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### RI DEMOCRATIC PARTY OKS STATE DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN

*Long-range Committee Approves Foundation Document for 2016 DNC; Formal Review by National Democratic Rules & Bylaws Committee*

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – In compliance with the national Democratic Party guidelines for each of the fifty states and in an effort to make the 2016 Democratic National Convention as inclusive and representative as possible, the Rhode Island Democratic Party submitted its [Rhode Island Delegate Selection Plan](#) today.

The Plan for the Convention, which is slated to be held in late July 2016, includes specific steps for identifying its 31 delegates and two alternates, and required review and input by both the state party's Affirmative Action Committee and its Long-range Planning Committee.

The mission of the Plan is to ensure that each state makes aggressive outreach to its typically under-represented communities: women, minorities, Hispanic, African American, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, disabled, LGBTQ, youth and elder populations, and enables all voters who wish to take part as Democrats, vote on who will represent them at the DNC, when the presidential and vice presidential nominees are chosen.

It sets out timelines, in conformance with national Democratic standards, about when and how voters can get involved in the "state-government-run presidential preference primary," including how to become a presidential candidate (filing dates for the statement of intent for Election Year 2016 are no earlier than January 21, 2016 and no later than January 23, 2016.)

Within the Plan are details about the process and timeline for District-Level Delegates - both uncommitted and committed, and ensures equal division among women and men in each .

[The Plan](#) is available online for review, and was posted for the 30-day public comment period: only one entity responded to that call for comment – the national Stonewall Democrats – which offered proposed 13.1 percent participation by the LGBTQ community.

Unpledged delegates include: members of the DNC who legally reside in Rhode Island, Democratic President and Democratic Vice President (if applicable,) all of Rhode Island’s Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, the Democratic Governor, “Distinguished Party Leader” delegates such as 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 all former Chairs of the DNC.

Rhode Island is also allotted 3 pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates according to priority: “big city mayors, state-wide elected officials and state legislative leaders; state legislators; state and local elected officials; and party leaders. An individual can also qualify by submitting a statement of request to the RI Democratic Party at 30 Kennedy Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Providence, RI 02903 / PO Box 6004, Providence, RI 02940 by 4 p.m. May 11, 2016.

The Rhode Island convention delegation will also include the Chair and two pages.

During the next several months, the DNC Rules & Bylaws Committee will be reviewing each of the state plans, and by September 15, 2015, will take final action on those plans; at which point, each state will begin implementing their Affirmative Action Plans to assure outreach to the “under-represented populations.” That outreach will include use of electronic, print and social media; public meetings; surrogate presentations before community groups; creation of a voter guide on how, where and when persons can register to vote, and delegate district maps.

The Party will disseminate information online and through state communications, regular releases and wire services. Priority effort will be made using minority, women and non-English media and outreach. The Party will also make a concerted effort to post and make available copies of the State Party Rules, Delegate Selection Plan and attachments, Affirmative Action Committee Plan. Relevant state statutes and copies of the State Party process and AAC will be disseminated widely.

According to [Rhode Island’s Plan](#) and based on adjusted combined data from our voter file for the percent of representation in the Democratic electorate, the numeric goals for participation are: 2 African Americans, 5 Hispanics, 1 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and 2 Youth (under 36 years of age.) “When selecting the at-large portion of the delegation, the

demographic composition of the other delegates shall be compared with the State Party's goals to achieve an at-large selection process that helps to bring a representative balance." (p.30.)

Challenges to the status of the State Party or the Plan can be made within 15 days of its adoption (by May 14,) by filing with the Chair of the Rhode Island Democratic Party and the co-Chairs of the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the DNC.

A complete timeline for the drafting and implementation of the [2016 Delegate Selection Plan](#) can be found on page 37 of that online document. For more information, visit <http://ridemocrats.org/about-the-party/convention.html>.

**\*\*\*COVERAGE INVITED\*\*\***

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