



NORTH DAKOTA  
DEMOCRATIC-NPL

# **DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN**

FOR THE 2020 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

ISSUED BY THE  
  
NORTH DAKOTA  
DEMOCRATIC-NPL

**North Dakota Democratic-NPL Delegate Selection Plan  
For the 2020 Democratic National Convention**

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#### Attachments to the Delegate Selection Plan

# North Dakota Democratic-NPL Delegate Selection Plan For the 2020 Democratic National Convention

## Section I

### Introduction & Description of Delegate Selection Process

#### A. Introduction

1. North Dakota has a total of 18 delegates and 2 alternates. (*Call I & Appendix B*)

#### I. Distribution of Delegate Votes

The distribution of votes, delegates and alternates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention shall be in accordance with the following:

- A. A base of 3,200 delegate votes is distributed among the 50 states and the District of Columbia according to a formula giving equal weight to the sum of the vote for the Democratic candidates in the three (3) most recent presidential elections and to population by electoral vote. The formula is expressed mathematically as follows:

$$A = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{SDV\ 2008 + SDV\ 2012 + SDV\ 2016}{TDV\ 2008 + TDV\ 2012 + TDV\ 2016} + \frac{SEV}{538} \right)$$

A = Allocation Factor  
SDV = State Democratic Vote  
SEV = State Electoral Vote  
TDV = Total Democratic Vote

To determine the base delegation for each state and the District of Columbia, the allocation factors as determined by the above formula are multiplied by 3,200.

Fractions of .5 and above are rounded up to the next highest integer.

2. The delegate selection process is governed by the *Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States*, the *Delegate Selection Rules for the 2020 Democratic National Convention* ("Rules"), the *Call for the 2020 Democratic National*

*Convention ("Call"), the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2020 Democratic National Convention ("Regs."), the rules of the Democratic Party of State, the State election code, and this Delegate Selection Plan. (Call II.A)*

3. Following the State Party Committee's adoption of this Delegate Selection Plan, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL shall submit the Plan for review and approval by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee ("RBC"). The North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair shall be empowered to make any technical revisions to this document as required by the RBC to correct any omissions and/or deficiencies as found by the RBC to ensure its full compliance with Party Rules. Such corrections shall be made by the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair and the Plan re-submitted to the RBC within 30 days of receipt of notice of the RBC's findings. (*Reg. 2.5, Reg. 2.6 & Reg. 2.7*)
4. Once this Plan has been found in Compliance by the RBC, any amendment to the Plan by the North Dakota Democratic-NPL must be submitted to and approved by the RBC before it becomes effective. (*Reg. 2.9*)

#### **B. Description of Delegate Selection Process**

1. North Dakota will use a proportional representation system based on the results of the Firehouse Caucus for apportioning delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention.
2. The "first determining step" of North Dakota's delegate selection process will occur on March 10, 2020, with a Firehouse Caucus.
3. Those who wish to run for District-level Delegate will be required to fill out a form containing their information, a Presidential Preference or pledge as Uncommitted, in addition to a pledge of support for the eventual Democratic nominee. The deadline for sending all forms to the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Headquarters shall be no later than March 14th, so that the State Party can provide lists to Presidential Campaigns for review.
4. Those who wish to run for Statewide Delegate or PLEO Delegate will be required to fill out a form containing their information, a Presidential Preference or pledge as Uncommitted, as well as a pledge of support for the eventual Democratic nominee. Individuals wishing to be considered for Statewide Delegate will be required to submit their form to the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Headquarters no later than March 27, 2020 to allow for Presidential Right of Review.
5. Those under consideration for District-level Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2020 will be selected by Delegates to the North Dakota Democratic-NPL State Convention in Minot, North Dakota on March 21, 2020. No



rules preclude a Delegate to the State Convention from running as a District-level Delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

6. Any candidate on the ballot may submit a formal request to the Democratic-NPL Chair for a machine recount if the margin of victory is 0.5% or if a candidate is within 0.5% of the 15% threshold. The recount shall be paid for by the candidate, and carried out in a timely manner by GES, a third party vendor charged with overseeing the election, within 5 days of the preliminary results. Any recount will be ran by GES Elections, held at the Democratic-NPL Headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota. In attendance will be representatives of GES, along with the Chair of the North Dakota Democratic-NPL, and representatives of the respective campaigns.

### C. Voter Participation

1. Participation in State's delegate selection process is open to all voters who wish to participate as Democrats. *(Rule 2.A and Rule 2.C.)*
  - a. ***Given that North Dakota remains the only state in the Union to have neither party nor voter registration, there are no such requirements for participation in the Firehouse Caucus.***
  - b. To encourage participation by youth in the delegate selection process, any individual who will have turned 18 by the date of the general election will be allowed to participate in the delegate selection process. *(Reg. 4.3.C)*
  - c. At no stage of State's delegate selection process shall any person be required, directly or indirectly, to pay a cost or fee as a condition for participating. Voluntary contributions to the Party may be made, but under no circumstances shall a contribution be mandatory for participation. *(Rule 2.D & Reg. 4.4)*
  - d. No person shall participate or vote in the nominating process for the Democratic presidential candidate if it is known that they have participated in the nominating process of any other party for the corresponding election. Unless it is definitively known, any eligible voter wishing to identify as a Democrat will be allowed to participate. *(Rule 2.E)*
  - e. Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any stage of the delegate selection process, including processes leading up to the selection of DNC Members or State Chairs or Vice Chairs, who serve as DNC members by virtue of their office, except that use of such voting by secret ballot may be used in a process that is the first determining stage of the delegate election process and in which all individual voters who wish to participate as Democrats are eligible to do so. *(Rule 2.)*

- f. No person shall vote in more than one meeting, which is the first meeting in the delegate selection process. (*Rule 3.E & Reg. 4.7*)
- g. The dates, times and locations for all official Party meetings and events related to North Dakota's delegate selection process have been scheduled to encourage the participation of all Democrats. Such meetings will begin and end at reasonable hours. The state party is responsible for selecting the dates and times as well as providing the facilities for all official meetings and events related to this process. In addition, the scheduling of meetings shall consider any religious observances that could significantly affect participation. (*Rule 3.A and Reg. 4*)
- h. To maximize participation among Democratic voters, the Democratic-NPL will also be conducting a vote-by-mail program to begin Monday, January 20, 2020 and continuing until Thursday, March 5, 2020, with requests for ballots required by Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Mail-in ballots may be requested by contacting the North Dakota Democratic-NPL by e-mail ([caucus@demnpl.com](mailto:caucus@demnpl.com)), by telephone (701-255-0460) or written request (1902 E. Divide Ave., Bismarck, ND 58501) beginning January 20th and ending February 25th. All submitted vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked no later than Thursday, March 5, 2020. So long as ballots are postmarked by that date, those votes will be counted. Ballots may be mailed to a Post Office Box (to be listed on the return envelope) owned and operated by the Third Party Election Vendor, GES Elections, in charge of administering the handling and tabulation of ballots. If a voter who has requested a mail-in ballot opts to vote in-person instead, they must turn in their ballot to their designated polling center. Any voter who misplaces their mail-in ballot may request a new one by mail (1902 E. Divide Ave., Bismarck, ND 58501). All mail-in-ballots will be tabulated the same day as in-person balloting.
- i. On the date of the Firehouse Caucus, Tuesday, March 10, 2020, polls will be open from 11:00 am CT to 7:00 pm CT (10:00 am MT to 6:00 pm MT). The times and locations of each polling site will be advertised by the North Dakota Democratic-NPL through press releases, e-mail blasts and media. Polling sites will be staffed with volunteers and representatives from GES Elections, to ensure a smooth and orderly process. Each eligible voter will be required to sign in, after which they will receive a paper ballot, designed and printed by an in-state union labor printer, to notate their Presidential Preference along with a signed pledge of support for the Democratic Ticket. All ballots will then be placed in a secure lockbox, at which point a GES representative or polling site captain will sign for the lockbox and then transport those ballots to one of the two designated tabulation sites, where an on-site GES representative will sign a receipt of delivery. Tabulation machines will be located in Burleigh and Cass County, where roughly 65 percent of votes are estimated to come from (between mail-in and in-person voting). A complete list of polling locations can be found in the Section X of the Delegate Selection Plan.

## 2. Voter Protection and Election Security

- a. Although the State of North Dakota does not have voter registration nor party registration, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL has remained proactive in identifying our supporters and ensuring that their information and scoring is accurately reflected in Votebuilder so that we can adequately engage with those potential voters via mail, social media, phone banking and our field program; *(Rule 2.H.1)*
- b. While the State of North Dakota does not have voter registration, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL has been committed to maintaining accurate lists as well as keeping track of active and inactive voters across the state, through our Data Team and our contact with the Secretary of State's office, as well as County Auditors throughout the State of North Dakota and the State Director of Elections. The Democratic-NPL has also dedicated our efforts to ensure that every eligible voter in the State of North Dakota is able to cast a ballot without hindrance or undue burden; *(Rule 2.H.2)*
- c. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL has actively lobbied for, and promoted the acquisition, maintenance, and regular replacement of voting systems across the state, particularly in regards to Federal Funds allocated from the Federal Election Assistance Commission for that specific purpose; *(Rule 2.H.3)*
- d. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL will take any and all actions necessary to ensure that any direct recording electronic systems in place have a voter verified paper record; *(Rule 2.H.4)*
- e. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL maintains regular contact with County Auditors and the Secretary of State's office after an election to ensure that electronic records correlate with paper records, and that the will of North Dakotan voters are accurately reflected in the results; *(Rule 2.H.5)*
- f. Though officials in North Dakota have expressed confidence in the security measures in place, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL has strongly advocated for strengthened protocols and systems to protect the private information and vote of every North Dakotan, and will continue to do so; *(Rule 2.H.6)*
- g. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL remains committed to, and continues to push for, the use accessible and secure voting machines that make it possible for individuals with disabilities to vote securely and privately; *(Rule 2.H.7)*



- h. To ensure security and neutrality, a GES Elections shall be responsible for the handling and tabulation of all paper ballots, as well as the operating of tabulation machines and configuration of software to ensure compatibility with all ballots. There are 2 software processes that will be used during the election; Registration to ensure each voter only votes once and Scanning/Tabulation to scan the ballots and tabulate the results as well as keeping a .jpeg image of each ballot in addition to the physical copy for auditing purposes. During the course of the election, all election materials must be accounted for, including all ballots printed, mailed, voided and unused. Only authorized personnel will be allowed to handle the voting materials and equipment. Once the mail ballot portion of the election is complete, the returned ballots will be processed and secured but not tabulated until after the in-person voting day. On the voting day, all locations will receive a pre-counted number of ballots, bundled in packs of 100. The location supervisor secures the ballots and each bundle that is handed out will be written down and initialed by the registrar. When the polls close, each location will reconcile the numbers and produce a report. Each voter deposits his/her voted ballot into a locked ballot box. These boxes will be sealed at each location and delivered to a designated tabulation location where authorized personnel will have the key and open the boxes for secure tabulation.
- 3. In accordance with the Democratic Party's requirement to assess and improve participation with respect to presidential preference and the delegate selection process, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL has - with this document - crafted a comprehensive plan that encourages District Building, as well as incentivizes party participation in both our Firehouse Caucus and our State Party Convention, where delegates to the Democratic National Convention will be selected.
  - a. Expanding access to voting with a robust vote-by-mail program for the Firehouse Caucus; (*Rule 2.1.1.a*)
  - b. Ensuring that voting locations are accessible, fairly placed, and adequate in number, and have a sufficient number of voting machines where applicable; (*Rule 2.1.1.b*)
  - c. Maximizing the amount of volunteers to speed up the voting process and minimize long lines; (*Rule 2.1.1.c*)
  - d. Eliminating onerous and discriminatory voter identification requirements by not requiring a photo ID to participate in the Firehouse Caucus; (*Rule 2.1.1.d*)

- e. Counting and including in the final total ballots from voters who are eligible to vote but cast their ballots in the wrong precinct, for offices for which they are eligible to vote where applicable; *(Rule 2.I.1.e)*
  - f. Facilitating military and overseas voting where applicable; *(Rule 2. I.1.f)*
  - g. As the State of North Dakota automatically restores voting rights to people who have served time for a criminal conviction upon their release, the Firehouse Caucus will also be open to those individuals.
4. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL remains committed to an open and inclusive process in the determination of our presidential preference. As such, any and all who wish to participate in the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Firehouse Caucus are welcome to do so, with the understanding that they may not also participate in another party's primary or caucus. Furthermore, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL will be advertising the dates, times, and location, as well as the option to vote by mail for the Firehouse Caucus as to encourage maximum participation. To protect the inherent right of every eligible North Dakotan voter to make their voices heard, should they choose to participate in our caucus, each polling location will be staffed with volunteers and staff from a Third Party Election Vendor - who will be provided with a regularly updated master list of eligible voters - to ensure that no individual casting a ballot is subject to intimidation or attempts to suppress their vote.
- a. A Third Party Election Vendor, with assistance from volunteers and North Dakota Democratic-NPL Staff, will be overseeing and monitoring the entirety of the process to guarantee against any attempts at voter fraud by any means or method, including the operation of a voter protection hotline to report any issues or difficulties; *(Rule 2.K.1)*
  - b. Developing a plan that demonstrates the State Party has the technical ability and financial resources to successfully run the process; *(Rule 2.K.2)*
  - c. The State of North Dakota does not have voter registration nor party registration. One does not need to register with the State in order to participate in the Firehouse Caucus; *(Rule 2.K.3)*
  - d. At the conclusion of the Firehouse Caucus, the final tallies and results will be posted on the North Dakota Democratic-NPL website ([www.demnpl.com](http://www.demnpl.com)) and will be disseminated to in-state and out-of-state media outlets in a timely manner; *(Rule 2.K.4)*
  - e. Pursuant to DNC rules and bylaws, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL requires that the allocation of all national delegates be locked in at the final

expression of preference at the first determining step, subject to recount; *(Rule 2.K.5)*

- f. At the conclusion of the Firehouse Caucus, all ballots will be sent to the North Dakota Democratic-NPL main office in Bismarck, where they will be held in a secure lockbox subject to recount or recanvas of the results; *(Rule 2.K.6)*
- g. Any candidate on the ballot may submit a formal request to the Democratic-NPL Chair for a machine recount if the margin of victory is 0.5% or if a candidate is within 0.5% of the 15% threshold, that shall be paid for by the candidate and carried out in a timely manner, within 5 days of the preliminary results, which will be carried out at the Democratic-NPL Headquarters. *(Rule 2.K.7)*
- h. As to ensure that any individual who wishes to participate in the 2020 Democratic-NPL Firehouse Caucus is able to express their presidential preference, a vote-by-mail program will be in place to allow maximum participation without undue burden; *(Rule 2.K.8)*
- i. To guarantee the right of all North Dakotans who wish to participate in the process, the Democratic-NPL will be selecting locations that are accessible for persons with disabilities, in addition to our vote-by-mail initiative, as well as the recruitment of volunteers to our voter protection hotline to assist individuals who may have limited English proficiency. These measures will be advertised throughout the state; *(Rule 2.K.9)*

## Section II

### Presidential Candidates

#### A. Ballot Access

A presidential candidate gains access to the North Dakota presidential preference ballot, and is eligible to participate in the State's Firehouse Caucus, by submitting their name to the North Dakota State Democratic-NPL Chair via e-mail ([people@demnpl.com](mailto:people@demnpl.com)) by Friday, January 3, 2020 along with a filing fee of \$2,500 payable to the North Dakota Democratic-NPL at 1902 E. Divide Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501.

## **B. Other Requirements**

1. Each presidential candidate shall certify in writing to the State Democratic Chair, the name(s) of their authorized representative(s) by Friday, January 3, 2020. *(Rule 13.D.1)*
2. Each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) shall use their best efforts to ensure that their respective delegation within the state delegation achieves the affirmative action, outreach and inclusion goals established by this Plan and is equally divided between men and women. *(Rule 6.I)*

## **Section III**

### **Selection of Delegates and Alternates**

#### **A. District-Level Delegates and Alternates**

1. State is allocated 9 district-level delegates *(Rule 8.C, Call I.B, I.I, & Appendix B)*
2. District-level delegates and alternates shall be selected through a Convention system wherein applicants shall be selected by Delegates to the State Convention.
  - a. Legislative District Conventions
    - i. Between March 11th and March 14th, 2020, all legislative districts in North Dakota will convene district meetings. During these meetings, each District will select delegates to the State Party Convention. Among other duties, such as affirming nominees for Federal and Statewide office, these delegates will also be in charge of selecting the district-level delegates to the Democratic National Convention.
    - ii. At the designated time and location, the Convention will be called to order by the chair. The chair will be the Legislative District Chair. If the legislative district chairperson is unable to attend for any reason, the duties of chair for the Legislative District Convention will fall upon the Vice Chair. If neither are in attendance, those members of the district in attendance shall elect a chairperson to serve for the meeting.



b. State Party Convention

- i. Following District Conventions, and the March 10th Firehouse Caucus, a meeting of State Convention Delegates and nominees for district-level DNC Delegate and Alternates shall be convened March 19th to March 21st, 2020 in Minot, North Dakota for the purpose of holding the 2020 North Dakota Democratic-NPL Convention. In relevance to this document, on the final day of the State Convention an election will take place to determine the final slate of Delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Applicants for district-level delegate and alternates will be placed on slates corresponding to their presidential preference, assuming their candidate obtains the necessary 15% threshold. Each slate will then be voted on by the entirety of State Party Convention Delegates until a total 9 district-level delegates and 2 alternates are selected by majority vote.

\*For example: Let's say that 4 candidates meet the 15% threshold in North Dakota.

Every applicant for district-level delegate for those 4 candidates, who are approved by the Presidential Candidates, are listed on slates (so 4 slates of applicants in total).

Every delegate to the State Convention is given a "ballot" for each slate (4 ballots total).

Candidate A will get 3 delegates based on their percentage of the vote, so state convention delegates will check their Top 3. The 3 applicants with the most checkmarks win.

And so on and so forth for Candidate B, C and D's slate.

- ii. The State Party Convention dates, time and location will be widely disseminated and publicized throughout the state, by use of the official Democratic-NPL website ([www.demnpl.com](http://www.demnpl.com)), e-mail, social media, and statewide media outlets including newspaper, radio and local television. As the State Party Convention is a well-known annual event, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL feels this will create a boost in both participation, attendance and excitement during the entire process of expressing a presidential preference.

3. Apportionment of District-Level Delegates and Alternates

- a. The number of men and the number of women in the state's total number of district-level delegates and alternates will not vary by more than one. (*Rule 6.C.1 & Reg. 4.9*)



- b. The district-level delegates and alternates are apportioned to districts as indicated in the following table:

District	Delegates	Delegates	Delegates	Alternates	Alternates	Alternates
Gender	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
District	4-5	4-5	9	1	1	2
Total	4-5	4-5	9	1	1	2

\*(Assuming no gender non-binary delegates are elected.)

To ensure the district-level delegates are equally divided between men and women (determined by gender self-identification) the gender of the first binary delegate elected in each district will be designated. At the time of election of delegates in the district the binary gender advantage will alternate as delegate positions are filled and the alternation shall continue across presidential preferences in order of vote-getting preference. In the case of non-binary gender delegates, they shall not be counted in either the male or female category. (Rule 6.C., Rule 6.C.1 & Reg. 4.10).

#### 4. District-Level Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements

- a. An individual can qualify as a candidate for district-level delegate or alternate to the 2020 Democratic National Convention by filing a statement of candidacy designating their singular presidential (or uncommitted) preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) beginning on January 6th, 2020. Statement of Candidacy and Pledge to Support forms will be supplied to each district officer, and persons interested in running for delegate may request a form in person (at 1902 E. Divide Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501), by phone (701-255-0460) or by e-mail (people@demnpl.com). A delegate or alternate candidate may submit or modify their singular presidential preference no later than 5:00 pm CT on March 13th, 2020; (Rule 13.B, Rule 15.F & Reg. 4.23).
- b. All candidates considered for district-level alternate positions must meet the same requirements as candidates for district-level delegate positions as laid out in Section 4.a listed above; (Rule 13.C).

#### 5. Presidential Candidate Right of Review for District-Level Delegates and Alternates

- a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), no later than 5:00 pm CT on March 14th, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate; (Rule 13.D & Rule 13.F).

- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the State Democratic Chair by 5:00 pm CT on Friday, March 19th, 2020, a list of all such candidates they have approved, provided that approval be given to at least three (3) separate individuals for each position for delegate and three (3) separate individuals for each alternate position to be selected; (*Rule 13.E.1, Reg. 4.24 & Reg. 4.25*).
  - c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate and alternate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate, or the authorized representative(s), signifies otherwise in writing to the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair no later than March 19th, 2020 at 5:00 pm CT.
  - d. National convention delegate and alternate candidates removed from the list of bona fide supporters by a presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), may not be elected as a delegate or alternate at that level pledged to that presidential candidate; (*Rule 13.E & Reg. 4.24*).
  - e. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective district-level delegate candidates and district-level alternate candidates meet the affirmative action and outreach and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved district-level delegate candidates and district-level alternate candidates as indicated in Section III.A.5.b of this Plan; (*Rule 6.I & Reg.4.10.C*).
6. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference
- a. Caucus/Convention Proportional Representation Plan (*Rule 14.A, Rule 14.B & Rule 14.D*)
    - North Dakota is a caucus/convention state. Because North Dakota is a one-district state, the district level delegates are allocated to reflect the statewide vote. Delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated so as to fairly reflect the expressed presidential preference or uncommitted status of the caucus participants in the state. Those preferences falling below a 15% threshold shall not be awarded any delegates or alternates; (*Rule 2.K.5, Rule 14.B & Reg. 4.30*).
  - b. Within the state, if no presidential preference reaches a 15% threshold, the threshold shall be half the percentage of the vote received in that district by the front-runner; (*Rule 14.F*).

7. Equal Division of District-Level Delegates and Alternates
  - a. To ensure the district-level delegates are equally divided **between** men and women (determined by gender self-identification) delegate positions within each district will be designated by presidential preference beginning with the highest vote-getting presidential preference. This assignment of delegate positions, will continue with the next highest vote-getting preferences in descending order, with positions assigned to either male and female alternating by gender as mathematically practicable, until the gender of each position has been assigned. In the case of non-binary gender delegates, they shall not be counted in either the male or female category. *(Rule 6.C., Rule 6.C.1 & Reg. 4.1)*
  - b. After the **delegates** are selected, the alternates will be awarded, using the same process described above.
8. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair shall certify in writing to the **Secretary** of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) the election of the state's district-level delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within 10 days after their election. *(Rule 8.C & Call IV.A)*

## **B. Automatic Delegates**

1. Automatic Party Leaders and Elected Officials
  - a. The following categories (if applicable) shall constitute the Automatic Party Leaders and Elected Official delegate positions:
    - (1) Members of the Democratic National Committee who legally reside in the state; *(Rule 9.A.1, Call I.F, Call I.J, & Reg. 4.15)*
    - (2) Democratic President and Democratic Vice President (if applicable); *(Rule 9.A.2 & Call I.G)*
    - (3) All of State's Democratic Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; *(Rule 9.A.3, Call I.H & Call I.J)*
    - (4) The Democratic Governor (if applicable); *(Rule 9.A.4, Call I.H & Call I.J)*
    - (5) "Distinguished Party Leader" delegates who legally reside in the state (if applicable); ***[Persons who qualify as "Distinguished Party Leader" delegates are: all former Democratic Presidents or Vice Presidents, all former Democratic Leaders of the U.S. Senate, all former Democratic Speakers of the U.S. House of Representatives and Democratic Minority***

***Leaders, as applicable, and all former Chairs of the Democratic National Committee.] (Rule 9.A.5, Call I.G & Reg. 4.14)***

- b. An Automatic delegate may run and be elected as a pledged delegate. If an Automatic delegate is elected and certified as a Pledged delegate, that individual shall not serve as an Automatic delegate at the 2020 National Convention. *(Call I.J)*
- c. The certification process for the Automatic Party Leader and Elected Official delegates is as follows:
  - (1) Not later than March 6, 2020, the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee shall officially confirm to the State Democratic Chair the names of the Automatic delegates who legally reside in State. *(Rule 9.A)*
  - (2) Official confirmation by the Secretary shall constitute verification of the Automatic delegates from the categories indicated above. *(Call IV.B.1)*
  - (3) The North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the presidential preference of state's Automatic delegates 10 days after the completion of the State's Delegate Selection Process. *(Call IV.C)*
2. For purposes of achieving equal division between delegate men and delegate women within the state's entire convention delegation (determined by gender self-identification), the entire delegation includes all pledged and Automatic delegates, including those who identify as male or female. *(Rule 6.C and Reg. 4.9)*

**C. Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) Delegates**

1. North Dakota is allotted 2 pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates. *(Call I.D, Call I.E & Appendix B)*
2. Pledged PLEO Delegate Filing Requirements
  - a. Individuals shall be eligible for the pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegate positions according to the following priority: big city mayors and statewide elected officials (to be given equal consideration); state legislative leaders, state legislators, and other state, county and local elected officials and party leaders. Automatic delegates who choose to run for PLEO delegate will be given equal consideration with big city mayors and statewide elected officials. *(Rule 10.A.1 & Reg. 4.16)*
  - b. An individual can qualify as a candidate for a position as a pledged PLEO delegate by filing a Statement of Candidacy designating their singular



presidential preference or uncommitted preference, and signed pledge of support with the North Dakota Democratic-NPL. Persons interested in running for PLEO delegate may request a form in person (at 1902 E. Divide Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501), by phone (701-255-0460) or by e-mail ([people@demnpl.com](mailto:people@demnpl.com)) beginning January 6th, 2020. A delegate or alternate candidate may submit or modify their singular presidential preference no later than 5:00 pm CT on March 27th, 2020. (*Rule 10.A.3, Rule 15.G, Reg.4.18 & Reg. 4.17*)

### 3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review

- a. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), no later than 12:00 noon on March 28th, 2020, a list of all persons who have filed for a party and elected official delegate pledged to that presidential candidate. (*Rule 10.A.3 & Rule 13.D*)
- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must file with the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair, by 5:00pm on April 3rd, 2020, a list of all such candidates they have approved, as long as approval is given to at least two names for every position to which the presidential candidate is entitled. (*Rule 13.E.2 & Reg. 4.25*)
- c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate or the authorized representative(s) signifies otherwise in writing to the State Democratic Chair no later than 5:00pm on April 3rd, 2020. (*Rule 13.D*)
- d. The North Dakota Democratic- NPL Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate has used their best efforts to ensure that their **respective** pledged PLEO delegate candidates meet the affirmative action and outreach and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) **business** days of returning the list of approved pledged PLEO candidates as indicated in Section III.C.3.b of this Plan. (*Rule 6.1 & Reg. 4.10.C*)

### 4. Selection of Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates

- a. The pledged PLEO slots shall be allocated among presidential preferences on the same basis as the at-large delegates. (*Rule 10.A.2, Rule 11.C, Rule 14.E & Rule 14.F*)



- b. Selection of the pledged PLEO delegates will occur on Saturday, April 4, 2020, which is after the election of district-level delegates and alternates and prior to - but on the same date as - the selection of at-large delegates and alternates. *(Rule 10.A)*

(1.) These delegates will be chosen by a quorum of the District-level Delegates

- 5. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the **Secretary** of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates to the Democratic National Convention within 10 days after their election. *(Call IV.A & Reg. 5.4.A)*

#### **D. At-Large Delegates and Alternates**

- 1. The state of State is allotted 3 at-large delegates and 0 at-large alternates. *(Rule 8.C, Call I.B, II, Appendix B & Reg. 4.34)*
- 2. At-Large Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements
  - a. Persons desiring to seek at-large delegate or alternate positions may file a statement of candidacy designating their singular presidential or uncommitted preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) with the North Dakota Democratic-NPL by March 27th, 2020 at 5:00 pm CT. A delegate or alternate candidate may modify their singular presidential preference by submitting an updated pledge of support no later than the filing deadline. Forms will be available beginning January 6th, 2020 by the North Dakota-Democratic NPL as requested. Forms requests may be made to the North Dakota Democratic-NPL by phone (1902 E. Divide Ave., Bismarck, ND 58501), by phone (701-255-0460) or by e-mail ([people@demnpl.com](mailto:people@demnpl.com)). *(Rule 13.A., Rule 13.B, Rule 15.G, Reg. 4.22, Reg. 4.23, & Reg. 4.31)*
  - b. The statement of candidacy for at-large delegates shall follow the same requirements as the statement of candidacy for district-level and PLEO delegate.
- 3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
  - a. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), no later than 5:00pm March 28th, 2020, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or

alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. (*Rule 13.D*) (*Reg. 4.24.D & Reg. 4.31.C*)

- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair, by April 3, 2020, a list of all such candidates they have approved, provided that, at a minimum, two (2) names remain for every national convention delegate or alternate position to which the presidential candidate is entitled. (*Rule 13.D.4, Rule 13.E.2 & Reg. 4.25*)
- c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate or the authorized representative(s) signifies otherwise in writing to the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair no later than April 3, 2020.
- d. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective at-large delegate candidates and at-large alternate candidates meet the affirmative action and outreach and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action and Outreach and Inclusion section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved at-large delegate candidates and at-large alternate candidates as indicated in this Section.

#### 4. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference

- a. At-large delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated among presidential preferences according to: (*Rule 11.C*)
  - (1) The statewide division of preferences among convention and caucus participants, at the first determining step of the process provided that no person participating in the allocation shall automatically serve by virtue of holding a public or Party office. (*Rule 9.B, Rule 11.C & Reg. 4.19*)
- b. Preferences which have not attained a 15% threshold on a state-wide basis shall not be entitled to any at-large delegates. (*Rule 14.E*)
- c. If no presidential preference reaches a 15% threshold, the threshold shall be half the percentage of the statewide vote received by the front-runner. (*Rule 14.F*)
- d. If a presidential candidate otherwise entitled to an allocation is no longer a candidate at the time of selection of the at-large delegates, their allocation will be proportionally divided among the other preferences entitled to an allocation. (*Rule 11.C*)

- e. If a given presidential preference is entitled to one (1) or more delegate positions but would not otherwise be entitled to an alternate position, that preference shall be allotted one (1) at-large alternate position. (*Rule 19.B, Call I.I & Reg. 4.33*)

5. Selection of At-Large Delegates and Alternates

- a. The selection of the at-large delegates and alternates will occur at Saturday, April 4, 2020, following the selection of all pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates. (*Call III*)

(1.) These delegates will be chosen by a quorum of the District-level Delegates

(a) These individuals serve as delegates to the Democratic National Convention, and are chosen by delegates to the State Party Convention with advance approval by Presidential Candidates.

(b) A quorum of district-level delegates complies with the equal division requirements of Article 9, Section 16 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States by virtue of bylaws enacted by the North Dakota Democratic-NPL that seek to ensure equal representation **between** male and female members as well as Rule 10.B of the Rules and Bylaws committee that allow for a quorum of district-level delegates to elect PLEO delegates.

- b. Priority of Consideration

- (1) In the selection of the at-large delegation priority of consideration shall be given to African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and women, if such priority of consideration is needed to fulfill the affirmative action goals outlined in the North Dakota Democratic-NPL's Delegate Selection Plan. (*Rule 6.A.3*)
- (2) To continue the Democratic Party's ongoing efforts to include groups historically under-represented in the Democratic Party's affairs and to assist in the achievement of full participation by these groups, priority of consideration shall be given other groups by virtue of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identify, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, economic status or disability. (*Rule 5.C, Rule 6.A.3, Rule 7 & Reg. 4.8*)
- (3) The election of at-large delegates and alternates shall be used, if

necessary, to achieve the equal division of positions between men and women as far as mathematically practicable, and may be used to achieve the representation goals established in the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program section of this Plan. (*Rule 6.A, Rule 6.C and Reg. 4.9*)

- (4) Delegates and alternates are to be considered separate groups for this purpose. (*Rule 6.C.1, Rule 11.A, Reg. 4.9 & Reg. 4.20*)
- 6. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's at-large delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within 10 days after their election. (*Rule 8.C & Call IV.A*)

#### **E. Replacement of Delegates and Alternates**

- 1. A pledged delegate or alternate may be replaced according to the following guidelines:
  - a. Permanent Replacement of a Delegate: (*Rule 19.D.3*)
    - (1) A permanent replacement occurs when a delegate resigns or dies prior to or during the national convention and the alternate replaces the delegate for the remainder of the National Convention.
    - (2) Any alternate permanently replacing a delegate shall be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) and gender of the delegate they replace, and to the extent possible shall be from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.
      - (a) In the case where the presidential candidate has only one (1) alternate, that alternate shall become the certified delegate.
      - (b) If a presidential candidate has only one (1) alternate, and that alternate permanently replaces a delegate of a different gender, thereby causing the delegation to no longer be equally divided, the delegation shall not be considered in violation of Rule 6.C. In such a case, notwithstanding Rule 19.D.2, the State Party Committee shall, at the time of a subsequent permanent replacement, replace a delegate with a person of a different gender, in order to return the delegation to equal division of men and women. (*Reg. 4.36*)
    - (3) If a delegate or alternate candidate who has been elected but not certified to the DNC Secretary resigns, dies, or is no longer eligible to serve, they shall be replaced, after consultation with the North Dakota



Democratic-NPL, by the authorized representative of the presidential candidate to whom they are pledged. *(Rule 19.D.2)*

b. Temporary Replacement of a Delegate: *(Rule 19.D.4)*

- (1) A temporary replacement occurs when a delegate is to be absent for a limited period of time during the convention and an alternate temporarily acts in the delegate's place.
- (2) Any alternate who temporarily replaces a delegate must be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) as the delegate they replace, and to the extent possible shall be of the same gender and from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.

c. The following system will be used to select permanent and temporary replacements of delegates: *(Rule 19.D.1)*

- (1) The alternate who receives the highest number of votes becomes the delegate.
- (2) In the event of multiple vacancies, the Select Committee on Delegates shall convene to choose an adequate replacement from the list of approved delegates submitted to the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair by the respective Presidential Candidate or their duly appointed representative(s).

d. Certification of Replacements

- (3) Any alternate who permanently replaces a delegate shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the DNC by the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair. *(Rule 19.D.3)*
- (4) Permanent replacement of a delegate (as specified above) by an alternate and replacement of a vacant alternate position shall be certified in writing by the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the replacement is selected. *(Call IV.D.1)*
- (3) Certification of permanent replacements will be accepted by the Secretary up to 72 hours before the first official session of the Convention is scheduled to convene. *(Call IV.D.1 & Reg. 4.35)*
- (4) In the case where a pledged delegate is permanently replaced after 72 hours before the time the first session is scheduled to convene or, in the case where a pledged delegate is not on the floor of the Convention Hall at the time a roll call vote is taken, an alternate may be designated (as



specified above) to cast the delegate's vote. In such case, the Delegation Chair shall indicate the name of the alternate casting the respective delegate's vote on the delegation tally sheet. (*Call IX.F.3.e, Call IX.F.3.c & Reg. 5.6*)

- e. A vacant alternate position shall be filled by the delegation. The replacement shall be of the same presidential preference (or uncommitted status), of the same gender and, to the extent possible, from the same political subdivision as the alternate being replaced. (*Rule 19.E*)
2. Automatic delegates shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except under the following circumstances: (*Call IV.D.2 & Reg. 4.37*)
- a. Members of **Congress** and the Democratic **Governor** shall not be entitled to name a replacement. In the event of changes or vacancies in the state's Congressional Delegation, following the official confirmation and prior to the commencement of the National Convention, the DNC Secretary shall **recognize** only such changes as have been officially recognized by the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives or the Democratic Conference of the U.S. Senate. In the event of a change or vacancy in the state's office of **Governor**, the DNC shall recognize only such changes as have been officially **recognized** by the **Democratic Governors' Association**. (*Call IV.D.2.a*)
  - b. Members of the Democratic National Committee shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except in the case of death of such delegates. In the case where the state's DNC membership changes following the DNC **Secretary's** official confirmation, but prior to the commencement of the 2020 Democratic National Convention, acknowledgment by the Secretary of the new DNC member **certification** shall constitute verification of the **corresponding** change of Automatic delegates. (*Call, IV.D.2.b*)
  - c. Automatic distinguished Party Leader delegates allocated to the state pursuant to Rule 9.A.(5), shall not be entitled to name a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to name a replacement. (*Call IV.D.2.c*)
  - d. In no case may an alternate cast a vote for an Automatic delegate. (*Call IX.F.3.e*)

## Section IV

### Selection of Convention Standing Committee Members

#### A. Introduction

1. State has been allocated 1 member(s) on each of the three (3) standing committees for the 2020 Democratic National Convention (Credentials, Platform and Rules), for a total of 3 members. *(Call VII.A & Appendix D)*
2. Members of the Convention Standing Committees need not be delegates or alternates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention. *(Call VII.A.3)*
3. These members will be selected in accordance with the **procedures** indicated below. *(Rule 1.G)*

#### B. Standing Committee Members

1. Selection Meeting
  - a. The members of the standing committees shall be elected by a quorum of **State's** National Convention delegates, at a meeting to be held on Saturday, April 4, 2020. *(Call VII.B.1)*
  - b. All members of the delegation shall receive adequate notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the standing committee members. *(Call VII.B.1)*
2. Allocation of Members
  - a. The members of the standing committees **allocated** to North Dakota shall proportionately represent the presidential preference of all candidates (including uncommitted status) receiving the threshold percentage used in the state's delegation to calculate the at-large apportionment pursuant to Rule 14.E. of the Delegate Selection Rules. *(Call VII.C.1 & Reg. 5.9)*
  - b. The presidential preference of each candidate receiving the applicable **percentage** or more within the delegation shall be multiplied by the total number of standing committee positions allocated to State. If the result of such multiplication does not equal 0.455 or above, the presidential **preference** in question is not entitled to representation on the standing committee. If the

result of such multiplication is 0.455 but less than 1.455, the presidential preference is entitled to one (1) position. Those preferences securing more than 1.455 but less than 2.455 are entitled to two (2) positions, etc. (*Call VII.C.2*)

- c. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation exceeding the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is farthest from its eventual rounded-off total shall be denied that one (1) additional position. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation falling short of the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is closest to the next rounding level shall be allotted an additional committee position. (*Call VII.C.3*)
- d. Standing committee positions allocated to a presidential candidate shall be proportionately allocated, to the extent practicable, to each of the three (3) standing committees. When such allocation results in an unequal distribution of standing committee positions by candidate preference, a drawing shall be conducted to distribute the additional positions. (*Call VII.C.4*)

### 3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review

- a. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), shall be given adequate notice of the date, time and location of the meeting of the state's delegation authorized to elect standing committee members. (*Call VII.D.1*)
- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must submit to the State Democratic Chair, by 5:00pm April 4th, 2020, a minimum of (1) name for each slot awarded to that candidate for members of each committee. The delegation shall select the standing committee members from among names submitted by the presidential candidates (including uncommitted status). Presidential candidates shall not be required to submit the name of more than one (1) person for each slot awarded to such candidate for members of standing committees. (*Call VII.D.2*)

### 4. Selection Procedure to Achieve Equal Division

- a. Presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) shall use their best efforts to ensure that their respective delegation of standing committee members shall achieve State's affirmative action, outreach and inclusion goals and that their respective male and female members are equally divided

between the men and women determined by gender self-identification. (*Rule 6.1 & Reg. 4.10*)

- b. The first binary gender position on each standing committee shall be assigned by binary gender as self-identified. For example, the first binary position on the Credentials Committee of the presidential candidate with the most standing committee positions shall be designated for a male, and the next binary position, if one occurs, will be designated for a female, and the remaining binary positions, to the extent they occur, shall be designated in like fashion, alternating between males and females, where applicable. For avoidance of doubt: there is no requirement that positions be assigned to gender non-binaries but the described alternation of binary genders may not be used to exclude a gender non-binary from consideration for a committee position. Positions for presidential candidates on each committee shall be ranked according to the total number of standing positions allocated to each such candidate. After positions on the Credentials Committee are designated by gender, the designation shall continue with the Platform Committee, then the Rules Committee.

- (1) A separate election shall be conducted for membership on each standing committee.
- (2) The male and female membership of the standing committees shall be equally divided among the men and women as possible under the state allocation; the variance between men and women in any committee or among the three committees in aggregate shall not exceed one. (*Call VII.E.2*)
- (3) Gender non-binary committee members shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the delegation shall be equally divided between male gender (men) and female gender (women). (*Call VII.E.1*)
- (4) The positions allocated to each presidential candidate on each committee shall be voted on separately, and the winners shall be the highest vote-getter(s) of the appropriate gender.

## 5. Certification and Substitution

- a. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair shall certify the standing committee members in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after their selection. (*Call VII.B.3*)
- b. No substitutions will be permitted in the case of standing committee members, except in the case of resignation or death. Substitutions must be made in

accordance with the rules and the election procedures specified in this section, and must be certified in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the substitute member is selected but not later than 48 hours before the **respective** standing committee meets, except in the case of death. *(Call VII.B.4)*

## **Section V**

### **Delegation Chair and Convention Pages**

#### **A. Introduction**

State will select one (1) person to serve as Delegation Chair and 2 to serve as Convention Pages. *(Call IV.E, Call IV.F.1 & Appendix C)*

#### **B. Delegation Chair**

1. Selection Meeting
  - a. The Delegation Chair shall be selected by a quorum of the state's National Convention **Delegates**, at a meeting to be held on Saturday, April 4, 2020. *(Call IV.E & Call VII.B.1)*
  - b. All members of the delegation shall receive timely notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the Delegation Chair. *(Rule 3.C)*
2. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair shall certify the Delegation Chair in writing to the **Secretary** of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after their selection. *(Call IV.E)*

#### **C. Convention Pages**

1. 2 individuals will be selected to serve as North Dakota's Convention Pages by the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair in consultation with the members of the Democratic National Committee from the state. This selection will take place on Saturday, April 4, 2020. *(Call IV.F.3, **Appendix C** & Reg. 5.7)*



2. The Convention Pages shall be as evenly divided between men and women (determined by self-identification) as possible under the state allocation and shall reflect as much as possible, the Affirmative Action and Outreach and Inclusion guidelines in the state plan. In the case of gender non-binary pages, they shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the pages shall be equally divided. *(Reg. 5.7.A)*
3. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair shall certify the individuals to serve as North Dakota's Convention Pages in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the selection. *(Call IV.F.3 & Reg. 5.7.B)*

## **Section VI**

### **Presidential Electors**

#### **A. Introduction**

North Dakota will select 3 persons to serve as Presidential Electors for the 2020 Presidential election.

#### **B. Selection of Presidential Electors**

The Presidential Electors shall be selected in the same manner as PLEO and At-large Delegates, as well as the Convention Chair and Pages. A quorum of district-level delegates shall convene on Saturday, April 4, 2020, wherein the selection of Presidential Electors will take place after the selection of all other positions. *(Call VIII)*

#### **C. Affirmation**

1. Each candidate for Presidential Elector shall certify in writing that they will vote for the election of the Democratic Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees. State law does not require electors to vote for the party's nominee. *(Call VIII)*
2. In the selection of the Presidential Electors, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL will ensure the persons selected are bona fide Democrats who are faithful to the interests, welfare, and success of the Democratic Party of the United States, who subscribe to the substance, intent and principles of the Charter and the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States by selecting individuals with a sterling record of support and advocacy on behalf of the North Dakota Democratic-NPL and its causes through criteria such as long-standing membership, serving in elected office or seeking public office under the banner of the Democratic-NPL, as well as other qualifying criteria. *(Call VIII)*

## Section VII

### General Provisions and Procedural Guarantees

- A. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL reaffirms its commitment to an open party by incorporating the “six basic elements” as listed below. As our Party strives to **progress** in the fight against discrimination of all kinds, these six basic elements have evolved and grown along with the constant push for more inclusion and empowerment. These provisions demonstrate the intention of the Democratic Party to ensure a full opportunity for all minority group members to participate in the delegate selection process. (*Rule 4.A, Rule 4.B, Rule 4.C*)
1. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party/Democratic-NPL in North Dakota should be open to all members of the Democratic Party/Democratic-NPL regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, economic status or disability (hereinafter collectively **referred** to as “status”). (*Rule 4.B.1*)
  2. No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party/Democratic-NPL in North Dakota should be required or used which has the effect of requiring **prospective** or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination based on “status.” (*Rule 4.B.2*)
  3. The time and place for all public meetings of the Democratic Party/Democratic-NPL in North Dakota on all levels should be publicized fully and, in such manner, as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons. (*Rule 4.B.3*)
  4. The Democratic Party/Democratic-NPL in North Dakota, on all levels, should support the broadest possible registration without discrimination based on “status.” (*Rule 4.B.4*)
  5. The Democratic Party/Democratic-NPL in North Dakota should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full **description** of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party/Democratic-NPL officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures should be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of the North Dakota Democratic-NPL will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Democratic Party organization. As part of this, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Party has and will continue to develop strategies to provide education programs directly to voters who continue to experience confusing timelines for deadlines relating to the Firehouse Caucus,

through the process for running for delegate, and **beyond** to the general election, to ensure all Democratic voters understand the rules and timelines and their impact on voter participation. *(Rule 4.B.5)*

6. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties, a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications of all positions as officers and representatives of the North Dakota Democratic-NPL. Such publication should be done in timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed **position** within each State Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office. *(Rule 4.B.6)*
- B. Discrimination on the basis of “status” in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is strictly prohibited. *(Rule 5.B)*
- C. North Dakota’s delegation shall be equally divided between delegate men and delegate women, and alternate men and alternate women, i.e. the number of men and women shall not vary by more than one. Such goal applies to the entire delegation, which includes all pledged delegates and alternates and all automatic delegates. Delegates and alternates shall be considered separate groups for purposes of achieving equal division as determined by gender self-identification. In the case of gender non-binary delegates or alternates, they shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the delegation shall be equally divided by gender. *(Rule 6.C)*
- D. All delegate and alternate candidates must be identified as to presidential preference or uncommitted status at all levels which determine presidential preference. *(Rule 13.A)*
- E. No delegate at any level of the delegate selection **process** shall be mandated by law or Party rules to vote contrary to that person’s presidential choice as **expressed** at the time the delegate is elected. *(Rule 13.I)*
- F. Delegates elected to the national convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them. *(Rule 13.J)*
- G. Each delegate, alternate and standing committee member must be a bona fide Democrat, who is faithful to the interests, welfare and success of the Democratic Party of the United States, who subscribes to the substance, intent and principles of the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States, and who will participate in the Convention in good faith. *(Rule 13.H, Call VII.A.4 & Reg. 4.26)*
- H. 40% of the members of any Democratic-NPL body above the first level of the delegate selection process shall constitute a quorum for any business pertaining to the selection of National Convention delegates, alternates, standing committee members, and other official Convention participants. *(Rule 16)*

- I. An accredited participant in a caucus, convention or committee meeting, after having established credentials, may register a non-transferable proxy with (i.e., deliver a signed proxy to) another duly accredited participant at that meeting (except where an accredited alternate is present and eligible to serve as a replacement), provided that no individual may hold more than one (1) proxy at a time. *(Rule 17 & Reg. 4.32)*
- J. The unit rule, or any rule or practice whereby all members of a Party unit or delegation may be required to cast their votes in accordance with the will of a majority of the body, shall not be used at any stage of the delegate selection process. *(Rule 18.A)*
- K. Any individual or group of Democratic-NPLers may sponsor or endorse a slate of candidates for convention delegates. But no slate may, by virtue of such endorsement, receive a preferential place on a delegate selection ballot or be publicly identified on the ballot as the official Democratic-NPL organization slate, and all slates must meet identical qualifying requirements for appearing on a ballot at all levels of the delegate selection process. *(Rule 18.B)*
- L. All steps in the delegate selection process, including the filing of presidential candidates, must take place within the calendar year of the Democratic National Convention, except with respect to the implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Programs. *(Rule 1.F & Rule 12.B)*
- M. In electing and certifying delegates and alternates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL hereby undertakes to assure all Democratic voters in North Dakota, a full, timely and equal opportunity to participate in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs and to implement affirmative action and outreach and inclusion plans toward that end; that the delegates and alternates to the Convention shall be selected in accordance with the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2020 Democratic National Convention; and that the delegates certified will not publicly support or campaign for any candidate for President or Vice President other than the nominees of the Democratic National Convention. *(Call II.B)*

## **Section VIII**

### **Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program**



**A. Statement of Purpose and Organization**

**1. Purpose and Objectives**

- a. To make sure that the Democratic Party at all levels be an open Party which includes rather than excludes people from participation, a program of **effective** affirmative action is hereby adopted by the North Dakota Democratic-NPL. *(Rule 5.A)*
- b. Discrimination on the basis of “status” in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is strictly prohibited. *(Rule 5.B)*
- c. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party/Democratic-NPL in North Dakota shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party/Democratic-NPL regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, economic status or disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as “status”). *(Rule 4.B.1)*
- d. Consistent with the Democratic Party’s commitment to including groups historically under-represented in the Democratic Party’s affairs, by virtue of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity and **expression**, or disability, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL has established goals for these groups. *(Rule 5.C & Reg. 4.8)*
- e. To encourage full participation by all Democrats in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL has adopted and will continue to implement **programs** with specific goals and timetables for African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and women. To further encourage full participation in the process, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL has established goals and timetables for other underrepresented groups, including the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities and youth. *(Rule 6.A & Rule 7)*
  - (1) The goal of the programs shall be to encourage participation in the delegate selection process and in Party organizations at all levels by the aforementioned groups as indicated by their presence in the Democratic electorate. *(Rule 6.A.1)*
  - (2) For the delegate selection process, “Youth” is defined as any participant younger than 36 years old at the time of election. *(Reg. 5.3.A)*
  - (3) For the delegate selection process, individuals identifying as Native Americans should provide their tribal affiliation and indicate if they are enrolled in a tribe. *(Reg. 5.3.B)*

- (4) These goals shall not be accomplished either directly or indirectly by the Party's imposition of mandatory quotas at any level of the delegate selection process or in any other Party affairs. *(Rule 6.A.2)*

## 2. Organizational Structure

- a. An Affirmative Action Committee shall be appointed by the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair on March 1, 2019. *(Rule 6.F)*
- b. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair shall certify in writing to the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Democratic National Committee the compliance of the North Dakota Democratic-NPL's Affirmative Action Committee with Rules 5.C, 6.A and 7, and submit the names, demographic data and contact information of the members no later than 15 days after their appointment. *(Reg. 2.2.J)*
- c. The Committee shall consist of members who are regionally diverse and represent the Democratic constituency groups set forth in the Introduction to the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program.
- d. The Affirmative Action Committee shall be responsible for:
  - (1) Helping develop and design the proposed Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program and making recommendations to the State Democratic Chair. *(Rule 6.F)*
  - (2) Directing the implementation of all requirements of the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program section of this Plan.
  - (3) Implementing a specific outreach and financial assistance program for persons of low and moderate income to encourage their participation and representation in the **national** convention delegation. *(Rule 6.G)*
  - (4) Ensuring, on behalf of the Select Committee on Delegates, that district lines used in the delegate selection process are not gerrymandered to discriminate against African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and women. *(Rule 6.E)*
- e. Financial and staff support for the Affirmative Action Committee shall be provided by the North Dakota Democratic-NPL to the greatest extent feasible, including, but not limited to, making available on a priority basis, the Democratic-NPL staff and volunteers, and covering all reasonable costs incurred in carrying out this Plan.

3. Implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program shall begin on September 13, 2019, with the distribution of the press kits, and will continue through the end of the delegate selection process. *(Rule 1.F)*

**B. Representation Goals**

1. In cooperation with the National Committee, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL has determined the demographic composition of African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in North Dakota's Democratic electorate. These constituency percentages shall be established as goals for representation in the state's convention delegation. *(Rule 6.A)*
2. In cooperation with the National Committee, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL has determined the demographic composition of members of the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities, and youth in the state's Democratic electorate. The State Party has chosen to establish these percentages as goals for representation in the state's convention delegation. *(Rule 7 & Reg. 4.8.C.iii)*
3. The Youth demographic composition is based upon 2017 and 2018 Census estimates of North Dakotans aged 15-34. There are approximately 258,344 North Dakotans within this age bracket, out of a total estimated population of 755,393, equaling 34.2%.
4. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL's demographic compositions of Native Americans (5.7%), African Americans (1.8%), Hispanics (2.0%), and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (1.0%) residing in North Dakota are taken directly from census data estimates.
5. The Disabilities demographic composition is realized, taking into consideration that there are numerous definitions of the term "disability". Disability population study numbers for North Dakota range from as little as 2 to 3 percent upwards of 14 percent depending on the definition. Due to the wide-range of variables, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL has set an estimate of 13.0% with a representation number of 2 for any percentage greater than 7.0%.
6. Due to a lack of Census data concerning the LGBTQ+ population, the demographic composition for LGBTQ+ individuals residing in North Dakota is not based on any known survey or estimate. The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, in an April of 2011 report, estimated that the national LGBTQ+ population is roughly 3.8%. A Gallup poll from 2013 places an estimate of 1.7% of LGBTQ+ residents in North Dakota. The North Dakota Data Center has indicated that it would be reasonable to use a number anywhere between 1.7% and 5.6%, taking into consideration that urban areas tend to have a higher density of

LGBTQ+ individuals than rural, and that LGBTQ+ status is likely under-reported in surveys. For the purpose of affixing a realized number, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL has chosen to use 2.5% as its estimate, because it is less than the estimated national average of 3.8% and more than the 1.7% state estimate (while factoring in under-reporting as a consideration). The North Dakota Democratic-NPL also notes, too, that the number of LGBTQ+ Delegates would be “2” for any percentage 7.0 or greater%.

7. When selecting the at-large portion of the delegation, the demographic composition of the other delegates (district-level, pledged PLEO, and Automatic) shall be compared with the State Party’s representation goals to achieve an at-large selection process that helps to bring about a representative balance. *(Rule 11.A)*
8. Although the selection of the at-large delegation may be used to fulfill the affirmative action goals established by this Plan, the State Party will conduct outreach and inclusion activities such as recruitment, education and training at all levels of the delegate selection process. *(Rule 6.A.3)*

	African Americans	Hispanics	Native Americans	Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders	LGBTQ+ Americans	People with Disabilities	Youth
Population Percentage	3.0	4.0	7.0	1.0	7.0	13.0	34.2
Numeric Goals for Delegation	1	1	2	1	2	2	7

### C. Efforts to Educate on the Delegate Selection Process

1. Well-publicized educational workshops will be conducted in each of the delegate districts beginning in September 2019. These workshops will be designed to encourage participation in the delegate selection process, including apprising potential delegate and alternate candidates of the availability of financial assistance. These workshops will be held in places that are easily accessible to persons with disabilities. The times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of all education workshops, meetings and other events involved in the delegate selection process shall be effectively publicized by the party organization and include mailings to various organizations representative of the Democratic voting electorate. *(Rule 3.A, Rule 3.C & Rule 3.D)*



2. A speakers bureau of volunteers from the North Dakota Democratic-NPL, including the Affirmative Action Committee, shall be comprised of individuals who are fully familiar with the process, will be organized to appear before groups, as needed, to provide information concerning the process.
3. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL's education efforts will include outreach to community leaders within the Democratic-NPL's constituencies and making sure that information about the delegate selection process is available to Democratic-NPL clubs and Party caucuses representing specific constituencies.
4. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL will publish and make available at no cost: a clear and concise explanation of how Democratic voters can participate in the delegate selection process. As well, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL shall also make available copies of the State Party Rules, the Delegate Selection Plan (and its attachments), the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program, and relevant state statutes at no cost. Copies of documents related to the state's delegate selection process will be prepared and the State Party and Affirmative Action Committee will distribute them in the various delegate districts not later than December 9, 2019. *(Rule 1.H)*
5. Participation in the delegate selection process shall be open to all voters who wish to participate as Democratic-NPLers. Democratic-NPL voters shall be those persons who publicly declare their Party preference and have that preference publicly recorded. *(Rule 2.A)*
6. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL shall take all feasible steps to encourage non-affiliated voters and new voters to register or enroll, to provide simple procedures through which they may do so and to eliminate excessively long waiting periods for voters wish to register or to change their party enrollment status. *(Rule 2.C)*
7. The Affirmative Action Committee will develop a State Party strategy to be implemented beginning Friday, September 13, 2019, that will provide education programs directly to voters who continue to experience confusing timelines or lack of awareness of the process for running for delegate and participation in the Firehouse Caucus, to ensure all Democratic voters understand the rules and timelines and their impact on voter participation. *(Rule 4.B.5)*

**D. Efforts to Publicize the Delegate Selection Process**

1. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL shall direct special attention to publicizing the delegate selection process in the state. Such publicity shall include information on eligibility to vote and how to become a candidate for delegate, the time and location of each stage of the delegate selection process, and where to get additional

information. The foregoing information will also be published in the Democratic-NPL communications and on the Democratic-NPL website ([www.demnpl.com](http://www.demnpl.com)). The Party organization, official, candidate, or member calling a meeting or scheduling an event, shall effectively publicize the role that such meeting or event plays in the selection of delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention. (*Rule 3.C & Rule 3.D*)

2. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL shall have a Delegate Selection Media Plan for using all available and appropriate resources, such as social media, websites, newspapers, radio and television, to inform the general public how, when and where to participate in the delegate selection process. Specifically, the Delegate Selection Media Plan will provide details as to how to qualify to run as a delegate candidate. Regular updates should be posted/released throughout the state's delegate selection process to ensure broad and timely coverage and awareness about the process to all interested persons. (*Rule 4.B.3 & Rule 6.D*)
3. A priority effort, as described in the Delegate Selection Media Plan, shall be directed at publicity among the Democratic-NPL Party's constituencies.
  - a. Information about the delegate selection process will be posted on and made available to social and specialty media directed toward the Democratic constituency groups set forth in the introduction of this Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program.
  - b. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL shall be responsible for the implementation of this publicity effort. For purposes of providing adequate notice of the delegate selection process, the times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of the 2020 Democratic-NPL Convention as well as the Policy and Executive Committee Meeting shall be effectively publicized, multilingually where necessary, to encourage the participation of minority groups. (*Rule 6.D*)
4. Not later than Wednesday, March 13, 2019, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL will make information about the delegate selection process available on its website and publicize the resource through press releases and communications to Party leaders, activists and targeted constituencies. Information to be posted on the website will include:
  - a. materials designed to encourage participation and inform prospective delegate candidates;
  - b. a summary explaining the role of the 2020 Convention in nominating the Party's Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates and adopting the National Platform;
  - c. a summary of the State Party's delegate selection process including all pertinent rules, dates, and filing requirements related to the process;

- d. a map of delegate districts and how many delegates will be elected within each district, along with filing forms or information on how to obtain the filing forms.

**E. Obligations of Presidential Candidates to Maximize Participation**

1. Presidential candidates shall assist the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Party in meeting the demographic **representation** goals reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program. *(Rule 6.H)*
2. Each presidential candidate must submit a written statement to the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Chair by 5:00pm December 9, 2019, which indicates the specific steps they will take to encourage full participation by their supporters in State's delegate selection process, including, but not limited to, procedures by which persons may file as candidates for **delegate** or alternate pledged to the presidential candidate. *(Rule 6.H.1)*
3. Each presidential candidate must submit demographic information with **respect** to all candidates for delegate and alternate pledged to them. Such information shall be submitted in conjunction with the list of names approved for consideration as **delegate** and alternate candidates pledged to the presidential candidate. *(Rule 6.H.2)*
4. Presidential candidates shall use their best effort to ensure that their respective delegates, alternates and standing committee members shall achieve the affirmative action goals reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program and that the number of men and the number of women in their respective delegations shall not differ by more than one (as determined by gender self-identification). Furthermore, presidential candidates shall use their best efforts at the district level to approve delegate, alternate, and standing committee candidates who meet applicable equal division and affirmative action considerations to promote and achieve the state's affirmative action, outreach and inclusion goals and equal division for their respective delegations. *(Rule 6.C., Rule 6.I & Reg. 4.10)*

**F. Outreach and Inclusion Program**

1. The North Dakota Democratic-NPL is committed to help achieve full participation of those groups of Americans who have historically been explicitly denied the right to vote or who have been subjected to discriminatory and exclusionary practices that have denied them voting rights and full participation in the delegate selection

process and other Party meetings, events and elections, along with other groups of Americans who are also underrepresented in Party affairs.

2. As such, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL has developed outreach and inclusion programs and is committed to fully implementing the programs so that all persons who wish to participate as Democrats understand they are welcome and encouraged to be a part of the delegate selection process and in the Party at the local, state and national levels.
3. The State Party will make accommodations to facilitate greater participation by people with disabilities, including but not limited to encouraging a robust vote-by-mail program, and providing accessible locations for people with disabilities, as to ensure maximum opportunity for participation at all levels of Party affairs.
4. In addition to the education, publicity and other steps described above, the State Party will take increased steps in our outreach program and through the Affirmative Action Plan to promote activism on behalf of all marginalized and at-risk groups, inclusivity in all levels of the Democratic-NPL and boost outreach year round.

## Section IX

### Challenges

#### A. Jurisdiction & Standing

1. Challenges related to the delegate selection process are governed by the *Regulations of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2020 Democratic National Convention (Reg. Sec. 3)*, and the “Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2020 Democratic National Convention.” (*Call Appendix A*)
2. Under Rule 21.B. of the *2020 Delegate Selection Rules*, the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction over challenges pertaining to the submission, non-implementation and violation of state Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program. (*Rule 21.B & Call Appendix A*)
3. The Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction to hear and decide any challenge provided it is initiated before the 56th day preceding the date of the commencement of the 2020 Democratic National Convention. (*Call Appendix A & Reg. 3.1*)



4. Challenges to the credentials of delegates and alternates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention initiated on or after the 56th day **preceding** the date of commencement of the Democratic National Convention shall be **processed** in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2020 Democratic National Convention.” (*Call Appendix A*)
5. Any challenge to the credentials of a standing committee member shall be considered and resolved by the **affected** standing **committee** in accordance with Appendix A of the *Call for the 2020 Democratic National Convention*. The Rules and Bylaws Committee shall have jurisdiction over challenges brought before the 56th day preceding the date of the commencement of the Democratic National Convention. (*Call VII.B.5*)
6. Copies of the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee and/or the Call for the 2020 Democratic National Convention, including the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee (*Appendix A*), shall be made available by the North Dakota Democratic-NPL upon reasonable request.
7. Any group of 15 Democrats with standing to challenge as defined in Reg. 3.2 or the Call (*Appendix A, Sec. 2.A*), may bring a challenge to this Plan or to the implementation of this Plan, including its Affirmative Action provisions.

**B. Challenges to the Status of the State Party and Challenges to the Plan**

1. A challenge to the status of the State Party Committee (Select Committee on Delegates) as the body entitled to sponsor a delegation from that state shall be filed with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than 30 calendar days prior to the initiation of the state’s delegate selection process. (*Rule 21.A & Reg. 3.4.A*)
2. A challenge to the state’s Delegate Selection Plan shall be filed with the Chair of the State Democratic Party and the Co-Chairs of the Rules and Bylaws Committee within 15 calendar days after the adoption of the Plan by the North Dakota Democratic-NPL. (*Reg. 3.4.B*)
3. A challenge to a Plan must be brought in conformity with the Rules and the RBC Regulations, which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

**C. Challenges to Implementation**

1. A challenge may be brought alleging that a specific requirement of an approved Plan has not been properly implemented. Jurisdiction over all challenges initiated in a timely fashion shall reside with either the Rules and Bylaws Committee or the Credentials Committee of the National Convention (See Section VII.A. above). **However**, the Rules and Bylaws Committee may provide advice, assistance or interpretations of the Delegate Selection Rules at any stage of the delegate selection process. (*Reg. 3.1.C*)
2. An implementation challenge brought before the Rules and Bylaws Committee is initiated by filing a written challenge with the State Party Committee and with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than 15 days after the alleged violation occurred. The State Party has 21 days to render a decision. Within 10 days of the decision, any party to the challenge may appeal it to the Rules and Bylaws Committee. If in fact, the State Party renders no decision, any party to the challenge may request the Rules and Bylaws Committee to process it. The request must be made within 10 days after expiration of the above 21-day period. (*Reg. 3.4.C, Reg.3.4.E & Reg. 3.4.H*)
3. Performance under an approved Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program and composition of the convention delegation shall be considered relevant evidence in the challenge to any state delegation. If a State Party has adopted and implemented an approved affirmative action program, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL shall not be subject to challenge based solely on delegation composition or caucus results. (Rule 6.B) The procedures are the same for challenges alleging failure to properly implement the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Programs of a Plan, except that such challenges must be filed not later than 30 days prior to the initiation of the state's delegate selection process. (*Reg. 3.4.C*)
4. Depending on the appropriate jurisdiction (see Section VIII.A. above), implementation challenges must be brought in conformity with the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee or the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee, which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

## Section X

### Summary of Plan

#### A. Selection of Delegates and Alternates

The “first determining step” of State’s delegate selection process will occur on March 10, 2020 with a Firehouse Caucus.

Type	Delegates	Alternates	Date Of Selection	<b>Selecting Body</b> <b>Filing Requirements And Deadlines</b>
District-Level Delegates District-Level Alternates	9	2	3/21/2020	<b>Selecting Body: Delegates to the 2020 State Democratic-NPL Convention</b>  <b>Statement of Candidacy and Pledge due by March 14 by 5:00 p.m. central time.</b>
Automatic Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates*	4	N/A	N/A	Automatic by virtue of respective public or Party office as provided in Rule 9.A. of the 2020 Delegate Selection Rules
Pledged Party Leaders And Elected Officials (PLEOs)	2	**	4/4/2020	<b>Selecting Body: Quorum of District-Level Delegates</b>  <b>Statement of Candidacy, and pledge required to be submitted to Dem-NPL HQ by March 27th, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. central time.</b>
At-Large Delegates At-Large Alternates	3	0	4/4/2020	<b>Selecting Body: Quorum of District-Level Delegates</b>  <b>Statement of Candidacy, and pledge required to be submitted to Dem-NPL HQ by March 27th, 2020 at 5:00 pm central time.</b>
TOTAL: Delegates and Alternates	18	2		

\* Automatic Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates includes the following categories, if applicable, who legally reside in the state: the Democratic National Committee Members, the Democratic President, the Democratic Vice President, all

Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, the Democratic Governor, and any other Distinguished Party Leader as specified in Rule 9.A. of the 2020 Delegate Selection Rules. The exact number of Automatic PLEO Delegates is subject to change due to possible deaths, **resignations**, elections or special elections.

**B. Selection of Standing Committee Members (For Credentials, Platform and Rules Committees)**

Standing Committee Members will be selected by North Dakota's National Convention Delegates as summarized below:

Members Per Committee	Total Members	Selection Date	Filing Requirements and Deadlines
1	3	4/4/2020	Each Presidential candidate or that candidate's authorized representative must submit to the State Chair, 1 hour after the election of the at-large delegates, a minimum of 1 name for each Standing Committee Slot awarded to that candidate.

**C. Selection of Delegation Chair and Convention Pages**

The Delegation Chair will be selected by the National Convention Delegates on Saturday, April 4, 2020.

2 Convention Pages will be selected by the State Democratic Chair on Saturday, April 4, 2020.

**D. Selection of Presidential Electors**

3 Presidential Electors will be selected by a quorum of District-Level delegates on Saturday, April 4, 2020.



#### **E. Presidential Candidate Filing Deadline**

- A presidential candidate gains access to the North Dakota presidential preference ballot, and is eligible to participate in the State's Firehouse Caucus, by submitting their name to the North Dakota State Democratic-NPL Chair by Friday, January 3, 2020 along with a filing fee of \$2,500 payable to the North Dakota Democratic-NPL mailed to the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Headquarters (1902 E. Divide Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota, 58501).
1. Each presidential candidate shall certify in writing to the State Democratic Chair, the name(s) of their authorized representative(s) by 5:00 pm CT on Friday, January 3, 2020. *(Rule 13.D.1)*

#### **F. Firehouse Caucus Polling Locations**

To ensure maximum participation among Democratic voters across the state of North Dakota, including Reservations, the Democratic-NPL has designated the following locations as Caucus Sites for the 2020 Presidential Cycle:

1. Fargo
2. Grand Forks
3. Bismarck
4. Minot
5. Williston
6. Jamestown
7. Devils Lake
8. Valley City
9. Dickinson
10. Belcourt
11. Cannonball
12. New Town
13. Wahpeton
14. St. Michaels

#### **G. Description of the Voting Process:**

1. To ensure maximum participation, the North Dakota Democratic-NPL will be including a robust vote-by-mail program, to be conducted by a third party election vendor (GES Elections). Eligible voters in the State of North Dakota may request a mail-in ballot any time from January 20th through February 25th, 2020 by contacting the North Dakota Democratic-NPL by e-mail ([caucus@demnpl.com](mailto:caucus@demnpl.com)), telephone (701-255-0460) or post (1902 E. Divide Ave., Bismarck, ND 58501). Persons requesting a ballot will receive their ballot, along with a return envelope (the requestor is responsible for return postage), that they must return along with a signed pledge of support for the Democratic Ticket to a post office box operated by a third party election vendor (GES Elections) postmarked by March 5th, 2020.
2. On the date of the Firehouse Caucus, Tuesday, March 10, 2020, polls will be open from 11:00 am CT to 7:00 pm CT and 10:00 am MT to 6:00 pm MT. Polling sites will be staffed with volunteers and representatives from a Third Party Election Vendor, to ensure a smooth and orderly process. Each eligible voter will be required to sign in, after which they will receive a paper ballot, designed and printed by an in-state union labor printer, to notate their Presidential Preference along with a signed pledge of support for the Democratic Ticket. All ballots will then be placed in a secure lockbox until tabulated. A complete list of polling locations can be found in Section F, above.
3. Tabulation machines will be located in Burleigh and Cass County, where roughly 65 percent of all ballots are estimated to come to or originate from (between mail-in and in-person ballots). All ballots, once placed in a secure lockbox, will be transported to Bismarck or Fargo (depending on distance) where staff from our third party election vendor will tabulate them and produce results for the North Dakota Democratic-NPL to disseminate.

## G. Timetable

Date	Activity
<b>2019</b>	
March 1	Delegate <b>Selection Affirmative Action Committee</b> members are <b>appointed</b> by the State Chair.
March 4	List of <b>Affirmative Action Committee</b> members submitted to DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee.
March 6	<b>Affirmative Action Committee</b> begins to draft <b>proposed</b> Affirmative Action Plan.
March 13	<b>Proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program</b> is <b>tentatively approved</b> for public comment by State Party Committee.
March 13	Public <b>Comments</b> are solicited on the <b>proposed</b> Delegate Selection and <b>Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach</b> and Inclusion Program. Press <b>releases</b> are mailed announcing the public comment period.
April 12	Period of public <b>comment</b> on State Plan is concluded. <b>Responses</b> are <b>compiled</b> for review by the State Party <b>Committee</b> .
April 13	State Party <b>Committee</b> <b>reviews</b> public comments and adopts <b>revised</b> Delegate Selection and <b>Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach</b> and Inclusion Program for <b>submission</b> to the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee. Press releases are mailed announcing the approval of the Plan.
April 15	<b>Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach</b> and Inclusion <b>Program</b> is <b>submitted</b> to the DNC Rules and Bylaws <b>Committee</b> for final <b>approval</b> .
September 13	State Party begins <b>implementation</b> of the Affirmative Action Plan and <b>Outreach</b> and Inclusion <b>Program</b> . Press kits, as <b>described</b> in the <b>Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach</b> and Inclusion <b>Program</b> , are sent to all state media.
December 9	<b>Deadline</b> for each <b>announced</b> presidential <b>candidate</b> to submit a statement <b>specifying</b> steps the <b>candidate</b> will take to encourage full participation in the delegate <b>selection process</b> . (Individuals who <b>announce</b> their <b>candidacy</b> after this date must <b>provide</b> this full <b>participation</b> statement to the State Party no later than 30 days after their <b>announcement</b> .)
<b>2020</b>	
January 3	Presidential candidate <b>deadline</b> for filing the <b>affidavit of candidacy</b> along with \$2,500 filing fee to the North Dakota Democratic-NPL.
January 3	Presidential candidate <b>deadline</b> for <b>certifying</b> the name(s) of their authorized <b>representative(s)</b> to the State Party.
January 6	<b>Delegate and alternate candidates</b> may obtain the statement of <b>candidacy</b> and pledge <b>support</b> forms and filing <b>instructions</b> from Democratic-NPL <b>Headquarters</b> , in <b>person</b> , by mail, or from the State Party's website at <a href="http://www.demnpl.com">www.demnpl.com</a>
January 19-February 27th	Legislative Districts hold District Conventions.
January 22	Date on which residents may <b>request</b> Vote-By-Mail ballots.



January 22	First date on which Vote-By-Mail ballots are mailed to voters.
February 25	<b>Deadline for Vote-By-Mail Requests</b>
March 5	<b>Vote-By-Mail ends</b> (all ballots must be <b>postmarked</b> no later than 3/5/2020)
March 10	Presidential Firehouse <b>Caucus</b>
March 14	The State Party submits lists of <b>district-level delegate</b> applicants for Presidential Campaign review.
March 16	North <b>Dakota</b> Democratic-NPL <b>certifies</b> results of the <b>Firehouse Caucus</b>
March 19	<b>Presidential candidates</b> provide list of approved <b>district-level delegate</b> and <b>alternative</b> candidates to the State Party.
March 21	State <b>Convention convenes</b> . District-level delegates and <b>alternates</b> are <b>elected</b> .
March 25	Final list of <b>District-level delegates</b> and <b>alternates</b> are <b>provided</b> to <b>Presidential Candidates</b> .
March 27	<b>Pledged PLEO</b> and at-large <b>delegate</b> or <b>alternate</b> candidate <b>deadline</b> for filing the statement of <b>candidacy</b> and pledge of <b>support</b> forms with State Party.
March 28	State Party <b>provides</b> list of PLEO and at-large delegate and alternate <b>candidates</b> to <b>Presidential candidates</b> for review
April 3	<b>Presidential candidates</b> provide approved list of pledged PLEO delegate candidates to State Party.
April 4	A quorum of <b>district-level delegates</b> elect the PLEO <b>delegates</b> . After the election of PLEO <b>delegates</b> , the presidential candidates provide lists of <b>approved</b> at-large delegate candidates to the state chair. At-large <b>delegates</b> are <b>elected</b> by a <b>quorum</b> of the district-level <b>delegates</b> .
April 4	<b>National Convention delegation meeting</b> . <b>Delegates</b> select <b>National Convention Standing Committee Members</b> and <b>Delegation Chair</b> . State Chair names convention pages.
April 4	<b>Quorum</b> of <b>District-level delegates</b> meet and selects the <b>Presidential Electors</b> .
April 6	State Party <b>certifies election</b> of <b>standing committee members</b> , <b>delegation chair</b> , and convention pages. Must be <b>certified</b> by the <b>Secretary</b> of the DNC three days after their election.
April 6	State Chair <b>certifies</b> in writing to the <b>Secretary</b> of the DNC the presidential <b>preference</b> of Pledged PLEOs and At-large Delegates and <b>Alternates</b> . Must be <b>certified</b> by the Secretary of the DNC ten days after their election.
April 6	State Party <b>certifies</b> in <b>writing</b> to the <b>Secretary</b> of the DNC presidential <b>preference</b> (including <b>uncommitted</b> ) of the state's <b>Automatic Delegates</b> . Must be certified by the <b>Secretary</b> of the DNC ten days after their election.