

2018 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

PROPOSITION 6:

Amend Charter to clarify DPCA Electronic Voting Weight Allocation and Process

Sponsor: Tom Schmid, International Legal Counsel

Introduced: April 20, 2018

WHEREAS, the members of the Democratic Party Committee Abroad span the globe and operate in over 50 countries;

WHEREAS, the practice of using audio-conferencing technology is already well established within the DPCA and the broader membership of Democrats Abroad;

WHEREAS, Section 3.8 of the Democrats Abroad Charter establishes a practice for taking a DPCA vote without a meeting, and that practice deviates from the principle of proportionality by overriding the DPCA vote allocation formula of Section 3.6 of the Charter, replacing it instead with an allocation system that grants one vote to each country committee, DPCA officer, and DNC member;

WHEREAS, Section 9 of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (11th ed.) instructs that the principle of "simultaneous aural communication is essential to the deliberative character of any meeting";

WHEREAS, Section 3.8 is archaic and non-deliberative to the extent that it allows DPCA to conduct the business of the organization "by letter";

WHEREAS, the interests of the DPCA would be better served by enshrining the use of audio-conferencing technology (including by telephone, web-conferencing application, or any other method that enables simultaneous aural communication) in the Charter in order to sanction the use of such technology at any and all meetings of the DPCA, whether conducted solely by electronic participation or with an in-person component;

BE IT RESOLVED that Section 3.1 of the Democrats Abroad Charter shall be amended as follows:

Section 3.1 (Calling of Meetings, including Electronic Meetings)

Meetings of the DPCA may be called by the International Chair, or by at least one-fourth (1/4th) of its members, or by a simple majority of the Executive Committee. An annual Democrats Abroad Global Meeting ~~in any event, a meeting~~ shall be called in the first half of each year to

approve the accounts of the previous year and take any such other action as may be appropriate and, in odd-numbered years, to elect officers. If, for whatever reason, the International Chair or International Vice Chair fails to call a meeting when required to do so, then the International Secretary shall call such meeting within thirty (30) days of the date required. Except as otherwise provided by Section 3.4, meetings of the DPCA may be held exclusively by, or in conjunction with, electronic participation, provided that, at a minimum, the technology used to conduct the meeting enables simultaneous aural communication (i.e., audio conferencing capability).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the text of Section 3.8 of the Democrats Abroad Charter shall be struck in its entirety and the section shall be retitled as “**Section 3.8 (Reserved)**”;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the phrase “In addition to the provision of Section 3.8,” shall be struck from Section 3.9.