

VERMONT DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN

FOR THE 2020 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL
CONVENTION

ISSUED BY THE
VERMONT
DEMOCRATIC
PARTY

ADOPTED BY VERMONT DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE MAY 18,
2019

**The State Delegate Selection Plan For the 2020
Democratic National Convention**

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Vermont Delegate Selection Plan For the 2020 Democratic National Convention

Section I Introduction & Description of Delegate Selection Process

A. Introduction

1. Vermont has a total of 24 delegates - 11 district level, 3 at-large, 2 PLEO, and 8 automatic (4 DNC members, 3 Members of Congress and 1 Distinguished Party Leader) and 2 alternates. (*Call I & Appendix B*)
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 Vermont, the State election code, and this Delegate Selection Plan. (*Call II.A*)
3. Following the Vermont Democratic State Committee's adoption of this Delegate Selection Plan, the State Party shall submit the Plan for review and approval by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee ("RBC"). The State Party 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 State Party Chair and the Plan resubmitted 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 State Party must be submitted to and approved by the RBC before it becomes effective. (*Reg. 2.9*)

B. Description of Delegate Selection Process

1. Vermont will use a proportional representation system based on the results of the

Presidential primary election for apportioning delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention.

2. The “first determining step” of Vermont’s delegate selection process will occur on March 3, 2020, with a Presidential preference primary election. This date corresponds with Vermont’s Town Meeting Day, when most Vermont cities and towns hold local elections. Under Vermont law, results of the March 3, 2020 primary will be certified by a statewide canvassing committee which will meet at 10 am on March 10, 2020. The results of that canvass shall be considered the official results used for determination of threshold and allocation of delegates at the town and national level.

C. Voter Participation

1. Participation in Vermont’s delegate selection process is open to all voters who wish to participate as Democrats. (*Rule 2.A and Rule 2.C.*)

- a. Vermont allows same-day voter registration, the registration deadline to participate in the primary is the same day as the election: March 3, 2020.

- b. How a voter declares they wish to participate as a Democrat:

- (1) Vermont has no party registration;

- (2) Any registered voter may participate in the March 3 primary.

- (3) Voters may choose to vote in any party’s presidential primary. At the time of voting, the voter’s choice of party ballot is recorded by election officers and becomes public record. (*Rule 2.A & Reg. 4.3.A*)

- c. Under Vermont election law, and 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*)

- d. At no stage of Vermont’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. The Vermont Democratic Party does not require the payment of any fee or contribution for participation at any stage of the delegate selection process. The Party may solicit completely voluntary contributions from state convention participants to help underwrite convention costs, but there is no expectation or requirement of such payment, nor any preferential treatment based on payment or non-payment. (*Rule 2.D & Reg. 4.4*)

- e. No person shall participate or vote in the nominating process for the Democratic presidential candidate who also participates in the nominating process of any other party for the corresponding election. (*Rule 2.E*)
- f. 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*)

Under previous Vermont law, “at every caucus or meeting of a political committee, if there is a contest for nomination, recommendation, or election to any office or position, the vote shall be taken by secret written ballot.” (VSA Title 17, C.45, § 2316). This requirement for secret ballot was removed in legislation passed by the Legislature and signed into law (Act 67 “An Act Relating to Elections Corrections) in June 2019. With this change in law, the Vermont Democratic Party is now be able to comply with this requirement.

- 2. The Vermont Democratic Party has worked closely with our Democratic Secretary of State and our legislature to enact legislation, rules and policies that enhance and election security at the local and state level. This includes:

- a. Maintenance of secure and accurate state voter registration rolls, so that every eligible Vermonter who registers to vote has their personal information protected and secure; (*Rule 2.H.1*) and b. Implement transparent and accurate voter registration list maintenance procedures that comply with federal requirements and ensure that every eligible voter stays on the rolls; (*Rule 2.H.2*)

In 2018 Vermont Democrats led the way in enacting H 624 (now 17 V.S.A. § 2154) which provides detailed protections for data privacy of the voter information on the voter checklist (including prohibition on disclosure of driver's licence information, date of birth, telephone number, email address, or last four digits of Social Security number). It also outlines protections on removal of voters from the voter checklist. Vermont law similarly prohibits the transfer/sale of the list to foreign entities, or the federal government for purposes of comparing the voter registration information to those on any other government database or list. It is legally prohibited to use the checklist for any commercial purpose. Additionally, Vermont has a "Safe at Home" program that allows persons threatened by domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking to keep their voter registration details anonymous.

- c. Promote the acquisition, maintenance, and regular replacement of precinct based optical scan voting systems; (*Rule 2.H.3*) and d. Ensure that any direct recording electronic systems in place have a voter verified paper record; (*Rule 2.H.4*)

All votes in Vermont are cast on paper ballots. In approximately half of the towns (including any with a population over 1,000) votes are counted by an optical scan tabulator that is not internet connected. In the remaining towns, votes are counted by hand on election night by the members of the local Board of Civil Authority, under public view.

- e. Implement risk limiting post-election audits such as manual audits comparing paper records to electronic records; (*Rule 2.H.5*)

For more than a decade, the Vermont Secretary of State's office has conducted post-election audits of vote totals from towns from across the state, and have found no problems. All paper ballots are maintained under seal for 22 months post-election, and available for inspection if needed.

- f. Ensure that all voting systems have recognized security measures; (*Rule 2.H.6*)

The Vermont Secretary of State's office has enacted strong election system security measures, including: the prohibition of any tabulator being internet accessible; the use of two factor identification for any access to the state/town

election management system; daily back-up of the statewide voter registration list to ensure an accessible 24-hour old version if a breach occurs; a weekly “cyber-hygiene” scan of all election related systems; and training of all local town clerks on cyber security measures to avoid phishing scams and similar intrusions.

- g. Use accessible and secure voting machines that make it possible for individuals with disabilities to vote securely and privately. (*Rule 2.H.7*)

Vermont voters can use the “Omniballot” tablet accessible voting system at any polling place. This system is compatible with a wide variety of accessibility devices, and enables voters with a disability to vote privately and independently. Additionally, voters with a disability can have a ballot brought to their car at the polling place by an election official, can bring a person of their choice to assist them in voting or ask an election official for assistance if needed, and can use a magnifying glass or other vision assistance tools. Vermont’s system of no-excuse early/absentee voting also allows voters with disabilities to vote from home, including using on-line tools that are compatible with assistive technologies. All polling places in Vermont are required to be physically accessible.

- 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 Vermont Democratic Party has helped establish voting procedures that protect voting rights and make it easier to vote, including: (*Rule 2.I and 2.I.1*)

- a. Vermont has a 45 day early voting period, allowing any voter to cast an absentee ballot by mail or in person at their town clerk’s office. With same day registration, a voter can register at their town clerk’s office and cast an early ballot the same day, or register and vote at their polling place on Election Day. Town clerks are required to begin mailing out absentee ballots 45 days prior to the election, and voters can request an absentee ballot at any time up until the day before election day. (*Rule 2.I.1.a*)

- b. Vermont polling places are determined by the town clerk’s office and local Board of Civil Authority. All towns in Vermont have at least one centrally located polling place; a few larger cities and towns may have multiple polling places.; (*Rule 2.I.1.b*)

- c. Especially since the widespread use of early voting, voters in Vermont rarely face a wait of more than a few minutes when voting. Because voting is done by paper ballot, polling places are not restricted by number of machines, and voter check-in is a simple process; (*Rule 2.1.1.c*)
 - d. Vermont has no voter identification requirement; (*Rule 2.1.1.d*)
 - e. Because of Vermont's same-day registration, we do not face the problem of voters casting a ballot in the wrong precinct. A person's ballot is counted where they vote. (*Rule 2.1.1.e*)
 - f. Vermont is in full compliance with the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act, mailing ballots 45 days prior to the election, and allowing the use of the FVAP back-up ballot in cases where an absentee ballot does not arrive in time. The Vermont Democratic Party also works with Democrats Abroad to reach Vermont voters residing outside of the United States (*Rule 2.1.1.f*)
4. As part of encouraging participation in the delegate selection process by registered voters, the Vermont Democratic Party has worked with our elected officials and advocated for policies to make voter registration simple and easy. In part because of these efforts, today **93% of eligible voters in Vermont are registered**. (*Rule 2.1.2*)
- a. Vermont has undertaken numerous steps to make voter registration easier including - automatic voter registration when receiving a driver's licence/non-driver ID, on-line registration, and same day registration, (*Rule 2.1.2.a*)
 - b. Anyone who turns 18 before the date of the general election can register and vote in advance of their birthday, and can vote in the primary elections for that cycle. Young people receiving driving permits are part of the automatic registration system if they will turn 18 by the next election. Many high schools in the state conduct pre-registration drives with their student bodies. (*Rule 2.1.2.b*)
 - c. Vermont places no restrictions on the voting rights of convicted criminals, being one of only two states where people who are incarcerated are eligible

to vote (in the town they lived in prior to incarceration) (*Rule 2.I.2.c*) and

d. Voters may register and vote on the day of the March 3, 2020 Vermont Democratic Presidential Primary. (*Rule 2.I.2.d*)

5. Vermont has no party registration. Any registered voter may vote in the March 3, 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary (*Rule 2.J and Rule 2.J.1*)

6. Scheduling of Delegate Selection Meetings

The dates and locations of the post-primary caucus, state convention, and first delegation meeting have been selected by the state Chair in a manner that makes them most accessible to the largest possible number of Vermont Democrats, with care taken to ensure reasonable start and end times, respect for possible conflicts (religious holidays, significant community events, schedules of working people), and will be held in public spaces that are fully accessible. All such meetings will be open to the public. (*Rule 3.A & Reg. 4.*)

Section II Presidential Candidates

A. Ballot Access

A presidential candidate gains access to the State presidential preference primary ballot, by the following:

(1) To qualify for the ballot of the March 3, 2020 Vermont Democratic Presidential Primary, a candidate must file with the Vermont Secretary of State the following items no later than 5 pm, December 16th, 2019:

- a. Nominating petition signed by at least 1,000 registered Vermont voters;
- b. A consent form signed by the candidate;
- c. A \$2,000 filing fee (If the petition of a candidate is accompanied by the affidavit of the candidate, available for public inspection, that the candidate and the candidate's campaign committee are without sufficient funds to pay the filing fee, the secretary of state shall waive all but \$300.00 of the payment of the filing fee by that candidate)
- d. This filing date is specified in Vermont state law - 17 VSA § 2702 - and deemed necessary by our legislature and Secretary of State in order to provide adequate time to receive, review and accept petitions, and then to design, print and distribute to town clerks ballots in time to meet the requirements of the federal The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act and of our 45 day early voting period. (We will be requesting an exemption from rule 15.E to deal with this filing date.)
- e. Under Vermont election law, "uncommitted" does not appear as a ballot option for the Presidential primary. Write-in votes are permitted and are included as part of the tally at all levels.

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 December 17, 2019 (*Rule 13.D.1*)
2. Each presidential candidate 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*) No later than March 10, 2020, each Presidential candidate who has met the 15% delegate threshold shall submit a statement specifying the steps the candidate will take to encourage full participation in the delegate selection process.

Section III Selection of Delegates and Alternates

A. District-Level Delegates and Alternates

1. State is allocated 11 district-level delegates.. (*Rule 8.C, Call I.B, I.I, & Appendix B*) Vermont has chosen to allocate both of our alternates at the At-Large level.
2. District-level delegates will be allocated by a Presidential preference primary held on March 3, followed by post-primary town caucuses on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 to elect delegates to the state convention, which will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2020 to elect District-level delegates. District-level delegates will be elected by Presidential Preference caucuses at the state convention.
3. Apportionment of District-Level Delegates
 - a. Vermont has only one Congressional district, therefore all 11 District-level delegates will be apportioned to the state as a whole.
 - b. The number of men and the number of women in the state's total number of district-level delegates will not vary by more than one. (*Rule 6.C.1 & Reg. 4.9*)
 - c. The district-level delegates are apportioned to districts as indicated in the

following table:

District	Delegates		
	Males*	Females*	Total
#1	5	6	11
Total	5	6	11

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

- d. In the post-primary caucuses, delegates will be allocated to towns based on a formula that gives equal weight to three factors: (1) the 2016 Democratic Presidential vote, (2) the 2018 Democratic vote for Governor, (3) population of each town. This complies with Rule 8.B by including 2 measures of Democratic voting strength and 1 measure of total population.

4. District-Level Delegate Filing Requirements

- a. A District-level delegate candidate may run for election only within the district in which they are registered to vote. As Vermont has only one district, any registered Vermont voter who participated in the March 3, 2020 Democratic Presidential Preference primary may run for District-level delegate. The Party shall undertake widespread educational efforts to publicize the requirement of voting in the March 3, 2020 Democratic Presidential primary during the months leading up to the primary date, including the fact that Vermont has no party registration and allows same day voter registration.

- (1) An individual can qualify as a candidate for District-level delegate to the 2020 Democratic National Convention by filing a statement of candidacy designating their singular presidential preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidate with the Vermont Democratic Party by **5 pm, Friday, May 15, 2020**. A delegate candidate may modify their singular presidential preference by submitting an updated pledge of

support no later than the filing deadline.

Necessary delegate filing forms shall be made widely available to potential candidates through a variety of means. No later than March 10, 2020, the filing forms shall be posted in downloadable format on the Vermont Democratic Party website, and printed versions shall be made available through all Vermont Democratic Party offices. Forms will be mailed to anyone upon request. Additionally, the Party will work to widely distribute the forms - in electronic and print versions - through a variety of methods: working with the various Presidential campaigns, through county and town Democratic committees, to organizations identified by the Affirmative Action Committee, in email to our lists of activists and supporters, and through media outreach.

Such documents may be sent to the Vermont Democratic Party, PO Box 1220, Montpelier, Vermont 05601, or delivered in person to the Vermont Democratic Party offices at 73 Main Street, Montpelier, Vermont, 05602. Party offices will be open from 10 am to 5 pm on that date. Electronic or faxed documents will NOT be accepted. (*Rule 13.B, Rule 15.F & Reg. 4.23*)

The Vermont Democratic Party will make available forms for the statement of candidacy and the signed pledge of support in both downloadable and printed versions. (*Rule 1.A.7, Rule 1.A.8 & Reg. 4.23*)

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

a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than **5 pm, Tuesday, May 19, 2020**, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate 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 no later than 5 pm, Friday, May 22, 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 candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate, or the authorized representative(s), signifies otherwise in writing to the State Democratic Chair not later than 12 noon, Friday, May 22, 2020
- d. National convention delegate 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 State Democratic 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 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 as indicated in Section III.A.5.b of this Plan. (*Rule 6.I & Reg. 4.10.C*)

6. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference

(1) Presidential Primary - Proportional Representation Plan (*Rule 14.A, Rule 14.B & Rule 14.D*)

The State presidential primary election is a "binding" primary. Accordingly, delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated so as to fairly reflect the expressed presidential preference of the primary voters in Vermont's single district. The National Convention delegates selected at the district level shall be allocated in proportion to the percentage of the primary vote won in that district by each preference, except that preferences falling below a 15% threshold shall not be awarded any delegates or alternates.

- b. Within the district, 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

- a. 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 the 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*)

8. The Vermont Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) the election of the state's district-level delegates 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 State Democratic 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. Vermont is allotted two (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 state-wide 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 state-wide 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 and a signed pledge of support no later than 5 pm, Thursday, June 4, 2020 with the Vermont Democratic Party office located at 73 Main Street Suite 400 Montpelier, VT 05602 or PO Box 1220, Montpelier, Vermont 05601. Party offices will be open from 10 am to 5 pm on that date. Electronic or faxed documents will NOT be accepted.

Necessary delegate filing forms shall be made widely available to potential candidates through a variety of means. No later than March 10, 2020, the filing forms shall be posted in downloadable format on the Vermont Democratic Party website, and printed versions shall be made available through all Vermont Democratic Party offices. Forms will be mailed to anyone upon request. Additionally, the Party will work to widely distribute the forms - in electronic and print versions - through a variety of methods: working with the various Presidential campaigns, through county and town Democratic committees, to organizations identified by the Affirmative Action Committee, in e-mail to our lists of activists and supporters, and through media outreach.

(*Rule 10.A.3, Rule 15.G, Reg.4.18 & Reg. 4.17*)

3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review

a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than 5 pm, Tuesday, June 9, 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 State Democratic Chair, by 12 noon, Friday, June 12, 2020, a list of all such candidates they have approved, as long as approval is given to at least **two (2) 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 not later than 12 noon, Friday, June 12, 2020. (*Rule 13.D*)
- d. The Vermont Democratic 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.I & 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 at 12 noon on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at an accessible location in Montpelier, which prior to the selection of at-large delegates and alternates. (*Rule 10.A*)
- c. These PLEO delegates will be selected by a committee consisting of a quorum of the district-level delegates. Printed ballots with the names of each qualified candidate (as approved by Presidential campaign authorized representative(s)) will be prepared by the Vermont Democratic Party. The winners will be determined by plurality vote of signed written ballot, with

allocation of Presidential preference and gender determined in descending order of Presidential preference vote total. These delegate positions may be used to achieve equal representation between men and women, or to achieve representation/ affirmative action goals.

5. The Vermont 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 three (3) at-large delegates and 2 (two) 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 preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidates by 5 pm, Thursday, June 4, 2020 with the Vermont Democratic Party office located at 73 Main Street Suite 400 Montpelier, VT 05602 or PO Box 1220, Montpelier, Vermont 05601. Party offices will be open from 10 am to 5 pm on that date. Electronic or faxed documents will NOT be accepted.

A delegate or alternate candidate may modify their singular presidential preference by submitting an updated pledge of support no later than the filing deadline. (*Rule 13.A., Rule 13.B, Rule 15.G, Reg. 4.22, Reg. 4.23, & Reg. 4.31*)

Necessary delegate filing forms shall be made widely available to potential candidates through a variety of means. No later than March 10, 2020, the filing forms shall be posted in downloadable format on the Vermont Democratic Party website, and printed versions shall be made available through all Vermont Democratic Party offices. Forms will be mailed to anyone upon request. Additionally, the Party will work to widely distribute the forms -

in electronic and print versions - through a variety of methods: working with the various Presidential campaigns, through county and town Democratic committees, to organizations identified by the Affirmative Action Committee, in email to our lists of activists and supporters, and through media outreach.

- b. The statement of candidacy for at-large delegates and for at-large alternates will be the same. After the at-large delegates are elected by a committee consisting of a quorum of District-level delegates, those persons not chosen will then be considered candidates for at-large alternate positions unless they specify otherwise when filing. (*Rule 19.A*)

3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review

- a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than 4 pm, Tuesday, June 9, 2020, a list of all persons who have filed for At-Large delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. (*Rule 13.D*)

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- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the State Democratic Chair, by June 13, 2020, immediately following the election of PLEO delegates, a list of all such At-Large 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 State Democratic Chair not later than Jun 13 2020 immediately following the election of PLEO delegates.
- d. The State Democratic 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 the statewide primary vote (*Rule 11.C*)
- 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 1.1 & Reg. 4.33*)

5. Selection of At-Large Delegates and Alternates

- a. The selection of the at-large delegates and alternates will occur at 2 pm on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at an accessible location in Montpelier, Vermont, which is after all pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates have been selected.
- b. These delegates and alternates will be selected by a committee consisting of a quorum of the district-level delegates. (*Rule 11.B & Rule 11.B*) *Voting will be by signed written ballot, with the top vote getters (of proper gender - or non-binary individuals - equal to the number of delegate slots to be elected)*

within each Presidential preference caucus shall be declared to be elected as delegates. The next highest vote getters within each Presidential preference caucus (equal to the number of alternate slots to be elected) shall be declared to be elected as alternates, provided the alternates are not both of the same gender.

c. 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 state'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 State Democratic 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 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 Vermont Democratic 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 State Party, by the authorized representative of the presidential candidate to whom they are pledged. *(Rule 19.D.2)*

a. 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 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.

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

- (1) The delegate chooses the alternate, or, if unable or failing to do so,
- (2) The delegation chooses the alternate.

c. Certification of Replacements

- (1) Any alternate who permanently replaces a delegate shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the DNC by the Vermont Democratic Chair. *(Rule 19.D.3)*
- (2) Permanent replacement of a delegate (as specified above) by an alternate and replacement of a vacant alternate position shall be certified in writing by Vermont's Democratic 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*)

d. A vacant alternate position shall be filled by the delegation. The replacement shall be of the same presidential preference, 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 Vermont 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 Vermont'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 one (**1**) member on each of the three (3) standing committees for the 2020 Democratic National Convention (Credentials, Platform and Rules), for a total of three (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. Temporary Standing Committee Members

1. Temporary members for the Convention Standing Committees will be selected by the Democratic State Committee at a meeting on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 11 am. The meeting shall be open to the public and well publicized in accordance with this Plan. Members of Democratic State Committee shall receive timely notice of the meeting, in accordance with State Party rules. (*Call VII.G.2*)
2. A separate election shall be conducted for membership on each of the standing committees. The male and female membership of each standing committee shall be as equally divided among men and women (determined by self-identification) as possible under the state allocation; i.e. the variance between men and women among the three committees in aggregate shall not exceed one]. (*Call VII.E.2*) In the case of gender non-binary committee members, they shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the standing committee members shall be equally divided between male gender (men) and female gender (women). (*Call VII.E.1*)
3. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must submit to the State Democratic Chair, by Friday, March 20, 2020, no later than 5 pm, a minimum of one (1) name for each slot awarded to that candidate for members of each committee. The State Committee shall select the temporary standing committee members from among names submitted by the presidential candidates. Presidential candidates shall not

be required to submit the name of more than one (1) person for each slot awarded to such candidate for temporary members of standing committees. (Call VII.D.2)

4. Temporary members serve only in the event that the respective standing committee is called to meet prior to completion of the state's delegate selection process and subsequent selection of permanent standing committee members. No temporary member may continue to serve after the selection of the permanent standing committee members unless they are elected as a permanent member. (Call VII.G.3)
5. The temporary members of standing committees allocated to State shall proportionately represent the presidential preference of all candidates received in 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.G.3)
6. The State Chair shall certify the temporary standing committee members in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after their selection. Substitutions in a state's list of temporary members may only be made up to ten (10) days prior to the time the standing committee meets. Substitute temporary standing committee members will be selected at a meeting of the Vermont Democratic State Committee in accordance with the provisions outlined above. (Call VII.B.3 and Call VII.G.4)

C. 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, June 13, 2019. (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. Additionally, all candidates for PLEO and At-Large Delegate and Alternate positions who have been approved by Presidential campaign representatives shall receive the same notice, including the information that they will be eligible to vote on these positions if they are elected. (Call VII.B.1)

2. Allocation of Members

- a. The members of the standing committees allocated to State shall proportionately represent the presidential preference of all candidates 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 Saturday, June 13, 2020, no later than 10 minutes after the completion of all elections for PLEO delegates and At-Large Delegates and Alternates, a minimum of one (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. 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 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 female, and the next binary position, if one occurs, will be designated for a male , and the remaining binary position 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 as

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 State Democratic 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 two (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, June 13, 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. Additionally, all candidates for PLEO and At-Large Delegate and Alternate positions who have been approved by Presidential campaign representatives shall receive the same notice, including the information that they will be eligible to vote on this matter if they are elected. (*Rule 3.C*)

2. The State Democratic 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. Two (2) individuals will be selected to serve as State's Convention Pages by the Vermont Democratic Chair in consultation with the members of the Democratic National Committee from the state. This selection will take place by Saturday, June 13, 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 Vermont Democratic Chair shall certify the individuals to serve as State'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

The Vermont Democratic Party will select 3 persons to serve as Presidential Electors for the 2020 Presidential election.

B. Selection of Presidential Electors

1. As required by Vermont state law, the Presidential Electors shall be selected by vote at the 2020 Vermont Democratic Party Platform Convention, to be held on Saturday, August 21, 2020.
2. Any bona fide Vermont Democratic voter who is recorded as voting in the March 3, 2020 Democratic Presidential preference primary shall be eligible to be considered as a Presidential Elector.
3. Any qualified voter who wishes to have their name considered for Presidential Elector shall submit a statement of candidacy with the Vermont Democratic Party, (73 Main Street Suite 400, Montpelier Vermont 05601, or PO Box 1220, Montpelier Vermont 05602) no later than 12 noon, Tuesday, August 11, 2020.
4. Accompanying their statement of candidacy, each candidate for Presidential Elector shall certify in writing that they will vote for the election of the Democratic Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees. *(Call VIII). These signed forms will be retained and made visible to the public.*
5. The Vermont Democratic Party shall provide printed and downloadable forms for statement of candidacy for Presidential Elector, and for written certification that they will vote for the election of the Democratic Presidential and Vice-Presidential nominees.
6. Election procedures
 - a. The election of 2020 Democratic Presidential Electors shall be the first item of business following the election of a Convention Chair at the August 21,

2020 Vermont Democratic Platform Convention.

- b. The delegates to the Platform Convention are certain party officials as defined in the Vermont Democratic Party By-Laws, consisting of: Members of the appointed State Committee Platform Subcommittee; The County Chair and State Committee Members and Alternates of each County; Town Committee Chairs, or their designees; Four elected representatives from each County Committee who need not be members of the County Committee and the member of the Vermont Democratic Party Executive Committee.
- c. A quorum shall consist of those certified delegates present and voting.
- d. A written ballot shall be prepared by the Vermont Democratic Party listing the names of all duly nominated candidates for Presidential Elector. The three (3) Presidential Electors shall be the top vote getters in the balloting, but if the top three (3) are all of the same gender, only the top two shall be selected, and the next highest vote getter of the opposite gender or the next non-binary identifying individual shall be selected.
- e. Pursuant to Vermont state statute (V.S.A. 17 § 2722. Certification of nominees for electors) “After adjournment of the platform convention of a major political party, the chairman and secretary of the convention shall promptly execute a sworn statement certifying the names, towns of residence, and correct mailing addresses of the persons nominated by the convention to serve as electors, and shall promptly file the statement with the secretary of state along with the written consent of each person to be a nominee for elector.”

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.
(*Call VIII*)
- 2. The Vermont Democratic Party will take steps to ensure that the Presidential Electors selected are bona fide Democrats, including:
 - a. Requiring a written certification from all potential Presidential Electors that they will vote for the election of the Democratic Party nominee for President and

Vice-President.

b. Requiring that any candidate for Presidential Elector has been publicly recorded as voting in the March 3, 2020 Vermont Democratic Presidential preference primary.

c. Electing the Presidential Electors at a convention consisting of Democratic Party committee members from across the state.

3. Elector behavior is governed by Vermont statute which requires electors to cast their ballot for the ticket chosen by Vermont voters - 17 VSA, Chapter 57, § 2732 “***The electors must vote for the candidates for president and vice president who received the greatest number of votes at the general election.***”

Section VII General Provisions and Procedural Guarantees

- A. The Vermont Democratic Party 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 in Vermont should be open to all members of the Democratic Party 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 in Vermont 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 in Vermont 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 in Vermont, on all levels, should support the broadest possible registration without discrimination based on “status.” (*Rule 4.B.4*)
 5. The Democratic Party in Vermont 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 officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures should be done

in such fashion that all prospective and current members of the Vermont Democratic Party 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 Vermont Democratic Party should develop a strategy to provide education programs directly to voters who continue to experience confusing timelines for registration, changing party affiliation deadlines, or lack of awareness of the process for running for delegate, to ensure all Democratic voters understand the rules and timelines and their impact on voter participation. (*Rule 4.B.5*)

6. The Democratic Party in Vermont 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 State Democratic Party. 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 prohibited. (*Rule 5.B*)

C. Vermont’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 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 Party 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. 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)*

J. Any individual or group of Democrats 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 Party 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)*

K. 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). The Vermont Democratic Party is seeking an exemption to this requirement to comply with our state law setting the filing deadline for the March 3, 2020 Democratic Presidential preference primary as December 16, 2019.*

M. In electing and certifying delegates and alternates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention, the State Democratic Party hereby undertakes to assure all Democratic voters in State, 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 State. *(Rule 5.A)*
- b. Discrimination on the basis of “status” in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited. *(Rule 5.B)*
- c. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party in State should be open to all members of the Democratic Party 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, State 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 State Democratic Party has adopted and will 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 State Party has established goals and timetables for other underrepresented groups, including the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities, and youth. *(Rule 6.A & Rule 4.8)*
 - (1) The goal of these 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 State Democratic Chair on **March 1, 2019..** (*Rule 6.F*)

b. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Democratic National Committee the compliance of the State’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 State Party Committee, 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*)

(5) The Affirmative Action Committee will before September 13, 2019, develop, as appropriate, specific “mini-plans” to conduct outreach and engagement with the each of the various communities included in this plan.

e. Financial and staff support for the Affirmative Action Committee shall be provided by the State Party Committee to the greatest extent feasible, including, but not limited to, making available on a priority basis, the State Party staff and volunteers, and covering all reasonable costs incurred in carrying out this Plan.

f. The Vermont Democratic Party shall make available (at no cost to participants) meeting spaces at the May 2020 State Convention for caucuses or meetings of State Convention delegates belonging to the various demographic populations specified in this plan and include these assemblies in the official State Convention schedule.

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 State Party has determined the demographic composition of African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the state’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 State Party 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 Vermont Democratic Party has used a variety of information sources to calculate the demographic composition of the Vermont Democratic electorate, including the latest (2018) US Census Bureau demographic data and the American Community Survey, external datasets (such as the Williams Institute estimates of LGBTQ populatuon by state). In the absence of party registration data or reliable polling for Vermont, and the relatively small size of these populations in Vermont, we have used national exit poll data to estimate the Democratic voting strength of each of the specified populations in Vermont.

	African Americans	Hispanics	Native Americans	Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders	LGBTQ+ Americans	People with Disabilities	Youth
Percent in Democratic Electorate	3%	3%	>1%	3%	8%	15%	28%
Numeric Goals for Delegation	1	1	1	1	2	4	7

4. 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*)

5. 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*)

C. Efforts to Educate on the Delegate Selection Process

1. Well-publicized educational workshops will be conducted in different geographic areas of the state 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 State Party, 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 State Party's education efforts will include outreach to community leaders within the Democratic Party's constituencies and making sure that information about the delegate selection process is available to Democratic clubs and Party caucuses representing specific constituencies.
4. The State Party 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 State Party 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 across the state not later than **November 1, 2019** . (*Rule 1.H*)
5. Participation in the delegate selection process shall be open to all voters who wish to participate as Democrats. Democratic voters shall be those persons who publicly declare their Party preference and have that preference publicly recorded by voting in the **March 3, 2020** Vermont Democratic Presidential preference primary. (*Rule 2.A*)
6. The State Party 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. In Vermont, which has no party registration, this will consist of informing all voters that they are welcome to vote in the March 3, 2020 Vermont Democratic President preference primary and to participate in subsequent delegate selection activities. (*Rule 2.C*)
7. The Affirmative Action Committee will develop a State Party strategy to be implemented beginning **September 13, 2019** that will provide education programs directly to voters who continue to experience confusing timelines for registration,

changing party affiliation deadlines, or lack of awareness of the process for running for delegate, 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 State Party shall direct special attention to publicizing the delegate selection process in Vermont. 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 State Party communications and on the State Party's website. 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 State Party 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 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 State Party 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 town caucuses, state convention and delegation meetings shall be effectively publicized, multilingually where necessary, to encourage the participation

of minority groups. *(Rule 6.D)*

4. Not later than September 13, 2019 , the State Party 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 State Democratic 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 State Democratic Chair by March 10, 2020 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 State Democratic Party 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 State Democratic Party 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. All polling places and meeting locations at any stage of this process shall be held in physically accessible locations. The Vermont Democratic Party will make provisions for participants to request other accommodations they need to fully participate, including assistive technology, support persons, ASL interpretation, or other necessary accommodation.
4. In addition to the education, publicity and other steps described above, the State Party will:
 - a. Develop a comprehensive list of advocacy, community and other groups based in or serving the specified populations, and conduct appropriate engagement

activities with these organizations and their constituents, including provision of educational materials, guest speakers, or other appropriate interactions.

b. Develop a comprehensive list of communication tools within and serving the specified populations, including both conventional (newspaper, radio, television) and more specialized (listservs, Facebook groups, other social media, etc) and reach out to these outlets in an effort to encourage participation.

c. Develop, as needed, specialized and targeted outreach materials, potentially included large print and Braille materials, mult-lingual information, and visual representation of the full diversity of the Democratic Party even in one of the whitest states in the country.

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 State Party 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 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 State Party. (*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 State Party shall not be subject to challenge based solely on delegation composition or primary 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

Vermont will use a proportional representation system based on the results of the March 3, 2020 Vermont Democratic Presidential preference primary apportioning its delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention.

The “first determining step” of State’s delegate selection process will occur on March 3, 2020 with a Presidential preference primary. .

Delegates and alternates will be selected as summarized on the following chart:

Type	Delegates	Alternates	Date of Selection	Selecting Body
				Filing Requirements and Deadlines
District-Level Delegates District-Level Alternates	11	0	5/30/2020	Selecting Body: <i>Democratic State Convention</i> <i>Statement of candidacy and signed Presidential candidate support pledge filed with Vermont Democratic Party no later than 5pm, Friday, May 15, 2020</i>
Automatic Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates*	8	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	**	6/13/2020	Committee constituting a quorum of the elected District-Level Delegates <i>Statement of candidacy and signed Presidential candidate support pledge filed with Vermont Democratic Party no later than 5 pm, June 4, 2020</i>
At-Large Delegates At-Large Alternates	3	2	6/13/2020	Committee constituting a quorum of the elected District-Level Delegates <i>Statement of candidacy and signed Presidential candidate support pledge filed with Vermont Democratic Party no later than 5 pm, June 4, 2020</i>
TOTAL Delegates and Alternates	24	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 the Credentials, Platform and Rules Committees)

Standing committee members will be selected by the state's National Convention delegates as summarized below:

Members Per Committee	Total Members	Selection Date	Filing Requirements and Deadlines
1	3	6/13/2020	<i>For Permanent Committee Members: Names submitted by authorized representatives of Presidential campaign(s), no later than 6/13/2020</i>
1	3	3/21/2020	<i>For Temporary Committee Members: Statement of Candidacy and pledge of Presidential candidate support no later than 5 pm, 3/20/2020</i>

C. Selection of Delegation Chair and Convention Pages

The Delegation Chair will be selected by the National Convention Delegates on June 13, 2020.

Two (2) Convention Pages will be selected by the State Democratic Chair on June 13, 2020 .

D. Selection of Presidential Electors

Three (3) Presidential Electors will be selected by the Vermont Democratic Party Platform Convention on August 21, 2020.

E. Presidential Candidate Filing Deadline

Under Vermont law, candidates who wish to be listed on the March 3, 2020 Democratic Presidential preference primary ballot must file petitions with the Vermont Secretary of State no later than 5 pm, December 16, 2019. (As this is outside of the window for filing deadlines specified in national delegate selection rules, the Vermont Democratic Party will be seeking an exemption to this Party rule to allow us to comply with state law.)(*Rule 11.B & Rule 14.E*) Presidential candidates must certify the name of their authorized representative(s) to the State Democratic Chair by December 17, 2019 .

F. Timetable

Date	Activity
2019	
March 1	Delegate Selection Affirmative Action Committee members are appointed by the State Chair.
March	List of Affirmative Action Committee members submitted to DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee.
April	Affirmative Action Committee meets to draft proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans.
April 18	Public comments are solicited on the proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program. Press releases are mailed announcing the public comment period.
May 18	Period for public comment on State Plan is concluded. Responses are compiled for review by the State Party Committee.
May 18	State Party Committee reviews public comments and adopts revised Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program for submission to DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee. Press releases are mailed announcing the approval of the Plan.
May 24	Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program is forwarded to the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee. <i>(Vermont has applied for and received an extension for submission)</i>
September 13	State Party begins implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program. Press kits, as described in the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program, are sent to all state media. <i>[Note: This is the deadline by which implementation of the affirmative action program must begin.]</i>
November 1	Presidential candidate petition forms are available from the State Party Committee Headquarters.
December 16	Deadline for Presidential candidates to submit petitions to appear on the primary ballot to the Vermont Secretary of State
December 17	Deadline for Presidential candidate to certify the name(s) of their authorized representative(s) to the Vermont Democratic Party
2020	
January 17	First date on which absentee ballots are mailed to voters In person early voting begins for Vermont Democratic Presidential preference primary
March 3	Vermont Democratic Presidential preference primary
March 10	Delegate and alternate candidates may obtain the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms and filing instructions from State Party Committee Headquarters, in person, by mail, or from State Party's web site at www.vtdemocrats.org

March 10	Deadline for each announced presidential candidate to submit a statement specifying steps the candidate will take to encourage full participation in the delegate selection process.
March 10	State canvassing committee certifies results of March 3 Democratic Presidential Preference primary
March 21	Vermont Democratic State Committee appoints temporary members of Democratic National Convention standing committees
March 31	<p>Based on the official results reported by town clerks and the Secretary of State, the Vermont Democratic Party calculates the distribution of Vermont's delegates by Presidential preference subject to the formula included this plan, and communicates these to the authorized candidate representatives of the various campaigns, and releases them publicly.</p> <p>Based on the official results reported by town clerks and the Secretary of State, the Vermont Democratic Party calculates the distribution of town level delegates to the state convention by Presidential preference, and shares them with the authorized candidate representatives, with the State Committee, with the town chairs, and releases them publicly.</p>
April 21	Post-primary town caucuses to elect state convention delegates
May 15	Deadline for District-Level delegate candidates to file a statement of candidacy and signed Presidential candidate pledge
May 19	Deadline for Vermont Democratic Party to provide authorized Presidential campaign representative(s) with list of District-Level delegate candidates who have filed pledged to that candidate
May 22	Deadline for authorized Presidential campaign representative(s) to provide Vermont Democratic Party with list of approved District-level delegate candidates
May 30	Vermont Democratic State Convention - election of District-level Delegates and Democratic National Committeeman and Committeewoman
June 2	State Party certifies in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the District-level delegates and their Presidential preference
June 4	Pledged PLEO and at-large delegate or alternate candidate deadline for filing the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms with State Party.
June 9	State Party provides list of PLEO and at-large delegate and alternate candidates to the respective Presidential candidates.
June 12	Deadline for authorized Presidential candidate representative(s) to provide Vermont Democratic Party with list of approved PLEO delegate candidates
June 13	<p>Meeting of a committee of a quorum of elected district level delegates to elect PLEO delegates</p> <p>Deadline for authorized President candidate representative(s) to provide the Vermont Democratic Party with list of approved At-Large Delegate and Alternate Candidates</p> <p>Meeting of a committee of a quorum of elected district</p>

	<p>level delegates to elect At-Large Delegates and Alternates</p> <p>Deadline for authorized Presidential campaign representative(s) to provide list of approved candidates for Standing Committee Permanent Members</p> <p>Meeting of full delegation to elect Standing Committee Permanent Members and Delegation Chair</p> <p>Appointment of two convention pages by Vermont Democratic Chair</p>
June 16	Vermont Democratic Party certifies in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the names and presidential preferences of the PLEO delegates, the At-Large Delegates and Alternates, and the Standing Committee Permanent Members. Additionally, the certification will include the name of the Delegation Chair, the two pages, and the presidential preference of Vermont's automatic delegates.
August 11	Deadline for candidates for Presidential Elector to file statement of candidacy and signed written certification that they will vote for the election of the Democratic Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees
August 21	Vermont Democratic Party Platform Convention selects Presidential Electors.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1.a:
List of Affirmative Action Committee
Members

Brenda Churchill	F	Transgender	Coordinator, LGBTQIA Alliance of Vermont (Chair, Affirmative Action Committee)	
Devin Mason	M	African-American, Youth	2018 campaign volunteer	
Franklin Paulino	M	Hispanic , Immigrant	Burlington City Council	
Hannah King	F	Youth	College Democrats	
John Killacky	M	Gay, disability community	State Representative	
Kesha Ram	F	Asian-American	Former State Representative, former LT Glv candidate	
Kevin “Coach” Christie	M	African-American	State Representative, Delegate to Natl Convention 08,12,16	
Maria Rinaldi	F	Disability	2016 National Convention Delegate	
Nader Hashim	M	Middle Eastern-American	State Representative, Former Chair State Police “Fair and Impartial Policing Task Force”	
Skyler Nash	M	African-American, Youth	College Democrats of Vermont	
Tabitha Pohl-Moore	F	African-American	Chair, Rutland Area NAACP	
Teddy Waszazak	M	Youth, low-income	City Council, Barre VT	
Terje Anderson	M	Gay, Hispanic, disability	Ex-officio, State Party Chair	

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- Because of the recent spate of on-line (and real world) harassment of community of color leaders in Vermont by aggressive alt-right & white nationalist agitators, we have chosen not to include personal emails of committee members in a public document. We are providing the RBC with that information under separate cover, and will be providing committee members with vtdemocrats.org email address to buffer such harassment.

Attachment 1.b State Party Chair Statement confirming Affirmative Action Committee compliance with Rules 5.C, 6.A., and 7

I
The Vermont Democratic Party is committed to non-discrimination and meaningful involvement of the many diverse people and community who are part of our state and our party.

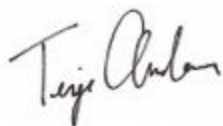
The members of the Affirmative Action Committee are representative of traditionally underrepresented members of our many Vermont communities. It includes leaders and representatives of African-American, Latinx, Asian-Pacific Islander, LGBTQ+, youth, disability and low-income constituents. These members are well-respected within the state and within their diverse communities, and their involvement will help the party develop and implement the most robust inclusion and engagement outreach efforts we have every conducted as part of the delegate selection effort.

A Chair and members were initially selected in January 2019, but due to unforeseen circumstances, several of those members opted to withdraw in early March 2019. In a conference call with Patrice Taylor from Party Affairs and Maureen Garde of ASDC, we discussed the unexpected situation, and identified a plan to reconstitute the committee under a new chair. That quickly happened, and the membership list was submitted to Ms. Taylor via email on March 22, 2019 - one week after the March 15 deadline.

Since that time, 2 additional members have been added to the committee representing College Democrats - in an effort to improve youth representation. One of the committee's priorities for the coming weeks is to recruit two additional members to represent Native American and Latinx Vermonters, and to provide gender balance to the committee.

Despite that initial set of challenges, the committee is now fully engaged and working to develop and implement comprehensive outreach and inclusion plans for the 2020 delegate selection process.

Respectfully submitted,



Terje Anderson
Chair, Vermont Democratic Party

Attachment 2.a:

Summary of process for selecting delegates, alternates, standing committee members, the delegation chair and convention pages, and Presidential Electors along with related deadlines

Included as **Section X.A-E** of Plan.

Attachment 2.b

A timetable reflecting all significant dates in the state's delegate selection process.

Included as **Section X.F** of Plan.

Attachment 2.c:

A copy of the press release distributed by the Vermont Democratic Party announcing the adoption of the Plan and summarizing the major components of the Plan.

Press Release

For Immediate Release
June 3, 2019

Vermont Democratic Party Adopts 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

The Vermont Democratic Party, at its state committee meeting on [May 18](#), adopted a plan outlining the selection of 2020 presidential primary delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This plan was distributed to the general public for a period of public comments on [April 18](#), 2019 and was closed to comments one month later.

The plan outlines in detail the composition of the Vermont delegation, including 23 delegates, 2 alternates, 3 standing committee members, and 2 pages.

“We hope to use our delegate selection plan as the basis of an open, transparent, inclusive, and non-discriminatory process for involving all Vermont Democrats in electing our state’s delegates,” said Brenda Churchill, chair of the Party’s delegate selection Affirmative Action Committee. “We encourage participation from all Vermont Democrats.”

Terje Anderson, Vermont Democratic Party Chair, said: “We are excited to begin educating the public as to the specifics of the plan and the process for individuals interested in becoming a delegate to the convention.” He continued, “I’ve been a Delegate many times over and the thrill of standing on the floor, representing the state of Vermont, never passes.”

The process begins with the March 3, 2020 Democratic Presidential Preference Primary, which is open to all Vermont voters. The results of that vote will be used to award delegates to any candidate receiving at least 15%. On April 21, 2020, town caucuses will elect delegates to the state convention, which will elect delegates on May 30, 2020.

The final draft, after taking into account the handful of public comments, was adopted unanimously by the Vermont Democratic Party’s state committee and is available here [\[link\]](#).

Contact: Christopher DiMezzo, Vermont Democratic Party Communications and Outreach Director 315-368-3660

rcdimezzo@vtdemocrats.org

Attachment 2.d

Statement from the Vermont Democratic Party Chair regarding certifications

I hereby certify that:

- i. The Plan as submitted to the RBC was approved by the Vermont Democratic State Committee at a meeting on May 18, 2019. (Reg 2.2.C)
- ii. The draft Plan and related materials were placed on the Vermont Democratic Party website on April 17, 2019 and remained on the site for the 30 day public comment period. (reg. 2.2.E)
- iii. The Vermont Democratic Party complied with Rule 1.C by conducting a 30-day public comment period prior to the adoption of the Plan. During that period the Party actively encouraged comments by twice sending calls for comments to our 12,000+ in-state email list, using social media outlets to direct Vermonters to the plan, enlisting County Chairs and State Committee members to solicit comments from their constituents, reaching out to interested individuals representing Democratic constituency groups, and speaking to reporters about the process. Each of these included specific information about how public comments could be submitted.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terje Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Terje" being more prominent than the last name "Anderson".

Terje Anderson
Chair, Vermont Democratic Party
June 3, 2019

Attachments 2.e



VERMONT DEMOCRATIC PARTY

PO Box 1220, Montpelier, Vermont 05601 • www.vtdemocrats.org • 802.229.1783

Rules and By-Laws Committee
Democratic National Committee

June 19, 2019

Dear RBC Members,

This letter is to confirm that, in compliance with Rule 6.F, the Vermont Democratic Party's 2020 Affirmative Action Committee was presented with and reviewed the Affirmative Action plan prior to submission to the DNC.

This review included: discussion of the numerical goals and how they were arrived at using population and political data; the elements of the outreach plan and discussion of the ways the Committee members could help direct those efforts; and an overview of the entire delegate selection process. The input from the Committee is being used going forward in creating an effective and active outreach effort.

We are happy to be moving forward with the implementation of the plan over the coming weeks and months.

Sincerely,

Brenda Churchill
Chair, Affirmative Action Committee
Vermont Democratic Party

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NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATES COMMITTEE
PO BOX 1220, MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05601



Attachments 2.f

A copy of all written public and on-line comments submitted through the process provided above about the Plan

Despite emails sent twice to over 12,000 Vermont Democrats, social media, and other outreach soliciting comments, the Vermont Democratic Party received only a few comments on the draft plan.

The written comments were:

Linda Gravell, Chair Washington County
Democratic Committee:

“Spelling Correction Section C. Efforts to Educate on the Delegate Selection Process Under number 6. ...which has no paryty. Should be 'party' That's my 2 cents... Just so you know that someone actually read the draft.”

Michael Ross, Chair Essex Town
Democratic Committee

“Please see below for some feedback from the Essex Democrats regarding the 2020 Vermont Delegate Selection Plan Draft.

A committee member from the Essex Democrats indicated that if candidates running to be 2020 delegates to the DNC Convention ran as a slate that they may increase the likelihood that larger counties in Vermont, like Chittenden County, may have more of an advantage compared to smaller counties in the delegate selection process.”

Jenn Wood, Chair Grand Isle County
Democratic Committee

“I have finally gone thru the 2020 Draft Delegate Selection Plan. Since you asked for any/ all comments, I have outlined below some (minor) grammatical errors in the plan.

Page 12, second paragraph of 7a - needs another parentheses around 'delegate(s))'

*Page 21, A1 - the number (1) and second part of parentheses is **bold and the 1 italicized**; all should be or none of it. no need for bold.*

Page 21, B1 - extras space before comma after 'committees'

Page 25, C3 - extra bold bracket - [

Page 31, 2a extra bold bracket and period -].

Page 32, B2 - extra parentheses at end of section

Page 34 - top of page, end of first sentence, there is an extra period

Page 35, E1 - extra bold bracket - [

Page 41, C - extra period at end of section

I hope this helps :)"

In addition to these written comments, a few other comments were conveyed by phone or at in-person meetings, focusing on disappointment that “Automatic Delegates” continue to exist, feeling that the changes adopted by the DNC for 2020 do not go far enough, and wishing that Vermont would adopt a plan that does not include those positions. None of those raising this concern chose to submit written comments, despite being encouraged to do so.

An additional verbal comment was conveyed by a disability rights activist at a meeting, who noted their pleasure with the increased attention paid to access issues in the Plan, and the representation goal set for people with disabilities.

Finally, our Democratic Secretary of State, James Condos, orally presented concerns about the requirement that the filing deadline for candidates to enter the Vermont Presidential Primary would have to take place during calendar year 2020. He noted that Vermont state establishes has a filing deadline of December 16, 2019 for the March 3, 2020 primary. He feels strongly that the timeframe for receiving candidate petitions, certifying those petitions and candidates, designing, printing and distributing ballots to the town election officials, etc

would make it logistically impossible for the very small staff of the Elections staff at the Secretary of State's office to comply with the 45-day requirement of the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act and Vermont's own 45-day early voting period.

As the top elections official in the state, he feels bound by the December 16, 2019 filing deadline for Presidential candidates, and supports the need for a waiver in this matter.

Attachment 2.g

A blank copy of forms to be filed with the Vermont Democratic Party for delegate and alternate candidates

Declaration of Candidacy for Delegate to the 2020 Democratic National Convention

Vermont Democratic Party

Name

Address #1

Town State Zip

Phone #1 Phone #2

Email

Presidential Candidate Preference

National Delegate Categories (Please check for each category you wish to be considered for)

- ☐ **District level (11 positions)** – filing deadline Friday, May 15, 2020 5 pm
- ☐ **At-Large (3 delegate positions/2 alternate positions)** – filing deadline, Thursday, June 4, 2020, 5 pm
- ☐ **Pledged Party Leader & Elected Official (PLEO)** – filing deadline, Thursday, June 4, 2020, 5pm

If you are filing for PLEO, indicate which category you belong to (check all that apply):

- ☐ Mayor ☐ State Legislative Leader ☐ State Legislator ☐ State Party Leader
- ☐ County Party Leader ☐ Local Party Leader ☐ County Elected official ☐ Local Elected Official

Title(s) – please specify

Demographic Information (please check all that apply)

- ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Non-binary identifying ☐ Other

- ☐ African-American ☐ Hispanic/Latinx ☐ Asian-Pacific Islander

- ☐ Native American ☐ White

- ☐ Other

☐ Person with a disability ☐ LGBTQ+ ☐ Youth (<36 years)

☐ Labor union affiliation:

☐ Other

All forms must be submitted in hard copy

by mail:

**Vermont Democratic Party
PO Box 1220 Montpelier,
Vermont 05601**

or in person:

**Vermont Democratic Party
73 Main Street Suite 400
Montpelier, VT**

Deadlines:

For district level delegates: May 15, 2020, 5 pm For PLEO
and At-Large delegates June 4, 2020, 5 pm

**Must also include signed pledge of Presidential candidate
support**

Vermont Democratic Party Signed Pledge of Presidential Candidate Support

_____ Name
_____ Address #1
_____ Town State Zip
_____ Phone #1 Phone #2
_____ Email

I hereby declare my support for this presidential candidate:

(Presidential candidate Preference)

By signing this form, I affirm that I voted in the March 3, 2020 Vermont Democratic Party Presidential Preference Primary

_____ (Signature/date)

All forms must be submitted in hard copy

by mail:

**Vermont Democratic Party PO
Box 1220 Montpelier, Vermont
05601**

or in person:
**Vermont Democratic Party 73
Main Street Suite 400
Montpelier, VT**

Deadlines: For district level delegates: May 15, 2020, 5 pm

For PLEO and At-Large delegates June 4, 2020, 5 pm

Must accompany declaration of delegate candidacy

Attachment 2.h.i.

Copies of all state statutes and other relevant legal authority reasonably applied to the Delegate Selection Process

CHAPTER 57: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS Subchapter 1: Presidential Primary

§ 2701. Presidential primary; time of holding; form of ballot

In presidential election years, a presidential primary for each major political party shall be held in all municipalities on the first Tuesday in March. The Secretary of State shall prepare and distribute for use at the primary an official ballot for each party for which one or more candidates qualify for the placing of their names on the ballot under section 2702 of this title. Ballots shall be printed on index stock and configured to be readable by vote tabulators.

§ 2702. Nominating petition

(a) The name of any person shall be printed upon the primary ballot as a candidate for nomination by any major political party if petitions signed by at least 1,000 voters in accordance with sections 2353, 2354, and 2358 of this title are filed with the Secretary of State, together with the written consent of the person to the printing of the person's name on the ballot.

(b) Petitions shall be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. on 15th day of December preceding the primary election.

(c) The petition shall be in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State.

(d) A person's name shall not be listed as a candidate on the primary ballot of more than one party in the same election.

(e) Each petition shall be accompanied by a filing fee of \$2,000.00 to be paid to the Secretary of State. However, if the petition of a candidate is accompanied by the affidavit of

the candidate, which shall be available for public inspection, that the candidate and the candidate's campaign committee are without sufficient funds to pay the filing fee, the Secretary of State shall waive all but \$300.00 of the payment of the filing fee by that candidate.

§ 2703. Examining petitions; supplementary petitions

The Secretary of State shall examine the petitions and ascertain whether they conform to the provisions of this chapter, and sections 2353, 2354, and 2358 of this title. If found not to conform, he or she shall state in writing why a particular petition cannot be accepted, and within 72 hours from receipt he or she shall return it to the candidate in whose behalf it was filed. In such case, supplementary petitions may be filed not later than 10 days after the deadline for filing petitions. However, supplementary petitions shall not be accepted if petitions with the signatures of at least 1,000 persons were not filed by the deadline for filing petitions set forth in section 2702 of this chapter.

§ 2704. Ballots

A person voting at the primary shall be required to ask for the ballot of the party in which the voter wishes to vote and an election official shall record the voter's choice of ballot by marking the entrance checklist with a letter code, as designated by the secretary of state, to indicate the voter's party choice. The names of all candidates on the ballot shall be listed in alphabetical order. Each voter may vote for one candidate for the presidential nomination of one party, either by placing a mark opposite the printed name of a candidate as in other primaries, or by writing in the name of the candidate of the voter's choice.

§ 2705. Checklist

The checklist for the primary shall be the checklist to be used at the annual town meeting, except that the names of residents of unorganized towns and gores shall be added to the checklist in the manner provided in section 2123 of this title and it shall be stated next to their names that they are eligible to vote in the presidential primary but not on town meeting items. Towns that do not hold an annual meeting on the first Tuesday or the Monday evening before the first Tuesday in March shall update their checklist before the election as required by chapter 43 of this title.

Subchapter 2: Delegates To National Convention; Presidential Nominations

§ 2715. Party convention to elect delegates

(a) The state committee of each major political party holding a national convention shall call a party convention, under rules proposed in advance and adopted by the committee, to be held during the month of May or June in each presidential election year. At the convention, delegates and alternates to the national convention of such party, to the number apportioned to this state, shall be elected by the rules adopted by each major political party.

(b) Each major political party shall adopt rules relating to the delegates and alternates of a candidate who has withdrawn as a candidate. A declaration of withdrawal shall be made in writing and becomes effective when filed with the secretary of state.

(c) Each major political party shall adopt rules relating to the manner in which the delegates elected in accordance with this section shall represent, at the national convention, the voters for whom the delegates were elected. Attachment 2.h.ii

Copies of all state statutes and other relevant legal authority reasonably related to the election of Presidential Electors

Subchapter 3: Nomination Of Electors § 2721. Nomination of presidential electors

In presidential election years, presidential electors for major political parties shall be nominated at the party platform convention held pursuant to this title. Electors for all other presidential candidates shall be nominated pursuant to subchapter 3 of chapter 49 of this title.

§ 2722. Certification of nominees for electors

After adjournment of the platform convention of a major political party, the chairman and secretary of the convention shall promptly execute a sworn statement certifying the names, towns of residence, and correct mailing addresses of the persons nominated by the convention to serve as electors, and shall promptly file the statement with the secretary of state, along with the written consent of each person to be a nominee for elector.

§ 2732. Meeting of electors

The electors shall meet at the state house on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December next following their election, to vote for president and vice president of the United States, agreeably to the laws of the United States. If there is a vacancy in the electoral college on that day, occasioned by death, refusal to act, neglect to attend, failure of a person elected to qualify, or for other cause, the other electors present shall at once fill such vacancy viva voce and by a plurality of votes. When all the electors appear or a vacancy therein is filled, the electors shall perform the duties required of them by the Constitution and laws of the United States. If a vacancy occurs and is filled as aforesaid, the electors shall attach to the certificate of their votes a statement showing how such a vacancy occurred and their action thereon. ***The electors must vote for the candidates for president and vice president who received the greatest number of votes at the general election.***

Attachment 2.i

A copy of all presidential candidate qualifying forms to be filed with the Vermont Secretary of State and with the Vermont Democratic Party

CONSENT OF CANDIDATE FORM (17 V.S.A.
§2702)

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION Each candidate for office in a **Presidential Primary on March 3, 2020**, must file a consent form with the filing

officer in order to authorize the printing of his or her name on the primary ballot.

OFFICE WHERE TO FILE President
Vermont Secretary of State

Attn: Elections 128 State Street Montpelier,
VT 05633-1101

Please complete this form carefully. This form is required by law to establish exactly how each candidate's name, state of residence, and party will appear on the ballot. The law also requires that each candidate provide us with a mailing address. You may include initials or nicknames in your name; however, titles (i.e. Doctor, Esquire, etc.) cannot appear on the ballot. It will be most helpful if you limit your name – including spaces – to no more than 24 characters.

This form is due in the Office of the Vermont Secretary of State no later than 5:00 p.m. on MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019.

I consent to having my name printed on the ballot for the office of:

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

in the State of

VERMONT My name, state of residence, and party are as follows – exactly as I want it to appear on the ballot:

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY) Name:

—

State of residence: _____ Party:

_____ Candidate's

signature: _____ Date:

_____ Mailing

Address: _____

City/Town, State,

Zip: _____ Daytime

phone: _____

Evening/weekend phone: _____

PETITION FOR NOMINATION TO PLACE NAME ON THE
BALLOT

Presidential Primary Election March 3, 2020

I join in a petition to place on the presidential primary ballot of the _____
Party, the name of _____, whose
residence is in the (city, town) of _____ in the county of
_____ in the state of _____, for the
office of President, to be voted for on Tuesday, the 3rd day of March, 2020; **and I certify that
I am at the present time a registered voter and am qualified to vote for a candidate for
this office.**

**Leave
Blank**

SIGNATURE PRINT NAME HERE TOWN OF

RESIDENCE (Where your

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED – 1,000 registered voters

WHERE TO FILE: Office of the Secretary of State Attn:
Elections

128 State Street Montpelier, VT 05633-1101

WHEN YOU FILE -17 V.S.A. § 2702(b). No later than 5:00 p.m. on MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019.

Under Vermont law, "filed" means "deposited in the regularly maintained office of the

official with whom the filing is to be made." 17 V.S.A. § 2103(13).

CONSENT FORM -17 V.S.A. §
2702(a).

A consent form stating how the candidates name will appear on the ballot should be filed with the petition no later than 5:00 p.m. on MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019.

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FILING FEE -17 V.S.A. §2702.

Each petition shall be accompanied by a filing fee of \$2,000.00 to be paid to the Vermont Secretary of State. However, if the petition of a candidate is accompanied by the affidavit of the candidate stating the candidate's campaign committee is without sufficient funds to pay the filing fee, the Secretary of State shall waive all but \$300.00 of the payment of the filing fee by that candidate.

ONE PARTY ONLY -17 V.S.A. §§2701,
2702.

You may run in only one party in the presidential primary election, and only major party candidates may run.

INFORMATION FOR SIGNERS

WHAT IT MEANS TO SIGN –

Your signature doesn't necessarily mean that you will vote for the candidate. It just means that you feel the candidate is a worthwhile person to be running in the presidential primary election.

HOW MANY PRIMARY PETITIONS YOU MAY SIGN – 17 V.S.A. § 2354. There are no restrictions on the number of petitions a voter may sign.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, please visit our website at
<http://www.sec.state.vt.us>

If you cannot find the information you need, please call the Elections Division in the Office of the Secretary of State at (800) 439-8683 (toll free within VT) or (802) 828-2363.

Attachment 2.j

A copy of the Vermont Delegate Selection Media Plan

The first, and perhaps most important, piece of our 2020 delegate selection communications plan will center around education – informing Vermonters of our processes as they pertain to the 2020 presidential primary and the delegate selection.

Education will take on multiple forms – from social media to press outreach, we will do the hard work of ensuring those who wish to know about our processes will have every resource available to do so.

This section of the plan will include building an interactive platform on the vtdemocrats.org website. The platform will provide an easy to understand account of the process by which to become a delegate and other ways to become involved in the Party throughout the primary cycle.

Press releases throughout the process to both traditional (print & broadcast) and new media (podcasts, blogs, Facebook groups, Twitter, listservs, e-newsletters, etc). The Vermont Democratic Party will work to place party leaders, Affirmative Action Committee members, and others as guests on various broadcast/internet news and discussion shows, spreading the word about participation.

New and non-traditional media outlets offer a particularly important avenue for reaching traditionally under-represented populations - especially in a small rural state with limited targeted traditional media specific to those populations. The Affirmative Action Committee will help identify, inventory, and access such important but “niche” outlets - whether that be a podcast by/for LGBTQ+ Vermonters of color, a listserv for racial justice activists, college and high school media, a union newsletter, or a deaf community social media group.

We will use these additional outlets to augment our existing party media list of Vermont print, broadcast, internet media, and of individual reporters to create a more far reaching education and publicity effort than previously possible for the Party.

Crucial to the success of our delegate selection plan is an open and transparent process – a process that engages Vermonters with the Party and with the primary election.

Engagement will take on many shapes, from creative social media content featuring delegates of cycles-past (from diverse backgrounds and areas of the state), to showing up in every county with an exciting message about the future of our party.

We will time our various media messages and outreach around the phases of our delegate selection process. In the lead-up to the March 3, 2020 Democratic Presidential Preference Primary, we will focus on making sure Vermoners know that any registered voter in that state can vote in the primary (and that early voting and same-day registration make that open to everyone). That messaging will also emphasize that voting in the Democratic primary on March 3rd is a requirement to participate further in the process. (We will also attempt to partner with the various Presidential campaigns to encourage their supporters to hear the same message.)

After the primary, the focus will shift to reaching out to explain and encourage participation in the April 21st town Democratic caucuses and the May 30th state convention, and how they tie in to the actual opportunity to run for delegate, or to help select those who will represent Vermont and their preferred Presidential candidate in Milwaukee.

During this period we will also be working closely with County and Town Chairs to help them effectively utilize local media resources to spread the word. Vermont has a statewide network of on-line neighborhood discussion forums (“Front Porch Forum”) and similar outlets - the Party will provide templates and hints for effective use of these hyper-local resources to encourage participation.

Further, it is our goal to produce supplemental materials to aid in the dissemination of our 2020 delegate selection plan – materials that can be distributed to party leaders and actors across the state.

A key tenet to accomplishing a successful delegate selection process will be the inclusion of traditionally underrepresented voices. To successfully achieve that goal, we have developed a strong Affirmative Action Committee – managed by some of our most seasoned leaders.

Party leaders and staff plan to provide the committee with time, energy, and resources in an effort to expand the committee’s role beyond reaching our representation goals. It is our hope that the committee, in partnership with party staff, will serve a major outreach function throughout and beyond the entire 2020 delegate selection process.

TO: Lorraine Miller, James Roosevelt, and the Members of the RBC

FROM: Terje Anderson, Chair, Vermont Democratic Party

RE: Vermont request for exemption from Rule 12 B and Rule 15.E (Deadline for
Presidential candidate filing date)

DATE: 3 June 2019

Vermont Law specifies that the filing date for Presidential candidates to be placed on the ballot for the March 3, 2020 Vermont Democratic Presidential Preference Primary is

December 16, 2019. “ **§ 2702. Nominating petition**

(a) The name of any person shall be printed upon the primary ballot as a candidate for nomination by any major political party if petitions signed by at least 1,000 voters in accordance with sections 2353, 2354, and 2358 of this title are filed with the Secretary of State, together with the written consent of the person to the printing of the person's name on the ballot.

(b) Petitions shall be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. on 15th day of December preceding the primary election.”*

* Because December 15, 2019 falls on a Sunday, state law makes provision to extend the deadline to Monday, December 16, 2019

This date is both outside of the “calendar year of the Democratic National Convention” (Rule 12.B) and “more than 75 days in advance of the primary...” (Rule 15.E). (December 16, 2019 is 78 days prior).

We are advised by our Democratic Secretary of State that it would be impossible to move the filing deadline to January 2020, as that would only provide two weeks for the Secretary of State’s election staff to receive, review and certify the petitions and to design, print, and distribute the Presidential primary ballots and still be in compliance with the requirements of the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE) and Vermont’s only 45 day early voting period.

Similarly, he advises us that - while not legally possible - moving the deadline by 3 or more days to be within the 75 day window would place most of the activity during the Christmas/

Hanukkah/ New Year's holiday season when office closures and staff absences would adversely impact the office's ability to meet the deadlines for candidate certification and ballot design, printing and distribution.

We therefore request a waiver from Rule 12.B and 15.E to allow Vermont's March 3, 2020

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Presidential Preference Primary, with a 5 p.m. December 16, 2019 Presidential candidate filing deadline, to be used as the first determining step in our 2020 Delegate Selection Plan and process.

We would be happy to provide any additional information or documentation you may need to consider this request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Terje Anderson Chair, Vermont
Democratic Party

Development of Vermont 2020 Vermont Delegate Selection representation goals - Overview

African-Americans

2018 US Census population estimate: 1.5% of state population was African-American (either solely - 1.0% - or African-American mixed race 0.5%)

Lacking reliable local data about voting patterns by race/ethnicity, the Vermont Democratic Party extrapolated from national exit polls and other sources that African-American voting patterns result in greater levels of Democratic support than white voters. We doubled the % of African-Americans in the population to account for that greater Democratic strength as well as possible Census undercounting, creating an estimated 3% of the Vermont Democratic electorate being African-American. (This may overestimate the actual percentage - Vermont is one of the very few states in the country where whites vote heavily Democratic. But we in order to ensure a delegation that helps represent the full diversity of Vermont, we want to set a goal of at least 1 African-American delegation member).

Hispanics

2018 US Census population estimate: 1.5% of the Vermont population was Hispanic

Lacking reliable local data about voting patterns by race/ethnicity, the Vermont Democratic Party extrapolated from national exit polls and other sources that Hispanic voting patterns result in greater levels of Democratic support than white/Anglo voters. We doubled the % of Hispanics in the population to account for that greater Democratic strength as well as possible Census undercounting, creating an estimated 3% of the Vermont Democratic electorate being Hispanics. (This may overestimate the actual percentage - Vermont is one of the very few states in the country where whites vote heavily Democratic. But we in order to ensure a delegation that helps represent the full diversity of Vermont, we want to set a goal of at least 1 Hispanic delegation member).

Native Americans

2018 US Census estimate: 1.2% (0.4% solely Native American, 0.8% mixed race including Native American)

Lacking reliable local data about voting patterns by race/ethnicity, the Vermont Democratic Party extrapolated from national exit polls and other sources that Native American voting patterns result in greater levels of Democratic support than white voters. We doubled the % of Native Americans in the population to account for that greater Democratic strength as well as possible Census undercounting, creating an estimated 2.5% of the Vermont Democratic electorate being Native American. (This may overestimate the actual percentage - Vermont is one of the very few states in the country where whites vote heavily Democratic. But we in order to ensure a delegation that helps represent the full diversity of Vermont, we want to set a goal of at least 1 Native delegation member).

Asian/Pacific Islander

2018 US Census estimate: 1.7% (1.3% solely Asian/Pacific Islander, 0.4% mixed race including Asian)

Lacking reliable local data about voting patterns by race/ethnicity, the Vermont Democratic Party extrapolated from national exit polls and other sources that Asian/Pacific Islander voting patterns result in greater levels of Democratic support than white voters. We doubled the % of Asian/Pacific Islanders in the population to account for that greater Democratic strength as well as possible Census undercounting, creating an estimated 3% of the Vermont Democratic electorate being Asian/Pacific Islander (This may overestimate the actual percentage - Vermont is one of the very few states in the country where whites vote heavily Democratic. But we in order to ensure a delegation that helps represent the full diversity of Vermont, we want to set a goal of at least 1 Asian/Pacific Islander delegation member).

LGBTQ+

Lacking meaningful Census data, we relied on state LGBTQ population estimates from the Williams Institute, a respected think tank studying the LGBTQ community, which relied on self-identification in a large national Gallup tracking poll.

Williams Institute put the LGBTQ population in the state as 5.2% of the total population.

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/visualization/lgbt-stats/?topic=LGBT&area=50#density>

From that estimate, we extrapolated using national data. The Williams Institute national LGBTQ estimate is 4.5% of the population. 2018 exit polls measured 6% of the national electorate identified as LGBTQ, and that 82% of those voted Democratic. Applying these same ratios to Vermont, we estimate that the 5.2% of the state population that identifies as LGBTQ constitute approximately 8% of the Vermont Democratic electorate.

This creates a representation goal of at least 2 LGBTQ delegates

Youth - (up to 35)

The 2018 US Census estimates show 21.9% of the Vermont population to be under the age of 35. Of the population 17 and older, 27% are under 35.

Applying national turnout numbers and Democratic strength among young voters 18-35 to the Vermont population numbers, we estimate that 23% of Vermont Democratic voters are in this age range.

This creates a representation goal of at least 6 youth delegates for 2020.

* After feedback from the Party Affairs staff to the original Vermont Affirmative Action Plan that this may not provide sufficient youth representation, the Committee revisited this number and increased the minimum youth representation goal from 6 to 7.

People with disabilities

National data varies, but reliable estimates that people with disabilities constitute approximately 15% of the US population.

The 2017 American Community Survey from the Census estimates that 15% of the Vermont population are people with disabilities.

<http://www.disabilitystatistics.org/reports/acs.cfm?statistic=1> population consists of people with disabilities.

Using data about turnout from the 2018 election a Rutgers University study (<https://smlr.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/2018disabilityturnout.pdf>), that showed lower voting participation by voters with disabilities, coupled with likely slightly increased Democratic voting strength, we estimate that the share of the Democratic electorate consisting of people with disabilities to be approximately the same as the share of the population: 15%.

This creates a representation goal of 4 of the 24 delegates.