

2018 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

PROPOSITION 5C:

Proposed Amendment to (Eventually) Change the System by which Democrats Abroad Allocates Votes to Country Committees and to Other DA Leaders.

Sponsor: Katie Solon, Germany

Introduced: April 25, 2017

WHEREAS, the DNC Unity Reform Commission's recommendation to reduce the number of DNC Members (super delegates) has been endorsed by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee (RBC) and the DNC Member voting body. In the late summer, the DNC plans to adopt changes to its charter and bylaws to implement these URC reforms and change the way it allocates votes;

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

WHEREAS, DA should wait to reform its allocation system until after the new DNC rules are adopted to determine how the new National Party rules may affect state parties, including DA;

WHEREAS, DA needs to implement 1 person 1 vote in order to be more democratic and to comply with Democratic Party rules, and is currently considering such a change to the DA Charter;

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

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

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

- 1) DA does not give a vote to each chair and vice chair of its constituent units (CCs),

and

- 2) the percentage of voting representatives allocated to its constituent units (CCs) proportionally by DA (75%) is much higher than the percentage of voting representatives allocated to constituent units (state parties) by the DNC (29%). Consequentially, DA's largest CC is allocated 24 votes, while the smallest are each allocated 1, a ratio of 24 to 1. Within the DNC, the largest state (CA) is allocated 22 votes and the smallest 25 states are each allocated 4, a ratio of 5.5 to 1. (Note: population-wise, California is 67 times larger than the smallest state of Wyoming. Its Democratic turnout in election years is also much greater than Wyoming's, yet it is only allocated 5.5 times as many DNC Members as WY.)

WHEREAS, the proposed DA allocation plan described below is fair, representative, proportional, flexible, easily understood and calculated system, flexible to adapt to DA's growing diverse organization and is based on the current DNC model and in line with other state parties.

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

- The DNC allocates 328 DNC Members to 57 state parties.

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

- 232 of these 328 DNC Members are allocated equally, representing 228 votes – 4 votes each to the 57 “state parties.” In nearly all cases, these votes are carried by the state party chair, vice chair and 1 female DNC Member and 1 male DNC Member. (Democrats Abroad is the exception: its 4 votes are carried by 8 people with ½ vote each - by the DA international chair, international vice chair and 6 others. This was arranged when DA was merged with the Canal Zone Democratic Party in the mid-70’s and first granted votes at the Democratic Convention.)

232 is 71% of the total 328 allocated to the state parties. 71% of the DNC Members allocated to the state parties are allocated equally, 4 to each state party regardless of size, population or size of the state party.

- The remaining 96 of these 328 DNC Members are allocated to 52 of the state parties (the 50 states, plus DC and Puerto Rico) proportionally, based on the population of the state and the state’s turnout in the last Democratic primary or caucus.

Thus 29% of the DNC Members allocated to state parties are allocated proportionally.

- (Due to size and turnout, 31 state parties -- 25 states + DC + the 5 territories – are allocated only the 4 DNC Members mentioned above. Similarly, DA is allocated only the 4 votes, although these votes are carried by 8 people, each with a ½ vote.

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

7 states receive the 4 DNC Members + 1 additional DNC Member (AL, AZ, CO, IN, OR, SC, TN)
6 states receive the 4 DNC Members + 2 additional DNC Members (MD, MA, MN, MS)
4 states received the 4 DNC Members + 3 additional DNC Members (GA, NJ, NC, VA)
1 state receives the 4 DNC Members + 4 additional DNC Members (MI)
1 state receives the 4 DNC Members +5 additional DNC Members (OH)
2 states receive the 4 DNC Members +6 additional DNC Members (IL, PA)
1 state receives the 4 DNC Members +8 additional DNC Members (FL)
2 states receive the 4 DNC Members + 9 additional DNC Members (NY, TX)
1 state receives the 4 DNC Members +20 additional DNC Members (CA)

The geometric mean is used to make these allocations.)

- (119 other DNC Members are chosen by virtue of their roles as elected officials, or leaders of other Dem Party groups such as the DNC ExCom, Governor's Association, College Dems or DNC Caucuses. Some are appointed by the DNC Chair, with approval from the DNC Members. For a total of 447. See DNC Charter Article 3 and DNC Bylaws Article 2 for a full list.)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Democrats Abroad will reassess the system it uses to allocate DPCA votes to Country Committees and other DA leaders soon after the DNC Charter & Bylaws are changed this summer per the URC recommendations.
2. Democrats Abroad will assign this work to the DA Standing Bylaws Committee or create another global governance committee to develop an alternate allocation plan(s) by the end of 2018 to be considered by the DPCA Voting Members in 2018 or 2019.
3. Democrats Abroad will consider the plan outlined below to amend the DA vote allocation system and Article 3, Section 3.6(a) of the DA Charter: DPCA Voting Member Allocation Plan Based on the Fair, Representative, Inclusive and Proportional Models used by DNC and Other State Parties
 - a. DA establishes a manageable base number of DPCA Voting Members. One workable option would be 150.
 - b. Of those 150, equally reserve 1 vote/DPCA Voting Member slot for each duly elected chair and vice chair of each Country Committee (CC) in compliance. (The current 42 CCs x 2 votes each = 84 DPCA Voting Members equally divided among the CCs.)
 - c. Allocate the remainder (150-84= 66) proportionally to CCs as DPCA Voting Representatives, based, depending on the year, either on verified membership or on a combination of verified membership and Global Presidential Primary (GPP) turnout.
 - d. Do the allocation in the early in odd-numbered years, shortly after member verification. (This will take into account CC membership growth usually experienced in election years.) In the odd-numbered year after midterm elections, base the allocation on the CC's verified membership. In the odd-numbered year after presidential elections, base the allocation

50% on the CC's verified membership and 50% on the CC's GPP turnout.

- e. This calculation would be made using the geometric mean.
- f. Under this plan, at the current size of DA, 56% of the votes going to CCs (84 out of 150) would be allocated based on equality. 44% (66 out of 150) would be allocated based on proportionality. (These percentages would change as more CCs are formed. The base number could be raised slightly to reflect this.)
- g. Allocate additional DPCA Voting Member slots as follows
 - i. To the 8 International ExCom members. (This number might go up in the next years if the ExCom is expanded.)
 - ii. To the other 6 DA DNC Members (This number is likely to go down per the URC recommendations.)So, at current numbers, 14 DPCA Voting Members would be added for a total of 164. ($150 + 8 + 6 = 164$.)
- h. Eventually, when each DA global Caucuses is deemed to be robust and has held global leadership elections under the supervision of a global Nominations and Elections Committee, its duly elected global Caucus chair would become a DPCA Voting Member. There are now 6 global Caucuses, so after such elections, the DPCA voting body would be $164 + 6 = 170$.
- i. (The DNC Charter allows for past DNC Chairs to have a vote as DNC Members. If DA were to follow this pattern, the 9 living past DA International Chairs would bring the total up to 179.)
- j. Using this plan would result in a manageable number (~164 to 179) of DPCA Voting Members/Representatives, allocated in a fair, representative, proportional, and inclusive way.