

2021 Charter Amendments

Proposal No. 8 - Enable the Formation of Region Committees

Sponsor(s): Merrill Oates (Hungary)

Co-Sponsors: Kathy Rothschild, (Costa Rica); Steve Nardi, (Canada)

Supporters: Roz Raymers, deputy RVC, Americas

Purpose: Positively affirms the ability to create a new Country Committee not restricted by National boundaries

Affected Sections: Sections 1, 2, 3, 5, and various instances of the term “Region” throughout, including but not limited to Sections 6 and 7

Text:

WHEREAS in order to grow our ability to engage and represent members who live outside of currently existing Country Committees, we need to create more flexible organizational groupings that can extend beyond the traditional CC format;

WHEREAS aside from practical factors like time-zones and geographic proximity, there is not necessarily an inherent correlation between DA membership and national boundaries;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad has, during this pandemic period, demonstrated an exceptional ability to organize and take action entirely through on-line media and conferencing tools, without physical meetings;

WHEREAS there may be more opportunities for synergy and cooperation between members in a geographic area or region that is not constrained by national boundaries;

WHEREAS there may be opportunities as yet unexplored where DA could explore the organization of Region Committees, such as the Baltics, the Middle East, Pacific Islands, Central Asia, the Caribbean, East Africa, etc.;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the following amendments to the DPCA Charter be adopted to enable the creation of “Region Committees” which shall otherwise be recognized as equivalent to an established Country Committee.

Every reference to a “Region” or “Regions” should be amended to insert “Global” before the term “Region” or “Regions” to avoid confusion with the new “Region Committees”.

Section 1. P.3

For administrative purposes, Democrats Abroad is divided into Country Committees, **Region Committees**, and **Global Regions** comprised of the members from within each such **country-and-Region geographic area. (Hereinafter, any reference to a “Country Committee” shall similarly apply to a Region Committee as defined in Article Five, Section 5.1.)**

Section 1. P.4

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) who have declared themselves to be Democrats. Members of Democrats Abroad may also be members of a local Democratic Country Committee, **Region Committee**, or organizing committee existing in the respective ~~country or~~ defined geographic area in which such member resides or works.

Section 2.1 (Duties and Responsibilities)

The Democratic Party Committee Abroad (“DPCA”) is the highest authority of Democrats Abroad and shall have general responsibility for the coordination and furtherance of the work and purposes of Democrats Abroad, including the **Region Committees** and the Country Committees provided for below, and shall perform generally the functions of a State Democratic Party Committee, subject to the provisions of the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States of America, the resolutions and other actions of the DNC, this Charter, and any Standing Resolutions of the DPCA.

Section 2.1.b

Supervise activities of the **Global** Regions, **Region Committees**, and Country Committees (and any subdivision thereof) in such matters as:

Section 2.1.b.6

6. the day-to-day operations of the **Global** Regions.

Section 2.2.a

a) the Chair, the Vice Chair (or first Vice Chair if there are several Vice Chairs), the Voting, Non-Voting, and Alternate Voting Representatives of each Country **Committee** ~~or~~ **and Region** Committee that has been admitted by Democrats Abroad;

Section 3.4 (last sentence.)

In addition, for quorum purposes, the individuals referred to in paragraph (b) must include DPCA Members resident in at least four (4) different countries and two (2) **Global** Regions.

Article Five: Country Committees and Region Committees

Section 5.1 (Constituent Units)

The constituent units of Democrats Abroad are, ~~except in exceptional circumstances,~~ the Country Committees **and Region Committees**, which shall be the organized democratic expression of U.S. citizens overseas and shall further the aims of the Democratic Party of the United States of America and of Democrats Abroad. **Country and Region Committees represent distinct geographic regions. Any reference to a**

Country Committee within this Charter, similarly applies to a Region Committee. ~~Except where otherwise deemed more expedient by the DPCA, Country Committees shall represent geographical areas coextensive with national boundaries.~~

Country and Region Committees shall be responsible for their own internal management, including governance of their Chapters, and compliance with applicable laws, including without limitation the laws and regulations of the United States of America and the several States applicable to political parties and contributions to them (notably to the U.S. Federal Election Commission).

Section 5.5 (Committees in Formation)

A regional or country organization meeting all the requirements of Section 5.2 and having less than fifty (50) members of Democrats Abroad may, upon application to the International Chair of Democrats Abroad, be admitted as a Committee in Formation and thereafter may participate in activities of Democrats Abroad without the right to vote.