

2018 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

MOTION TO REFER TO COMMITTEE:

Motion to Refer Propositions 5A, 5B, “5C” and other Considerations on the Voting Allocation System of Democrats Abroad to Committee.

Sponsor: Katie Solon, Germany

Introduced: April 25, 2018

WHEREAS, later this year, the DNC will be voting on, and is expected to adopt, in whole or in part, recommendations by its Unity Reform Commission, which will dramatically adjust the DNC’s voting allocation and representation system, in order to improve inclusion, diversity and representation of a wider spectrum of US Democratic voters across the country, and to reflect the organization’s priorities;

WHEREAS, Democrats Abroad, as a State Party, may also elect to reform its voting allocation and representation system from time to time, in order to improve inclusion, diversity, and representation of a wider spectrum of US Democratic voters living abroad, in ways which reflect our organization’s priorities;

WHEREAS, DA may wish to wait to consider whether and how to change its allocation system until after the new DNC rules are adopted, as it may be affected by them;

WHEREAS, Democratic Party rules do require and emphasize “1 Person, 1 Vote”, and DA is currently considering such a change to the DA Charter;

WHEREAS, adoption of “1 Person, 1 Vote” under our current allocation system may cause the size of the DPCA to become unmanageable, while doing very little to improve geographic diversity voice or votes within our organization;

WHEREAS, DA currently distributes 25% of its votes equally (1 to each CC), and 75% of its votes proportionally (based on verified membership) to its constituent units (Country Committees);

WHEREAS, the DNC itself distributes 70% of its votes equally, and 30% of its votes proportionally to its constituent units (State Parties);

WHEREAS, DA's current allocation system is not optimal for DA because it is cumbersome, over-values the number of votes from a handful of large country committees, under-values the voice, representation, and contributions of a greater number of small country committees, and is inconsistent with systems/proportions used by the DNC, other state parties, and county parties in two significant ways:

1. **Before proportionality is considered, the DNC gives 4 votes equally to each of its constituent units (57 State Parties).** These are assigned as follows: a vote to each chair and each vice chair, and a vote to each of two DNC Members from each state, one female and one male. Thus the DNC allocates 228 votes (out of a total of 324 to State Parties), or 70%, equally. **DA allocates only 1 vote to each Country Committee.** This vote is to be split between each chair and vice chair. Thus DA allocates 25% of its votes equally, reserving the majority of its votes for proportional allocation.
2. **The DNC allows a much smaller degree of inequality among their largest and smallest State Parties,** with the largest State Party allocated 22 votes, and the smallest State Parties (of which there are 25) allocated 4 votes each, a ratio of only **5.5 to 1.** **DA, on the other hand, allows a much greater degree of voting weight inequality** among its Country Committees, with the largest CC allocated 24 votes, and the smallest CC each allocated 1, **a ratio of 24:1.**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The system used to allocate DPCA votes to Country Committees and other DA leader will be re-examined and assessed in light of the DNC Charter & Bylaws changes coming later this summer/autumn, and in light of how the DNC and State Parties allocate their votes.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

2. Propositions 5A and 5B are referred to a global committee (to be determined) which will explore voting allocation and representation approaches suitable for Democrats Abroad, and present options to be considered by the DPCA Voting Members in late 2018 or early 2019;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT:

3. The same global committee shall also consider and report on any other proposals submitted, including the voting allocation plan ("5C") outlined in the Addendum.

ADDENDUM "5C"

Proposal 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

1. DA establishes a manageable base number of DPCA Voting Members. One workable option would be to allocate 150 to Country Committees (CCs) and additional votes to other DA global leaders.
2. Of those 150 for CCs, allocate equally 1 vote to each duly elected chair and vice chair of each CC in compliance. (The current 42 CCs x 2 votes each = 84 DPCA Voting Members equally divided among the CCs.)
3. Allocate the remaining 66 (150-84) votes proportionally to CCs, to be carried one each by DPCA Voting Representatives.
4. Base the proportional allocation, depending on the year, either on verified membership or on a combination of verified membership and Global Presidential Primary (GPP) turnout.
5. Do the allocation in the early in odd-numbered years, shortly after member verification. (This will take into account CC outreach and membership growth usually experienced in election years.) In the odd-numbered year after midterm elections, base the allocation only on the CC's verified membership. In the odd-numbered year after a presidential elections, base the allocation 50% on the CC's verified membership and 50% on the CC's GPP turnout.
6. This allocation calculation would be made using the geometric mean.
7. Under this plan, at the current size of Democrats Abroad, 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. Over time, if the base number could be raised or lowered, this percentage could be maintained, or changed.)
8. Allocate additional DPCA Voting Member slots as follows:

- a. 1 vote each to the 8 International ExCom members. (This number might go up in the next years if the ExCom is expanded.)
- b. 1 vote each to the other 6 DA DNC Members (This number is likely to go down per the URC recommendations to decrease the number of “super delegates.”.)

(So, at our current numbers, 14 DPCA Voting Members would be added for a total of 164. (150 CC votes + 8 ExCom + 6 DNC Members = 164.)

- c. Eventually, as DA global Caucuses are deemed to be robust and have held global leadership elections under the supervision of a Nominations and Elections Committee, duly elected global Caucus chairs would become DPCA Voting Members. There are now 6 global Caucuses, so after such elections, the DPCA voting body would be up to 170 (164 + up to 6 Caucus chairs = 170.)

(The DNC Charter allows past DNC Chairs a vote as DNC Members. If DA were to follow this pattern, the 7 former DA International Chairs still living abroad would bring the total up to 177.)

- d. Using this plan would result in a manageable number (~164 to 177) of DPCA Voting Members/Representatives, allocated in a fair, representative, proportional, and inclusive way.