting in the Global Presidential Primary (GPP) is underway. Later today, you and your Country Committee’s members will receive a global email blast about voting in the GPP. You may begin to promote your local Voting Centers (and remote voting for those who can’t make it), paying special attention to members without email addresses and U.S. citizens residing in your area who are not yet members of DA. The key address for remote voting is:

<http://www.democratsabroad.org/gpp>

Every Country Committee Chair designated an individual to respond to requests for remote ballots and an individual to receive completed ballots return by mail. **The detailed instructions about remote voting** for those important volunteers are attached to this email message. Documents like this are always available on the DA wiki as well:

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Global+Presidential+Primary+2016>

**Please make sure that you read and understand these instructions as soon as possible.** Please forward these instructions to anyone who may be involved in the GPP within your Country Committee in less official way than yourself.

**2. Security at Voting Centers**

The GPP Team is finalizing the list of Voting Centers for general publication of their dates, times, and locations. Part of that process is confirming that the online publication of such details does not present an undue security risk.

The DPCA Executive Committee, out of prudence and care for the safety of Americans living abroad, **instructs all Voting Center Managers to consult the Regional Security Officer of their local Embassy or Consulate and to take security precautions as locally appropriate.**

Use the attached template to compose an email message or print a letter for delivery to the Regional Security Officer at your local U.S. Embassy. Where appropriate, you should also inform the local police and ask for their guidance on security measures.

If your review of security for the Voting Centers requires a change in the publication of your Voting Center or any kind of assistance in ensuring the safety of its participants, please contact myself or Katie Solon ([chair@democratsabroad.org](mailto:chair@democratsabroad.org)) as soon as possible.

**3. Communicating with Members and Non-members**

Voting Centers must be publicly accessible to more than just your current members. Observers from the Presidential campaigns can and will exercise their right to attend, and U.S. citizens living in your country (or chapter’s region) must be able to find the Voting Center without necessarily knowing any of your local leaders. The casting of votes in the GPP is a formal activity in a genuine election and must be treated as such.

For that reason, changes to the dates, opening times, or locations of Voting Centers are serious impediments to accessibility and require a written waiver from the International Chair that will not be given lightly. In order to preserve the accessibility of a Voting Center and in accordance with our DSP, a Country Committee asking for changes may be required to spend a considerable amount of its own money advertising the change.

Once you are sure that your location and schedule is fixed (and also safe as mentioned above),**you are welcome to advertise your local Voting Centers and the opportunity to cast a remote ballot. A global email blast to all current DA members is scheduled for the next 24 hours.** In most cases, your message will be more effective if it follows that blast after a few days.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message carefully. (Not to mention all the time and effort you devote to make the GPP a success!)

Please watch the DPCA-Leadership listserv especially carefully over the next few weeks, as the GPP Team and the global Communications Team post documents that you will find helpful, including:

 - talking points to promote the GPP and explain why it matters

 - suggestions for running Voter Assistance Events to help those who cannot make it to full-fledged Voting Centers

 - the comprehensive Guide to Voting Centers

 - a template for press releases to local outlets

 - advice for advertising and earned media about the GPP

As always, the GPP Team welcomes your questions and suggestions.

Yours,

**The GPP Team**

Will Bakker, co-chair

Shari Temple, co-chair

Bill Barnard

Jim Mercereau

Tom Schmid

## Jan 23, 2016

Sent to all DA members:

As a member of Democrats Abroad, you are eligible to vote in the Global Presidential Primary. Join Democrats around the world by participating in the 2016 Presidential nominating process of the Democratic Party.

#### From March 1 (Super Tuesday) to March 8 -- vote in-person at one of the dozens of official Voting Centers in more than 40 countries.

The list of cities with voting centers is available online at [http://www.democratsabroad.org/gpp](http://www.democratsabroad.org/gpp?e=6dfda78fc073ee82fef1a772a49646a7&utm_source=democratsabroad&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=gpp_voting_ins2&n=2&v=36). The detailed schedule with exact locations will be released in the coming weeks, but your local DA committee may send you that information sooner.

#### From January 11 to March 8 -- vote by postal mail, by fax, by email

If you cannot make it to one of those Voting Centers, you can vote by postal mail, by fax, or by attachment to an email message. Download your ballot at [http://www.democratsabroad.org/gpp](http://www.democratsabroad.org/gpp?e=6dfda78fc073ee82fef1a772a49646a7&utm_source=democratsabroad&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=gpp_voting_ins2&n=3&v=36) and follow the included instructions.

You may vote for a Presidential candidate in EITHER the Global Presidential Primary, OR your home state’s primary (or caucus if you happen to be there). When you vote in DA’s Global Presidential Primary, you may not vote for a Presidential candidate in your voting state’s primary. BUT you may still vote in your home state’s primary for US House and Senate and other down ballot races as determined by your local election official.

There are [many reasons](http://www.democratsabroad.org/bobvallier/frequently_asked_questions_about_the_global_presidential_primary?e=6dfda78fc073ee82fef1a772a49646a7&utm_source=democratsabroad&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=gpp_voting_ins2&n=4&v=36) to vote for the Democratic Presidential nominee in the Global Presidential Primary rather than your home state’s primary, but the choice is yours. No matter what you decide, be sure to request your absentee ballot for the general election at [www.VoteFromAbroad.org](http://www.democratsabroad.org/r?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.VoteFromAbroad.org&e=6dfda78fc073ee82fef1a772a49646a7&utm_source=democratsabroad&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=gpp_voting_ins2&n=5&v=36)

Democrats Abroad  
[http://www.democratsabroad.org/](http://www.democratsabroad.org/?e=6dfda78fc073ee82fef1a772a49646a7&utm_source=democratsabroad&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=gpp_voting_ins2&n=6&v=36)

# Jan 29, 2016

Dear DA leaders,

Over the past four weeks, the GPP Team and the International Chair received numerous requests to change the details of voting centers. With Super Tuesday a little more than a month away, it is time for the GPP Team to finish this task and publish the final list.

From this point forward, changes to the location or schedule of Voting Centers may only be made for the most extraordinary of circumstances, such as a clear threat to the safety of participants.

According to our Delegate Selection Plan, any changes made after the publication of this final list may require the Country Committee to spend a significant amount of funds to advertise the change of location. In addition, the Voting Center Manager will probably be required to staff the former location or former opening hours with someone to direct people to the new location or the changed hours of operation (and maybe even provide transport).

If the old location or schedule is anywhere on the internet or has ever been communicated by DA's leaders, then we need to assume that eligible voters made plans based on that information and will show up at the wrong place or the wrong time. It is against the rules of the Democratic Party -- as well as a failing of moral and Democratic principles -- to deny those people the opportunity to vote. No number of emails sent to DA members can fix that.

Planning and running a Voting Center requires more forethought and effort than almost anything else we ask our volunteers to do. The GPP Team and the International ExCom appreciate the hard work of our CC Chairs and Voting Center Managers.

The GPP Team

Will Bakker, co-chair

Shari Temple, co-chair

Bill Barnard

Jim Mercereau

Tom Schmid

# Feb 5, 2015

Dear DA leaders,

Please find attached the final list of Voting Centers for the 2016 Global Presidential Primary. This PDF file will be posted at <http://www.democratsabroad.org/gpp> shortly.

We have, by my count, 121 distinct sites, for a total of 137 opportunities to cast a ballot in-person in our primary.

This is an impressive list that required meaningful commitments from volunteers all over the world. Thank you to all of you who did the work to put these Voting Centers on this list.

Hundreds of members of Democrats Abroad have already cast ballots remotely by post, by fax, and by attaching their ballot to an email message. We know that the level of interest is already extraordinary and growing by the day.

In the next day or so, please watch this listserv for the GPP Team's advice on making the case for voting in the Global Presidential Primary as well as guidance for leaders who want to serve even more Americans in their locales with Remote Voting Assistance Events.

Yours,

The GPP Team

Will Bakker (co-chair)

Shari Template (co-chair)

Bill Barnard

Tom Schmid

Jim Mercereau

# Feb 6, 2016

Dear DA leaders,

Both Country Committee leaders and the International Executive Committee asked the GPP Team to create an official document with talking points to help promote the GPP.

We owe thanks to Bob Vallier (DA-France), who helped the GPP Team bring together our thoughts by drafting the initial version of the document attached to this message. (We take responsibility for any flaws in the final version, of course.)

The document includes an expanded version of the recommended language about voting in both the GPP and one's home state primary.

We hope you find all this useful as you promote the GPP to your members and to all Americans living in your area.

Best,

The GPP Team

Will Bakker (co-chair)

Shari Temple (co-chair)

Bill Barnard

Jim Mercereau

Tom Schmid

## Feb 6, 2016

Dear DA leaders,

Please find attached the document on why Americans should vote in the Global Presidential Primary in PDF format.

As with all releases from the GPP Team, these files are also available on the DA wiki:

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Promoting+the+GPP+2016>

Will

# Feb 7, 2016

Dear DA leaders,

The GPP Team composed the attached document in response to calls from CC leaders for a way of helping US citizens participate in our GPP without hosting a full-fledged Voting Center. This document includes guidelines on the promotion of such events -- which we call Remote Voting Assistance Events -- to local press and social media.

We strongly recommend that any DA leader planning such an event contact his or her Regional Vice Chair before holding the event. The public perception of the GPP can be affected by these informal events just as if they were Voting Centers and your RVC can help you avoid the pitfalls of getting involved in the process of remote voting.

As always, the GPP Team is available if you have any questions. Especially when it comes to Remote Voting Assistance Events, it's important that you clarify and confirm your understanding of the rules.

Best regards,

The GPP Team

Will Bakker (co-chair)

Shari Temple (co-chair)

Bill Barnard

Jim Mercereau

Tom Schmid

# Feb 13, 2016

Dear DA leaders,

Please find attached the 2016 Guide for Voting Center Managers. The GPP Team recommends that all volunteers taking substantial roles in the primary read this document — but especially Voting Center Managers, of course.

There are numerous changes from the practices and rules that you may remember from DA’s primaries in 2008 and 2012. The GPP Team aspired to create a comprehensive document that would help Voting Center Managers feel confident about nearly any situation that arises.

Nevertheless, Voting Center Managers should continue to watch this listserv (and their email inboxes) for clarifications and additional guidance, as well as the forms and documents needed to run the Voting Center.

We continue to keep the DA wiki up-to-date with all documents and texts distributed:

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Global+Presidential+Primary+2016>

Thank you for your patience. We know that many of you are eager to complete the detailed planning and volunteer recruitment to prepare your Voting Centers. We are happy to help with any questions.

Best regards,

The GPP Teamhttps://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/cleardot.gif

Will Bakker

Shari Temple

Bill Barnard

Jim Mercereau

Tom Schmid

# Feb 13, 2016

Hi All,

Just a few points about the Global Primary and Voter Lists.

First of all, at the global level we have already received around 1000 remote ballots.  We also have almost 3000 new members since January 31.   Let’s keep promoting the GPP so both numbers rise.

As members submit a Remote Ballot, they are being tagged in the database with ‘2016 GPP Remote Ballot’.    Just a reminder to all of you Country Ballot Wardens, you need to be adding this tag to all members that submit a mailed ballot to you.     This is our way to help ensure no one votes twice.

On February 28 or 29 (depending on your time zone), all Country Chairs and Voting Center Managers will receive a list of all their current members.   Note that this will be for the entire country.  If you want to break it into chapters, you will need to do that yourselves.   The list will include whether they were a member as of January 31 or not (read the forthcoming Voting Center Managers Guide so you know why that is important).  It will also include whether they submitted a Remote Ballot or not.

Per the DSP, if any member votes twice (or more), none of their ballots will be counted.  This makes it extremely important that the ‘2016 GPP Remote Ballot’ tag is set for members that submitted a remote ballot by February 27 (before the list is produced).   Please do NOT remove that tag from any member.  Also, make sure you do not give a ballot at the voting center to any member that has already voted.

Lots of emails and communications about the GPP for the next few weeks.  For those involved with the GPP, please make sure your read and understand all of them.

Thanks,

Shari

Shari Temple

DA Global IT Team Chair

# Feb 13, 2016

Thanks to all of you that have posted your Voting Center as an event on the website.   If you have not done so yet, please do this ASAP.   Whoever in your country committee has been certified to do your web content can also make event posts.



Shari

Shari Temple

DA Global IT Team Chair

## Feb 17, 2016

Dear Julie and all DA leaders,

The procedures for Voting Centers (at <http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Global+Presidential+Primary+2016> ) specifically recognize new members as immediately qualified to vote, even those who join using paper forms. This is a relevant excerpt, although everyone volunteering at a Voting Center should read the entire Guide:

As a best practice, those who are not members of Democrats Abroad should be sent to a join table, where Voting Center Staff will help the voter complete the online join form ... . Alternatively, the voter may join by completing a paper join form. If a paper form is used, each country committee is responsible for entering the voter’s information into the DA database by using the online join form. This must be completed within 48 hours of the closing of the voting center. No administrative credentials are necessary to enter this information. After joining Democrats Abroad, new members should be provided with a receipt indicating that they have joined Democrats Abroad at the voting center, and they should be directed to the ballot table to request and receive a ballot. Volunteers at the ballot table should accept that the receipt indicates that the individual is a member of Democrats Abroad and provide a ballot.

Membership administrators will be expected to promote these new members before the global tabulators begin their work on March 13.

Shari's message applies specifically to new members who cast **remote** ballots now. It is very helpful to those attending to the inbox at [PrimaryVoting@democratsabroad.org](mailto:PrimaryVoting@democratsabroad.org) to be able to sort incoming ballots using up-to-date information about members. Getting members out of "pending" status is especially important.

Yours,

Will Bakker

GPP Team

# Feb 17, 2016

In response to Julie Buchanan’s question:

New members, not yet promoted, are allowed to vote at voting centres correct?

Members that join at the voting center **must be entered and approved before their vote can be included in the final count  - i.e. by March 19** when the final ballots are received.   So they can vote after filling out a paper join form, it will be included as a vote for the voting center, but when the global count is done, if they are not an approved member, the vote cannot be included in the final count.   For ‘membership number’ on the ballot at the voting center, you would enter ‘new member’.   The membership number will be looked up and confirmed before including them in the final count.

Thanks,

Shari

GPP Team

# Feb 18, 2016

Dear Voting Center Managers and Country Committee Chairs,

Please find attached three of the documents that you will need to run your Voting Centers: the form to join Democrats Abroad (with receipt), the regular ballot for in-person voting, and the provisional ballot for in-person voting.

You may only use these documents in Voting Centers and in accordance with the Guide for Voting Center Managers at

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Global+Presidential+Primary+2016>

Please do not distribute these ballots except as needed to ensure that you have enough copies for your Voting Centers. If you have any questions that are not answered by the Guides distributed by the GPP Team, please contact Will Bakker ([willbakker@democratsabroad.org](mailto:willbakker@democratsabroad.org)) or Shari Temple ([shari\_temple@democratsabroad.org](mailto:shari_temple@democratsabroad.org)).

The remainder of the forms you need for your Voting Center will be distributed next week by email and will also be available on the DA wiki. None of those forms will need to be printed in large quantities.

Thank you for all that you are doing to make this primary a success.

Yours,

The GPP Team

Will Bakker

Shari Temple

Bill Barnard

Jim Mercereau

Tom Schmid

# Feb 18, 2016

Dear DA leaders,

About an hour ago, the GPP Team distributed the ballots to be copied and used at Voting Centers, as well as the join form we recommend that Voting Center Managers use if new members are unable to join using the website's online form.

Please note that these ballots are NOT for use at Remote Voting Assistance Events. Those events -- and any voting in the GPP outside of the open hours of a Voting Center -- should use Remote Ballots.

If you are a Voting Center Manager and did not receive an email message with the ballot documents attached, please contact me at [willbakker@democratsabroad.org](mailto:willbakker@democratsabroad.org)

The Guide for Voting Center Managers and all other guides to the GPP are available on the DA wiki at:

<http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Global+Presidential+Primary+2016>

Yours,

The GPP Team

Will Bakker

Shari Temple

Bill Barnard

Jim Mercereau

Tom Schmid

# Feb 24, 2016

Good news / Bad news

The good news – we have over 6% increase in membership since the beginning of the month.   The bad news is that’s a lot of new members to be approved.   I know many of you are struggling to keep up but others need to do more.   Here are the number of pending members as of right now.  Note they must be approved for their GPP ballots to count – must be a DA member and that only happens once approved.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Country | Pending Members |
| Afghanistan | 1 |
| Albania | 4 |
| Argentina | 9 |
| Australia | 6 |
| Austria | 1 |
| Bahrain | 1 |
| Barbados | 2 |
| Bermuda | 2 |
| Bolivia, Plurinational State of | 1 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 3 |
| Brazil | 13 |
| Cambodia | 1 |
| Canada | 38 |
| Chile | 18 |
| China | 20 |
| Colombia | 5 |
| Congo | 1 |
| Congo, the Democratic Republic of the | 2 |
| Costa Rica | 11 |
| Croatia | 1 |
| Denmark | 2 |
| Dominica | 1 |
| Dominican Republic | 1 |
| Ecuador | 24 |
| Egypt | 10 |
| Ethiopia | 3 |
| Finland | 5 |
| France | 5 |
| Germany | 33 |
| Greece | 2 |
| Hong Kong | 17 |
| Iceland | 1 |
| India | 16 |
| Indonesia | 2 |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of | 1 |
| Iraq | 3 |
| Ireland | 1 |
| Israel | 39 |
| Italy | 10 |
| Japan | 5 |
| Jordan | 4 |
| Kazakhstan | 1 |
| Kenya | 2 |
| Korea, Republic of | 18 |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | 1 |
| Lebanon | 2 |
| Liechtenstein | 1 |
| Lion City | 1 |
| Lithuania | 2 |
| Luxembourg | 9 |
| Malawi | 2 |
| Malaysia | 1 |
| Mauritius | 1 |
| Mexico | 6 |
| Monaco | 2 |
| Mongolia | 1 |
| Morocco | 2 |
| Myanmar | 1 |
| Netherlands | 14 |
| Nicaragua | 4 |
| Pakistan | 1 |
| Panama | 25 |
| Paraguay | 2 |
| Peru | 2 |
| Poland | 2 |
| Portugal | 1 |
| Puerto Rico | 1 |
| Qatar | 3 |
| Romania | 2 |
| Russian Federation | 3 |
| Rwanda | 1 |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | 1 |
| Saint Martin (French part) | 16 |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 4 |
| Senegal | 2 |
| Sint Maarten (Dutch part) | 1 |
| Slovakia | 1 |
| South Africa | 10 |
| Spain | 3 |
| Sri Lanka | 1 |
| Sweden | 1 |
| Switzerland | 13 |
| Taiwan | 11 |
| Tanzania, United Republic of | 2 |
| Thailand | 9 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 1 |
| Turkey | 15 |
| Turks and Caicos Islands | 1 |
| Uganda | 2 |
| Ukraine | 2 |
| United Arab Emirates | 27 |
| United Kingdom | 31 |
| Uruguay | 4 |
| Viet Nam | 14 |
|  |  |
| Grand Total | 612 |

Shari

Shari Temple

DA Global IT Team Chair

# Feb 26, 2016

Confused about any aspect of your role in DA's Global Presidential Primary?  
  
Any questions or concerns?  
  
Here is your chance to have your questions answered, your concerns addressed.  
  
The GPP committee will hold two Q&A information sessions for Voting Center Managers on WebEx, the first on this Sunday, Feb 28, at 2:00 pm Eastern Standard Time (New York), 7:00 pm GMT (London), the second on Monday, Feb 29, at 6:00 am Eastern Standard Time (New York), 11:00 am GMT (London).

A couple of friendly reminders.  Please note that Shari Temple's checklists to prepare for Voting Centers are available in Excel format, in case you want to add to or alter the list for your own use. <http://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/DSP2016/Global+Presidential+Primary+2016>

Please note, too, we all need to keep up-to-date on approving new members.

Remember that if you have new members who join on the day at your Voting Center with a paper form, you need to enter their information onto the on-line Join form within 48 hours of the closure of your Voting Center.  Then we all need to make sure that your country’s membership database manager approves each new member.

All new-member approvals should be finished by March 13. The formal and official count of all ballots cast begins the week of March 14.  Voters whose information does not appear on the database by the time that counting begins will not have their votes counted and will be effectively disenfranchised.

I know that all the rules and regulations that have been formulated can be daunting, but they are necessary to meet the requirements of acting as the 51st state and conducting an official primary under the charter and rules of the Democratic Party.

We are all deeply indebted to each of you for making this exercise in American democracy, our DA Global Presidential Primary,  possible.

Bill Barnard, on behalf of the GPP Team

Will Bakker, co-chair

Shari Temple, co-chair

Jim Mercereau

Tom Schmid

# Feb 27, 2016

Dear DA leaders and especially Voting Center Managers,

From past experience and questions that the GPP Team is seeing submitted by email, there are two types of questions that are likely to pop up again and again at Voting Centers.

One is, "Why do I need to sign my ballot? Don't we have secret ballots in American elections?" Bill Barnard wrote a learned and fascinating answer to that question. The document is suitable to print as a poster for your Voting Center. It is attached to this message and posted on the DA wiki.

The second type of question is not quite as easy to answer. The question is something like, "What about superdelegates? How does my ballot really help my preferred candidate?"

The short answer is that Democrats Abroad has superdelegates, but more than 75% of our votes at the Democratic National Convention are determined by the democratic results of the ballots cast in the Global Presidential Primary.

Many voters are curious and want to know more. Here's an overview that will hopefully help you satisfy their interests in the intricacies of the nominating process:

Democrats Abroad will send 21 delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Eight of those delegates are qualified due to their positions in the Democratic National Committee: our International Chair, our International Vice Chair, three regional DNC members, and three global at-large DNC members. The International Chair and International Vice Chair were elected in 2015 and the DNC members were elected in 2012. These eight people -- commonly called super-delegates -- carry one-half vote each for a total of 4 votes in the Convention in Philadelphia. They are not required by the rules of the Party to be pledged to any candidate.

The other thirteen delegates are pledged delegates with one vote each, for a total of 13 votes in the Convention in Philadelphia. Each one must pledge his or her vote to one (qualified) presidential candidate or another. The number of delegates pledged to each presidential candidate is determined by the results of the Global Presidential Primary.

This is an overview of a complex process. There are additional people who will go to Philadelphia to represent Democrats Abroad but without a vote, including alternate(s), a page, and members of Convention committees. Hopefully this overview gives you a sense of how votes in the Global Presidential Primary determine the outcome for the presidential candidates in the Democratic Party contest.

This overview isn't available as a poster because it does simplify the actual process. Anybody who wants to know the full story is warmly invited to read all 124 pages of our Delegate Selection Plan, which is easily found on our website.

Although we expect our Q&A sessions on Sunday and Monday to focus on the practical aspects of running a Voting Center, questions like these are welcome as well.

Until then,

The GPP Team

Will Bakker

Shari Temple

Bill Barnard

Jim Mercereau

Tom Schmid

# March 2, 2016

Dear DA leaders and especially Voting Center Managers,

Congratulations on the first day of in-person primary voting! The results (while partial and tentative, of course) are encouraging from our point of view. The GPP Team very much appreciates the time and effort you put into learning the procedures and now following them. And Democrats all over the world appreciate your hard work to provide them the opportunity to vote!

We've received some great questions, particularly about unusual cases that you may encounter in Voting Centers for the next week. Please review the following advice -- especially the next paragraph.

**REPORT TALLY RESULTS IMMEDIATELY**

For a variety of reasons, including the ability to detect unlikely but critical problems, Voting Center Managers MUST communicate your tabulation numbers as soon as possible by voice to Katie (or Marc). "As soon as possible” means “as soon you are able to place a phone call by mobile or landline” rather than “at your convenience” or after a good night’s rest.

Between 6 pm and midnight DC time, Marc Rodriguez will accept your report on his mobile phone at +1 443 758 0531. If you get in touch with Marc, there is no need to report to Katie too -- just be sure to report also via email and Google form within 12 hours. (This is to help Katie get some sleep over the next week.)

Outside of those six hours each day, the first telephone number to try for Katie is +49-8051-5393. If you cannot get through, please try again after a few minutes. Some voting centers close at the same time and may keep Katie busy for a moment. Please do not leave voicemail. You may try *ksolon* on Skype, but keep in mind that if Katie's computer is asleep, it won't ring. So if Katie does not respond to your first call on skype, use her standard telephone number:  +49-8051-5393

**Military voters and APO/FPO addresses**

For the ballot, military voters should use their physical address -- where they live abroad. The APO address doesn't establish residence a specific country for our purposes, which is what is required for a valid ballot. The rules of our primary require that a valid ballot list the location where the voter lives outside the United States.

If a voter has legitimate qualms about using a physical address, you may allow them to cast a provisional ballot, but you must also do follow-up work to resolve the details within a day or so. The details for a provisional ballot in this very unusual case may be sent to me ([willbakker@democratsabroad.org](mailto:willbakker@democratsabroad.org)).

**Cross-border members**

Existing cross-border members should be allowed to vote in their "home" Country Committee's Voting Center. Most cross-border members will appear on your list of members. In the event that one does not appear, this status may be difficult to determine. So if you are not able to locate their membership number, you should use a provisional ballot and note that the voter claims to be a cross-border member. The team of final tabulators will work out the details in Germany.

New members who wish to become cross-border members may vote using a regular ballot, and this is one of the few reasons why you might use that "Voting Center Manager only" box at the bottom of the regular ballot. It would be helpful to the final tabulators if you noted "New cross-border member" in that box. Don't forget that these new members, like all new members, should be entered *and verified* within a few days.

**Bravo and keep going!**

All the wonderful press, globally and in your countries, is sending a surge of remote ballots to our inbox. So if you've already had a Voting Center, be prepared for big numbers at your second Voting Center! If you don't have a second Voting Center, keep pushing the message that all voters can cast remote ballots.

The GPP Team

Will Bakker

Shari Temple

Bill Barnard

Jim Mercereau

Tom Schmid

# March 2, 2016

Dear Susan and DA leaders,

Martin O'Malley is one of the many candidates that the press carelessly say "quit" or "dropped out." In fact, Martin O'Malley suspended his campaign. In theory, he could continue to win delegates. For our Global Primary that would mean, to start, earning more than 15% of the worldwide GPP vote. (Or convincing one of our superdelegates, I guess.)

According to our DSP, DA cannot take a duly qualified candidate off our ballot unless the candidate writes Katie a letter specifically asking to be removed. Martin O'Malley and his representatives have not done that.

Several voters at our Voting Center here in Luxembourg expressed curiosity about why O'Malley is still on the ballot. Although the whole situation may seem contrary to common-sense, I think the reason reinforces the fact that DA's Voting Centers have real ballots for a real primary -- not a straw poll in a no-stakes game to garner unwarranted attention.

Fewer voters -- but also the kind of wonks who often become volunteers -- also asked about Rocky. Although it is a low priority, Voting Center Managers may want to be prepared to say something about the democratic principle of having relatively open access to ballots.

I love this stuff!

Will

DA-Luxembourg

PS - More on "suspending a campaign": <http://www.npr.org/2016/02/07/465934674/what-does-it-mean-when-a-candidate-says-hes-suspending-the-campaign>

# Mar 6, 2016

Dear DA leaders,

Michael Long of DA-Panama raises a question that has also been asked at [PrimaryVoting@democratsabroad.org](mailto:PrimaryVoting@democratsabroad.org). Here is the response that I have given to voters asking about electronic signatures:

* If you sign it digitally using a third-party e-signature, the ballot should be considered valid. You may not simply type your name on the signature line. Still, the ideal approach is to print it out, sign it, and scan it.

I hope this helps.

Will Bakker

GPP Team

# Mar 7, 2016

Dear DA leaders,

From about 10:00pm CET (4:00pm DC time) today, all email addresses at [democratsabroad.org](http://democratsabroad.org) began giving errors in response to messages sent to them.

Due to the tremendous demand of the GPP, our email system has temporarily gone down. The IT Team is working on getting it up again as fast as possible.

The typical error message includes the phrase: "to exceed the per-day message bandwidth limit of 4000.00 MB, try again later."

This includes [primaryvoting@democratsabroad.org](mailto:primaryvoting@democratsabroad.org), so you may receive reports from individuals attempting to cast remote ballots. Please tell them that the rush to send ballots caused an outage and to please try sending their messages again in a few hours.

In the meantime, we are setting up an emergency helpline which will also available be available via our website. (The [democratsabroad.org](http://democratsabroad.org) website is just fine with no problems reported.)

Thank you for helping those affected by this situation. A member of the global leadership will keep you updated.

Will

# Mar 21, 2016

Dear Leaders,

The results are in! We will be announcing them to the world at 10:30 EDT, but wanted to send you the numbers ahead of time.

Bernie Sanders won Democrats Abroad’s Global Presidential Primary, defeating Hillary Clinton 69%-31%.

Sanders picks up 9 pledged delegates as a result of the primary, while Clinton secures an additional 4 delegates. A full breakdown of the total ballots cast for each candidate, and number of delegates received, is detailed below.

U.S. Democrats living around the world cast 34,570 valid ballots during the primary, either at dedicated voting sites March 1-8, or remotely by email attachment, post or fax. The turnout exceeded 2008’s record turnout by 50%.

DA volunteers worked around the clock and around the world over the past two weeks to verify and count every ballot cast. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard on this.

The results of Democrats Abroad’s Global Presidential Primary are as follows

**Votes and delegate totals**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **% of total vote** | **Total Vote** | **Number of delegates won** |
| Bernie Sanders | 68.79% | 23779 | 9 |
| Hillary Clinton | 30.92% | 10689 | 4 |
| Martin O’Malley | 0.06% | 21 | 0 |
| Rocky De La Fuente | 0.02% | 6 | 0 |
| Uncommitted | 0.22% | 75 | 0 |
| Total | 100.00% | 34570 | 13 |

**Delegate total: 17**

·       13 pledged delegate votes determined by Primary outcome

·       Four unpledged delegate votes determined by superdelegates (8 DNC members with 0.5 votes each)

The Party Leader/Elected Official (PLEO) delegate, and three at-large delegates, are determined by the proportion of the overall vote each candidate receives.

**Regional delegate apportionment (9 pledged delegate votes)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Total Votes by region and %** | **Total delegates by region** | **Sanders delegates** | **Clinton delegates** |
| EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) | 60.86% | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Asia-Pacific: | 19.72% | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Americas: | 19.42% | 2 | 1 | 1 |

**Global delegate apportionment (4 pledged pledged delegate votes)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Sanders** | **Clinton** |
| 1 PLEO, pledged delegate | 1 | 0 |
| 3 at-large, pledged delegates | 3 | 0 |

Delegates are allocated to regions based on the number of voters in that region compared to the total number of voters. All regions are guaranteed at least one delegate, to be assigned to the presidential candidate with the highest number of global votes.

In regions allocated two delegates, the second delegate shall be allocated to the second-place candidate with more than 15% of the vote. In this case, Asia-Pacific and Americas each receive one delegate allocated to Secretary Clinton and one delegate allocated to Senator Sanders.

The Europe, Middle East & Africa region is allocated five delegates in total, to be allocated proportionally to the presidential candidates with more than 15% of the global vote. Thus the EMEA region will elect 2 delegates pledged to Secretary Clinton and 3 delegates pledged to Senator Sanders.

The remaining four delegates are allocated to achieve the the proportion of the overall global vote each candidate received: 4 delegates for Sanders, 0 delegates for Clinton.

Voters cast votes from more than 170 countries. This is the breakdown by Country Committee (countries without official Country Committees are grouped with non-Country Committees in the same region.)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Region** | **Bernie** | **Hillary** | **Martin** | **Rocky** | **Uncommitted** | **Total** | **Percent** |
| Afghanistan | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0.02% |
| Americas Non-Country Committees | 323 | 104 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 427 | 1.24% |
| Argentina | 67 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 88 | 0.25% |
| Asia-Pacific Non-Country Committees | 531 | 242 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 776 | 2.24% |
| Australia | 635 | 237 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 873 | 2.53% |
| Austria | 286 | 122 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 409 | 1.18% |
| Belgium | 227 | 150 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 377 | 1.09% |
| Brazil | 101 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 134 | 0.39% |
| Cambodia | 52 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 64 | 0.19% |
| Canada | 2171 | 1087 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 3272 | 9.46% |
| Chile | 110 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 155 | 0.45% |
| Colombia | 64 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82 | 0.24% |
| Costa Rica | 239 | 91 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 331 | 0.96% |
| Czech Republic | 403 | 99 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 502 | 1.45% |
| Denmark | 358 | 89 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 448 | 1.30% |
| Dominican Republic | 53 | 350 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 403 | 1.17% |
| Egypt | 41 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 0.13% |
| EMEA Non-Country Committees | 577 | 145 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 723 | 2.09% |
| France | 1825 | 1058 | 6 | 0 | 12 | 2901 | 8.39% |
| Germany | 2103 | 805 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 2917 | 8.44% |
| Greece | 117 | 93 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 210 | 0.61% |
| Guatemala | 108 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 174 | 0.50% |
| Hong Kong | 213 | 137 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 351 | 1.02% |
| Hungary | 92 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 127 | 0.37% |
| India | 137 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 197 | 0.57% |
| Indonesia | 75 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0.29% |
| Ireland | 356 | 156 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 513 | 1.48% |
| Israel | 249 | 160 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 412 | 1.19% |
| Italy | 577 | 269 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 848 | 2.45% |
| Japan | 1178 | 176 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1356 | 3.92% |
| Lebanon | 29 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 0.10% |
| Luxembourg | 65 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 111 | 0.32% |
| Mexico | 848 | 535 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1388 | 4.02% |
| Netherlands | 621 | 290 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 912 | 2.64% |
| New Zealand | 476 | 63 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 539 | 1.56% |
| Nigeria | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0.01% |
| Norway | 328 | 102 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 432 | 1.25% |
| Panama | 107 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 150 | 0.43% |
| Peru | 86 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 110 | 0.32% |
| Philippines | 79 | 59 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 139 | 0.40% |
| Portugal | 39 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 62 | 0.18% |
| Russian Federation | 48 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 0.19% |
| Singapore | 107 | 149 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 259 | 0.75% |
| South Africa | 57 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0.29% |
| South Korea | 682 | 52 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 735 | 2.13% |
| Spain | 1295 | 405 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1706 | 4.93% |
| Sweden | 513 | 202 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 717 | 2.07% |
| Switzerland | 447 | 319 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 768 | 2.22% |
| Taiwan | 303 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 364 | 1.05% |
| Thailand | 681 | 235 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 918 | 2.66% |
| Turkey | 126 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 163 | 0.47% |
| Ukraine | 30 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 0.12% |
| United Arab Emirates | 541 | 334 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 880 | 2.55% |
| United Kingdom | 2874 | 1726 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 4610 | 13.34% |
| Viet Nam | 123 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 138 | 0.40% |
| Zambia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | **23779** | **10689** | **21** | **6** | **75** | **34570** |  |
| **Percent** | **68.79%** | **30.92%** | **0.06%** | **0.02%** | **0.22%** | **100.00%** |  |

Julia Bryan

International Secretary

# Mar 26, 2016

The GPP team and volunteers tagged all remote voters with the tag '2016 GPP Remote Vote'.    We also tagged about 30% of the voting center voters with the tag '2016 GPP VC Vote'.   We ran out of time to tag all of them before the ballots were sealed.   We estimate about 60 more hours of work to be able to tag the rest and not specific plan yet on when and how that may be done.  
  
However, for the almost 24K that we did tag, I have just updated the expiration date to March 8, 2020 (LVD March 8, 2016) for any that had an expiration before Feb 1, 2020.  It was exciting to see lots of 'expired' (old LVD) members that voted.   They did learn about our GPP despite we had not been able to verify them.  
  
Just wanted all of you to know since some of you have been asking.  
  
Best regards,

Shari

Shari Temple

DA Global IT Team Chair

# Mar 26, 2016

Our Global Presidential Primary brought in just over 32K new members – a 37% increase in members from Feb 1 through March 25.  Every single committee country had an increase in membership.   Below are the gross numbers based on members in the DB.   There are some duplicates so these are not exact numbers but still gives a good overview of our success.   I’ve also attached the spreadsheet for your convenience.   Note also that some of these joined after March 8 so the % Members Voting is also not a perfect number.

Great job everyone!!   As we start promoting VFA, we should see another jump in membership.

Special thanks to all the membership admins that help approve new members and keep our membership list clean.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GPP Membership Growth** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Country** | **31-Jan** | **25-Mar** | **Increase** | **Percent Growth** | **GPP Vote** | **% Members Voting** |
| Afghanistan | 134 | 140 | 6 | 4.5% | 7 | 5.0% |
| Argentina | 417 | 545 | 128 | 30.7% | 88 | 16.1% |
| Australia | 2455 | 3339 | 884 | 36.0% | 873 | 26.1% |
| Austria | 875 | 1182 | 307 | 35.1% | 409 | 34.6% |
| Belgium | 1041 | 1283 | 242 | 23.2% | 377 | 29.4% |
| Brazil | 679 | 860 | 181 | 26.7% | 134 | 15.6% |
| Cambodia | 218 | 299 | 81 | 37.2% | 64 | 21.4% |
| Canada | 14835 | 17475 | 2640 | 17.8% | 3272 | 18.7% |
| Chile | 279 | 468 | 189 | 67.7% | 155 | 33.1% |
| Colombia | 330 | 467 | 137 | 41.5% | 82 | 17.6% |
| Costa Rica | 598 | 945 | 347 | 58.0% | 331 | 35.0% |
| Czech Republic | 276 | 793 | 517 | 187.3% | 502 | 63.3% |
| Denmark | 573 | 985 | 412 | 71.9% | 448 | 45.5% |
| Dominican Republic | 2723 | 3032 | 309 | 11.3% | 403 | 13.3% |
| Egypt | 250 | 326 | 76 | 30.4% | 46 | 14.1% |
| France | 5192 | 7253 | 2061 | 39.7% | 2901 | 40.0% |
| Germany | 5053 | 7645 | 2592 | 51.3% | 2917 | 38.2% |
| Greece | 813 | 925 | 112 | 13.8% | 210 | 22.7% |
| Guatemala | 318 | 382 | 64 | 20.1% | 174 | 45.5% |
| Hong Kong | 1081 | 1433 | 352 | 32.6% | 351 | 24.5% |
| Hungary | 163 | 291 | 128 | 78.5% | 127 | 43.6% |
| India | 1114 | 1354 | 240 | 21.5% | 197 | 14.5% |
| Indonesia | 455 | 556 | 101 | 22.2% | 100 | 18.0% |
| Ireland | 1290 | 1813 | 523 | 40.5% | 513 | 28.3% |
| Israel | 1463 | 1852 | 389 | 26.6% | 412 | 22.2% |
| Italy | 2992 | 3706 | 714 | 23.9% | 848 | 22.9% |
| Japan | 1774 | 3136 | 1362 | 76.8% | 1356 | 43.2% |
| Lebanon | 138 | 192 | 54 | 39.1% | 35 | 18.2% |
| Lion City | 389 | 629 | 240 | 61.7% | 259 | 41.2% |
| Luxembourg | 224 | 297 | 73 | 32.6% | 111 | 37.4% |
| Mexico | 3707 | 4997 | 1290 | 34.8% | 1388 | 27.8% |
| Netherlands | 2458 | 3158 | 700 | 28.5% | 912 | 28.9% |
| New Zealand | 488 | 1059 | 571 | 117.0% | 539 | 50.9% |
| Nigeria | 94 | 108 | 14 | 14.9% | 5 | 4.6% |
| Norway | 1172 | 1527 | 355 | 30.3% | 432 | 28.3% |
| Panama | 331 | 482 | 151 | 45.6% | 150 | 31.1% |
| Peru | 167 | 295 | 128 | 76.6% | 110 | 37.3% |
| Philippines | 552 | 715 | 163 | 29.5% | 139 | 19.4% |
| Portugal | 201 | 256 | 55 | 27.4% | 62 | 24.2% |
| Russian Federation | 240 | 300 | 60 | 25.0% | 65 | 21.7% |
| South Africa | 468 | 597 | 129 | 27.6% | 100 | 16.8% |
| South Korea | 811 | 1769 | 958 | 118.1% | 735 | 41.5% |
| Spain | 2237 | 3939 | 1702 | 76.1% | 1706 | 43.3% |
| Sweden | 1368 | 1970 | 602 | 44.0% | 717 | 36.4% |
| Switzerland | 2724 | 3278 | 554 | 20.3% | 768 | 23.4% |
| Taiwan | 274 | 657 | 383 | 139.8% | 364 | 55.4% |
| Thailand | 1628 | 2537 | 909 | 55.8% | 918 | 36.2% |
| Turkey | 493 | 683 | 190 | 38.5% | 163 | 23.9% |
| Ukraine | 200 | 243 | 43 | 21.5% | 41 | 16.9% |
| United Arab Emirates | 527 | 1168 | 641 | 121.6% | 880 | 75.3% |
| United Kingdom | 12647 | 17000 | 4353 | 34.4% | 4610 | 27.1% |
| Viet Nam | 247 | 442 | 195 | 78.9% | 138 | 31.2% |
| Zambia | 102 | 108 | 6 | 5.9% | 7 | 6.5% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Non CC - Asia Pacific | 2022 | 2834 | 812 | 40.2% | 776 | 27.4% |
| Non CC - Americas | 992 | 1649 | 657 | 66.2% | 427 | 25.9% |
| Non CC - EMEA | 2138 | 3057 | 919 | 43.0% | 716 | 23.4% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grand Total** | **86430** | **118431** | **32001** | **37.0%** | **34570** | **29.2%** |

Best regards,

Shari

Shari Temple

DA Global IT Team Chair

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