

2022 Charter Amendments

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 ~~M~~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 M](#)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.](#)