

2019 Bylaws Committee Final Report

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FINAL REPORT SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The 2019 Bylaws Committee was formed in February of 2019, and was comprised of the following volunteer members appointed by the Global Chair Julia Bryan, representing a diverse cross-section of DPCA member country committees:

Aaron Kruse, Bylaws Committee Chair, (China)
Kat Allikian (New Zealand)
Ada Shen (France)
William Barnard (UK)
Danielle Stampley (Canada)
Julia Bryan, *ex-officio* as Global Chair (Czechia)

The Bylaws Committee is generally tasked by the Global Chair with providing structure and guidance to the DPCA Bylaws Amendment process, ideally so that when the next meeting of the DPCA is convened, its voting members can consider concepts and proposed amendment texts for which they are prepared to discuss and then take a decision on with their votes. To this end, the function of the Committee is largely advisory — it is the DPCA who ultimately decide what to Bylaws Amendment Propositions to adopt, to amend, or to not adopt. Bylaws Amendment Propositions can come from any member of Democrats Abroad but must be sponsored by at least one voting member of the DPCA.

The Committee spent the next several months meeting on a weekly basis in the run up to the 2019 DC Global Meeting receiving new Bylaws Amendment Propositions, considering old Bylaws Amendment Propositions which had not yet expired, and doing initial discussion with Amendment authors to help improve proposition language to better meet their intentions. The Committee conducted three Global public hearings to share preliminary considerations and opinion, and to solicit feedback and public comment on the propositions, and also developed a set of recommendations on the Amendment Propositions which was presented to DPCA on May 1, 2019. For more details, [please see the “Proposed Charter Amendments 2019” page on the DA Wiki.](#)

RESULTS OF THE 2019 BYLAWS AMENDMENT PROPOSITIONS

As per the 2019 DC Global Meeting, the following Bylaws Amendment Propositions were **ADOPTED**:

- Proposition 1: DPCA Electronic Voting Weight Allocation and Process
- Proposition 20: DPCA Removal of DPCA Members; CCs Must Remove from CC Office
- Proposition 19: Expressly Allow for the Election of Non-Voting & Alternate Voting Reps (Bakker-Cheng Floor Amended)
- Proposition 15: Charter Amendments Review, Certification, and Distribution
- Proposition 10: Remove Term Limits for Voting Reps
- Proposition 16: Full and Fair Implementation of 1P1V

The following Bylaws Amendment Propositions were **REFERRED to a Special Purpose Committee**:

- Proposition 2: DPCA Representation of Non-Country Committee DA Members

The following Bylaws Amendment Propositions were not considered at the DC meeting, and so were **REFERRED back to the next session of the Bylaws Committee**:

- Proposition 6C: Voting Representative Gender Parity is minimum 50% Non-Male
- Proposition 9: Change Titles from “International” to “Global”
- Proposition 8: Extend Voting Time

- Proposition 5: May DPCA AGM; in DC in Odd Years
- Proposition 7: Removal of Country Committees & Creation of a “Fresh Start” Option
- Proposition 11: Direct Election of Global DA Chair
- Proposition 12: Require Absentee Voting in Country Committee Elections
- Proposition 13: Require Quorum Definition in Country Committee Charters
- Proposition 14: Allow Appointment of Country Committee Chapter Chairs
- Proposition 17: Change the Voting Allocation System
- Proposition 18: Limit 1 Proxy; Loosen to Whom Voter May Proxy To

Of the unaddressed Bylaws Amendment Propositions referred back to the next session of the Bylaws Committee, Propositions 5, 6C, 7 and 8 will automatically expire, as Amendment Propositions expire after 2 years/2 Bylaws Com sessions. These amendments’ authors should be contacted by the next session of the Bylaws Committee and informed that they will need to resubmit their Propositions if they still wish to have them considered by the DPCA.

The following Bylaws Amendment Propositions were **WITHDRAWN** by the Amendment Authors.

- Proposition 3: Establish Standing Committees (Withdrawn)
- Proposition 4: Country Committee AGM by March 31 (Withdrawn)
- Proposition 6A: Voting Representative Gender Statistical Differences (Withdrawn)
- Proposition 6B: Voting Representative Gender Based Diversity (Withdrawn)

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

ADOPTED

PROPOSITION #1:

Amend Charter to Clarify DPCA Electronic Voting Weight Allocation and Process

Author: Tom Schmid, International Legal Counsel

Previously submitted as: 2018 Charter Amendment Proposition 6 (Electronic Voting Weight)

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.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

ADOPTED

PROPOSITION #10:

Removing Term Limits for Voting Reps

Author: Quaide Williams, DA Germany

Whereas, the current DPCA Charter is not clear as to whether or not Voting Representatives are subject to term limits, and...

Whereas, the current DPCA Charter does not make clear whether Voting Representatives must be elected nationally, and not locally (e.g. whether Chapter Chairs can be ex officio members of the DPCA), and...

Whereas, at least one country committee has several nationally elected positions (Secretary, Treasurer, etc) which are ex officio automatically elected as Voting Representatives, which therefore cannot be subjected to term limits, and...

Whereas, Voting Representatives are not executive officers of their country committee and play a fundamentally different role, a more representative role, from those who are, and...

Whereas, as with members of Congress with their constituents, any Voting Representative deemed to have served too long in the position may be voted down by his or her country committee's elective (electing?) body, the ultimate term-limit arbiter, and...

Whereas, no country committee should be disadvantaged by having their experienced and committed Voting Representatives restricted by term limits when others are not...

Therefore, the DPCA Charter should be amended by

1. Amending the second sentence of 3.6.f as such "Elections for Voting Representatives shall be held nationally and at the same time as the election of the Country Committee Chair and Vice Chair."

2. And by adding a new sentence at the end of section (f) at 3.6 f "There shall be no term limits applied to the position of DPCA Voting Representative."

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

ADOPTED

PROPOSITION #15:

Charter Amendments Review, Certification, and Distribution

Author: Merrill Oates, DA Hungary

The Problem

To ensure that any amendments to the DPCA Charter accurately reflect the votes and intention of the body, and to ensure that a correct version of the amended DPCA Charter is circulated to DPCA members in a timely fashion.

Also, to remove the confusing and contradictory language and examples provided in “Schedule A”, and to remove this from the Charter.

WHEREAS, trust in the integrity and accuracy of the DPCA Charter and Rules governing DA is essential to the effective functioning of the organization, and ensuring trust in the transparency and legitimacy of its democratic decision-making processes;

WHEREAS, Democrats Abroad must provide a transparent, clear, and accessible record of what changes have been made – and when those changes were made – to the DPCA Charter;

WHEREAS, at times there have been delays, confusion, and inaccuracy in the Charter record; and such inconsistencies have necessitated a “Charter Reconciliation Committee” to audit and compare Charter drafts over the previous several years, to root out inconsistencies; and it is better to improve our Charter Revision process so that this exercise is not necessary in the future;

WHEREAS, the International Secretary is tasked (in Section 4.8) with the responsibility of keeping the “minutes of DPCA meetings (taking particular note of all Standing Resolutions)”;

WHEREAS, peer review of the minutes and record of amendments by the Bylaws Committee, under the guidance of International Counsel, is the best guarantee that the Charter truly reflects the intent and decision of the body as reflected by the votes taken;

WHEREAS, any changes to the DPCA Charter should be circulated in a timely manner (within at least 60 days), after adoption;

WHEREAS, the DA Wiki has become the site of official archiving and creates a de-facto “Version of Record,” the International Counsel shall be responsible for posting and distributing a final certified copy of the Charter for DPCA.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: A new Section 11.2 (Review, Certification, and Distribution of Charter Amendments) shall be added to the charter to clarify the manner in which revisions to the Charter text shall be made and distributed.

Section 11.2 (Review, Certification, and Distribution of Charter Amendments)

Within 30-days of any amendment to this Charter that is duly passed by the DPCA according to Section 11.1, the International Secretary, or the secretary designated to record such amendments, shall submit the minutes and record of such amendments or changes to the International Counsel. Within 15-days of receipt, the International Counsel, in consultation with the Bylaws Committee (or other relevant committee as constituted at the time of such amendments), shall review, revise, and correct the text to accurately reflect the amendments as voted upon by the Members. The International Counsel shall then certify and provide a final, date-stamped, version of record of this Charter, shall post it in appropriate archives (such as the Democrats Abroad Wiki Documentation Archive), and shall circulate such to all DPCA members.

MOREOVER, WHEREAS the Charter Reconciliation Committee found that Schedule A had been misplaced from the Charter for several years on account of administrative error, and as such was not under consideration when more recent amendments were passed (such as 1P1V),

WHEREAS, Schedule A, as an Appendix to the Charter revisions of 2011 was intended to provide illustrative examples of possible allocations of additional voting allocations under the formula introduced in 2011;

WHEREAS, Schedule A, is not necessary for determining the voting allocations that are defined in the text of Section 3.6;

WHEREAS, the steps and instructions provided in Schedule A are merely examples, and do not reflect current voting allocations, and as such can easily lead to confusion about actual voting allocations;

WHEREAS, several references in Schedule A are archaic, confusing, and inconsistent with the Charter itself, and have since been obviated by the adoption of One-Person-One-Vote (1P1V) in 2018, contradicting the current language on voting allocation provided in Section 3.6;

WHEREAS, Schedule A is no longer an integral part of the Charter;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Schedule A be deleted from the DPCA Charter;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The following sentence in Section 3.6 be deleted.

~~“A hypothetical example of the calculations is attached hereto as Schedule A, which is an integral part of this Charter.”~~

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

ADOPTED

PROPOSITION #16

To fully and fairly complete the implementation of One-Person-One-Vote within DPCA

Author: Merrill Oates, DA Hungary

*Co-Sponsors: Quaide Williams, DPCA Voting Rep. DA-Germany
Ken Sherman, DNC Member, former International Chair
Katie Solon, Voting Rep. DA-Germany, former International Chair
Orlando Vidal, DNC Member, Chair DA-UAE
John Eastwood, DNC Member
Connie Borde, DNC Member
Martha McDevitt-Pugh, DNC Member
Adrainne George, DNC Member
Steve Nardi, Chair DA-Canada
Julie Buchanan, Vice-Chair DA-Canada
Heidi Burch, Voting Rep. DA-Canada
Bob Vallier, Vice-Chair DA-Italy
Marylin Ball-Brown, Vice-Chair DA-Hungary
Natalie Bachiri, Chair DA-Luxembourg
Glen D Justus, Vice-Chair DA-Luxembourg
Reno Domenico, Chair DA-Ukraine
Carolyn Wieland, Vice-Chair DA-Russia
Radu Florescu, Chair DA-Romania
Marina Bundac, Vice-Chair DA-Romania
Dana Freling, Chair DA-Finland (DPCA Member-elect)
Derek Sellin, Vice-Chair DA-Finland (DPCA Member-elect)
Jennifer Rakow-Stepper, Chair DA-Austria
Kendra Borgen, Chair DA-Netherlands
Jim Mercereau, Chair DA-Spain
Jessica Craig, Vice-Chair DA-Spain
Heather Stone, Chair DA-Israel
Steven Medeiros, Chair DA-Greece
Patricia Reed, Chair DA-Singapore
Neil Sinhababu, Vice-Chair DA-Singapore
Kelli Brouillet, Chair DA-Switzerland
Kent Getsinger, Chair DA-Australia
Phil Robertson, Chair DA-Thailand
Gary Suwannarat, Vice-Chair DA-Thailand
Eric Jackson, Chair DA-Panama
Kim Antonsen, Vice-Chair DA-Panama
Candice Kerestan, Chair DA-Germany*

Kenton E. Barnes, Vice-Chair DA-Germany
Nancy Schimkat, DPCA Voting Rep. DA-Germany, Heidelberg Chapter Chair
Kelsey McLendon, DPCA Voting Rep. DA-Germany, Stuttgart Chapter Chair
Patrick Oberlaender, DPCA Voting Rep. DA-Germany, Munich Chapter Chair
Robert Scott, DPCA Voting Rep. DA-Germany
Gil Carbajal, DPCA Voting Rep. DA-Spain
Tim Lawler, DPCA Voting Rep. DA-Spain
Salli Swartz, Vice-Chair DA-France
Camaron Vallepalli, Chair DA-India
Rajib Sengupta, Vice-Chair, DA-India
Suma Shamanna, Secretary DA-India (non-DPCA member)
Thinh Nguyen, Former Chair, DA-Vietnam (non-DPCA member)

The Problem

While the 1P1V amendment in Tokyo fixed the problem of multiple votes allocated to a single DPCA member, we still have the – significantly increased – problem of several DPCA members from smaller CCs only receiving one-half a vote each.

This amendment proposes to insert the following as Section §3.6.d (shift current Sections d, e, f, g, h, each down one letter)

3.6 (d) Each Country Committee Chair and Vice-Chair as a DPCA voting member shall be allocated one (1) whole vote.

Principle: Just, Fair, Full, and Equitable Voting

Every elected DPCA member from a CC in good standing deserves a full vote, providing them with equal and fair representation in our meetings and decision making. The voting weight of some should not be reduced to only half the value of their peers, as is currently the case.

Background

In May 2018, at the Tokyo DPCA Global Meeting, DA passed a major milestone in confirming and implementing the importance for our organization of the fundamental democratic principle of “One-Person-One-Vote” (1P1V) for our global voting allocations to country committees.

This was a major step forward in correcting one of the most significant flaws in the compromise Charter that was adopted back in Seoul in 2011.

While this fixed one heavy end of the scale, and removed the possibility of a single voter holding an inherent voting weight of 8-to-1 (8-times more votes) than some other DPCA

members – we did not, however, fix the imbalance on the other end of the scale – where some DPCA members are still only allocated 1/2 a vote.

Current Voting Allocations

The recent February 2019 DPCA voting allocations exposed to a greater extent a serious flaw that has long existed in our voting allocations formula – Six Country Committees who had 2 votes last year, have now been reduced down to just one vote for the entire committee: One-half vote allocated to each Chair and Vice-Chair.

- The DPCA Charter has always recognized both the Chair and the Vice-Chair of every Country Committee as a DPCA voting member entitled to inherently hold equal votes as part of their Country Committee voting delegation. (See Charter Section 2.2.(a) for definition of DPCA Membership.)
- When we admit a new Country Committee (regardless of their membership numbers) we immediately grant them a minimum of 2 votes to ensure that both the new Chair and Vice-Chair have a vote and a seat at the table.
- To maintain an active Country Committee requires a significant level of effort, time, cost, and engagement – regardless of membership numbers in the committee. The burden of running a small committee can even be more challenging, as there are fewer potential volunteers to draw on, and it can even be more difficult to find new members in the country.
- While the initial calculations as part of the 2011 Seoul compromise were designed to ensure that every CC did in-fact receive an allocation of at least inherent 2 votes, later modifications introduced in Punta Cana 2015 inadvertently produced the effect on effectively held votes to the current situation, where now a full 20% of our CCs only hold one whole vote. In other words, an elected Chair and Vice-Chair of an active, viable, and compliant CC, now only get one half vote each.

Urgency – Completing the Implementing of 1P1V Now in 2019

Now that we see the increasingly significant – and perverse – implications of our flawed voting calculations, we need to clearly demonstrate our commitment to fully applying the principle of One-Person-One-Vote within DPCA and adopt this amendment this year.

- If we do not correct this unjust and unfair imbalance in our voting allocations, then it is easily possible in subsequent years that this imbalance could continue to increase, where up to nearly 40% – or 20 CCs – could be reduced down to only 1 vote.
- The current situation is neither fair, just, or equitable, and sends a completely inappropriate message on the value of DPCA participation to the smaller, newer, and aspiring Country Committee Leaders who we should be encouraging to join

and contribute to DA.

- It is as if we say, “Your basic contribution here as a Chair and Vice Chair is only worth half as much as the rest of us.”

What Does Not Change

This proposed amendment does not change any other aspect of voting allocation, voting weights, or calculations in the Charter, other than ensuring that every country committee Chair and Vice Chair is given a whole vote each.

This proposed amendment does not change the number of voters who have the right to vote, or the number of members in the DPCA.

As with our *elected DNC Members, and our International Executive Committee Members*, who each have one whole vote, this amendment simply ensures that each Chair and Vice-Chair – as recognized DPCA members – are allocated a single vote so that they are equal to every other member of the DPCA.

This amendment simply ensures that all DPCA members have a single, fair, and whole vote, and that some (to quote George Orwell) are not inherently “... *more equal than others*.”

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

ADOPTED

BAKKER-CHENG FLOOR AMENDMENT VERSION

PROPOSITION #19:

Expressly Allow the Election of Non-Voting or Alternate Voting Representatives

Author: Ada Shen, France

*Co-Sponsor: Aaron Kruse, China
Steve Nardi, Canada
Salli Swartz, France
Merrill Oates, Hungary*

WHEREAS the passage of 2018's Prop 4: "1P1V" requires the direct election of Country Committee Voting Representatives in sufficient number such that they, with the Country Committee Chair and Vice Chair, can carry all of a Country Committees votes to meetings of the DPCA, such that no single person carries more than one intrinsic vote;

WHEREAS, per the Kruse floor amendment, "1P1V" goes into effect after the 2019 Global meeting in DC, and country committee bylaws which have not yet done so will need to be amended to be 1P1V-compliant after the 2019 DC Global;

WHEREAS country committee bylaws and elections should be informed by the option of Alternate Voting Representative elections, conducted at the same time as national Country Committee Officer and Voting Representative elections, can be an efficient and simple mechanism to ensure that sufficient numbers are elected to carry a country committee's votes;

WHEREAS over any given elected term, Voting Representative vacancies are likely, and without such Alternates in place and elected at the same time as Voting Reps, could require cumbersome special general elections be called in order to fill these positions, or could result in the loss of County Committee votes;

WHEREAS Alternate Voting Representatives form a natural "bench" to carry proxies to meetings of the DPCA, should there be a vacancy in the Country Committee voting delegation, or the need otherwise arise,

WHEREAS the current DPCA Charter, while not prohibiting Alternate Voting Representatives, does not *expressly* allow or encourage for their election, and it should be made clear that country committees have this option and mechanism available to them;

WHEREAS a Non-Voting Representative provision had existed in the Charter since 2011 but was removed in 2018 with unintended negative effects, which can be remedied here by restoring Non-Voting Representatives alongside Alternate Voting Representatives as Non-Voting DPCA Members;

BE IT RESOLVED the DPCA Charter will be amended to make it clear that Country Committees may conduct the direct election of Non-Voting or Alternate Voting Representatives at the same time as they elect Voting Representatives with the following change:

Section 3.6.h.iv be inserted:

iv. Country Committees may also elect Non-Voting or Alternate Voting Representatives. These are Non-Voting members of the DPCA who may hold proxies as DPCA members and fill Voting Representative vacancies, if any. Non-Voting or Alternate Representative elections must be conducted at the same time as Voting Representatives and National Officer elections, in keeping with gender balance rules.

BAKKER-CHENG FLOOR AMENDMENT ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the DPCA Charter will be amended to make clear that Alternate Voting Representatives and Non-Voting Representatives are DPCA Members, but that DPCA Non-Voting Members are not included in quorum requirements, written consents, or any matters other than the capacity to hold DPCA proxies, submit resolutions, and to access the same forums and information as DPCA Voting Members.

THUS:

- Section 2.2: “The DPCA shall be composed of... (a) the Chair, the Vice Chair (or first Vice Chair if there are several Vice Chairs), and the Voting, Non-Voting and Alternate Voting Representatives of each Country Committee that has been admitted by Democrats Abroad;
- Section 3.1: [may call a meeting] “...by at least one-fourth (1/4th) of its voting members...”
- Section 3.3: “Any DPCA Voting Member may request the International Chair in writing... items on the agenda.”
- Section 3.4: “A quorum for a meeting shall require the presence in person or on-line of:
- (a) the International Chair or Vice Chair of the DPCA; and
 - (b) 40% of DPCA Voting Members (i.e. excluding DPCA Non-Voting Members)
- Section 3.6(d): “All decisions shall be taken by simple majority vote except where a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote is required (Sections 2.4(c), 4.2, 5.3, 6.1 and 10.1) or where the right to vote is not accorded to all DPCA Voting Members (Sections 4.2 and 7.2)
- Section 3.6(e): “If in any vote to be decided on the basis of Country Committees, there is a division among its DPCA Voting Members”

Section 3.9: “the DPCA may take any action under this Charter without a meeting if 90% of all DPCA Voting Members”...

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alternate Voting Representatives and Non-Voting Representatives shall not be considered DPCA Members for the purposes of the 2020 Delegate Selection Plan.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

ADOPTED

PROPOSITION #20

DPCA Removal of DPCA Members; CCs Must Remove from CC Office

Author: Joe Smallhoover, France
Formerly Rider 2.4 of 2018's Prop 11: Global Housekeeping

This charter amendment proposes to clarify that, while the DPCA can take action to remove a Country Committee Chair, Vice Chair or Voting Representative from the DPCA as may need be, it is up to the local Country Committee to take additional and appropriate action to remove them from the Country Committee office.

Section 2.4 (Cessation of Membership)

- (a) A member may resign from the DPCA by written notice to the International Chair, and such resignation shall be effective immediately;
- (b) A DPCA member who (i) ceases to have his or her principal residence abroad or (ii) has missed three (3) consecutive meetings of the DPCA shall be deemed to have resigned from the DPCA, including from any DPCA office under Section 2.2 above; provided, however, that a meeting attended in person by the Chair, Vice Chair, or Voting Representative of the Country Committee, or proxy holder from the same Country Committee, shall for these purposes also be considered as attended by the Chair, Vice Chair, or Voting Representative as the case may be;
- (c) After notice and opportunity for hearing and upon grounds found by the DPCA to constitute good and sufficient cause, it may remove a member by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote. The Executive Committee shall adopt such rules of procedure as it deems necessary to ensure that the removal hearing is conducted in a fair manner, which rules will include timely notice to the member's Country Committee in addition to notice to the member in question. In the event of the removal of the Chair, Vice Chair or Voting Representative of a Country Committee, such removal shall only result in removal from membership in the DPCA and shall not affect the member's position within the Country Committee in question; based on this removal from the DPCA, under the guidance and notification by the Regional Vice Chair and International Counsel, the Country Committee should take whatever action it deems appropriate, in conformity with its charter and bylaws, to remedy the issues that resulted in such removal, including further removal and

replacement of the member in question from Country Committee positions.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

REFERRED TO SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

PROPOSITION #2:

Amend Charter to ensure representation for DA members living outside of Country Committees.

Author: John Grosser, DA Germany

Co-Sponsor: Merrill Oates, DA Hungary

Previously submitted as: 2018 Charter Amendment Proposition 7 (Non-CC Representation)

WHEREAS a significant number of general members of Democrats Abroad live in countries which do not have a recognized DA Country Committee, or do not have the conditions for forming a DA Country Committee;

WHEREAS the organizing potential for Democrats Abroad depends not only on increasing our numbers and effectiveness where we are locally organized, but also in places where we are not already locally organized;

WHEREAS improving representation and inclusion is a core democratic principle which we should strive to apply to our own organization, where possible and practical;

BE IT RESOLVED to amend the Charter as follows:

“Article One: Name; Purpose

[...]

General Membership in Democrats Abroad is open to all citizens of the United States of voting age (or who will be such before the next Federal election) living outside the US who by joining declare their support for the principles and aims of the Democratic Party of the United States of America. Membership is free, voluntary, and can be canceled by the member at any time for any reason. ~~who have declared themselves to be Democrats. Members of Democrats Abroad may also be members of a local Democratic Country Committee or organizing committee existing in the respective country or defined geographic area in which such member resides or works.”~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to amend the Charter as follows:

“Section 5.7 (Non-Country Committee Representative Members-At-Large)

General members ~~Individuals residing in territories not having a recognized Democrats Abroad~~ of Democrats Abroad residing in territories without ~~not having a~~ Democrats Abroad Country Committee shall have the same benefits and privileges as other general members within DA.

All such Non-Country Committee (NCC) general members may, at the discretion of their Regional Vice Chair, elect from their number within the Region an NCC Representative to represent their interests to the DPCA, including at meetings of the DPCA. The NCC Representative shall be a member of the DPCA; shall hold one (1) whole vote; shall serve two year terms; and shall be limited to two consecutive terms.”

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

REFERRED TO NEXT BYLAWS COMMITTEE

PROPOSITION #5:

Amend Charter to set time of DPCA Annual General Meeting in May; and place in DC in Odd-Numbered Years

Author: David S. Miller, DA Denmark

Previously submitted as: 2018 Charter Amendment Proposition 15 (DPCA AGM in May; DC in Odd Years)

WHEREAS, it is convenient to hold the Annual DPCA Meeting during the month of May, which follows many of the Country Committees' Annual General Meetings in the first quarter of the year, particularly the Country Committee's Annual General Meetings in odd-numbered years, where the Country Committees' Executive Committees are in most cases elected;

WHEREAS, there are many advantages of holding the Annual DPCA Meeting in the Washington, DC area, in odd-numbered years;

WHEREAS, it was decided by resolution at the Annual DPCA Meeting in Seoul, Korea in 2011 that the DPCA should hold its Annual DPCA Meeting in the Washington, DC area, in odd-numbered years;

WHEREAS, at the Annual DPCA Meeting in even-numbered years, bids have been made to hold the following Annual DPCA Meeting, which takes place in an odd-numbered year, in countries outside the United States, often leading to time-consuming discussions at the Annual DPCA Meeting in even-numbered years about the advantages of holding the following meeting in the Washington, DC area, and that the Annual DPCA Meeting often ends up deciding to hold the following Annual DPCA Meeting, in the Washington, DC area;

WHEREAS, at the Annual DPCA Meeting in presidential election years (which are even-numbered years), Democrats Abroad delegates are elected to the Democratic National Convention, and that discussions of where to hold the following Annual DPCA Meeting in an odd-numbered year takes up time when the election of delegates and other important matters, including discussing the Democrats Abroad Party Platform, are on the agenda;

WHEREAS, by amending the Democrats Abroad Charter to include a provision that the Annual DPCA Meeting will be held in the Washington, DC area in odd-numbered years will provide clarity and allow Country Committees bidding to host an Annual DPCA Meeting in even-numbered years more time to prepare their bids;

WHEREAS, holding the Annual DPCA Meeting in the Washington, DC area in odd-numbered years allows DPCA members and other Democrats Abroad members the

opportunity to participate in Congressional Door Knocks, when Representatives and Senators are generally in Washington, and not campaigning in their home districts as they do in even-numbered years;

WHEREAS, holding the Annual DPCA Meeting every other year in the Washington, DC area allows DPCA members and other Democrats Abroad members the opportunity to speak to Administration officials at various Departments of the Executive Branch about issues affecting Americans living abroad;

WHEREAS, holding the DPCA Global Meeting every other year in the Washington, DC area allows the Democratic National Committee and other Democrats in the United States to get to know DPCA members and other Democrats Abroad members and vice versa;

WHEREAS, there may be unforeseen circumstances that preclude the possibility of holding the Annual DPCA Meeting in the Washington, DC area in odd-numbered years, and/or during the month of May in any year, and therefore there should be a provision for the International Executive Committee to hold the Annual DPCA Meeting in odd-numbered years in another place, and/or during another month other than the month of May;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Section 3.2 of the Democrats Abroad Charter shall be amended as follows:

“Section 3.2 (Date and Place)

(a) The annual DPCA meeting shall take place during the month of May. In odd-numbered years, the place of the meeting shall be in the Washington, DC area. In even-numbered years, upon proposal of the International Chair at a duly constituted DPCA meeting, and after having invited all Country Committees to submit non-binding bids, the date, time, and place of the annual DPCA meeting required under the previous Section shall be determined by majority vote of the Country Committees, DPCA officers, and DNC members present or represented at the meeting or participating by electronic vote (see Section 3.7). The Executive Committee may vote to change the date, time, or place for reasons it deems important.

(b) If the Executive Committee deems that circumstances preclude that the annual DPCA meeting can take place during the month of May, and/or that it can take place in Washington, DC during an odd-numbered year or the determined venue in an even-numbered year, the Executive Committee may vote by a two-thirds majority to change the date, time, and/or place (including to outside the United

States in odd-numbered years). If in such circumstances the date of the meeting is not the month of May, then to the extent possible as deemed by the Executive Committee, the meeting should be held in a month later than May.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

REFERRED TO NEXT BYLAWS COMMITTEE

PROPOSITION #6C:

**Amend Charter so that DPCA Voting Representative
Gender Balance is minimum 50% Non-Male**

*Sponsors: Sue Alksnis, Canada
Steve Nardi, Canada
Heidi Burch, Canada*

Previously submitted as: 2018 Charter Amendment Proposition 16C (Voting Rep Non-Male Minimum)

WHEREAS country committees often have more women in leadership than other genders; and

WHEREAS gender parity requirements for DPCA voting reps bars women in leadership from having DPCA votes in proportion to their contributions in leadership; and,

WHEREAS DA is committed to ensuring representation by diverse voices, diversity of genders in DA leadership, and appropriate representation among DPCA voting representatives by women providing leadership within DA country committees and chapters; and,

WHEREAS the Democratic National Committee has long-established rules mandating equal representation by women in order to offset historical and present-day discrimination against women; and

WHEREAS Article Nine, Section 16 of the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States requires all party governing bodies to be “as equally divided as practicable according to gender” for the purpose of “conducting their affairs,” and it is not practicable for DA to turn away strong female candidates; and,

WHEREAS the current gender parity rule is preventing capable and interested women from being elected to DPCA membership; and

WHEREAS the proposed amendment below supports and advances the aims and principle of the Democratic Party’s gender parity standard with respect to representation by women, and without limiting opportunities for non-binary individuals;

THEREFORE the following amendment is proposed:

“Section 3.6 (Voting)

- (f) Each Country Committee shall have the option to elect non-voting Representatives, and shall be required to elect at least the minimum number of Voting Representatives necessary to

enable it to cast all its votes. Such election(s) shall be held at the same time as the election of a Country Committee's Chair and Vice Chair. If a Country Committee has more than one (1) Voting Representative, a minimum of 50% shall be non-male. ~~gender balance shall apply.~~ The term of a Voting Representative shall be the same as for Officers of the Country Committee. All Voting Representatives shall be entitled to attend all Democrats Abroad meetings during the same two (2)-year term as for the Country Committee Chair and Vice Chair offices. If a Country Committee is entitled to less than five (5) votes, the Non-Voting DPCA Representative, if any, shall have the right to speak at DPCA meetings but not to vote, except under Section 3.7 below. If a Country Committee is entitled to five (5) or more votes, the distribution of votes among the Chair, Vice Chair, and Voting Representative(s) (if any) shall be determined by the Country Committee at the time of election, failing which by the Country Committee Chair; provided, however, that a Voting Representative shall have no less than one (1) vote nor more votes than the Country Committee Chair or Vice Chair."

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

REFERRED TO NEXT BYLAWS COMMITTEE

PROPOSITION #7:

Facilitate DPCA removal and a “Fresh Start” for perpetually out of compliance Country Committees

Sponsor: Merrill Oates, DA Hungary

Previously submitted as: 2018 Charter Amendment Proposition 17 (Fresh Start CC Compliance)

To clarify and expedite process of removing chronically non-compliant and defunct Country Committees who have not been active for years and yet remain in DPCA voting calculations. To modify the amendment adopted during the online DPCA meeting in July 2017.

WHEREAS, there are some few DPCA Country Committees that came into activity in 2008 and prior years, which have ceased to function as active committees in compliance with the DPCA Charter, or demonstrate any immediate likelihood of soon coming back into compliance, despite extensive encouragement and outreach from the Regional RVCs;

WHEREAS, these Country Committees remain on the DPCA CC lists and voting allocations, but have not had any voting representation for several years;

WHEREAS, the Charter Amendment adopted in 2017 to allow for removal of such defunct Committees, will only come into effect in January 2019, and still provides for an excessive period of inactivity before a CC can be removed;

WHEREAS, prolonged inactivity and failure to meet compliance requirements over a period longer than a full Federal election cycle, indicates that intervention and a “Fresh Start” approach may be the best way of re-juvenating an inactive Committee;

WHEREAS, members in any Country who seek to organize can initiate the process of Country Committee formation at any time;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 5.10 of the Democrats Abroad Charter shall be amended and replaced as follows:

“Section 5.10 (Removal of Out of Compliance Country Committees)

[Effective January 1, 2019]

- (a) If a Country Committee (i) fails to fully comply with the requirements of Section 5.4 over the three (3) previous years ~~for four (4) consecutive years~~ or (ii) is suspended pursuant to Section 5.9 and fails to take the steps necessary to have such suspension overturned during the three (3) ~~four (4)~~ years after being suspended, then on the third anniversary of the Country Committee's non-compliance as determined by the Executive Committee or suspension. such Country Committee shall automatically be removed from the DPCA without any additional notice or action being required on the part of the DPCA unless the DPCA Executive Committee votes by a seven- eighths (7/8ths) vote to delay dissolution and removal for a period of one (1) year. If the DPCA Executive Committee votes to delay removal and the Country Committee fails to fully comply with the requirements of Section 5.4 or to take the steps necessary to have their suspension overturned within the 12 (twelve) months following the vote, then on the first anniversary of the vote to delay, the Country Committee shall automatically be removed from the DPCA without any additional notice or action being required on the part of the DPCA. Members of a removed Country Committee become members-at-large of Democrats Abroad.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS
REFERRED TO NEXT BYLAWS COMMITTEE

PROPOSITION #8:

Extend Voting Time for Resolutions

Sponsor: Heidi Burch, DA Canada

Previously submitted as: 2018 Charter Amendment Proposition 19 (Extend Voting Time)

WHEREAS DA is a global organization spanning all time zones, thereby requiring all Voting Representatives, at some Annual General Meetings, to attend during times of the day that are outside typical waking hours for their time zone; and

WHEREAS a major impediment to CC members standing for election as DPCA voting representatives is uncertainty when voting will take place during the Annual Global Meeting; and

WHEREAS Voting Representatives may inadvertently miss their chance to vote on specific provisions due to time limits outside their control;

BE IT RESOLVED that the agenda of the Annual Global Meeting will now provide that voting for all Resolutions shall commence one (1) hour after all Resolutions have been put into final format for voting and voting shall remain open for six (6) hours. At that time, voting shall close and results will be tallied and distributed as quickly as possible.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

REFERRED TO NEXT BYLAWS COMMITTEE

PROPOSITION #9:

Change the Titles of DA's Officers from "International" to "Global"

Author: Rick Wicks, DA Sweden

*Co-Sponsors: Christina Skovsgaard, Norway
Susan Alksnis, Canada
Adrianne George, Sweden*

WHEREAS – as opposed to fine literature – in technical or legal writing, such as an organization's bylaws, it is generally desirable not to mix terms when referring to the same concept, and to use precise language based on meaning, not sound; and

WHEREAS when the descriptive term "international" was first applied to DA's officers it may have been more appropriate than "global" would have been since, at that time, the organization consisted of only a few country committees in Europe; and

WHEREAS the organization has since spread across the globe, with country committees in all regions, and members in almost all countries, even including territories which are not nations; and

WHEREAS in conjunction with that growth and evolution – and regardless of the fact that DA members by definition live outside the U.S. – DA has instituted global caucuses, annual global meetings, and quadrennial global presidential primaries; and

WHEREAS the history of the organization thus suggests that the term "international" as applied to DA's officers is anachronistic; and

WHEREAS DA members are all Americans and DA is organized by country committees purely as a matter of convenience, so that its global operations – having nothing to do with the nature of the particular countries where DA members may happen to live – are in no sense "international"; and

WHEREAS DA's officers relate not only to DPCA (which arguably consists only of country-committee representatives) but of all DA members regardless where they live and to DA's global activities including its annual global meetings and its global presidential primaries; and

WHEREAS more specifically, when, for example, DA's Chair sends a weekly email to members she is addressing all of them, not merely DPCA members, as their Chair; and

WHEREAS the term "international" may inaccurately suggest to outsiders (including media) that it has something to do with "foreigners"; and

WHEREAS current usage, which is enshrined in the Charter, can only be changed by amendment to the Charter;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that sections 2.2(c), 2.4(a), 3.1, 3.2, 3.3(a), 3.3(b), 3.4(a), 3.4, 3.5, 3.7(c), 3.7(d), 3.8, 4.1(i/a), 4.3 (a), 4.3(c), 4.4, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 5.2, 5.4(a), 5.4(b), 5.4(c), 5.4(f), 5.4(g), 5.5, 5.8(b), 5.9(a)(i), 5.9(b), 6.3, 7.1(a), 7.2 of the Charter of Democrats Abroad shall be amended to refer to “Global” rather than “International” officers.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

REFERRED TO NEXT BYLAWS COMMITTEE

PROPOSITION #11:

Direct Election of the Global Democrats Abroad Chair

Author: Eric Jackson, DA Panama

WHEREAS, the global officers of Democrats Abroad (DA) are chosen every two years at a convention, typically in Washington DC. The people who have votes are officers or voting representatives of the recognized country chapters.

WHEREAS, excluded from any representation at these conventions are the many Democrats Abroad members in countries without recognized chapters. Substantial country chapters, through internal discord, their officers' neglect or arbitrary decisions from above, may be ruled "out of compliance" and denied a say in who the global DA officers are. Democrats Abroad members in countries with conditions ranging from small or scattered members of Democrats to social and political climates that make it dangerous or difficult for foreigners to congregate and form country chapters are also excluded.

WHEREAS, the officers and voting representatives of country chapters may be unrepresentative of the opinions of rank-and-file Democrats in their countries.

WHEREAS, each chapter's delegation to the DA conventions is given a voting weight according to calculations that imprecisely reflect the number of active Democrats in its country.

WHEREAS, the electoral math of becoming and remaining a global DA officer is more conducive to paying great attention to a few large country chapters' needs and wishes and little attention to the Democrats in countries with small chapters or no chapters. This usually results in less attention to building the DA membership and organization in all regions of the world where there are Democrats.

WHEREAS, every four years DA holds a global presidential primary in which all DA members in all countries are given one vote if they choose to cast it. Although these elections will lack the participation of Democrats who choose to vote in those US state primaries or caucuses in which they are eligible to cast ballots, the global primaries more accurately reflect the thinking of Democrats living outside of the USA than do the DA conventions.

WHEREAS, it would not be very difficult to add a second line to the quadrennial Democrats Abroad global primary ballot, in which the general membership directly elects the global DA chair. Nor would it be all that complex to allow those Democrats

who do not participate in our presidential primary because they decide to vote in a state primary or caucus to participate in the DA primary by voting for global chair only.

WHEREAS, such a change would expand the global chair's term from two years to four years, and give the chair a more authoritative mandate to make recommendations to the organization's members and leaders.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter be amended to directly elect the global chair to a four-year term as a second line on the global presidential primary ballot.

Section 4.2 (Election)

a) The officers other than the International Chair and the Regional Vice Chairs shall be elected at the first meeting of the DPCA held in odd-numbered years, to serve for a term of two (2) years or until their successors have been elected. Election shall be by majority of the votes cast by the DPCA, subject to the provisions of Article 3.

b) The Regional Vice Chairs shall be elected and replaced pursuant to Section 6.2.

c) No officer, including Regional Vice Chairs, may serve in the same office for more than two (2) consecutive full terms. In the event that there is no candidate for a DPCA Executive Committee office, an officer who has served two (2) consecutive terms in that office may be elected to a third term of that office by a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority vote pursuant to Section 4.1.

d) The International Chair shall be elected for a four-year term by the global membership of Democrats Abroad at the same time and manner that ballots are cast in the Democrats Abroad global Presidential Primary. The candidate with the most votes for International Chair shall be elected.

e) In the first global direct election of the International Chair an incumbent may seek that position without being bound by previously existing term limits. Subsequently no person shall serve consecutive terms as International Chair.

f) The global Executive Committee shall, in the November and December of the odd-numbered year immediately preceding a US presidential election year, receive nominations from any Democrats Abroad member who seeks to be elected as International Chair or nominates another member to do so. Any member of any country committee is qualified to run for International Chair. The Executive Committee shall determine the qualifications and if necessary the willingness and ability to serve of all nominees and place all qualified, willing and able members on the ballot by the end of said odd-numbered year, with provisions for any aggrieved person to appeal that decision and have the dispute resolved by a prompt online DPCA meeting that decides the issue before the notice of election for the Presidential Primary and the International Chair election is sent to the global membership. Notice of the Presidential

Primary and International Chair election and all procedures related to that event shall be sent out to the entire membership at the same time.

g) A Democrats Abroad member who, for whatever reason, chooses to vote in a state's presidential primary or caucus shall not, for that reason, be disqualified from voting for International Chair.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

REFERRED TO NEXT BYLAWS COMMITTEE

PROPOSITION #12:

Amend Charter to include voting by absentee ballot in Country Committee elections

Author: David S. Miller, DA Denmark

WHEREAS, certain Country Committees do not allow voting by absentee ballot in Country Committee elections;

WHEREAS, the ability to vote absentee in Country Committee elections, either by mail, or by email or other electronic means, enables the greatest participation in the elections among the Country Committee's membership;

WHEREAS, one of the main purposes of Democrats Abroad is to ensure that as many American citizens residing abroad can vote via absentee ballot in U.S. elections, as well as in the Democrats Abroad Global Primary;

WHEREAS, Country Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Voting Representatives are members of the DPCA, and that similar minimum standards should be used in the elections of such DPCA members across Country Committees;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democrats Abroad Charter be amended to include a new Section 5.5:

Section 5.5 (Absentee Ballots in Country Committee Elections)

The membership of a Country Committee shall have access to absentee ballots, including by mail, as well as by email and/or online, in the Country Committee's elections for office.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

REFERRED TO NEXT BYLAWS COMMITTEE

PROPOSITION #13:

Amend the Charter so all Country Committees and Chapters have established definitions of quorums

Author: David S. Miller

WHEREAS, certain Country Committees do not have in their bylaws established definitions of quorums for meetings of the Country Committee Executive Committee and/or of its subcommittees and/or of its general meetings of the membership;

WHEREAS, Country Committee Chapters that elect their officers should establish definitions of the size and composition of a quorum of meetings of its leadership, and general meetings of its membership;

WHEREAS, according to Robert's Rules of Order, such quorums should be established (e.g., see RRO 11th Edition, page 346, line 15);

WHEREAS, Country Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Voting Representatives (if applicable) are elected at Country Committee general meetings of the membership, and these representatives are members of the DPCA, and that such DPCA members should be elected by their respective Country Committee membership according to similar standards;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democrats Abroad Charter be amended to include a new Section 5.5:

Section 5.5 (Country Committee and Chapter Quorums)

A Country Committee shall establish in its bylaws the definition of quorums, being of reasonable size and composition, for meetings of its Executive Committee, of subcommittees, and of General Meetings of its membership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new fourth paragraph be inserted in Section 5.6 (Chapters):

Section 5.6 (Chapters)

Any Country Committee may permit Chapters to be formed within local geographic areas, including by amendment of the Country Committee bylaws recognizing such Chapter(s). Chapters shall be recognized only for internal purposes of the Country Committee upon terms to be specified by the Country Committee. Recognized Chapters shall operate in compliance with the bylaws of the Country Committee (as may be modified in the judgment of the Country Committee from time to time), as well as the Charter and rules of Democrats Abroad.

The Chapter shall hold a meeting to elect a Chair and other officers defined in its Country Committee bylaws. The meeting shall be called upon reasonable notice and conducted in accordance with the bylaws of the Country Committee and this Charter, respectively. The minutes of the meeting and contact details of individuals so elected shall be promptly provided to the Chair of the Country Committee.

All financial matters concerning Chapters shall be under the review and supervision of the Chair and Treasurer of the Country Committee who shall take into consideration the budget, sources, and proposed uses of funds relating to any Chapter. In any event, Country Committees shall be ultimately responsible for ensuring compliance by their Chapters with all applicable laws in accordance with Section 5.1.

For Country Committees that have elected Chapter Chairs, the definition of quorums, being of reasonable size and composition, shall be established in the Country Committee bylaws and, if applicable, the bylaws of the Chapter, for meetings of the Chapter leadership, and for General Meetings of the Chapter membership.

Any dispute between a Chapter and its Country Committee may be brought before the DPCA Executive Committee for determination.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

REFERRED TO NEXT BYLAWS COMMITTEE

PROPOSITION #14:

Allow Chapter Chairs to be Appointed

Author: David S. Miller

WHEREAS, certain Country Committees have Chapters with Chapter Chairs who are elected by the Chapter membership, while certain other Country Committees have Chapters with Chapter Chairs who are appointed by the Country Committee Chair and approved by a quorate meeting of the elected members of the Country Committee's Executive Committee;

WHEREAS, the second paragraph of Section 5.6 (Chapters) in the existing Democrats Abroad Charter states that Chapter Chairs shall be elected;

WHEREAS, the variations of circumstances among Country Committees should allow for either elected or appointed Chapter Chairs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in order to allow for both elected and appointed Chapter Chairs, the second paragraph of Section 5.6 of the existing Democrats Abroad Charter be amended to include the following:

Section 5.6 (Chapters)

Any Country Committee may permit Chapters to be formed within local geographic areas, including by amendment of the Country Committee by-laws recognizing such Chapter(s). Chapters shall be recognized only for internal purposes of the Country Committee upon terms to be specified by the Country Committee. Recognized Chapters shall operate in compliance with the bylaws of the Country Committee (as may be modified in the judgment of the Country Committee from time to time), as well as the Charter and rules of Democrats Abroad.

Chapter Chairs may be elected by the membership residing in the Chapter's geographic region, or may be appointed by the Country Committee Chair and approved by a quorate majority of the elected members of the Country Committee's Executive Committee, according to the Country Committee's bylaws. For Chapter's with an elected Chapter Chair, the Chapter shall hold a meeting to elect a Chair and other officers defined in its Country Committee bylaws. The meeting shall be called upon reasonable notice and conducted in accordance with the bylaws of the Country Committee and this Charter, respectively. The minutes of the

meeting and contact details of individuals so elected shall be promptly provided to the Chair of the Country Committee.

All financial matters concerning Chapters shall be under the review and supervision of the Chair and Treasurer of the Country Committee who shall take into consideration the budget, sources, and proposed uses of funds relating to any Chapter. In any event, Country Committees shall be ultimately responsible for ensuring compliance by their Chapters with all applicable laws in accordance with Section 5.1.

Any dispute between a Chapter and its Country Committee may be brought before the DPCA Executive Committee for determination.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

REFERRED TO NEXT BYLAWS COMMITTEE

PROPOSITION #17:

**Change the System by which Democrats Abroad
Allocates Votes to Country Committees and to Other
DA Leaders**

Author: Katie Solon, DA Germany

WHEREAS, DA voted in 2018 to change the DA Charter to implement 1 person 1 vote (1p1v) in order to be more democratic and to comply with Democratic Party rules;

WHEREAS, under current DPCA vote allocation rules, as the organization grows, implementing 1 p 1 v will expand the DPCA voting body and some Country Committee voting delegations to unmanageable size;

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

WHEREAS, under current vote allocation rules some Country Committee chairs and vice chairs are only allocated ½ vote, which is not in keeping with the spirit or intent of 1p1v;

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

WHEREAS, DA's current allocation rules result in a ratio of proportionality that is not consistent with the ratios used at the DNC and in state parties;

WHEREAS, the DNC Unity Reform Commission's recommendations to change the duties of and reduce the number of DNC Members (super delegates) were approved by the DNC Member voting body in 2018 and the DNC has or will adopt changes to its charter and bylaws to implement these URC reforms and change the way it allocates votes;

WHEREAS, DA should reform its vote allocation system in line with the new DNC rules and along a ratio of proportionality that is used at the DNC and in state parties;

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 (the current 45 CCs) while the DNC does give a vote to each chair and vice chair of its constituent units (the 57 state parties), and
- 2) the percentage of the total of voting representatives allocated to DA's constituent units (CCs) proportionally by DA (75%) is much higher than the percentage of the total of voting representatives allocated to constituent units (state parties) in 2016 by the DNC (29%).

Consequently, 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) in 2016 was 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. California's 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, for reference, the following describes how the DNC allocated DNC Members in 2016 to the state parties, including DA, in the current 2016-2020 cycle.

- Of the total 447 DNC Members, 328 DNC Members were allocated to the state parties. (The other 119 were elected officials, leaders of other Dem groups or nominated by the DNC Chair.)

(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).)

- Of these 328 DNC Members allocated to state parties:

228 of these votes/DNC Members were allocated equally

96 votes are allocated proportionally for a total of 328 DNC Members from the state parties

The 228 votes allocated equally --- are distributed 4 votes each to the 57 "state parties" regardless of size of the state party or its democratic performance or the population of the state.

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, each with ½ vote. So these 228 votes are carried at the DNC by 232 DNC Members.

232 DNC Members is 71% of the total 328 DNC Members allocated to the state parties. Again, this part of the allocation does not take into account the size or population of a state party.

- The remaining 96 of these 328 DNC Members for state parties were 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 were allocated proportionally.
- Due to size and turnout, 31 state parties -- 25 states + DC + the 5 territories -- were allocated only the 4 "core" DNC Members mentioned above. (Similarly, DA was allocated only the 4 votes, although these votes are carried by 8 people, each with a ½ vote.)

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

7 states received 1 additional DNC Member (AL, AZ, CO, IN, OR, SC, TN)

6 states received 2 additional DNC Members (MD, MA, MN, MS)

4 states received 3 additional DNC Members (GA, NJ, NC, VA)

1 state received 4 additional DNC Members (MI)

1 state received 5 additional DNC Members (OH)

2 states received 6 additional DNC Members (IL, PA)

1 state received 8 additional DNC Members (FL)

2 states received 9 additional DNC Members (NY, TX)

1 state received 20 additional DNC Members (CA)

- The geometric mean was used to make these allocations.
- (The 119 other DNC Members were 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 75 were 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.)

WHEREAS, the proposed DA allocation plan described below -- in the 4th "Resolve" clause -- is fair, representative, proportional, flexible, easily understood and calculated system, flexible to adapt to DA's growing diverse organization and is based on the equality and proportionality of DNC model and in line with other state parties.

WHEREAS, last year DA sent this proposal (in 2018, referred to as proposed bylaws amendment 5c) to the DA Governance Committee for further study;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Democrats Abroad will reassess the system it uses to allocate DPCA votes to Country Committees and other DA leaders now that DA will implement 1 person 1 vote, and the DNC Charter & Bylaws were changed in 2018 per the Unity Reform Commission recommendations.

2. The Democrats Abroad Governance Committee or other designated team will analyze and report back to the DPCA voting body on any changes the DNC made to its (DNC Member) vote allocation system based on Unity Reform Commission changes by August 2019.

3. Democrats Abroad Governance Committee or other designated team will develop an alternate vote allocation plan(s) by the end of 2019 to be considered by DPCA Voting Members by the end of 2019.

4. 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 45 CCs x 2 votes each = 90 DPCA Voting Members, or 60% of the total of 150, would be equally divided among the CCs.)

c. Allocate the remainder (150-90= 60 or 40%) 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 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 only on the CC's verified membership. In the odd-numbered year after presidential elections, base the allocation both on the CC's verified membership and on the CC's GPP turnout. (50% verified membership and 50% GPP turnout.)

e. The calculation for distribution of these 60 DPCA Voting Representatives to CCs would be made using the geometric mean. (As is done at the DNC.)

f. Under this plan, at the current size of DA, 60% of the votes going to CCs (90 out of 150) would be allocated based on equality. 40% (60 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. Consider the following also as DPCA Voting Member with 1 vote each:

i. The 8 International ExCom members. (This number might go up in the next years if the ExCom is expanded.)

ii. The other 6 DA DNC Members elected at regional and national conventions in presidential years.

These 14 DPCA Voting Members would be added to the base of 150 from the CCs for a total of 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 replicate this, the 9 living past DA International Chairs would bring the total up from 170 to 179.)

j. Using this plan would result in a manageable number (~164 to 179) of DPCA Voting Members, allocated in a fair, representative, equal, proportional, and inclusive way.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

REFERRED TO NEXT BYLAWS COMMITTEE

PROPOSITION #18:

Limit 1 Proxy; Loosen to Whom Voter May Proxy To

Author: Katie Solon, DA Germany

WHEREAS, DA's proxy rules should reflect the intent of 1 person 1 vote and be consistent with Democratic National Party proxy rules;

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 8(g) of the DNC Bylaws states that when proxy voting is permitted, proxies may be "general or limited, and either instructed or uninstructed...and transferable if so specified. No DNC member may at any one time hold or exercise proxies for more than one other DNC member..."

WHEREAS, it is now much easier and affordable for DPCA Voting Members to attend DA global meetings, regional meetings and monthly regional calls due to DA's improved expanded use of WebEx and other video conferencing tools, to DA's schedule of rotating the location of the global meetings among the regions and Washington, DC, and to the development of the DA Travel Fund. In particular, use of two-way video conferencing allows for robust participation even when not able to attend in person;

WHEREAS, it is still not possible for every DPCA Voting Member to attend every meeting, whether in person or on-line, so proxy voting is important to ensure that all votes count and are counted;

WHEREAS, when proxies are allowed, proxy voting rules should be clear and as simple;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Article 3 of the DA Charter be amended as follows:

Section 3.7 (Capacity to Vote and Proxies)

(c) Voting by proxy shall be permitted, subject to the limitations set out in this Charter. Proxies shall be in writing and shall name the person to whom the proxy is given. Proxies may be either general or limited to specific issues, may be either instructed or uninstructed, and transferable or non-transferable. Proxies given as described below shall be submitted to the International Secretary at least three (3) days before the relevant meeting.

[...]

(e) General proxies may be given by:

(i) A Country Committee Chair, Vice Chair, or Voting Representative to: a member of Democrats Abroad within the same Country Committee or to any DPCA Voting Member;

(ii) A DNC Member (elected by region) to: a DPCA Voting Member of the same Region;

(iii) A DNC Member (elected at the global level) to: any DPCA Voting Member;

(iv) A DPCA international officer to any DPCA Voting Member.”

[...]

(g) No person may hold or exercise more than one (1) proxy.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

PROPOSITION #3:

Establishment of Standing Committees

Author: David S. Miller, DA Denmark

Previously submitted as: 2018 Charter Amendment Proposition 13 (Establish Standing Committees)

WHEREAS, there are certain areas of activities that require continual attention by the DPCA leadership;

WHEREAS, the Officers of the International Executive Committee have tasks relating to their individual officer positions that preclude them from continually attending to these areas of activities;

WHEREAS, these areas of activities include information technology ("IT"), Membership/Voter Registration, Issues, Events, Fundraising, Affirmative Action, and Newsletter/Communications ("Communications");

WHEREAS, the IT Standing Committee may include tasks relating to the technical, legal, and content aspects of information technology, and other relevant tasks and activities, covering areas that are pertinent to among others the International Secretary, International Counsel, and International Treasurer;

WHEREAS, the Membership/Voter Registration Standing Committee may include tasks such as growing membership, maintaining the membership database in cooperation with the International Secretary, voter registration, getting out the vote, and other relevant tasks and activities;

WHEREAS, the Issues Standing Committee may include tasks relating to issues such as taxation of American citizens abroad, gun safety, healthcare, etc., and other relevant tasks and activities; and liaise with caucuses such as the Progressive Caucus and the Women's Caucus;

WHEREAS, the Events Standing Committee may include tasks relating to rallies, fundraising events, commemorations, election night celebrations, voter registration, getting out the vote events, and other relevant tasks and activities;

WHEREAS, the Fundraising Standing Committee may include tasks relating to raising funds for Democrats Abroad, including through on-site fundraising and auctions, and other relevant tasks and activities;

WHEREAS, the Affirmative Action Standing Committee may include tasks relating to affirmative action issues within Democrats Abroad as well as the broader American

society, and other relevant tasks and activities; and liaise with caucuses such as the LGBT Caucus, the Black Caucus, the Hispanic Caucus, the Youth Caucus, etc.;

WHEREAS, the Communications Standing Committee may include tasks relating to framing messages, information to the membership, social media, media appearances, and other relevant tasks and activities;

WHEREAS, Standing Committees relating to these areas of activities should be created by the International Chair and approved by the elected members of the International Executive Committee;

WHEREAS, the chairs of these Standing Committees should be appointed by the International Chair with approval by a majority of the elected members of the International Executive Committee;

WHEREAS, the chairs of these Standing Committees should ex officio be non-voting members of the Executive Committee;

WHEREAS, similar standing committees should be established at the regional level;

WHEREAS, with the exception of the IT Standing Committee, Country Committees should be encouraged to establish similar standing committees;

WHEREAS, by doing so, Democrats Abroad will become a more effective organization with improved internal communications throughout the organization, allowing communication regarding these areas of activities to extend from the international level to the regional and Country Committee level and vice versa, as well as lateral communication between Country Committees;

WHEREAS, Sections 3.4 (Quorum), 4.6 (Responsibilities of the International Chair), and 6.3 (Duties of Regional Vice Chair) of the Democrats Abroad Charter should be amended to include standing committees in the Charter;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 3.4 of the Democrats Abroad Charter be modified as follows:

“Section 3.4 (Quorum)

A quorum for a meeting shall require the presence in person or on-line of

(a) the International Chair or Vice Chair of the DPCA; and

(b) 40% of DPCA members; and

(c) for meetings of Standing Committees, including Regional Standing Committees, or ad hoc committees, the Chair and/or the Vice Chair of that committee and one other committee member.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the case of annual meetings under Section 3.1, a quorum shall require the physical presence

or presence by proxy to a member physically present of at least 20% of DPCA members as well as the physical presence of either the International Chair or Vice Chair. In addition, for quorum purposes, the individuals referred to in paragraph (b) must include members resident in at least four (4) different countries and two (2) Regions.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 4.6 of the Democrats Abroad Charter shall be amended as follows:

“Section 4.6 (Responsibilities of the International Chair)

(a) The International Chair shall be responsible for the carrying out of the programs and policies of the Democratic Party and Democrats Abroad. The International Chair shall preside at all meetings of the DPCA, establishing its agenda and agendas, and implementing its decisions taken during DPCA meetings. Following consultation with the Executive Committee, the International Chair may appoint deputies or assistant officers (such appointments shall be promptly notified to the DPCA) and conduct the day-to-day business of Democrats Abroad. The International Chair shall be the chief spokesperson for the organization. The International Chair may, after consultation with the Executive Committee, create or terminate committees and determine their composition and purpose. The International Chair shall *ex officio* be a non-voting member of all committees.

(b) The International Chair shall appoint the following Standing Committees: Information Technology (“IT”), Membership/Voter Registration, Issues, Events, Fundraising, Affirmative Action, and New Letter Communications (“Communications”).

(c) The International Chair shall appoint or remove the chairs of the Standing Committees subject to ratification by the elected members of the Executive Committee at its next meeting following such appointments or revocation. Standing Committee chairs shall *ex officio* be non-voting members of the Executive Committee. The membership of each Standing Committee shall be selected by the respective committee chair after consultation with the International Chair.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 6.3 of the Democrats Abroad Charter shall be amended as follows:

“Section 6.3 (Duties of Regional Vice Chairs)

(a) The Regional Vice Chairs shall, under the direction of the International Chair, promote cooperation among the Country Committees in the respective Regions and implement any

Regional programs or plans adopted by the Regional Committees, provided such programs or plans have been approved by the International Chair in consultation with the Executive Committee.

(b) The Regional Vice Chairs shall appoint the following Regional Standing Committees: Information Technology (“IT”), Membership/Voter Registration, Issues, Events, Fundraising, Affirmative Action, and Newsletter/Communications (“Communications”).

(c) The Regional Vice Chairs shall appoint or remove the chairs of the Regional Standing Committees in consultation with the International Chair. Regional Standing Committee chairs shall be appointed from among members in the respective region who have the required knowledge and/or skills required to chair the respective Regional Standing Committee. The membership of each Standing Committee shall be selected by the respective Regional Standing Committee and after consultation with the Regional Vice Chair. Regional Vice Chairs shall *ex officio* be non-voting members of the respective Regional Standing Committees.

(d) The Regional Vice Chairs shall consult with the the individual Country Committee Chairs in their respective regions to encourage the respective Country Committees, in accordance with the respective Country Committee bylaws, to establish separate standing committees corresponding to the following Regional Standing Committees: Membership/Voter Registration, Issues, Events, Fundraising, Affirmative Action, and Newsletter/Communications (“Communications”).

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

PROPOSITION #4:

Amend Charter such that CC AGMs are held by March 31

Author: David S. Miller, DA Denmark

Previously submitted as: 2018 Charter Amendment Proposition 14 (CC AGM by March 31)

WHEREAS, it is convenient for Country Committees to hold their Annual General Meetings in the first quarter of the year, particularly the Country Committees' Annual General Meetings in odd-numbered years where the Country Committee Executive Committees are in most cases elected, in order to provide a reasonable amount of time for newly elected Country Committee Executive Committee members to plan on attending the Annual DPCA Meeting, which is often held in the month of May;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Section 5.4 of the Democrats Abroad Charter shall be amended as follows:

“Section 5.4 (Country Committee Compliance and Filings)

- (a) Each Country Committee shall hold an Annual General Meeting on or before March 31st of each calendar year and shall provide minutes of the Annual General Meeting to the International Secretary at such time as determined June 30th of each calendar year and shall provide minutes of the Annual General Meeting to the International Secretary and the Regional Vice Chair at such time as determined under paragraph (g) of this section.
- (c) Country Committees shall hold their elections no later than March 31st June 30th of odd-numbered years. Within fifteen (15) days of any election held by a Country Committee, the Secretary of such Country Committee shall certify the results of the election to the International Secretary and forward the minutes of the election meeting, with full address and contact information of the office holders so elected.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

PROPOSITION #6A:

Gender statistical significance in voter representative selection

Author: Ed Unger, DA Canada

Co-Sponsor: Ken Sherman, DA Canada

Previously submitted as: 2018 Charter Amendment Proposition 15 (Gender Statistical Differences)

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad does not require gender/sex equity in its international executive or chapter administration excepting for the selection of chair and vice chair;

WHEREAS country committees with more than four DPCA voting representatives while maintaining gender/sex equity/balance will present undue burdens to those country committees with larger representations to participate in the DPCA annual meetings;

WHEREAS given the time differentials in attending in Webex and expense and travel factors in attending DPCA meetings, in person on other continents there are special challenges in gender/equity requirements in addition to election to country committee office with DPCA voting rights;

WHEREAS that when there are multiple voting representatives the odds are that by chance that there will be a 50 - 50 balance outcome will be relatively rare;

WHEREAS the evidence for the above point can be readily had by tossing a coin ten times. The odds of getting five heads and five tails are low. Thus only when gender imbalance is statistically significant, greater should gender/sex equity be considered;

WHEREAS DNC rules do not require 50 - 50 equity in all matters of voting;

BE IT RESOLVED that if a Country Committee has more than two Voting Representatives (Chair and Vice-Chair), gender balance shall not apply unless sex/gender imbalance exceeds statistical significance. Then gender will be taken into account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Section 3.6 (f) of the Democrats Abroad Charter shall be amended by striking the phrase "If a Country Committee has more than one (1) Voting Representative, gender balance shall apply."

"Section 3.6 (Voting)

- (f) Each Country Committee shall have the option to elect non-voting Representatives, and shall be required to elect at least

the minimum number of Voting Representatives necessary to enable it to cast all its votes. Such election(s) shall be held at the same time as the election of a Country Committee's Chair and Vice Chair. ~~If a Country Committee has more than one (1) Voting Representative, gender balance shall apply.~~ The term of a Voting Representative shall be the same as for Officers of the Country Committee. All Voting Representatives shall be entitled to attend all Democrats Abroad meetings during the same two (2)-year term as for the Country Committee Chair and Vice Chair offices. If a Country Committee is entitled to less than five (5) votes, the non-Voting Representative, if any, shall have the right to speak at DPCA meetings but not to vote, except under Section 3.7 below. If a Country Committee is entitled to five (5) or more votes, the distribution of votes among the Chair, Vice Chair and Voting Representative(s) (if any) shall be determined by the Country Committee at the time of election, failing which by the Country Committee Chair; provided, however, that a Voting Representative shall have no less than one (1) vote nor more votes than the Country Committee Chair or Vice Chair.

2019 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

PROPOSITION #6B:

Amend Charter to Ensure Gender-Based Diversity of DPCA Voting Representatives

Sponsor: Steve Nardi, Canada
Co-Sponsor: Heidi Burch, Canada
Heather Ross, Canada
Annie Parry, Canada
Sue Alksnis, Canada

Previously submitted as: 2018 Charter Amendment Proposition 6B (Voting Rep Gender Diversity)

BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 3.6 (f) of the Democrats Abroad Charter shall be amended by striking the phrase “If a Country Committee has more than one (1) Voting Representative, gender balance shall apply,” and inserting in its place the phrase “If a Country Committee has more than one (1) Voting Representative, a gender ratio of not more than 50% male shall apply.”

“Section 3.6 (Voting

- (f) Each Country Committee shall have the option to elect non-voting Representatives and shall be required to elect at least the minimum number of Voting Representatives necessary to enable it to cast all its votes. Such election(s) shall be held at the same time as the election of a Country Committee's Chair and Vice Chair. ~~If a Country Committee has more than one (1) Voting Representative, gender balance shall apply.~~ If a Country Committee has more than one (1) Voting Representative, a gender ratio of not more than 50% male shall apply. The term of a Voting Representative shall be the same as for Officers of the Country Committee. All Voting Representatives shall be entitled to attend all Democrats Abroad meetings during the same two (2)-year term as for the Country Committee Chair and Vice Chair offices. If a Country Committee is entitled to less than five (5) votes, the Non-Voting DPCA Representative, if any, shall have the right to speak at DPCA meetings but not to vote, except under Section 3.7 below. If a Country Committee is entitled to five (5) or more votes, the distribution of votes among the Chair,

Vice Chair, and Voting Representative(s) (if any) shall be determined by the Country Committee at the time of election, failing which by the Country Committee Chair; provided, however, that a Voting Representative shall have no less than one (1) vote nor more votes than the Country Committee Chair or Vice Chair.

WITHDRAWN