



DELAWARE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

RULES OF THE DELAWARE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

AS ADOPTED, MAY 10, 1997;
AMENDED JUNE 9, 2006;
AND AMENDED MAY 11, 2013

JOHN D. DANIELLO, CHAIR



CONTENTS

Preamble	3
RULE 1 Name, Purpose and Membership	5
1.1 Name	5
1.2 Quorum	5
1.3 Affirmative Action and Delegate Selection Plan	5
1.4 No Proxies.....	5
1.5 Endorsements.....	5
1.6 No Secret Ballots.....	6
RULE 2 Party Organization and Structure	7
2.1 Political Subdivisions.....	7
2.2 District Committees	8
2.3 Further Organization or Division of the Subdivision.....	9
RULE 3 State Convention	10
3.1 Powers of State Convention	10
3.2 Composition of the State Convention	10
3.3 Delegates and Alternates	11
3.4 No Fractional Votes	12
3.5 No Unit Rule.....	12
3.6 Endorsement of Delegates by Committee Prohibited.....	12
RULE 4 Convention Date and Location	13
4.1 State Convention	13
4.2 Special Convention	13



RULE 5 State Convention Committees and Order of Business14

5.1 Subdivision Caucuses..... 14

5.2 Committees of the Convention 14

5.3 Organization of State Convention 15

5.4 Order of Business..... 16

RULE 6 State Committee17

6.1 General 17

6.2 Composition of the State Committee 17

6.3 Standing Committees 18

6.4 Duties of Officers of the State Committee 18

6.5 Removal of Officers of the State Committee..... 19

6.6 Meetings 19

6.7 Presidential Electors 19

RULE 7 Selection of Delegates and Alternates to National Convention.....20

7.1 Delegate Selection Plan 20

RULE 8 Candidate Vacancies21

8.1 Statewide Offices..... 21

8.2 Non-Statewide Elections..... 21

RULE 9 Party Procedure22

9.1 Robert’s Rules of Order 22

9.2 Amendment of State Rules..... 22

9.3 Distribution of Rules 23

9.4 Effective Date of Amendments..... 23

9.5 Amendment of Affirmative Action and Delegate Selection Plan..... 23

RULE 10 Grievances.....24

RULE 11 Electronic Mail.....25



PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party is and always has been the party of the people; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the Democratic Party of the State of Delaware that this party should be open to all interested persons so as to allow for meaningful participation by all of its members;

WHEREFORE, the following standards, previously adopted by the Democratic National Committee, are adopted as a part of these rules.

- A** *All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party are open to all members of the Delaware Democratic Party regardless of race, gender, age, color, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, physical disability, economic status or philosophical persuasion. Any person regardless of race, gender, age, color national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, physical disability, economic status or philosophical persuasion who is a registered Democrat and supports the purposes of the Democratic Party may participate fully in any party meeting and shall be elected to any party office in accordance with applicable party rules and statutes.*
- B** *No test of membership, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Delaware Democratic Party shall 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 on the grounds of race, gender, age, color, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, physical disability or economic status.*
- C** *The time and place for all public meetings of the Delaware Democratic Party 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.*
- D** *The Democratic Party, on all levels, shall support the broadest possible registration without discrimination on grounds of race, gender, age, color, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, physical disability, economic status or philosophical persuasion*



- E** *The Delaware Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures shall be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of the Delaware Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedures at all levels of the Democratic Party organization.*
- F** *The Delaware Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications for all officers and representatives of the Delaware Democratic Party. Such publication shall be done in timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within the State will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.*



RULE 1

NAME, PURPOSE AND MEMBERSHIP

1.1 Name

The organization shall be known as the Delaware Democratic Party

1.2 Quorum

No less than one third of the members of any party body shall constitute a quorum for any business.

1.3 Affirmative Action and Delegate Selection Plan

To further the goals of the Preamble and the delegate selection rules of the Democratic National Committee, the most current affirmative action and delegate selection plan adopted by the Delaware Democratic State Committee is hereby declared as Rule 1.3 of these Rules.

1.4 No Proxies

No voting by proxy shall be permitted at any State Convention, any caucus or committee thereof, or any meeting of the State Committee. The rules of the subdivisions may permit voting by proxy.

1.5 Endorsements

A The local (county or city council, senate or representative) Committee shall have the sole right to endorse any local Democratic candidate or candidates within its district, as authorized by the applicable subdivision. The local Committee may recommend to the Subdivision Committee its recommendations for endorsement of a subdivision-wide Democratic candidate and its recommendations for endorsement of a statewide Democratic candidate.

B The Subdivision Committees shall have the sole right to endorse any subdivision-wide Democratic candidate. The Subdivision Committee may recommend to the state Executive Committee its recommendations for endorsement of a statewide Democratic candidate.



- C** The State Executive Committee shall have the sole right to endorse any statewide Democratic candidate after considering the recommendations of the Subdivision Committees.
- D** The respective body for endorsement shall determine the appropriate process for endorsement, which shall not conflict with any rules herein.

1.6 No Secret Ballots

Pursuant to the charter and bylaws of the Democratic National Committee, at all times and all levels of the Democratic Party of the State of Delaware, votes shall not be taken by secret ballot.



RULE 2

PARTY ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

2.1 Political Subdivisions

The fundamental organization of the Democratic Party of the State of Delaware shall be based on four political subdivisions, namely, the City of Wilmington, the remainder of New Castle County, Kent County and Sussex County.

- A** Rules. Each subdivision shall promulgate rules by vote of the members of its district committees for the governance of the Democratic Party within its jurisdiction; provided, however, that such rules are not contrary to the provisions contained herein. Within thirty days after adoption or amendment of such rules, the subdivision chair shall cause a copy of the same, reflecting any amendments, to be distributed to every member of such subdivision's district committees, to the State Chair, and subsequently, to any registered Democrat in said subdivision on request.
- B** Officers. Each subdivision shall elect a chair. The rules of each subdivision shall provide for the election or appointment of a secretary, a treasurer and such other officers as provided in the rules of the subdivision.
- C** Executive Committee. The rules of the subdivision may provide for an executive committee, which shall include the chairs of each district committee, and such other members or officers as provided in the rules of the subdivision.
- D** Finances. The rules of the subdivision shall provide procedures for the management of the funds of the subdivision and district committees and for financial reports to the district and subdivision committees. All financial records of a subdivision, region or district committee shall be available for inspection by any district committee member in said subdivision, region or district.
- E** Terms. The rules of each subdivision shall provide that in any year after the enactment of these rules, each member of a district committee, region committee and subdivision committee shall be selected in the first four months of the year after a presidential election for a term of four years.



2.2 District Committees

- A** Basic Unit. Within each subdivision, the basic unit of organization of the Democratic Party shall be the State Representative District; provided, however, that the City of Wilmington may use as its basic unit its City Council districts.
- B** District Committee. Each district, whether a Representative or Council district, shall have a District Committee.
- C** Organization and Election.
 - 1** Local Rules. Each district committee shall be organized and its members shall be elected in accordance with these rules and the rules of its respective subdivision.
 - 2** Residence; Party Activity. Except in the case of vacancies, members of the local committee shall be registered Democrats in the election district in which they reside and which they will represent. The committee member shall be a registered Democrat for one year prior to their election.
 - 3** Vacancies. Vacancies in a district committee shall be filled with persons meeting the requirements of these rules by a majority of the members of the committee; provided, however, that such persons need not reside in the election district which they shall represent but must be registered Democrats in the representative district (or City Council district) which they shall represent.
- D** Associate Members. Members of the District Committees may at any time after the election of officers propose associate members who shall meet the requirements of these rules for members. The committee shall approve membership by a majority vote.
- E** Officers of District Committees. At its first meeting after the election of committee members, each District Committee shall elect a chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer, which officers shall be registered Democrats and residents of the district. Although a district chair need not be a member of the District Committee, such district chair shall represent his or her district on the Subdivision (or regional) Committee and shall have a full vote in all matters pertaining to the Subdivision (or regional) Committee. Officers of the District Committee shall be elected at such times and on such terms as provided in its subdivision's rules.



Each chair shall, immediately following the meeting at which the district officers are elected and thereafter whenever requested by the State Chair, provide the State Chair a list of the names and addresses of the members and officers of the District Committee, and shall promptly inform the State Chair of any changes in that list.

- F** Block Leaders. Any member or officer of the district committee may at any time propose the appointment of block leaders to assist in registration drives and voting drives. The committee shall approve the block leaders by a majority vote.
- G** Meetings. Meetings of the District Committees shall be held monthly, during at least nine months of each year. Reasonable notice shall be given to all members of the committee, and all meetings shall be open to any interested Democrats.
- H** Removal. Members and officers may be removed for due cause by a majority vote of the local committee, after a hearing before said committee. The rules of a subdivision may provide for an appeal to the executive committee or other authorized committee of such subdivision.

2.3 Further Organization or Division of the Subdivision

Each subdivision may, upon the vote of all duly-qualified members of its District Committees, further internally organize or divide itself into such regions as it deems necessary or desirable to maintain effective political organization in the subdivision. If a subdivision elects to further divide itself, the resulting regions shall be organized in accordance with the following:

- A** Region Committee. There shall be a region committee in each region of the subdivision, comprised of a contiguous group of State Representative or City Council Districts.
- B** Rules of Subdivision. All region committees in a subdivision shall be governed by the rules of the subdivision or by the provisions of the resolution of the committee persons which authorized the further subdivision; provided, that the subdivision chair elected under Rule 2.1(A) shall continue to represent the subdivision as its chair on the State Committee, the subdivision treasurer shall continue to represent the subdivision on the State Finance Committee; and provided further that Rule 2.1 of these rules shall govern all proceedings of the region committees.



RULE 3

STATE CONVENTION

3.1 Powers of State Convention

The supreme power of the party is vested in a State Convention of delegates.

3.2 Composition of the State Convention

A The state shall be divided into four Convention Districts as follows:

- 1** The first Convention District shall consist of those Representative Districts the majority of the population of which is situated in the City of Wilmington.
- 2** The second Convention District shall consist of those Representative Districts the majority of the population of which is situated in New Castle County.
- 3** The third Convention District shall consist of those Representative Districts the majority of the population of which is situated in Kent County.
- 4** The fourth Convention District shall consist of those Representative Districts the majority of the population of which is situated in Sussex County.

B The chair of each convention district shall be the subdivision chair.

C At each State Convention, each State Representative District shall be allotted one delegate to the State Convention for 500 Five Hundred (500) “composite Democratic strength.” Notwithstanding the above provisions, each Representative District shall have not less than one delegate. Each State Representative District shall be allotted five alternates to the State Convention and shall be required to rank them in order of ascension.

D “Composite Democratic strength” is determined by the number of registered Democrats at the time of the last general election plus the “average Democratic vote,” the sum of which shall be divided by two. “Average Democratic vote” is determined by totaling the vote for Democratic candidates for all statewide races, including President, in the preceding general election, and dividing the total by the number of such candidates.



- E At its first meeting following the presidential election the State Executive Committee shall review and approve by majority vote the apportionment of delegates pursuant to composite Democratic strength. In addition, the State Executive Committee shall set the date of the State Convention. Within ten days following that meeting, the State Chair shall notify the Convention District chairs in writing of the number of delegates and alternates allotted to each Representative District and the date of the convention. Within ten (10) days of receipt of notification by the State Chair, each Convention District chair shall in turn likewise notify his or her district chairs of the allocation and the date of the convention.
- F The State Chair shall provide the names and addresses of all delegates and alternates to the State Convention if requested by any delegate or alternate.

3.3 Delegates and Alternates

- A Qualifications. Each delegate and alternate to the State Convention shall be elected by the committee members of each Representative District who are elected in the year after a Presidential election, in the manner provided for in these rules and the rules of each subdivision. Delegates and alternates to the State Convention shall be elected by the Representative District Committee in the month of March. The Representative District chair shall notify the State Chair of the time, date and location of the meeting no less than twenty (20) days before said meeting for publication. The Representative District Chair shall certify in writing to the State Chair and the Subdivision Chair the names, addresses, email and phone numbers of the delegates and alternates of their Representative District in their subdivisions by April 15 of such year. Delegates and alternates shall have been registered Democrats in the State of Delaware for at least one (1) year prior to their election and current residents of the State Representative District which they represent; except that any person who was ineligible to register within the previous six months because of age may be a delegate or alternate if said person is a registered Democrat having so registered in the State of Delaware at least 30 days prior to said convention.
- B Alternates. Alternates shall succeed to the status of voting delegates in the order of ascension determined by the Representative District Committee at the time of election. Alternates shall succeed to the status of delegates in the absence or incapacity of delegates.



- C Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy caused by the absence or incapacity of the delegate and all alternates in any representative district, the designation of a delegate and alternate shall be determined by the Representative District Committee, if possible prior to the convening of the State Convention or Special Convention.

3.4 No Fractional Votes

Each delegate (or alternate if voting) to a State Convention shall have one vote at said convention and the Convention and Credentials Committee of the State Convention shall not recognize partial or fractional votes.

3.5 No Unit Rule

Each delegate (or alternate if voting) may cast his or her own vote and shall not be bound to cast a vote in accordance with the majority decision of the Representative or Convention District of which he or she is a member.

3.6 Endorsement of Delegates by Committee Prohibited

The State Committee, and the respective committees of any political subdivisions, including the Representative or other District Committees, shall not propose or endorse any candidate for delegate or alternate to the State Convention.



RULE 4

CONVENTION DATE AND LOCATION

4.1 State Convention

- A** Date. No later than June 30 of the year after a Presidential election, there shall be a State Convention at such time and place as the State Committee may select, for the purpose of electing officers of the State Committee and to transact any other business as outlined in these rules.
- B** Location. All Conventions shall be held in Kent County.
- C** Notice. At least 15 days before the Convention, written notices shall be mailed or personally or electronically delivered to each delegate and alternate, setting forth the date, place and hour of the Convention.
- D** Recess and Reconvening. If the business of the Convention has not been completed, the Convention shall recess to the call of the State Chair. Except as otherwise specifically provided in these Rules, to reconvene a convention, seven days notice shall be provided to all delegates and alternates.
- E** Officers; Term. The officers of the State Committee shall be a State Chair; two (2) Vice Chairs, one of each sex; a State Secretary; and a State Treasurer. Each officer shall be elected for a four-year term.
- F** Other Business. The State Convention shall also elect a National Committeeman and a National Committeewoman who shall be elected to a four-year term.

4.2 Special Convention

The State Committee may call a special convention at such time as it may direct. The delegates and alternates to any special convention shall be the same persons who were delegates and alternates to the previous State Convention. The call of the convention shall be attested by the Chair and Secretary of the State Committee, and shall state the purpose of such convention. Not less than 15 days notice shall be given delegates and alternates to any special convention. In event of any emergency, the State Committee may call a special convention on shorter notice.



RULE 5

STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

5.1 Subdivision Caucuses

Each Convention District chair shall call a caucus of all the delegates of the convention district by April 30 of the year after a Presidential election for the purpose of electing five members who shall serve on the Credentials Committee and five members who shall serve on the Committee on Resolutions. The names of the members of those committees shall be forwarded forthwith to the State Committee.

5.2 Committees of the Convention

Each State Convention shall have a Platform Committee, Credentials Committee and Committee of Resolutions. The chair of the Credentials committee and of the Committee on Resolutions shall be delegates to the Convention. These committees shall meet as provided herein, and shall report to the Convention. Any minority reports shall also be presented to the Convention.

A Platform Committee. The State Chair shall appoint a chair and members of a Platform Committee, which shall be broadly representative of the Democratic Party. The membership of the committee shall represent each convention district approximately in proportion to the members of delegates from said district. The Platform Committee shall hold one or more well-publicized public hearings, and shall issue a written report prior to the State Convention.

B Credentials Committee.

1 Membership; Meeting. The Credentials Committee shall be comprised of 20 delegates, selected under Rule 5.1. The committee shall meet before the Convention, at a time and place set by the State Chair, for the purpose of electing its officers and approving the credentials of all delegates and alternates. The time and place of the meeting shall be included in the call to the Convention. If no challenges are received in accordance with 5.2(B), no such meeting will be held. No member of the Credentials Committee shall be permitted to vote on their or her own credentials if they are challenged.



- 2** Challenges. Any registered Democrat may challenge any delegate or alternate to the State Convention by delivering a written challenge at least one week before the Convention to the chair of the Convention District which said delegate or alternate represents. A challenge must identify the delegate or alternate who is challenged and state the grounds for the challenge. The challenger must deliver a copy of the challenge to the delegate or alternate who is being challenged at least one week before the Convention. The Convention District chair shall forthwith send all challenges to the Credentials Committee and to the delegates and alternates who are challenged.
 - 3** Procedure. In hearing a challenge, the Credentials Committee shall consider any statements from the challenger, from the delegate or alternate being challenged, and from any other person who wishes to testify on the challenge. The Credentials Committee may allot a period of time within which the challenger and the challenged may be granted equal time to make their statements. The Credentials Committee shall report its decision to the State Convention, naming the delegate or alternate who it believes is entitled to participate in the State Convention, and its reasons.
 - 4** Convention Vote. The State Convention shall vote on the report of the Credentials Committee with respect to each challenge. A majority vote of the Convention, after consideration of the report of the Credentials Committee, shall be required before any challenged delegate or alternate may participate in the Convention.
- C** Committee on Resolutions. The Committee on Resolutions shall be comprised of 20 delegates, selected under 5.1. The committee shall meet at a time and place designated by the State Chair to elect its officers. The committee shall consider any proposed resolutions or amendments to these rules which are put to it in writing, and shall report to the Convention.

5.3 Organization of State Convention

It shall be the responsibility of the State Chair to prepare all logistical arrangements for the State Convention.



5.4 Order of Business

The State Convention shall be chaired by the incumbent State Chair, until his or her successor is elected. The order of business shall be:

- A** Call to order by the State Chair.
- B** Opening ceremonies.
- C** Reading the call to the Convention.
- D** Calling of temporary roll.
- E** Recess for committee or caucus meetings.
- F** Convention called to order.
- G** Report of the Credentials Committee.
- H** Nomination and election of officers of the State Committee.
- I** Assumption of duties by newly-elected officers.
- J** Election of members of the Democratic National Committee.
- K** Report of the Platform Committee.
- L** Report of the Committee on Resolutions.
- M** Miscellaneous business.
- N** Adjournment – to reconvene at the call of the State Committee.



RULE 6

STATE COMMITTEE

6.1 General

The direction and general management of the State Democratic Party shall be vested in a committee to be known as the Democratic State Committee, the officers of which shall be elected by the State Convention.

6.2 Composition of the State Committee

The State Committee shall consist of:

- A** The five officers of the State Committee;
- B** The chair and treasurer of each subdivision;
- C** Four additional representatives from New Castle County and one additional representative from each of the other subdivisions, who shall be elected by the subdivision convention at which the officers of those respective subdivisions are elected, unless the rules of the subdivision authorize such representatives to be elected by the executive committee of the subdivision, and no more than one of whom shall reside in any one Representative District;
 - 1** Such subdivision representatives shall serve from the time they are elected until the state convention following a presidential election or until removed by the subdivision convention or executive committee pursuant to subdivision rules;
 - 2** Each subdivision shall use its best efforts to ensure that their respective representatives to the state committee shall be equally divided between men and women; and
 - 3** Vacancies among the subdivision representatives shall be filled pursuant to the rules of the subdivision.
- D** Three members-at-large to be appointed by the State Chair, to serve at the pleasure of such State Chair;
- E** The National Committeeman and National Committeewoman;
- F** A non-voting representative of each Democratic elected statewide official, to serve at the pleasure of such official;



- G** A non-voting representative of each Democratic caucus of the General Assembly, to serve at the pleasure of such caucus;
- H** A non-voting representative of such other active Democratic group as the State Committee shall choose to invite from time to time; and
- I** A non-voting Parliamentarian to be appointed by the State Chair.

6.3 Standing Committees

- A** Finance Committee. There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of the State Treasurer, who shall serve as Chair, the treasurer of each subdivision (or region if a subdivision has elected to subdivide itself), and two members appointed by the State Chair.
- B** Candidate Support Committee. There shall be a Candidate Support Committee consisting of persons who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the State Chair, to recruit, support and train candidates.
- C** Other Committees. The State Chair may appoint additional committees at his or her discretion.

6.4 Duties of Officers of the State Committee

- A** Chair. The Chair of the State Committee shall preside at all meetings of the committee, preside at all State Conventions and special conventions, serve as ex-officio member of all committees of the State Committee and have and exercise the usual powers and duties of Chairman or Chairwoman.
 - 1** State Headquarters. The State Chair shall maintain a State Headquarters, at which all records of the State Committee shall be kept, and which shall be the official address for the party, the State Committee and all committees of the State Convention. The approval of the State Committee is required for any lease to be binding on the Democratic State Committee.
 - 2** Employees. The State Chair may engage such agents and employees, including an executive director, as are needed to carry out the administration of the party business. The approval of the State Committee is required for the employment of any employee other than on a part-time casual basis.
- B** Vice Chair; Vacancy in Office of the State Chair. The Vice Chair of the opposite sex from the State Chair shall become acting Chair when the Chair is unable or unwilling to perform those duties. If the Chair is unable to complete his or her term of office, the Vice Chair of the opposite sex from the State Chair shall succeed to the office of Chair.



- C Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a complete and permanent record of all the acts and proceedings of the State Committee and any Convention. Such records shall be maintained at the State Headquarters and shall be open for inspection by any registered Democrat.
- D Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep records of all income and expenses of the State Committee, and shall report such finances to each regular meeting of the State Committee.
- E Records. The records of each office of the State Committee are the property of the State Committee, and shall be transferred to the officer's successors. A copy of all such records shall be maintained at the State Headquarters.

6.5 Removal of Officers of the State Committee

Any officer of the State Committee may be removed only by a two-thirds vote of the State Committee at two successive meetings of the State Committee. If an officer is removed, the State Committee shall elect a replacement for such officer, who shall serve until the State Convention held under Rule 4.1(A). If such replacement already holds an office of the State Committee, a replacement shall be chosen for such office, who shall serve until the State Convention held under Rule 4.1(A).

6.6 Meetings

The State Committee shall meet at least quarterly. The dates and places of said meetings shall be announced to all members of the state committee, and shall be provided on request to any registered Democrat. A meeting may be called upon the written request of ten members of the State Committee. The Chair shall call and convene a meeting requested by ten members within fifteen days after receiving the request, and shall provide at least five days notice of said meetings to the State Committee.

6.7 Presidential Electors

The State Committee shall select the party's Presidential Electors; provided, however, that if within 30 days of the deadline provided by law for such Electors to be certified to the Election Commissioner, the State Committee has not selected the Presidential Electors, they shall be selected by State Chair.



RULE 7

SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

7.1 Delegate Selection Plan

The delegates and alternates to the National Convention shall be registered Democrats who are selected pursuant to the most current affirmative action and delegate selection plan adopted by the State Committee and approved by the Democratic National Committee. Before such plan is presented to the State Committee for approval, it shall be presented to each subdivision and open for review by any registered Democrat. Under any such plan, to the greatest extent permitted under the Rules of the Democratic National Committee, the delegates and alternates allocated to Delaware (other than for national committeepersons and members of Congress selected under rules of the Democratic National Committee) shall be selected on the basis of the results of the presidential primary and the delegate selection plan.



RULE 8

CANDIDATE VACANCIES

8.1 Statewide Offices

If after the deadline for an individual to file notification of candidacy for any statewide office, there is no Democratic candidate for statewide office, the State chair shall call a meeting of the State Committee within the time provided by law for such vacancy to be filled, at which the candidate shall be chosen by a majority vote of those present. For these purposes, members of the state committee will be considered present if they participate in the meeting by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all participants in the meeting can hear each other.

8.2 Non-Statewide Elections

If after the deadline for an individual to file notification of candidacy for any office that is to be filled by partisan election, other than a statewide office, there is no Democratic candidate for such office, or in the event of the need for a special election for any such office, the candidate for such office shall be named under the rules of the subdivision in which all the voters for said office live. If such subdivision's rules provide no procedure for filling such vacancies, the subdivision chair shall call a meeting within the time provided by law for such vacancy to be filled, giving notice to all district committee members who would be entitled to vote for such office at a general election, at which meeting the candidate shall be chosen by a majority vote of the district committee members present and voting. If the voters for such office reside in more than one subdivision, the chair of the subdivision in which the majority of the voters for such office reside shall call a meeting within the time provided by law for such vacancy to be filled, giving notice to all district committee members in each subdivision who would be entitled to vote for such office at a general election, and shall give notice of the meeting to the other subdivision chair, at which meeting the candidate shall be chosen by a majority vote of those district committee members present and voting.



RULE 9

PARTY PROCEDURE

9.1 Robert's Rules of Order

When not otherwise stated, Robert's Rules of Order, as most recently revised, shall govern any proceedings of any convention or meeting of the Democratic Party of Delaware.

9.2 Amendment of State Rules

No Rule contained herein can be altered or amended except as provided by these Rules as follows:

A By Convention

Before consideration by the Convention, amendments to these Rules shall be submitted in writing to the Committee on Resolutions, at least one week before the Convention. The Committee on Resolutions shall make its recommendation to the State Convention concerning the advisability of any such amendment. A favorable vote of at least one-third of the members of the Committee of Resolutions shall be required for the amendment to be put to a vote of the Convention. A three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of all the delegates present and voting shall be required to amend these rules.

B By State Executive Committee

1 Any amendment shall first be considered by State Executive Committee provided it has been forwarded to the State Chair no later than ten (10) days prior to a scheduled meeting. A majority affirmative vote of all the State Executive Committee members present and voting shall be required to report the amendment to the Subdivisions for consideration.



- 2 No later than forty-five (45) days after the amendment is reported, the Subdivision Chair shall hold a meeting of their respective Subdivision Executive Committee to consider the amendment. The Subdivision Executive Committee shall adopt the amendment by an affirmative vote of a majority of members present and voting. The Subdivision Chair shall, within five (5) days of the vote being taken, certify to the State Chair the Subdivision Executive Committee's adoption or rejection of the amendment.
- 3 Upon receipt of certification of adoption of the amendment by three (3) of the four (4) Subdivision Chairs the State Chair shall place the amendment on the agenda of the next State Executive Committee meeting. At that meeting a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the State Executive Committee members present and voting shall be required to amend these rules.
- 4 Any amendment to be considered under this rule shall be initiated by a voting member of the State Executive Committee.

9.3 Distribution of Rules

Within 30 days after adoption of these Rules or any amendment thereof, the State Chair shall cause a copy of same, as amended, to be distributed to each Subdivision Chair, and electronically posted.

9.4 Effective Date of Amendments

Unless stated otherwise in the motion proposing their adoption, amendments to these rules shall become effective immediately upon their adoption.

9.5 Amendment of Affirmative Action and Delegate Selection Plan

Rule 1.3 may be adopted and amended from time to time between State Conventions by majority vote of a quorum of the State Committee.



RULE 10

GRIEVANCES

- 10.1** If any member of the Democratic Party of the State of Delaware has a grievance or believes that he or she has not been treated fairly with respect to Party political business, or has a concern with the operations or organization of the Party, and there is no provision to resolve such grievance or concern otherwise under these rules or the rules of any subdivision affected by such grievance, then that member may submit his or her grievance in writing to the State Chair within 10 days of the occurrence of the event. Within 2 business days after the receipt of said notice, the State Chair shall convene a Committee known as the Grievance Committee.
- 10.2** The Grievance Committee shall consist of 5 members: The Parliamentarian of the City of Wilmington Democratic Committee as well as the Parliamentarians of the following subdivisions: New Castle County, Kent County, and Sussex County. The Chair of the Democratic Party of the State of Delaware shall also be a voting member of the Grievance Committee and shall be the Chair of the Committee. Upon receipt of such complaint, the Grievance Committee shall institute an immediate investigation of said complaint.
- 10.3** In the Chair's discretion, the Committee may dispense with a formal hearing and take some or all of evidence in writing. A written decision shall be tendered to the complaining person within 30 days from the State Chair's receipt of notice, except that the State Chair may set an earlier deadline if reasonably possible and necessary to address the grievance.



RULE 11

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Whenever these rules require oral notification, written notification, or notification by mail, such notice may now include the use of electronic mail.