

Rules for the Selection of Candidates and Nominees for Public Office

- I. **Applicability.** These Rules shall apply to the selection of any candidate or nominee for public office who intends to be, or is, associated with the Democratic Party, directly or indirectly, on any ballot used in a publicly financed election or candidate selection process.
- II. **Exclusive Means of Selection.** Candidates and nominees for public office must be selected by one of the means specified in these Rules.
- III. **Democratic Primary.** Where State law provides for a public primary that complies with these Rules (hereinafter a "Democratic Primary"), candidates and nominees shall be selected by means of that Democratic Primary; provided that in the event of a vacancy on the Democratic ticket, the State Chair may fill the vacancy as specified in State law and applicable Party rules.
- IV. **Rules governing Democratic primaries.** A public primary must comply with the following rules in order to qualify as a Democratic Primary where candidates or nominees will be selected by means of the primary:
 - A. **Separate Democratic ballot required.** All Democratic Primaries occurring on a single date shall appear on the same ballot. The ballot provided to voters in the Democratic Primaries may not contain the names of any candidate for office who is affiliated with any other political party, or of no political party, except that the State may provide to voters a ballot that may be simultaneously used in the Democratic Primaries and in primaries for offices in which no candidate's name is associated with any political party or persuasion, and in such case the ballot may contain the names of all candidates for such offices.
 - B. **Opportunity to join or confirm membership in the Party must be provided.** Voters participating in the Democratic Primary must be offered the opportunity to publicly affiliate with the Democratic Party but public affiliation with the Party shall not be a requirement of participation in the Democratic Primary unless such public affiliation is required by law.
 - C. **Affiliates of other political parties forbidden to participate.** As a condition of participating in the Democratic Primary, voters must either publicly affiliate with the Democratic Party or publicly indicate that they are not affiliated with any political party.
 - D. **Voter participation is public record.** The participation of any voter in the Democratic Primary shall be a public record to the extent necessary to verify that only voters eligible under party rules receive a Democratic ballot and, in addition, the choice by any voter whether to voluntarily affiliate with the Democratic Party at the Democratic Primary or to declare a lack of affiliation with any political party shall be a public record.
 - E. **List of Democratic affiliates provided to Party.** The law governing the conduct of the Democratic Primary must provide that election officials shall provide to the Democratic Party no later than the date of certification of the results of the Democratic Primary, a list containing the name of every voter participated in the primary and who voluntarily chose to publicly affiliate with the Democratic Party.

F. A statewide system of voluntary voter registration by party which allows voters to publicly affiliate with the Democratic Party shall satisfy the requirements of subparagraphs B and E, of this paragraph.

V. **Alternative means of selection.** Where State law does not provide for a Democratic Primary that complies with these Rules, candidates and nominees shall be selected in accordance with the following rules, provided that in the event of a vacancy on the Democratic ticket, the State Chair may fill the vacancy as provided by State law and other applicable Party rules; and further provided that in 2005 implementation of this Alternative Means of Selection must be affirmatively approved by the Executive Board. The Central Committee specifically intends that the Executive Board may consider issues including but not limited to litigation, citizen initiatives, and the current state of the law in reaching its decision on implementation.

A. **Authorization required.** No candidate for public office may campaign as a Democratic candidate except as authorized pursuant to this Rule. No candidate for public office may be designated, nor permit him or herself to be designated, as the Democratic nominee for any public office unless such candidate has been designated by the Washington State Democratic Party as a Democratic nominee pursuant to this Rule.

B. In the event a primary process is suspended by a qualifying referendum or otherwise is inconsistent with these rules, and upon an affirmative vote of the Executive Board, party candidates shall be selected by the following process.

1. **County Partisan Office Nominees.** The nominees for county partisan office shall be chosen at a county nominating convention, or optionally at county council district nominating conventions, consisting of elected and appointed precinct committee officers representing precincts in that county or council district as of the last central committee meeting or executive board meeting held prior to the county nominating convention. Such nominating conventions or caucuses shall be called by the Chair of the Washington State Democratic Party not later than 14 days prior to the date filing for office commences. The results from each nominating convention shall be reported to the Chair of the Washington State Democratic Party within 24 hours after the convention has adjourned.
2. **Legislative Nominees.** The nominees for Washington State Senate and Washington State House of Representatives shall be chosen at a legislative district nominating convention consisting of elected and appointed precinct committee officers representing precincts in that legislative district as of the last legislative district meeting held prior to the legislative district nominating convention. Such nominating conventions shall be called by the Chair of the Washington State Democratic Party not later than 14 days prior to the date filing for office commences. The results from each nominating convention shall be reported to the Chair of the Washington State Democratic Party within 24 hours after the convention has adjourned.
3. **Congressional Nominees.** The nominees for United States Congress shall be chosen through nominating conventions of elected and appointed precinct committee officers representing precincts in that Congressional District as of the

last legislative district meeting or county central committee meeting held prior to the Congressional District nominating convention. Such nominating conventions shall be called by the Chair of the Washington State Democratic Party not later than 14 days prior to the date filing for office commences. The results from each nominating convention shall be reported to the Chair of the Washington State Democratic Party within 24 hours after the convention has adjourned.

4. Statewide Nominees. The nominees for all statewide partisan elected offices (US Senator, Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, and Public Lands Commissioner) shall be selected at the Democratic State Convention. Such nominating conventions shall be called by the Chair of the Washington State Democratic Party not later than 14 days prior to the date filing for office commences. The results from each nominating convention shall be reported to the Chair of the Washington State Democratic Party within 24 hours after the convention has adjourned.
 5. The procedures set forth in subparagraphs 3 and 4 may be delegated in whole or in part by a vote of those entitled to vote to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.
 6. Rules for Balloting. Each candidate or the candidate's representative shall be entitled to address the convention for not less than two minutes, or longer if provided for under rules adopted to govern the convention. Each delegate shall vote by ballot for no more than one candidate for each office for which nominations are sought. The results shall be tallied and reported to the chairman of the convention. The convention may dispense with balloting and nominate by acclamation for any office in which a single candidate is seeking nomination.
- C. Vacancy on ticket. A vacancy caused by the death or disqualification of nominee of the Democratic Party may be filled at any time up to and including the day prior to the election for that position. For state partisan offices in any political subdivision voted on solely by electors of a single county, an individual shall be appointed to fill such vacancy by the relevant Democratic County Central Committee. For all other partisan offices, including federal or statewide offices, an individual shall be appointed to fill such vacancy by the Washington State Democratic Central Committee. The authority granted under this section may be delegated by the County or State Democratic Central Committee to its Executive Board or Chair.
1. Weighted Voting. The number of votes at each nominating convention other than the state convention shall be equal to the sum of the number of precinct level delegates that were allocated to the precincts that are represented at the convention during the most recent National Delegate Selection process. Each elected or appointed PCO voting at the caucus or convention shall be apportioned the number of votes equal to the number of precinct level delegates his or her precinct was allotted during the most recent National Delegate Selection process. In the case of newly formulated precincts the calculation would be based on the allocation formula used in the most recent delegate selection plan.

Passed by the WSDCC Rules Committee on April 2, 2005 for consideration by the WSDCC

2. **Majority Vote Required.** The candidate of the Democratic Party shall be the candidate who receives a majority vote of weighted ballots. If no candidate receives a majority of the first ballot, the candidate receiving the least number of votes shall be dropped from each successive ballot until a candidate receives a majority. In the event of a tie in determining which candidate shall be dropped, the candidate shall be chosen by lot.
3. **Nominations in Cases Where No Convention Action Occurs.** In any case where the appropriate convention has failed to designate a nominee, the nominee will be designated by Democratic State Central Committee acting through its Chair.
4. **These rules are mandatory and are not amendable by any party organization other than the Washington State Democratic Central Committee or the State Convention.**
5. **State Chair to Notify Election Officials.** To the extent required by law or appropriate, the State Chair shall submit to state and local election officials the names of those candidates authorized to campaign as Democratic candidates and those candidates designated as Democratic nominees.

VI. Threshold demonstration of Party support required. Any registered voter in the State of Washington is eligible for selection as a candidate or nominee of the Democratic Party for any public office provided:

- A. The voter must publicly attest his or her support of the Democratic Party and his or her desire to be publicly known as a Democrat; and
- B. The voter must be otherwise eligible under state law for election to the office sought; and
- C. The voter must not have been registered as a member of any political party other than the Democratic Party for at least one (1) year immediately preceding filing for office; and
- D. Beginning January 1, 2005 the voter must have either (1) received a vote of approval of 25% of those present and voting at a meeting of the Democratic Party organization under the charter for the jurisdiction represented by the office sought or (2) at the time of filing the declaration of candidacy required by law submitted a nominating petition signed by at least 5% of those voters who at the time of signing are voters in the jurisdiction and registered with the Democratic Party or (3) at the time of filing the declaration of candidacy required by law submitted a nominating petition signed by at least 25% of the elected and appointed Democratic Precinct Committee Officers representing precincts within the jurisdiction represented by the office sought and who held such office as of the last meeting of the Democratic party organization for the jurisdiction.

VII. Decision of Executive Board Final. The decision of the executive board with respect to any question of interpretation of these rules is final.

VIII. All nominating conventions held under this rule shall submit their results to the state party no later than July 12, 2005.