

2022 DPCA Charter Amendment Proposals – 45-Day Notice

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Proposal No. 1 – Correcting Reference to Governing Legislation

Primary Sponsor(s): Josh Van der Ploeg (UK) on behalf of the Charter Committee

Co-Sponsors: Danielle Stampley (Canada), Michele O'Brien (France), Beverle Lax (Kenya), Michael March (Thailand), Alan de Rochefort-Reynolds (Australia)

Purpose: This Proposed Charter Amendment updates the D.C. Code citation to the current Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act. The previous reference is outdated.

Affected Sections: Article One, paragraph 2

Resolution Text:

WHEREAS the Charter refers to Democrats Abroad as a non-profit association organized and operating under the Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act of 2000, D.C. Code §§ 29-971.01, et seq.;

WHEREAS that legislation has been replaced by the Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act of 2010, D.C. Code §§ 29-1101, et seq.; and

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad is now a non-profit association organized and operating under the Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act of 2010, D.C. Code §§ 29-1101, et seq.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED to amend the Charter as follows:

Article One: Name; Purpose

Democrats Abroad is the organization that represents all United States citizens residing outside the U.S. who wish to adhere to the principles and further the aims of the Democratic Party of the United States of America. The organization is recognized by the Democratic National Committee ("DNC") as the equivalent of a U.S. State Party.

Democrats Abroad is a non-profit association organized and operating under the Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act of ~~2010~~ 2000, D.C. Code §§ ~~29-971.01~~ 29-1101, et seq. Democrats Abroad's principal place of business is and will remain the District of Columbia.

For administrative purposes, Democrats Abroad is divided into Country Committees, Transnational Committees, and Regions comprised of the members from within each such geographic area. Hereinafter, any reference to a "Country Committee" shall similarly apply to a Transnational Committee as defined in Article Five, Sections 5.1 and 5.11.

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 U.S. 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.

Neither Democrats Abroad nor any of its constituent units may participate in the political activities of any country other than the United States of America.

Proposal No. 2 – Reflect Updated FEC Guidance and Compliance Policy

Primary Sponsor(s): Josh Van der Ploeg (UK) on behalf of the Charter Committee

Co-Sponsors: Danielle Stampley (Canada), Michele O'Brien (France), Beverle Lax (Kenya), Michael March (Thailand), Alan de Rochefort-Reynolds (Australia)

Purpose: In light of the recent updates to Democrats Abroad's Federal Election Commission compliance guidance and policy, this Charter amendment proposal reflects Country Committees' obligations to comply with applicable DPCA requirements and file monthly financial reports to the International Treasurer, while clarifying that Country Committees continue to have the right to raise funds for Country Committee purposes and that such funds shall be held for the benefit of the respective Country Committees.

Affected Sections: Sections 5.1, 5.4, 9.1

Resolution Text:

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad has recently received updated guidance on compliance with Federal Election Commission ("FEC") regulations;

WHEREAS the Charter should reflect the ongoing obligations of the Country Committees and the DPCA to comply with Democrats Abroad's compliance policy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED to amend the Charter as follows:

Revise Section 5.1 to read as follows:

Section 5.1 (Constituent Units)

The constituent units of Democrats Abroad are the Country Committees and Transnational 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 Transnational Committees represent distinct geographic regions. Except where otherwise deemed more expedient by the DPCA, Country Committees shall represent geographical areas coextensive with national boundaries.

Country and Transnational Committees shall be responsible for their own internal management, including governance of their Chapters, and compliance with applicable laws [and the requirements of the DPCA](#), 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 [the DPCA's obligations under the U.S. Federal Election Campaign Commission Act of 1971 \(as amended from time to time\)](#)).

Add the following text to Section 5.4:

Section 5.4 (Country Committee Compliance and Filings)

- (a) Each Country Committee shall hold an Annual General Meeting on or before 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 (c) of this section.

- (b) By February 20th of each year, each Country Committee shall furnish to the International Counsel, International Secretary, and Regional Vice Chair a copy of the Country Committee's Bylaws, indicating any amendments made during the year.
- (c) Country Committees shall hold their elections no later than 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.
- (d) Without limitation of the foregoing, Country Committees shall at all times be in keeping with Sections 5.2 and 5.4; provided, however, that by a 4/5 majority vote of the Executive Committee of the DPCA or, by a majority vote of the DPCA at a regular meeting, upon written application, and for good reason, a dispensation from Section 5.2 (d) may be granted for a period not to exceed 2years.
- (e) The Executive Committee shall establish from time to time the methods and procedures to be used by the Country Committees to verify and certify membership in Democrats Abroad for all purposes under this Charter, with the maximum accuracy reasonably possible for an association such as Democrats Abroad, provided that the methods and procedures require verification at least every four (4) years.
- (f) By February 20th of each year, the Secretary or Chair of each Country Committee shall certify to the International Secretary of the DPCA that, as of January 31st, the membership database containing the names and such other information as the DPCA Executive Committee shall require is current and correct for certification of the number of members of Democrats Abroad, and such certification must be attested to by the Secretary or Chair of such Country Committee. The database referred to in the previous sentence shall be in the format from time-to-time prescribed by the Executive Committee.
- (g) Each Country Committee shall provide within the required time such documents or information concerning the activities of the Country Committee as may be reasonably required by the International Chair or the Executive Committee.
- (h) [By the 10th day of each calendar month, the Treasurer or Chair of each Country Committee shall furnish to the International Treasurer of the DPCA a report in form and substance determined by the International Treasurer in consultation with the International Executive Committee, which report shall contain information regarding all of the Country Committee's receipts and disbursements during the preceding calendar month.](#)

and revise Section 9.1 to read as follows:

Section 9.1 (Contributions to the DPCA)

- (a) Each Country Committee shall make its best efforts to assist the DPCA in meeting the expenses of Democrats Abroad, in accordance with general policies to be determined from time to time by the DPCA by means of standing resolutions. [Notwithstanding the foregoing, Country Committees may also raise funds for their own internal purposes, subject to the requirements of Section 5.4 above and of all applicable law. Such funds contributed for the purposes of an](#)

individual Country Committee shall be kept separate and held by the DPCA on behalf of each respective Country Committee for its benefit and to be disbursed for any permitted purpose at the request of the respective Country Committee Chair or their designee.

- (b) Each Officer and DNC Member shall make her or his best efforts to assure that Democrats Abroad is adequately funded. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed as an obligation to contribute personally to the financial resources of Democrats Abroad.

Proposal No. 3 – Removing Term Limits for Non-Country Committee Representatives

Primary Sponsor(s): Josh Van der Ploeg (UK) on behalf of the Charter Committee

Co-Sponsors: Danielle Stampley (Canada), Michele O'Brien (France), Beverle Lax (Kenya), Michael March (Thailand), Alan de Rochefort-Reynolds (Australia)

Purpose: Section 5.7 (Non-Country Committee Representatives) limits Non-Country Committee ("NCC") Representatives to two consecutive terms. However, NCC Representatives are also treated as equivalent to DPCA Voting Representatives, which gives rise to an inconsistency with the prohibition on term limits for DPCA Voting Representatives set out in Section 3.6(g).

Affected Sections: Section 5.7

Resolution Text:

WHEREAS Section 5.7 of the Charter contains a term limit for Non-Country Committee Representatives (NCCRs);

WHEREAS Section 5.7 of the Charter also treats NCCRS as equivalent to Country Committee DPCA Voting Representatives;

WHEREAS Section 3.6(g) of the Charter expressly prohibits term limits for DPCA Voting Representatives;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED to amend the Charter as follows:

Section 5.7 (Non-Country Committee Representatives)

General members of Democrats Abroad residing outside the United States (and its territories) in countries without a recognized Democrats Abroad Country Committee shall have representation within the DPCA.

All such Non-Country-Committee (NCC) general members shall, under the supervision of the 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 work to encourage member organizing and growth within the Region. 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.~~ There shall be no term limits applied to the position of NCC Representative.

NCC Representatives shall have equivalent voting privileges under this Charter as Country Committee Voting Representatives. For the purposes of proxies, an NCC Representative shall be considered as a Country Committee Voting Representative, and any NCC general member in the same region as the Representative may be a valid proxy holder for an NCC Representative in addition to any others indicated in Section 3.7.

Elections for NCC Representatives shall take place in the first quarter of each odd-numbered year. Should a Region's NCC Representative position experience a vacancy that will last greater than six (6) months, the Regional Vice Chair shall hold a special election within ninety (90) days. General members within territories with recognized committees-in-information shall be able to run and vote in these elections, but general

members within out-of-compliance Democrats Abroad Country Committees shall not be able to run and vote in these elections.

In the event that a recognized Democrats Abroad Country Committee dissolves, its general members will become members of the NCC Representative's constituency. In the event that a NCC Representative's territory of residence becomes a recognized Democrats Abroad Country Committee, that NCC Representative shall no longer be eligible for the position and it shall immediately become vacant.

The International Executive Committee shall maintain, and make available upon request, two documents related to Section 5.7. The first document, "Elections of NCC Representatives," shall cover those election details that are not explicitly mandated within the Charter. The second document, "The Role and Responsibilities of NCC Representatives," shall cover the role and responsibilities of NCC Representatives not explicitly mandated within the Charter.

Proposal No. 4 - Change the Titles of DPCA Officers from “International” to “Global”

Sponsor(s): Adrienne George (Sweden); Christina Skovsgaard (Norway)

Co-Sponsors: Rick Wicks (Sweden)

Purpose: Confusing, incoherent use of mixed terms when essentially the same thing is meant.

Affected Sections: Sections 2.2(c), 2.4(a), 2.4(c), 3.1, 3.2, 3.3(a), 3.3(b), 3.4, 3.5, 3.7(c), 3.7(d), 4.1(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, 11.2.

Text:

WHEREAS we are a global organization, with global committees, caucuses, task forces, and annual meetings;

WHEREAS we currently style the leaders of our global organization anachronistically as “international” officers, dating from when DA was founded in 1964 and had only two country committees (when it would have been ludicrous to style them as “global” officers);

WHEREAS DA is organized by country committees purely as a matter of convenience, so that when we get together at global meetings we’re not representing the countries where we live but merely groups of Americans who happen to live in those countries;

WHEREAS DA has members all over the globe including in areas, such as Antarctica, which are not “nations”;

WHEREAS “international” titles worked fine internally – because we understood that DA is largely a collection of country committees; we enjoy meeting in each other’s country or region; we compete to see which country committee has the best data clean-up; in all those respects we can be considered “international” – nevertheless our organization has gone global, and our terminology for external use hasn’t kept up;

WHEREAS the mixture of the terms “international” and “global” in the Charter (e.g., “global party” in sections 5.8 and 5.9) and in common usage among DA members is confusing both inside and outside of DA;

WHEREAS it’s important that we communicate clearly who we are when, for example, our global Taxation Taskforce submits to Congress or to the Treasury Department evidence of harm to Americans abroad from U.S. tax regulations, and our suggestions for remediation;

WHEREAS it can only be confusing to Congress or the Administration, when we communicate with them, to see our emails signed by “international” officers (aren’t they dealing with Americans, about American policy?);

WHEREAS we have Global Presidential Primaries because representing them as “international” would only confuse media and the Democratic Party to whom the results are presented;

WHEREAS having “international” officers present those results to media and the Party can only seem incoherent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter of Democrats Abroad shall be amended to refer to “Global” rather than “International” officers.

Markup:

Section 2.2(c)

the ~~Global International~~ Chair, ~~Global International~~ Vice Chair, ~~Global International~~ Treasurer, ~~Global International~~ Secretary, ~~Global International~~ Counsel, the Regional Vice Chairs and any other elected officers of the DPCA.

Section 2.4(a)

A member may resign from the DPCA by written notice to the ~~Global International~~ Chair, and such resignation shall be effective immediately;

Section 2.4(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 ~~Global 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.

Section 3.1

Meetings of the DPCA may be called by the ~~Global International~~ Chair, or by at least one-fourth (1/4th) of its voting members, or by a simple majority of the Executive Committee. An annual Democrats Abroad Global 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 ~~Global International~~ Chair or ~~Global International~~ Vice Chair fails to call a meeting when required to do so, then the ~~Global International~~ Secretary shall call such meeting within thirty (30) days of the date required. Except as otherwise provided in 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).

Section 3.2

Upon proposal of the ~~Global 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.

Section 3.3(a)

Notice of each meeting, containing the place and time of the meeting and the agenda, shall be sent or given by the [Global International](#) Chair to each DPCA Member not less than forty-five (45) days before the date of the meeting. Any DPCA Voting Member may request the [Global International](#) Chair in writing, not less than thirty (30) days before the meeting, to place additional items on the agenda, and shall simultaneously furnish the text of any resolutions proposed for adoption. The [Global International](#) Chair shall circulate such additional items and proposed resolutions, as well as other resolutions, to DPCA members not less than fifteen (15) days before the meeting. Items may be added to the agenda at the meeting by majority vote of DPCA members present or represented. To the extent not otherwise provided for herein, procedural questions shall be settled in accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3.3(b)

The [Global International](#) Chair may name a Resolutions Committee for the meeting to review any resolutions presented to the Chair as additional items for the agenda. The duty of the Resolutions Committee shall be to refine the language of proposed resolutions and obtain approval of the refined language from the person(s)/committee(s) submitting the proposed resolutions and to advise and make recommendations to the DPCA concerning the substance of the resolutions.

Section 3.4

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

- (a) the [Global International](#) Chair or Vice Chair of the DPCA; and
- (b) 40% of DPCA Voting Members (i.e. excluding DPCA Non-Voting Members and Alternate Members).

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 DPCA Member physically present of at least 20% of DPCA members as well as the physical presence of either the [Global International](#) Chair or Vice Chair. 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) Regions.

Section 3.5

The [Global International](#) Chair shall encourage DPCA Members and members of Democrats Abroad who are unable to be present in person at meetings to participate by telephonic or electronic attendance, whenever technically and economically feasible. The [Global International](#) Chair will inform DPCA Members of the telephone number to call and seek to arrange means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear one another at the same time. Notwithstanding the foregoing, neither the [Global International](#) Chair nor the DPCA shall be obligated to pay for the telecommunications charges involved in participation by a DPCA Member or member of Democrats Abroad; all such line charges shall be for the account of the member choosing to participate by telephone. Participation by such telephone or electronic attendance shall constitute presence at a meeting for all purposes of this Charter, with the exception of establishment of a quorum or whenever presence in person is specifically required.

Section 3.7(c)

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

Section 3.7(d)

The vote of a DPCA Member may not be divided among multiple proxy holders. Proxies shall be given for the full vote of a DPCA member. If a proxy holder cannot accept a full proxy due to the limitations imposed by Section 3.6(e) or Section 3.7(g), the [Global International](#) Secretary may assign a proxy of partial voting weight.

Section 4.1(a)

The elected officers of the DPCA shall consist of:

- (a) the [Global International](#) Chair, [Global International](#) Vice Chair, [Global International](#) Treasurer, [Global International](#) Secretary, and [Global International](#) Counsel, no more than two (2) of whom shall be from the same Country Committee at the time of the election. Such offices shall be held by individuals from at least two (2) different Regions; and
- (b) the Three (3) Regional Vice Chairs.

However, if there is no other candidate for any position, a candidate who would otherwise be ineligible under the previous sentences of this Section 4.1 may be elected. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of these eight (8) elected Officers of the DPCA.

Section 4.3(a)

Prior to the election meeting, the [Global International](#) Chair shall appoint, after consultation with the Executive Committee, five (5) members of Democrats Abroad as a Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC), at least three (3) of whom shall not be DPCA Members. Members of the NEC shall not be candidates for office nor be elected to office.

Section 4.3(c)

The names of the qualified individuals placed in nomination with the NEC shall be forwarded in writing to the [Global International](#) Chair and other DPCA Members by the NEC, after their qualifications have been determined, at least forty-five (45) days in advance of the scheduled election meeting of the DPCA. Nominations of qualified candidates for office may be made from the floor at the election meeting. The elections shall be conducted by the NEC.

Section 4.4

The [Global International](#) Chair and [Global International](#) Vice Chair shall be from different Country Committees and shall be of different sex, as declared by each candidate in advance of the election. For the purposes of this section and Section 5.2(d)(iv), the term "sex" is defined as male, female, intersex, or any other classification of sex or gender that is legally recognized by any state or federal jurisdiction within the United States of America.

Section 4.6 (Responsibilities of the [Global International](#) Chair)

The [Global International](#) Chair shall be responsible for the carrying out of the programs and policies of the Democratic Party and Democrats Abroad. The [Global International](#) Chair shall preside at all meetings of the DPCA, establishing meeting agendas, and implementing decisions taken during DPCA meetings. Following consultation with the Executive Committee, the [Global 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 [Global International](#) Chair shall be the chief spokesperson for the organization. The [Global International](#) Chair may, after consultation with the Executive Committee, create or terminate committees, task forces, caucuses and councils, determine their composition and purpose and appoint their chairs or co-chairs. The [Global International](#) Chair shall *ex officio* be a non-voting member of all committees, task forces, caucuses and councils.

Section 4.7 (Responsibilities of the [Global International](#) Vice Chair)

The [Global International](#) Vice Chair shall replace the [Global International](#) Chair whenever the latter is absent or is incapacitated, and shall have such other duties as may be prescribed by the [Global International](#) Chair.

Section 4.8 (Responsibilities of the [Global International](#) Secretary)

The [Global International](#) Secretary shall keep minutes of DPCA meetings (taking particular note of all Standing Resolutions) and Executive Committee meetings, circulate minutes and records of action to DPCA Members, be responsible for maintaining all the administrative files and records and membership lists and databases of the DPCA and Democrats Abroad, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the International Chair.

Section 4.9 (Responsibilities of the [Global International](#) Treasurer)

The [Global International](#) Treasurer shall keep the financial records of the DPCA, establish a budget for approval of the Executive Committee, oversee its bank and other financial accounts, make an annual financial report to the DPCA, and ensure that any necessary reports or filings with the DNC or the governmental authorities of the United States of America and the several States, are timely made.

Section 4.10 (Responsibilities of the [Global International](#) Counsel)

The [Global International](#) Counsel shall be a qualified legal practitioner available for consultation on legal and procedural questions relating to Democrats Abroad and its activities, and the interpretation of and compliance with the Charter and Bylaws of the DNC, the Charter of Democrats Abroad and the bylaws of Country Committees, and serve as Parliamentarian at DPCA meetings. The [Global International](#) Chair may appoint a separate individual to serve as Parliamentarian.

Section 4.11 (Responsibilities of the Executive Committee)

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the affairs of Democrats Abroad in accordance with policies of the DNC and the DPCA. The Executive Committee shall establish its own rules and, when convened by the [Global International](#) Chair or one third (1/3rd) of its members, may act in a meeting, by telephone or electronic means. The Executive Committee shall adopt a budget for Democrats Abroad prior to the first meeting of the DPCA each year. Except as provided in the following sentence, decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall be by simple majority vote of those members present in person

or by instructed proxy given to another member of the Executive Committee or, if such vote is taken in electronic or written form, by simple majority of the entire Executive Committee. By a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority of the entire Executive Committee, the Executive Committee may overrule any decision or action of any Officer.

Section 4.12 (Executive Director)

Following consultation with the Executive Committee, the [Global International](#) Chair may name an Executive Director to perform such duties as the [Global International](#) Chair may prescribe.

Section 5.2

To be admitted to Democrats Abroad as a Country Committee, a group must make application to the [Global International](#) Chair containing the following information:

- (a) a membership list, certifying that the group is composed of at least fifty (50) U.S. citizens of voting age having their principal residence in that defined geographical area and who adhere to the principles of the Democratic Party of the United States of America;
- (b) a copy of the Bylaws of the applicant committee adopted in conformity with the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States of America, the DNC, and the Charter of Democrats Abroad and certified by the duly elected Chair and another duly elected officer of the applicant committee;
- (c) copies of publicity providing reasonable notice to U.S. citizens in that defined geographical area of the organization and election meeting(s) of the applicant committee, as well as a list of officers elected and their full contact information;
- (d) a copy of the minutes attested to by the Chair and another elected officer of the applicant committee for the meeting(s) in which officers were elected who (i) at the time of their election and thereafter have their principal residence in that defined geographical area; (ii) have been elected for a term of office not exceeding two (2) years; (iii) are eligible to serve in the same office no more than two (2) consecutive terms; and (iv) include a Chair and Vice Chair (or First Vice Chair) of different sex.

Section 5.4(a)

Each Country Committee shall hold an Annual General Meeting on or before June 30th of each calendar year and shall provide minutes of the Annual General Meeting to the [Global International](#) Secretary and the Regional Vice Chair at such time as determined under paragraph (c) of this section.

Section 5.4(b)

By February 20th of each year, each Country Committee shall furnish to the [Global International](#) Counsel, [Global International](#) Secretary, and Regional Vice Chair a copy of the Country Committee's Bylaws, indicating any amendments made during the year.

Section 5.4(c)

Country Committees shall hold their elections no later than 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 [Global International](#) Secretary and forward the minutes of the election meeting, with full address and contact information of the office holders so elected.

Section 5.4(f)

By February 20th of each year, the Secretary or Chair of each Country Committee shall certify to the [Global International](#) Secretary of the DPCA that, as of January 31st, the membership database containing the names and such other information as the DPCA Executive Committee shall require is current and correct for certification of the number of members of Democrats Abroad, and such certification must be attested to by the Secretary or Chair of such Country Committee. The database referred to in the previous sentence shall be in the format from time-to-time prescribed by the Executive Committee.

Section 5.4(g)

Each Country Committee shall provide within the required time such documents or information concerning the activities of the Country Committee as may be reasonably required by the [Global International](#) Chair or the Executive Committee.

Section 5.5

A 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 [Global 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.

Section 5.8(b)

If in the judgment of the [Global International](#) Chair a Country Committee Officer is guilty of serious and highly unacceptable conduct that, if continued, would irreparably damage any of the aforesaid interests, the Chair may immediately issue a temporary order of suspension, indicating the grounds for such action, and shall simultaneously inform the DPCA Executive Committee of such action and the reasons therefore. Within seven (7) days the DPCA Executive Committee shall either schedule a hearing under the foregoing subparagraph or shall terminate the temporary order.

Section 5.9(a)(i)

fails to hold an election of officers within six (6) months following the date prescribed by the Country Committee's Bylaws. Any Country Committee or Committee in Formation suspended under this paragraph may be reinstated to full rights by the DPCA upon filing an application with the [Global International](#) Chair accompanied by a copy of the minutes of a valid election meeting certified as true by the Country Committee's Chairperson and Secretary; or

Section 5.9(b)

If in the judgment of the [Global International](#) Chair a Country Committee or Committee In Formation is guilty of serious and highly unacceptable conduct that, if continued, would irreparably damage any of the aforesaid interests, the Chair may immediately issue a temporary order of suspension, indicating the grounds for such action, and shall simultaneously inform the DPCA Executive Committee of such action and the reasons therefore. Within seven (7) days, the DPCA Executive Committee shall either schedule a hearing under the foregoing subparagraph or shall terminate the temporary order.

Section 6.3

The Regional Vice Chairs shall, under the direction of the [Global 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.

Section 7.2

Each of the six (6) elected DNC Members shall be eligible to serve in such position for no more than two (2) consecutive full terms and shall be elected for a term of four (4) years at a meeting of the DPCA to be held during the year of the National Convention, to be chosen as follows:

- (a) At Regional Conventions held pursuant to a duly authorized and accepted Delegate Selection Plan, the delegates to each Regional Convention elected under the Plan shall elect one (1) DNC Member from that Region by majority vote of delegates physically present;
- (b) The remaining DNC Members to represent Democrats Abroad shall be elected by majority vote of the Democrats Abroad Convention (excluding the incumbent elected DNC Members);

The [Global International](#) Chair and [Global International](#) Vice Chair of the DPCA may not cumulate membership as *ex officio* members and as elected DNC Members. Elected DNC Members need not be DPCA Members. All Democrats Abroad DNC Members must have their principal residence abroad and their number shall be equally divided between men and women.

Section 11.2.

Within 30-days of any amendment to this Charter that is duly passed by the DPCA according to Section 11.1, the [Global International](#) Secretary, or the secretary designated to record such amendments, shall submit the minutes and record of such amendments or changes to the [Global International](#) Counsel. Within 15-days of receipt, the [Global 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 [Global 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.

Proposal No. 5 - Provide for more direct involvement by the DPCA Excom in appointments of global leaders and creation of global teams

Primary Sponsor: Quaide Williams (Germany)

Co-Sponsors: John Baumlin (Japan), Kendra Borgen (Netherlands), Reno Domenico (Ukraine), Pat Klipp (Germany), Kenton Barnes (Germany)

Purpose: There is too little involvement of the Excom in the appointment of Caucus and Team Leads, and this resolution would remedy that.

Affected Sections: Sections 3.3(b), 4.3(a), 4.6, 4.10, 4.12, 6.3,

Resolution Text:

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad elects an eight-person International Executive Committee,

WHEREAS the global teams and caucuses represent all members of Democrats Abroad,

BE IT RESOLVED that the DPCA shall require a majority vote of the International Excom to fill important leadership roles for global teams and caucuses and the Democrats Abroad Charter be amended as follows:

Section 3.3 (Notice and Agenda)

(b) The International Chair may name, [subject to a simple majority vote of the International Excom](#), a Resolutions Committee for the meeting to review any resolutions presented to the Chair as additional items for the agenda. The duty of the Resolutions Committee shall be to refine the language of proposed resolutions and obtain approval of the refined language from the person(s)/committee(s) submitting the proposed resolutions and to advise and make recommendations to the DPCA concerning the substance of the resolutions.

Section 4.3 (Nominations)

(a) Prior to the election meeting, the International Chair shall appoint, ~~after consultation with~~ [subject to a simple majority vote of](#) the Executive Committee, five (5) members of Democrats Abroad as a Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC), at least three (3) of whom shall not be DPCA Members. Members of the NEC shall not be candidates for office nor be elected to office.

Section 4.6 (Responsibilities of the International Chair)

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 meeting agendas, and implementing decisions taken during DPCA meetings. [Subject to a simple majority vote of](#) ~~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, [subject to a simple majority vote of](#) ~~after consultation with~~ the Executive Committee, create or terminate committees, task forces, caucuses and councils, determine their composition and purpose and appoint their chairs or cochairs. The International Chair shall ex officio be a non-voting member of all committees, task forces, caucuses and councils.

Section 4.10 (Responsibilities of the International Counsel)

The International Counsel shall be a qualified legal practitioner available for consultation on legal and procedural questions relating to Democrats Abroad and its activities, and the interpretation of and compliance with the Charter and Bylaws of the DNC, the Charter of Democrats Abroad and the bylaws of Country Committees, and serve as Parliamentarian at DPCA meetings. The International Chair may appoint, [subject to a simple majority vote of the International Executive Committee](#), a separate individual to serve as Parliamentarian.

Section 4.12 (Executive Director)

[Subject to a simple majority vote of](#) ~~Following consultation with~~ the Executive Committee, the International Chair may name an Executive Director to perform such duties as the International Chair may prescribe.

Section 6.3 (Duties of Regional Vice Chairs)

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.

Proposal No. 6 - Permanently limit debate on motions of time extension

Primary Sponsor: John Baumlin (Japan)

Co-Sponsors: Sarajeon Rossitto (Japan), Dave Brauer (Japan), Regina Salathe (Japan), Kat Allikan (New Zealand), Suma Shamanna (India), Cory Lemke (Korea), Rafael Nemet-Nejat (Singapore), Quaide Willaims (Germany), Brooke Burns (France), Sue Alksnis (Canada), Vanessa Moore (Singapore), Elizabeth Blackburn (China), Lissette Wright (Canada)

Purpose: Saves time at the Global Meeting.

Affected Sections: Section 3.3

Resolution Text:

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad has spent 15 minutes discussing 10 minute extensions in previous meetings of the DPCA,

WHEREAS the Democrats Abroad Charter provides for adopting special rules of order in Section 10.1,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Democrats Abroad Charter be amended by adding the following language:

Section 3.3 (Notice and Agenda)

(a) Notice of each meeting, containing the place and time of the meeting and the agenda, shall be sent or given by the International Chair to each DPCA Member not less than forty-five(45) days before the date of the meeting. Any DPCA Voting Member may request the International Chair in writing, not less than thirty (30) days before the meeting, to place additional items on the agenda, and shall simultaneously furnish the text of any resolutions proposed for adoption. The International Chair shall circulate such additional items and proposed resolutions, as well as other resolutions, to DPCA members not less than fifteen (15) days before the meeting. Items may be added to the agenda at the meeting by majority vote of DPCA members present or represented. To the extent not otherwise provided for herein, procedural questions shall be settled in accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

(b) The International Chair may name a Resolutions Committee for the meeting to review any resolutions presented to the Chair as additional items for the agenda. The duty of the Resolutions Committee shall be to refine the language of proposed resolutions and obtain approval of the refined language from the person(s)/ committee(s) submitting the proposed resolutions and to advise and make recommendations to the DPCA concerning the substance of the resolutions.

[\[\(c\)/\(d\)\] Debate on the extension of time to debate a topic in meetings of the DPCA shall be limited to three \(3\) minutes, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.](#)

Proposal No. 7 - Automate Roll Call

Primary Sponsor: John Baumlin (Japan)

Co-Sponsors: Sarajeon Rossitto (Japan), Rafael Nemet-Nejat (Singapore), Elizabeth Blackbourn (China), Cory Lemke (Korea), Vanessa Moore (Singapore), Sue Alksnis (Canada), Quaide Williams (Germany)

Purpose: Makes it so no one needs to take political penalty for ensuring democracy.

Affected Sections: Section 3.3

Resolution Text:

WHEREAS, we wish to guarantee democracy within this body,

WHEREAS, no member should face political penalty or threat for wishing to guarantee democracy,

WHEREAS the Democrats Abroad Charter provides for adopting special rules of order in Section 10.1,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Democrats Abroad Charter be amended by adding the following language:

Section 3.3 (Notice and Agenda)

(a) Notice of each meeting, containing the place and time of the meeting and the agenda, shall be sent or given by the International Chair to each DPCA Member not less than forty-five(45) days before the date of the meeting. Any DPCA Voting Member may request the International Chair in writing, not less than thirty (30) days before the meeting, to place additional items on the agenda, and shall simultaneously furnish the text of any resolutions proposed for adoption. The International Chair shall circulate such additional items and proposed resolutions, as well as other resolutions, to DPCA members not less than fifteen (15) days before the meeting. Items may be added to the agenda at the meeting by majority vote of DPCA members present or represented. To the extent not otherwise provided for herein, procedural questions shall be settled in accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

(b) The International Chair may name a Resolutions Committee for the meeting to review any resolutions presented to the Chair as additional items for the agenda. The duty of the Resolutions Committee shall be to refine the language of proposed resolutions and obtain approval of the refined language from the person(s)/ committee(s) submitting the proposed resolutions and to advise and make recommendations to the DPCA concerning the substance of the resolutions.

[\[\(c\)/\(d\)\] Any non-ballot, non-roll-call vote taken on a main motion in a DPCA Meeting shall automatically be subject to confirmation via a roll call vote should the tally method used result in less than or equal to 1% of the majority needed for the vote to succeed or fail of the body of members voting.](#)

Proposal No. 8 – Increasing the Size of the Global ExCom

Primary Sponsor: Quaide Williams (Germany)

Co-Sponsors: Shari Temple (Germany), Kendra Borgen (Netherlands), Bob Vallier (Italy), Reno Domenico (Ukraine), Pat Klipp (Germany), Kenton Barnes (Germany)

Purpose: There are actually two main – and – distinct problems:

Too much work: The level of professionalism, the number of caucuses, the amount and various types of GOTV work done around the world, the seriousness of some of the decisions being made – these have all grown over the decades, but not the size of the Excom. It is not possible to do that amount of work as one of the eight members of the Global Excom and not completely devote your life to the organization. As volunteers, we should not expect this of anyone. We need more people on the Global Excom to shoulder the burdens, and to do the work of our organization.

Too few hands: We have doubled our membership numbers every few years. We have increased the number of official country committees, thereby growing the number of DPCA voting members. But for decades we have left the size of the Global Excom exactly the same size: 8 members. The stakes are too high, the decisions being made are too important, to leave them in the hands of only eight leaders. We need more people taking on those responsibilities – people elected by the body of the DPCA. More voices at the table, more diversity of voices; these things lead to better decisions – and – to more consensus.

This proposal will not solve all our problems, but it will:

- lighten the load of those serving on the Excom;
- increase diversity amongst Excom members, not only the most important aspects of diversity” as defined in AAC goals; but also more country committees will be represented on the Excom; there will be more regional diversity; and we will get closer to gender balance on the Excom as a whole;
- help us make better decisions, especially the tough decisions, when more voices are at the table.

Affected Sections: Section 4.1

Resolution Text:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Democrats Abroad Charter be amended as follows:

Section 4.1 (Officers)

The elected officers of the DPCA shall consist of:

- (a) the International Chair, International Vice Chair, International Treasurer, International Secretary, and International Counsel, ~~no more than two (2) of whom shall be from the same Country Committee at the time of the election.~~ Such offices shall be held by individuals from at least two (2) different Regions; and
- (b) the Three (3) Regional Vice Chairs; and
- (c) Five (5) At-Large members, elected globally, to be tasked with overseeing and coordinating the most important work of the organization. The responsibilities and

duties of these At-Large positions will be set by the Executive Committee. At least one individual from each region shall be elected to hold these positions, and no more than three At-Large members may be of the same gender. These positions will remain unpaid positions.

- (d) No more than two (2) officers shall be from the same Country Committee at the time of the election.

However, if there is no other candidate for any position, a candidate who would otherwise be ineligible under the previous sentences of this Section 4.1 may be elected. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of these thirteen (13)~~eight (8)~~ elected Officers of the DPCA.

Proposal No. 9 – Communications, resolutions and policies mentioning a specific country or territory other than of the United States shall be presumed to violate the duty not to participate in the politics of any country other than the United States of America

Primary Sponsor: Heather Stone (Israel)

Co-Sponsors: Julian Becker (UK), Dana Freling (Finland), Ada Shen (France)

Purpose: The Charter's prohibition on engaging in foreign policy has been called vague and its enforcement has been haphazard at best and often inconsistent. This amendment is intended to clarify under what conditions DA may engage in foreign policy, what body is authorized to take that decision and in the event it is a gray decision, which country committee(s) and/or transnational committee(s) should be consulted and provide its advice and consent.

Affected Sections: Sections 1.1 and 1.2

Resolution Text:

Be it Resolved, that the existing text under Article 1 of the Charter be placed under a heading "Section 1.1";

Be it Further Resolved, that the following be inserted into the Charter under the heading "Section 1.2":

[Section 1.2](#)

[1. A communication, resolution, or policy of Democrats Abroad or a country or transnational committee that mentions a specific country or territory other than of the United States shall be presumed to violate the duty not to participate in the politics of any country other than the United States of America unless:](#)

[\(a\) it arises only incidentally to the performance, or discussion of, the work or structure conducted by Democrats Abroad, its country or transnational committees, without any comment on any government or political party of any country or territory outside the United States; or](#)

[\(b\) it arises only incidentally to discussion on the operations of the United States government or officials \(or discussion on the operations of government or official within the United States or any territory of the United States\), and it neither is intended to express an opinion in respect of any foreign government or official, nor could it reasonably be interpreted as expressing an opinion in respect of any foreign government or official.](#)

[2. A presumption created by paragraph \(1\) above may be rebutted by certification by the International Executive Committee that the communication, resolution, or policy does not constitute participation in the politics of any country other than the United States of America. Such certification shall not be issued unless the requirements of paragraph \(3\) have been met.](#)

[3. The International Executive Committee shall not be entitled to issue a certification under paragraph \(2\) unless:](#)

(a) If there is a country or transnational committee for the country or territory concerned in such communication, resolution or policy, the body that is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the country or transnational committee has been consulted, no member of that body has disclosed any reason to believe that the certification by the International Executive Committee will be prejudicial to the country or transnational committee or its membership (or any portion thereof), and such body has given its advice and consent for the International Executive Committee to issue the certification;

(b) If there is not a country or transnational committee for the country or territory concerned in such communication, resolution or policy, the International Executive Committee has undertaken all reasonable endeavours to consult leaders and volunteers of Democrats Abroad in the country or territory concerned, and the result of such consultation discloses no reason to believe that the certification by the International Executive Committee will prejudice the interests or welfare of leaders, volunteers, or members of Democrats Abroad within the relevant country or territory (or any portion thereof).

4. For the purpose of paragraph (3) above:

(a) A country or territory concerned shall include any country or territory other than one of the United States of America that is mentioned in a communication, resolution or policy to which the presumption in paragraph (1) applies, as well as any country or territory outside the United States that could reasonably be understood to be implicated; and

(b) Where there is more than one country or territory concerned, there shall be a duty to comply with the requirements of paragraph (3) in respect of each country or territory concerned, failing which the International Executive Committee shall not be entitled to issue a certification under paragraph (2).

Proposal No. 10 – Clarify and Restate the Fundamentals of Our DA Constitution

Primary Sponsor(s): Joe Smallhoover (France), Ada Shen (France), Inge Kjemtrup (UK)

Co-Sponsors: Robert Carolina (UK), Julian Becker (UK), Brett McHargue (UK), Connie Borde (France), Max Dunitz (France), Alan Cheilek (UK), Dani Follett (France), Linda Adeson (UK), Anne Brady (Ireland), Juan D. Cerda (France), Marjorie Bernstein (France), Martha McDevitt Pugh (Netherlands), Bill Barnard (UK), John McQueen (Germany)

Purpose: To remind us how Democrats Abroad was formed and how it is governed; to remind us that the DPCA is an assembly of representatives from self-governing Country Committees; to clarify the responsibilities of our various governing bodies; to reduce and segment financial and legal risk of our various governing bodies.

Affected Sections: Preamble added, Article 1, Section 2.1, 2.2, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 5.8, 5.10

Resolution Text:

WHEREAS the Democratic Party of the United States “Recogniz[es] that the vitality of the Nation’s political institutions has been the foundation of its enduring strength,” “acknowledge[s] that a political party which wishes to lead must listen to those it would lead,” and “a party which asks for the people’s trust must prove that it trusts the people” (Preamble, Charter of the Democratic Party, 2018 edition);

WHEREAS the vitality of Democrats Abroad depends on the historic and continued vitality of Country Committees that created it AND the continued enthusiastic participation and support of their members, leaders, activists, and volunteers;

WHEREAS these Country Committees, united in purpose, created the Democratic Party Committee Abroad to serve as a body that would assist in coordinating and supporting their several efforts, serve as a body to discover, debate, and clarify the concerns of their members, and serve as a body to communicate these same concerns to the Democratic Party, elected representatives, and government officials of the United States;

WHEREAS the rapid growth in membership that has arisen naturally from the success of our collective efforts has also produced a body of enthusiastic leaders, activists, and volunteers who would benefit from a more clear articulation in our Charter of the constitutional relationship among and between the various bodies that we know as Democrats Abroad;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad is an unincorporated association created under the law of the District of Columbia whose members reside outside the United States and all around the world, Country Committees and Transnational Committees are associations (of varying degrees of formality or informality as appropriate for local conditions) whose members (with limited exceptions) reside in those host countries, a member of a Country Committee or Transnational Committee is also member of the global Democrats Abroad association, and the DPCA is a governing body comprised of representative members elected by Country Committees and Transnational Committees, DNC Representatives elected by the DA Global Convention, and DPCA Executive Committee members elected by the DPCA itself;

WHEREAS failure to clarify the constitutional relationship among and between the various bodies that we know as Democrats Abroad distracts us from our purpose, demoralizes and

disempowers our members, leaders, activists, and volunteers, and creates unnecessary and undesirable financial and legal risks for everyone concerned;

WHEREAS clarification in the form of amendments to the Democrats Abroad Charter will help reduce confusion, document our history, and provide a more clear and solid basis for responsible governance for future generations of Democrats Abroad;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democrats Abroad Charter be and is now amended as below:

Preamble:

We, United States Citizens who reside outside the United States, united in common purpose and dedicated to the principles and ideals which have historically sustained the US Democratic Party, acting through self-governing Country Committees in our host countries, came together in 1964 to form Democrats Abroad.

Article One: Name; Purpose

Democrats Abroad is the organization that represents all United States citizens residing outside the U.S. who wish to adhere to the principles and further the aims of the Democratic Party of the United States of America. The organization ~~has been is~~ recognized by the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States since 1976. ~~Democratic National Committee ("DNC") as the equivalent of a U.S. State Party.~~

Democrats Abroad is a non-profit unincorporated association organized and operating under the law of the District of Columbia. ~~Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act of 2000, D.C. Code §§ 29-971.01, et seq.~~ Democrats Abroad's principal place of business is and will remain the District of Columbia.

~~General m~~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 U.S. 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.

~~For administrative purposes, Democrats Abroad is divided into~~ Country Committees, ~~and~~ Transnational Committees are defined in Article Five. ~~, and~~ Regions are defined in Article Six. ~~comprised of the members from within each such geographic area. Hereinafter, any~~ Unless the context otherwise requires, a reference in this Charter to a "Country Committee" shall be interpreted to refer also ~~similarly apply~~ to a "Transnational Committee" as defined in Article Five, Sections ~~s 5.1 and~~ 5.11.

~~Neither~~ Democrats Abroad ~~nor any of its constituent units may~~ does not participate in the political activities of any country other than the United States of America.

Article Two: Democratic Party Committee Abroad

Section 2.1 (Duties and Responsibilities)

The Country Committees that established Democrats Abroad have also established the Democratic Party Committee Abroad ("DPCA") and charged it with ~~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. ~~;~~ The

DPCA is comprised of the representatives from its Country Committees and including ~~the Transnational Committees and the Country Committees provided for below,~~ and shall perform generally the functions equivalent to those 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 Democratic National Committee (“DNC”), this Charter, and any Standing Resolutions of the DPCA.

In discharging its operating responsibilities, the DPCA shall:

- (a) act as a forum for the consideration of issues that relate to U.S. citizens residing abroad;
- (b) supervise activities of ~~the Regions,~~ the members resident in territories that are not incorporated in a Country Committee, and provide advice to the Transnational Committees, and Country Committees (and any subdivision thereof) in such matters as:
 1. the nomination and election of Delegates to Democratic Party Conferences and Conventions;
 2. the transmission of the views of Democrats Abroad to the DNC and *vice versa*, both on party affairs and policy;
 - ~~3. especially in campaign years, the organization of voter registration campaigns and Get Out the Vote activities, the handling of joint publicity and advertising, the acquisition and distribution of campaign literature and materials, the coordination of visits, and related matters;~~
 34. cooperation with U.S. civic organizations and other U.S. political parties on nonpartisan and bipartisan programs;
 45. the initiation of steps to organize new committees in countries or transnational regions ~~areas~~ with a substantial number of resident U.S. citizens; and
 56. the day-to-day operations of the Regions.
 6. especially in campaign years, the organization of membership and non-partisan voter registration campaigns and Get Out the Vote activities, the handling of joint publicity and advertising, the acquisition and distribution of campaign literature and materials, the coordination of visits, and related matters;

Section 2.2 (DPCA Membership)

The DPCA shall be composed of the following members (“DPCA Members”):

- (a) the Chair, the Vice Chair (or first Vice Chair if there are several Vice Chairs), the Voting Representatives, and Non-Voting and Alternate Voting Representatives of each Country Committee and Transnational Committee that has been Recognized~~admitted~~ by Democrats Abroad; and
- (b) the Non-Country Committee Representatives as defined by Section 5.7; and
- (c) DNC Members representing Democrats Abroad; and
- (d) the International Chair, International Vice Chair, International Treasurer, International Secretary, International Counsel, the Regional Vice Chairs and any other elected Officers of the DPCA Executive Committee.

[...]

Article Five: Country Committees and Transnational Committees

~~Section 5.1 (Constituent Units)~~

~~The constituent units of Democrats Abroad are the Country Committees and Transnational 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 Transnational Committees represent distinct geographic regions. Except where otherwise deemed more expedient by the DPCA, Country Committees shall represent geographical areas coextensive with national boundaries.~~

~~Country and Transnational 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 5.12 (Recognition Admission)

To be [Recognized by](#) ~~admitted to~~ Democrats Abroad as a Country Committee, a group must make application to the International Chair containing the following information:

- (a) a membership list, certifying that the group is composed of at least one hundred fifty(150) U.S. citizens of voting age having their principal residence in that defined geographical area and who adhere to the principles of the Democratic Party of the United States of America. Any Country Committee in existence as of May 14, 2021 shall not be deemed out of compliance due solely to having fewer than 150 members after that date;
- (b) a copy of the Bylaws ([or articles of association or similar instrument](#)) of the applicant committee ~~adopted in conformity with~~ [conforming to the goals and principles of](#) the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States of America, the DNC, and the Charter of Democrats Abroad and certified by the duly elected Chair and another duly elected officer of the applicant committee [as having been fully adopted](#);
- (c) copies of publicity providing reasonable notice to U.S. citizens in that defined geographical area of the organization and election meeting(s) of the applicant committee, as well as a list of officers elected and their full contact information;
- (d) a copy of the minutes attested to by the Chair and another elected officer of the applicant committee for the meeting(s) in which officers were elected who (i) at the time of their election and thereafter have their principal residence in that defined geographical area; (ii) have been elected for a term of office not exceeding two (2) years; (iii) are eligible to serve in the same office no more than two (2) consecutive terms; and (iv) include a Chair and Vice Chair (or First Vice Chair) of different sex.

Section 5.2 (Constitutional Relationship)

Country Committees are independent associations of members established (with greater or lesser degrees of formality as appropriate to local conditions) in a host country (or countries) of the jurisdiction(s) in which they are geographically located.

The DPCA shall not Recognize more than one Country Committee in respect of any individual host country. A Country Committee shall be comprised exclusively of members resident in the sovereign territory of its host country, provided that in exceptional circumstances and for good cause shown a member of Democrats Abroad may change their membership from the Country Committee for the territory in which they reside to another Country Committee, with the consent of the DPCA and that other Country Committee.

Given the broad diversity of laws, regulations, and customs of the host countries in which the various Country Committees and their members reside, each Country Committee shall be solely responsible for that Country Committee's own governance and internal management, including governance of its Chapters, as well as maintaining awareness of and managing the Country Committees compliance with laws and regulations applicable to its operations (whether arising under the law of its host country or the law of the United States and its several States), including US Federal and State laws applicable to the conduct of activity intended to influence the outcome of elections in the US.

The DPCA shall be solely responsible for maintaining awareness of and managing the DPCA's compliance with laws and regulations applicable to its own operations (whether arising under the law of various host country or the law of the United States and its several States), including US Federal and State laws applicable to the conduct of activity intended to influence the outcome of elections in the US.

Each member of a Recognized Country Committee shall also be accorded the status of a member of Democrats Abroad, with all rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

Section 5.3 (DPCA Vote to RecognizeAdmit)

- (a) A two-thirds (2/3rds) affirmative vote of the DPCA at a duly called meeting shall be required to **admit recognize** an applicant committee. It shall be a prerequisite for admission that, to the extent practicable, one (1) or more of the elected officers of the applicant committee shall have attended in person either one (1) meeting of the DPCA or of a Region prior to the meeting at which admission is voted upon and shall be known to at least one (1) DPCA Officer. Furthermore, it shall be a prerequisite for admission that the relevant Regional Vice Chair submits a statement to the DPCA attesting to the preparedness of the applicant committee to pursue its activities ~~in compliance with the rules and regulations applicable to DPCA Country Committees~~, and to engage fully with its members, its Region, and the DPCA generally. The structure and content of the admission submission will be established by the DPCA Executive Committee for uniformity, processed by the Regional Vice Chair, and when completed communicated to the DPCA Chair and Executive Committee together with submission of the request for admission to full Committee status.

[...]

Section 5.4 (Country Committee Procedures ~~Compliance~~ and Filings)

- (a) In order to be Recognized by the DPCA each Country Committee shall:
- (i) ~~Each Country Committee shall h~~Hold an Annual General Meeting on or before 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 ~~(e)-(a)(iii)~~ of this section.
 - (ii) By February 20th of each year, ~~each Country Committee shall~~ furnish to the International Counsel, International Secretary, and Regional Vice Chair a copy of the Country Committee's current Bylaws (or articles of association or similar instrument), indicating any amendments made during the year.
 - (iii) ~~Country Committees shall h~~Hold their elections no later than 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.
 - (iv) ~~Without limitation of the foregoing, Country and Transnational Committees shall at all times b~~Be in keeping with Sections 5.12 and 5.4; provided, however, that by a 4/5 majority vote of the Executive Committee of the DPCA or, by a majority vote of the DPCA at a regular meeting, upon written application, and for good reason, a dispensation from Section 5.12 (d) may be granted for a period not to exceed 2 years.
 - (v) Unless (and to the extent) limited or delayed by local law or regulation, accord to each member of Democrats Abroad who is resident, or establishes residence, within its described territory the status of member of the Country Committee for the duration of such residence, and accord to them all rights and privileges pertaining thereto.
- (be) The Executive Committee shall establish from time to time the methods and procedures to be used by the Country Committees to verify and certify membership in Democrats Abroad for all purposes under this Charter, with the maximum accuracy reasonably possible for an association such as Democrats Abroad, provided that the methods and procedures require verification at least every four (4) years.
- (cf) By February 20th of each year, the Secretary or Chair of each Country Committee shall certify to the International Secretary of the DPCA that, as of January 31st, the membership database containing the names and such other information as the DPCA Executive Committee shall require is current and correct for certification of the number of members of Democrats Abroad, and such certification must be attested to by the Secretary or Chair of such Country Committee. The database referred to in the previous sentence shall be in the format from time-to-time prescribed by the Executive Committee.
- (dg) Each Country Committee shall provide within the required time such documents or information concerning the activities of the Country Committee as may be reasonably required by the International Chair or the Executive Committee.

[...]

Section 5.6 (Chapters)

[...]

Any dispute between a Chapter and its Country Committee may be brought before the DPCA Executive Committee for ~~determination~~ [non-binding mediation](#).

[...]

Section 5.8 ~~[DELETED]~~ (Suspension of a Country Committee Officer)

~~(a) A Country Committee Chair, Vice Chair may be suspended from office by a 7/8ths vote of the DPCA Executive Committee or by a two thirds (2/3rds) vote of the DPCA, which suspension shall be promptly communicated in writing to the individual concerned and to the Executive Committee of the affected Country Committee, if the Country Committee Officer engages in unacceptable conduct that seriously harms the interests of the Democratic Party of the United States of America, the DNC, Democrats Abroad, or its own Country Committee. Unacceptable conduct may include, but is not limited to, violations of the DPCA Code of Conduct. The Country Committee Officer and the Executive Committee of such Country Committee shall be notified in writing of the initiation and nature of the charges and the DPCA Executive Committee will provide ample information to enable a defense to be prepared. A Country Committee Officer suspended under this paragraph (a) may request a prompt hearing to be held within thirty (30) days and the DPCA Executive Committee shall make such arrangements as it deems best suited to protect all interests, in the context of a global party, including supervising a new election. The hearing may, without limitation, be held by telephone conference call or video conference. The DPCA Executive Committee shall adopt such rules of procedure for hearings in connection with the proposed suspension of a Country Committee Officer as it deems necessary to ensure that the hearing is conducted in a fair manner and the decision, with an ample explanation of the reasoning involved, shall be communicated in writing;~~

~~(b) If in the judgment of the International Chair a Country Committee Officer is guilty of serious and highly unacceptable conduct that, if continued, would irreparably damage any of the aforesaid interests, the Chair may immediately issue a temporary order of suspension, indicating the grounds for such action, and shall simultaneously inform the DPCA Executive Committee of such action and the reasons, therefore. Within seven (7) days the DPCA Executive Committee shall either schedule a hearing under the foregoing subparagraph or shall terminate the temporary order.~~

[...]

Section 5.10 ([De-Recognizing](#) ~~Removal of Out of Compliance~~ Country Committees)

If a Country Committee (i) fails to fully comply with the requirements of Section 5.4 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 four (4) years after being suspended, then such Country Committee shall no longer be Recognized pursuant to this Article Five and its representative members shall cease to be members of ~~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 such de-Recognition removal for a period of one (1) year. If the DPCA Executive Committee votes to delay de-Recognition 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 de-Recognized ~~removed from the DPCA~~ without any additional notice or action being required on the part of the DPCA. ~~Members of a removed-~~The act of de-Recognizing a Country Committee does not terminate the membership in Democrats Abroad of that Country Committee's members. ~~become members-at-large of Democrats Abroad.~~

Proposal No. 11 – Housekeeping

Primary Sponsor(s): Joe Smallhoover (France), Ada Shen (France)

Co-Sponsors: Max Dunitz (France)

Purpose: General housekeeping - where such changes do not negatively impact or change meaning but where standardizing language or spelling out a “common sense” understanding may make the text more accessible or reduce potential for confusion. Examples are: standardizing reference to DPCA Executive Committee (from International Executive Committee or Executive Committee); clarifying distinctions between “membership of Democrats Abroad” “member-at-large of Democrats Abroad” and “DPCA Member”; deletion of vestigial text fragments from past Charter revisions; re-ordering some text for clarity, etc.

Affected Sections: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, Article 4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 5.6, 5.7, 5.9, 5.10, 5.11, 6.1, 6.3, 7.2, 11.1

Resolution Text:

WHEREAS Over the course of the history, the Charter of Democrats Abroad has been amended numerous times;

WHEREAS Throughout the years a number of inconsistencies, anomalies, and the simple errors have crept into the text of the Charter and other passages inadvertently deleted;

WHEREAS It is it is appropriate to conduct a general house cleaning of the charter in order in order to render the text of the Charter as accessible and coherent as possible;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democrats Abroad Charter be and is now amended as below:

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 voting members, or by a simple majority of the [DPCA](#) Executive Committee. An annual Democrats Abroad Global 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 in 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).

Section 3.2 (Date and Place)

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 [DPCA](#) Executive Committee may vote to change the date, time, or place

for reasons it deems important.

Section 3.3 (Notice and Agenda)

- (a) Notice of each [DPCA](#) meeting, containing the place and time of the meeting and the agenda, shall be sent or given by the International Chair to each DPCA Member not less than forty-five (45) days before the date of the meeting. Any DPCA Voting Member may request the International Chair in writing, not less than thirty (30) days before the meeting, to place additional [non-frivolous](#) items on the agenda, and shall simultaneously furnish the text of any [non-frivolous](#) resolutions proposed for adoption. The International Chair shall circulate such additional [non-frivolous](#) items and proposed resolutions, as well as other resolutions, to DPCA [M](#)members not less than fifteen (15) days before the meeting. Items may be added to the agenda at the meeting by majority vote of DPCA [M](#)members present or represented. To the extent not otherwise provided for herein, procedural questions shall be settled in accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order. [Deadlines for the purposes of proposed resolutions and charter amendments are for convenience only and may be waived by the relevant committee or the DPCA at the DPCA meeting.](#)
- (b) The International Chair ~~shall~~[may](#) name a Resolutions Committee for the meeting to review any resolutions presented to the Chair as additional items for the agenda. The duty of the Resolutions Committee shall be to refine the language of proposed resolutions and obtain approval of the refined language from the person(s)/committee(s) submitting the proposed resolutions and to advise and make recommendations to the DPCA concerning the substance of the resolutions.

Section 3.4 (Quorum)

A quorum for a [DPCA](#) meeting shall require the real-time participation, either in person or online 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 and Alternate Members).

For quorum purposes, the individuals referred to in paragraph (b) must include DPCA Members resident in at least thirty percent (30%) of Country Committees in compliance with Section 5.4 and two(2) Regions.

Section 3.5 (Attendance)

The International Chair shall ensure that all DPCA meetings are also accessible for remote participation via live on-line audio ([at a minimum](#)), and video conferencing services. Notwithstanding the foregoing, neither the International Chair nor the DPCA shall be obligated to pay for the telecommunications charges involved in participation by a DPCA Member or member of Democrats Abroad. Participation by such online conferencing services shall constitute presence at a meeting for all purposes of this Charter.

Section 3.6 (Representation and Voting)

- (a) Representation and votes [on the DPCA](#) shall be allocated to Country Committees biennially in odd-numbered years, in accordance with such year's

[country committee membership](#) certification [made pursuant to](#) ~~required under~~ Section 5.4(f), calculated as follows:

[...]

- (e) All decisions [of the DPCA](#) 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). The simple majority must include votes from at least one-third (1/3rd) of all Country Committees.
- (f) No DPCA ~~M~~member or valid proxy holder may cast in excess of 4 votes (including proxies). This rule shall not apply for the selection of delegates to the National Convention or the election of DNC Members.

[...]

- (h) A “Country Committee Voting Delegation” consists of those persons who have been selected to represent the members of a Country Committee [on within](#) the DPCA and who hold the right to vote in ~~the~~ DPCA [Meetings](#), and these persons are the Country Committee’s Chair, Principal Vice Chair, and Voting Representative(s). [Non-Voting and Alternate Voting Representatives are also considered members of the Voting Delegation, with the right to participate in DPCA Meetings even if without an inherent vote.](#)

~~(i) With effect from the time of each Country Committee’s 2019 leadership election, or March 31, 2019, whichever occurs first, and continuing thereafter:~~

- ~~(i) the total number of positions in the Country Committee Voting Delegation shall be equal to the number of votes allocated to that Country Committee pursuant to this Section [\(with the sole exception of a Country Committee allocated one vote, in which case the size of the delegations shall be two persons being the Chair and Vice Chair\)](#);~~

[...]

- (iv) Country Committees may also elect Non-Voting or Alternate Voting Representatives. These are Non-Voting ~~M~~members of the DPCA who [do not hold an inherent vote but](#) 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.

Section 3.7 (Capacity to Vote and Proxies)

[...]

- (j) A DPCA Member holding two (2) positions may not issue a proxy with respect to more than one (1) such position if such ~~M~~member is absent from a meeting; if such ~~M~~member attends a meeting such ~~M~~member may issue no proxies.

[...]

Article Four: [DPCA Executive Committee](#) **Officers**

Section 4.1 (Officers)

The elected officers of the DPCA [Executive Committee \(“Officers”\)](#) shall consist of:

- (a) the International Chair, International Vice Chair, International Treasurer, International Secretary, and International Counsel, no more than two (2) of whom shall be from the same Country Committee at the time of the election. Such offices shall be held by individuals from at least two (2) different Regions. If there is no other candidate for any position, a candidate who would otherwise be ineligible under the previous sentences of this Section 4.1 may be elected; and
- (b) the Three (3) Regional Vice Chairs.

~~However, if there is no other candidate for any position, a candidate who would otherwise be ineligible under the previous sentences of this Section 4.1 may be elected.~~ The DPCA Executive Committee shall be comprised of these eight (8) elected Officers of the DPCA.

The ethical and fiduciary duties of the Officers shall be to the DPCA as a whole.

Section 4.2 (Election)

[...]

- (c) No officer, including Regional Vice Chairs, may serve in the same office for more than two (2) consecutive full terms. A person elected to serve out the balance of a term for a period of less than 365 days shall not be deemed to have served a full term. [moved from Section 4.5]

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 elections of the Offices and of the Regional Vice Chairs shall be concluded by Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) under such rules as it shall decide, after consultation with the DPCA Executive Committee.

Section 4.3 (Nominations)

- (a) Prior to the election meeting, the International Chair shall appoint, after consultation with the DPCA Executive Committee, five(5) members of Democrats Abroad as a Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC), at least three (3) of whom shall not be DPCA Members. Members of the NEC shall not be candidates for office nor may they be elected to office during the meeting at which such elections are held. No member of the NEC may resign from the NEC in order to run for office, to be elected during the elections for which they were appointed.

[...]

Section 4.4 (Leadership Diversity)

The International Chair and International Vice Chair shall be from different Country Committees and shall be of different sex, as declared by each candidate in advance of the election. For the purposes of this ~~S~~section and Section 5.2(d)(iv), the term “sex” is defined as male, female, intersex, or any other classification of sex or gender that is legally recognized by any state or federal jurisdiction within the United States of America.

Section 4.5 (Replacement)

In the event of a vacancy of an office established under Section 4.1(i), including the resignation or removal of such officer in accordance with Section 2.4, the Executive Committee of the DPCA shall proceed immediately with the nomination of a replacement, subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the DPCA. If the replacement fails to be confirmed, nominations shall be taken from the floor, and an immediate election shall be conducted with votes cast by those in attendance. The person elected shall serve out the balance of the term. ~~For the purposes of Section 4.2(c), a person elected to serve out the balance of a term for a period of less than 365 days shall not be deemed to have served a full term.~~ [moved to Section 4.2c]

Section 4.6 (Responsibilities of the International Chair)

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 meeting agendas, and implementing decisions taken during DPCA meetings. Following consultation with the [DPCA](#) 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 [DPCA](#) Executive Committee, create or terminate committees, task forces, caucuses and councils, determine their composition and purpose and appoint their chairs or co- chairs. The International Chair shall *ex officio* be a non-voting member of all committees, task forces, caucuses and councils.

[...]

Section 4.8 (Responsibilities of the International Secretary)

The International Secretary shall keep minutes of DPCA meetings (taking particular note of all Standing Resolutions) and [DPCA](#) Executive Committee meetings, circulate minutes and records of action to DPCA Members, be responsible for maintaining all the administrative files and records and membership lists and databases of the DPCA and Democrats Abroad, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the International Chair.

Section 4.9 (Responsibilities of the International Treasurer)

The International Treasurer shall keep the financial records of the DPCA, establish a yearly budget for approval of the [DPCA](#) Executive Committee, oversee its bank and other financial accounts, make an annual financial report to the DPCA, and ensure that any necessary reports or filings with the DNC or the governmental authorities of the United States of America and the several States, are timely made.

Section 4.10 (Responsibilities of the International Counsel)

The International Counsel shall be a qualified legal practitioner available for consultation on legal and procedural questions relating to Democrats Abroad and its activities, and the interpretation of and compliance with the Charter and Bylaws of the DNC, [and](#) the Charter

of Democrats Abroad. ~~and the bylaws of Country Committees, and serve as Parliamentarian at DPCA meetings.~~ The International Counsel may provide guidance to the Country Committees and Transnational Committees in these regards. The International Chair may appoint a separate individual to serve as Parliamentarian at DPCA Meetings; absent this, the International Counsel will serve as Parliamentarian.

Section 4.11 (Responsibilities of the DPCA Executive Committee)

The DPCA Executive Committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the affairs of Democrats Abroad in accordance with policies of the DNC and the DPCA. The DPCA Executive Committee shall establish its own rules and, when convened by the International Chair or one third (1/3rd) of its members, may act in a meeting, by telephone or electronic means. The DPCA Executive Committee shall adopt a budget for Democrats Abroad prior to the first meeting of the DPCA each year. The Executive Committee shall maintain documents containing guidance on specific issues, as mentioned in Section 2.3, 5.3, 5.4, 5.7, and 5.11.

Except as provided in the following sentence, decisions taken by the DPCA Executive Committee shall be by simple majority vote of those members present in person or by instructed proxy given to another member of the DPCA Executive Committee or, if such vote is taken in electronic or written form, by simple majority of the entire DPCA Executive Committee. By a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority of the entire DPCA Executive Committee, the DPCA Executive Committee may overrule any decision or action of any Officer.

Section 4.12 (Executive Director and Staff)

Following consultation with the DPCA Executive Committee, the International Chair [~~“~~may name an Executive Director and appoint or hire such staff to perform such duties as the International Chair may prescribe; provided that the hiring of paid staff shall be subject to the budget approval of the DPCA Executive Committee.

[...]

Section 5.6 (Chapters)

[...]

Any dispute between a Chapter and its Country Committee may be brought before the DPCA Executive Committee for ~~determination.~~ non-binding mediation.

Section 5.7 (Non-Country Committee Representatives)

[...]

In the event that a recognized Democrats Abroad Country Committee dissolves, its general members ~~will~~ become members of the NCC Representative’s constituency. In the event that a NCC Representative’s territory of residence becomes a recognized Democrats Abroad Country Committee, that NCC Representative shall no longer be eligible for the position and it shall immediately become vacant.

The ~~International~~ DPCA Executive Committee shall maintain, and make available upon request, written guidance: two documents related to Section 5.7. The first document, “Elections of NCC Representatives,” shall covering those election details that are not explicitly mandated within the Charter, and ~~–The second document,~~ “The Role and

Responsibilities of NCC Representatives," shall covering the role and responsibilities of NCC Representatives not explicitly mandated within the Charter.

[...]

Section 5.9 (Suspension of Country Committee or Country in Formation)

(a) The DPCA Executive Committee shall adopt such rules of procedure for hearings in connection with the proposed suspension of a Country Committee as it deems necessary to ensure that the hearing be conducted in a fair manner and the decision, with an ample explanation of the reasoning involved, shall be communicated in writing. [moved from end of (b)]

~~(b)~~ A Country Committee or Committee In Formation may be suspended from full membership by a seven-eighths (7/8ths) vote of the DPCA Executive Committee or by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the DPCA, which suspension shall be promptly communicated in writing to the Chair and Vice Chair of the affected Committee, if it:

- (i) fails to hold an election of officers within six (6) months following the date prescribed by the Country Committee's Bylaws. Any Country Committee or Committee in Formation suspended under this paragraph may be reinstated to full rights by the DPCA upon filing an application with the International Chair accompanied by a copy of the minutes of a valid election meeting certified as true by the Country Committee's Chairperson and Secretary; or
- (ii) engages in unacceptable conduct that seriously harms the interests of the Democratic Party of the United States of America, the DNC, Democrats Abroad, ~~or its own Country Committee~~. Unacceptable conduct may include, but is not limited to, violations of the DPCA Code of Conduct. The Chair and Vice Chair of such Country Committee shall be notified in writing of the initiation and nature of the charges and the DPCA Executive Committee will provide ample information to enable a defense to be prepared. A Country Committee or a Committee in Formation suspended under this paragraph (b) may request a prompt hearing to be held within thirty (30) days and the DPCA Executive Committee shall make such arrangements as it deems best suited to protect all interests, in the context of a global party, including providing guidance and advice on supervising new elections. The hearing may, without limitation, be held by telephone conference call or video conference.

~~The DPCA Executive Committee shall adopt such rules of procedure for hearings in connection with the proposed suspension of a Country Committee as it deems necessary to ensure that the hearing be conducted in a fair manner and the decision, with an ample explanation of the reasoning involved, shall be communicated in writing. [moved to a]~~

~~(c)~~ If in the judgment of the International Chair a Country Committee, or Committee In Formation is guilty of serious and highly unacceptable conduct that, if continued, would irreparably damage any of the aforesaid interests, the Chair may immediately issue a temporary order of suspension, indicating the grounds for such action, and shall simultaneously inform the DPCA Executive Committee of such action and the reasons, therefore. Within seven (7) days, the DPCA Executive Committee shall either schedule a hearing under the foregoing

subparagraph or shall terminate the temporary order.

(de) A Country Committees may be suspended upon unanimous vote of the DPCA Executive Committee if the Country Committee's certified membership in Democrats Abroad falls significantly due to actions or failure to act objectively attributable to the Country Committee.

Section 5.10 (Removal of Out of Compliance Country Committees)

If a Country Committee (i) fails to fully comply with the requirements of Section 5.4 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 four (4) years after being suspended, then 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 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 retain membership in ~~members-at-large~~ of Democrats Abroad.

Section 5.11 (Transnational Committees)

A Transnational Committee (or "TC") is equivalent to a Country Committee in every way relevant to this Charter except that it does not represent a geographical area coextensive with national boundaries.

All Country Committees established prior to August 21, 2021 are not Transnational Committees and therefore are not subject to the clauses of this Section specifically related to Transnational Committees, including the annexation and secession clauses.

A Transnational Committee may be established and recognized~~admitted~~ to the DPCA according to the same processes and criteria as described in Section 5.2 and 5.3, with the additional requirement that the geographic area of a Transnational Committee must be wholly within a single Region as described in Section 6.1. The ~~International~~ DPCA Executive Committee shall maintain, and make available upon request, a document providing guidance on the current expectations for the admission of a Transnational Committee, including but not limited to provisions in its bylaws, clear definitions of its membership, and accommodations for its unique geographic conditions.

The purpose of the addition of Transnational Committees ~~as a constituent unit of Democrats Abroad~~ is to allow for the organization of new recognized and representative committees within the DPCA, not to reorganize existing ones. Therefore, any existing Country Committee as of August 21, 2021 may not forego its recognized Country Committee status in order to form a Transnational Committee without first completing the full dissolution process as described elsewhere in this Charter.

A Transnational Committee may file a joint request for annexation to the relevant Regional Vice Chair, with a group of members in the same region who are not represented at the time of the request by any Transnational Committee or Country Committee (regardless of compliance status). The primary purpose of the request must be to expand the geographic area represented by the Transnational Committee. The requirements before the contents of an annexation request can be considered by the

Regional Vice Chair shall be described by the ~~International~~ [DPCA](#) Executive Committee in the guidance document on Transnational Committees described in this section. At the discretion of the relevant Regional Vice Chair, this request may be submitted for approval at a DPCA global meeting, with vote allocations and other administrative details to be changed within 30 days of the close of that meeting.

[...]

Article Six: Regions

Section 6.1 (The Regions)

[Democrats Abroad](#) ~~Groupings of Country Committees~~ shall be divided into the following geographical Regions: (i) Europe-Middle East-Africa; (ii) Asia-Pacific; and (iii) the Americas. The composition of Regions [shall be determined or altered by a standing resolution of the DPCA or may be altered](#) by a standing resolution adopted at any meeting of the DPCA by a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority ~~of those Country or Transnational Committees present in person or by proxy.~~

[...]

Section 6.3 (Duties of Regional Vice Chairs)

The Regional Vice Chairs shall, under the direction of the International Chair, promote ~~cooperation among the Country Committees in the respective Regions~~ [development of membership of Democrats Abroad in the region](#) 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 [DPCA](#) Executive Committee.

[...]

Section 7.2 (Election of DNC Members)

Each of the six (6) elected DNC Members shall be eligible to serve in such position for no more than two (2) consecutive full terms and shall be elected for a term of four (4) years at ~~a meetings of the DPCA~~ to be held during the year of the National Convention, to be chosen as follows:

- (a) At Regional Conventions held pursuant to a duly authorized and accepted Delegate Selection Plan, the delegates to each Regional Convention elected under the Plan shall elect one (1) DNC Member from that Region by majority vote of delegates physically present;
- (b) The remaining DNC Members to represent Democrats Abroad shall be elected by majority vote of the Democrats Abroad Convention (excluding the incumbent elected DNC Members);

The International Chair and International Vice Chair of the DPCA may not cumulate membership as *ex officio* members and as elected DNC Members. Elected DNC Members need not be DPCA Members. All Democrats Abroad DNC Members must have their principal residence abroad, [must be members of Democrats Abroad for at least six months prior to their election](#), and their number shall be equally divided between men and women.

[...]

Section 11.1 (Amendments)

This Charter may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the votes cast under the procedure provided for in Sections 3.6 and 3.7, at a regularly constituted meeting of the DPCA. Such qualified majority must include votes from at least one-third (1/3rd) of all Country Committees.

The text of any proposed amendment shall be circulated with the notice of any meeting where said amendment shall be discussed or voted upon.

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Charter, casting votes to amend the Charter by letter or electronic means shall not be permitted unless there has been discussion of the amendment at the immediately preceding meeting.

~~The text of any proposed amendment shall be circulated with the notice of any meeting where said amendment shall be discussed or voted upon.~~

Proposal No. 12 – Provide for Recall Elections of DPCA Officers and DNC Members

Primary Sponsor(s): Joe Smallhoover (France), Ada Shen (France)

Co-Sponsors: Max Dunitz (France), Bill Barnard (UK), John McQueen (Germany)

Purpose: While the Charter already makes it possible to remove a DPCA member, in such instances where the DPCA may seek to remove a DPCA Officer or DNC Member having a Recall election mechanism provides way to fill such vacancy democratically.

Affected Sections: Section 2.4 (Cessation of Membership)

Resolution Text:

WHEREAS The Charter of Democrats Abroad provides for the possibility to remove DPCA Members for violations of the Code of Conduct and other wrongdoings following an open and transparent process of hearings; but whereas this process can be lengthy before final action;

WHEREAS The DPCA Officers and the DNC Members representing Democrats Abroad are also politically responsible to the bodies who elected them for actions that do not necessarily involve wrongdoing such as those sanctioned by the Code of Conduct;

WHEREAS The Code of Conduct is within the purview of the DPCA Executive Committee, and hence is subject to modification beyond the control of the DPCA Members;

WHEREAS Occasions may arise when rather than waiting for the expiration of the term office of a DPCA Officer or DNC member, it is expedient to provide for prompt removal and to proceed with the immediate election of a successor;

WHEREAS Since such DPCA Officers are responsible to the DPCA Members, it is more appropriate to allow the electing body to elect a successor, rather than to have the vacancy temporarily filled by the DPCA Executive Committee, which co-opting can be viewed as giving an unfair advantage in a future election to the temporary replacement and tends to concentrate power and authority in the hands of a few;

WHEREAS The use of ranked choice voting systems provides a fair and equal opportunity to well-known and unknown candidates to be elected; and whereas ranked choice voting has been used in recent DPCA elections successfully;

BE IT RESOLVED That the Democrats Abroad Charter be and is now amended as below:

Section 2.4 (Cessation of [DPCA Membership](#))

- (a) A [DPCA Member](#) may resign from the DPCA by written notice to the International Chair [or International Secretary](#), 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 [DPCA 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, [Non-Voting Representative, or Alternate 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.

[All elected Officers of the DPCA and members of the DNC representing Democrats Abroad may be removed from office in a recall election organized by the NEC upon petition of 25% of the eligible DPCA Voting Members of the body which elected such Officer or DNC member. A recall election shall be held within 30 days of the submission of a petition to recall to the International Secretary \(with copy to the International Chair\), or in the case of a recall of the International Secretary to the International Counsel. The eligible voters for such a recall election shall be all voting members of the body which elected the Officer or DNC Member. The Officer or the DNC Member shall be removed from office by a qualified majority of 2/3rds.](#)

[The ballot for such recall election shall contain one section for the recall of the Officer or DNC Member in question and a second section for the immediate election by ranked choice voting of a successor in the event of 2/3rds for removal is attained.](#)

[Any Officer or DNC removed from office in a recall election shall be ineligible for election for any position on the DPCA or the DNC for a period of two full years, nor may they be appointed to any permanent or ad hoc committees of the DPCA during that period.](#)