

2022 Charter Amendments

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

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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](#) ~~to~~ [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.