



**RHODE ISLAND  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

# **2020 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN**

**The Rhode Island Democratic Party’s Delegate Selection Plan  
For the 2020 Democratic National Convention**

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# Section I

## Introduction & Description of Delegate Selection Process

### A. Introduction

1. Rhode Island has a total of 30 delegates 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 Rhode Island, the Rhode Island General Laws, and this Delegate Selection Plan. *(Call II.A)*
3. Following the Rhode Island Democratic Party Executive Committee’s adoption of this Delegate Selection Plan, the Rhode Island Democratic Party shall submit the Plan for review and approval by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee (“RBC”). The Rhode Island Democratic 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 Rhode Island Democratic 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party must be submitted to and approved by the RBC before it becomes effective. *(Reg. 2.9)*

### B. Description of Delegate Selection Process

1. Rhode Island will use a proportional representation system based on the results of the Presidential Preference Primary for apportioning delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention.
2. The “first determining step” of Rhode Island’s delegate selection process will occur on April 28, 2020, with a Presidential Preference Primary.

### C. Voter Participation

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

- a. Rhode Island voters interested in participating in the delegate selection process must register at least 30 days prior to the filing deadline. In the case of Election Year 2020, potential delegates would need to register by January 28, 2020 in order to participate. NOTE: this differs from the voter registration deadline which is 30 days prior to the primary date, or March 29, 2020.
  - b. Participation in Rhode Island’s delegate selection process is open to all voters who wish to participate as Democrats. Democrats are identified as those registered on the Rhode Island voter registration rolls as Democrats. Unaffiliated voters who wish to vote in the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary may do so in accordance with Rhode Island election laws.
    - i. Unaffiliated registered voters are automatically affiliated with the Democratic Party upon their Democratic Primary vote in accordance with Rhode Island election laws. (Rules 2.A. & Reg. 4.3.A) (R.I.G.L. §17-9.1-23C)
  - c. 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 Rhode Island’s delegate selection process shall any person be required, directly or indirectly, to pay a cost or fee as a condition for participating. Voluntary contributions to the Party may be made, but under no circumstances shall a contribution be mandatory for participation. (*Rule 2.D & Reg. 4.4*)
  - 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*)
2. The Rhode Island Democratic Party is committed to advancing all efforts to enhance voter and election security. To that end, the Party and its members have submitted legislation and supported administrative rules that are designed to accomplish the following seven goals:
- a. Maintain secure and accurate state voter registration rolls, so that every eligible American who registers to vote has their personal information protected and secure; (*Rule 2.H.1*)

- 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)*
  - c. Promote the acquisition, maintenance, and regular replacement of precinct based optical scan voting systems; *(Rule 2.H.3)*
  - d. Ensure that any direct recording electronic systems in place have a voter verified paper record; *(Rule 2.H.4)*
  - e. Implement risk limiting post-election audits such as manual audits comparing paper records to electronic records; *(Rule 2.H.5)*
  - f. Ensure that all voting systems have recognized security measures; *(Rule 2.H.6)*
  - g. Use accessible and secure voting machines that make it possible for individuals with disabilities to vote securely and privately. *(Rule 2.H.7)*
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 Rhode Island Democratic Party is taking steps to establish, with DNC assistance, year-round voter protection programs to support educational, administrative, legislative, and litigation-based efforts to protect and expand the vote and advance election fairness and security, including the six goals set forth below. *(Rule 2.I and 2.I.1)*
- a. Expand access to voting, including by early voting, no excuse absentee, same-day voter registration, and voting by mail. Currently, under Rhode Island law, voters may cast their ballots by mail. To do so, they simply must request a mail ballot application. All mail ballot applications must be filled out completely and received by the local board of canvassers no later than 4:00 P.M. on the 21st day before the election in which the voter intends to vote. Additionally, if circumstances arise within 20 days of an election, voters can apply for a no-excuse emergency mail ballot and either physically vote at their local board of canvassers until 4 P.M. on the day before the election or mail in their emergency ballot into the Rhode Island Board of Elections before 8pm on Election Day. *(Rule 2.I.1.a)*
  - b. Ensure that voting locations are accessible, fairly placed, and adequate in number, and have a sufficient number of voting machines; *(Rule 2.I.1.b)*
  - c. Speed up the voting process and minimize long lines; *(Rule 2.I.1.c)*
  - d. Eliminate onerous and discriminatory voter identification requirements; *(Rule 2.I.1.d)*
  - e. Count and include in the final total ballots from voters who are eligible to vote but cast their ballots in the wrong precinct, for offices for which they are eligible to vote; and *(Rule 2.I.1.e)*

- f. Facilitate military and overseas voting. *(Rule 2. I.1.f)*
  - g. Moreover, the Rhode Island Democratic Party intends to run active Early Vote programs before and during Early Vote periods, lobby for expanded Early Vote dates and early in-person voting, host a dedicated year-round voter protection hotline, and encourage the expansion of polling locations, particularly in more rural sections of our state.
4. As part of encouraging participation in the delegate selection process by registered voters, the Rhode Island Democratic Party supports efforts to make voter registration easier, including supporting: *(Rule 2.I.2)*
- a. Voter registration modernization, including online voter registration and automatic and same-day registration; *(Rule 2.I.2.a)*
  - b. Pre-registration of high school students so that they are already registered once they reach voting age; *(Rule 2.I.2.b)*
  - c. Restoration of voting rights to all people who have served the time for their criminal conviction, without requiring the payment of court fees or fines; *(Rule 2.I.2.c)* and
  - d. Same-day or automatic registration of voters for the Democratic presidential nominating process.] *(Rule 2.I.2.d)*
  - e. During the entirety of the delegate selection process, the Rhode Island Democratic party will support the initiatives described in Section I.C.4a-c by investing resources into broadcasting information related to the affected populations and lobbying for the passage of legislation that would allow the activities described in Section I.C.4.d.
5. To ensure an open and inclusive process and resist attempts at voter suppression and disenfranchisement, the Rhode Island Democratic Party will be convening a bylaws committee to investigate ways to strengthen and Rhode Island Democratic Party rules and advocating for legislation to allow same-day party switching for the Democratic presidential nominating process. *(Rule 2.J and Rule 2.J.1)*
6. Scheduling of Delegate Selection Meetings
- The dates, times and places for all official Party meetings and events related to the state's delegate selection process must be scheduled to encourage the participation of all Democrats. Such meetings must begin and end at reasonable hours. *(Rule 3.A & Reg. 4.)*

## Section II Presidential Candidates

### A. Ballot Access

A presidential candidate gains access to the Rhode Island presidential preference primary ballot by the following:

Submitting a statement of intent to the Rhode Island Democratic Party and the Secretary of State no earlier than January 23, 2020 and no later than January 25, 2020 (Rule 1.A.7).<sup>1</sup>

1. This statement of intent shall include the candidate's name, address, and a statement affirming their eligibility fulfill the office of President of the United States. As designated by Rhode Island General Laws, Title 17, Section 17-12.1-4.
  - a. Upon the receipt of their statement of intent, a candidate for president will be provided petition papers by the RI Secretary of State Elections Division, 148 West River St., Providence, RI 02904, by no later than 6 p.m. on the same day upon receipt of the statement of intent of those eligible to serve, 2 p.m. on Saturday. The petition paper of a candidate for president shall be signed, in the aggregate, by at least one thousand (1,000) eligible voters and shall be submitted on or before 4 p.m. on February 6, 2020 to the local city or town board of canvasser where the signers reside. Further information is also available with the RI Democratic Party, PO Box 6004, Providence, RI 02940. As designated by Rhode Island General Laws, Title 17, Section 17-12.1-4. (Rule 1.A.8)
  - b. If any candidate whose name has been announced as a presidential nominee does not thereafter wish his or her name to appear on the ballot, the candidate shall, at least sixty-three (63) days prior to the date of the primary, February 25, 2020, file an affidavit with the Secretary of State stating his or her name may not be placed on the ballot and the Secretary of State shall not place the candidate's name on the ballot. Names of delegates committed to the withdrawn candidate, who are otherwise qualified, shall appear on the ballot as uncommitted.

*(Rule 11.C, Rule 14.A, Rule 14.C, Rule 14.D, Rule 14.E, & Rule 15.H)*

### B. Other Requirements

1. Each presidential candidate shall certify in writing to the Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair, the name(s) of their authorized representative(s) by January 25, 2020.  
*(Rule 13.D.1)*

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<sup>1</sup> The final day for statement of intent filings for Election Year 2020 falls on a Saturday. In this instance, presidential candidates must submit their statements of intent no later than noon (12:00 pm) on Saturday; petition papers will be prepared by 2 p.m.

2. Each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) shall use their best efforts to ensure that their respective delegation within the state delegation achieves the affirmative action, outreach and inclusion goals established by this Plan and is equally divided between men and women. *(Rule 6.I)*

## Section III Selection of Delegates and Alternates

### A. District-Level Delegates

1. Rhode Island is allocated 14 district-level delegates. *(Rule 8.C, Call I.B, I.I, & Appendix B)*
2. District-level delegates shall be elected by a two-part primary (a presidential preference primary that includes the election of delegates). This Presidential Preference Primary shall occur on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.
3. Apportionment of District-Level Delegates
  - a. Rhode Island’s district-level delegates are apportioned among the districts based on a formula giving equal weight to total population and to the average vote for the Democratic candidates in the 2012 and 2016 presidential elections. This apportionment reflects the largest number of registered Democrats in the state and provides the best opportunity for broad participation in the process for selection of delegates. *(Rule 8.A, Reg. 4.12, Reg. 4.11 & Appendix A)*
  - b. The number of men and the number of women in the state’s total number of district-level delegates and alternates will not vary by more than one. *(Rule 6.C.1 & Reg. 4.9)*
  - c. The district-level delegates are apportioned to districts as indicated in the following table:

District	Delegates		
	Males*	Females*	Total
#1	3	4	7
#2	3	4	7
Total	6	8	14

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

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. Candidates for district-level delegate must declare their party affiliation upon the statement of candidacy and only candidates that have a party affiliation of Democrat as of February 27, 2020 registered are allowed to participate, consistent with Rhode Island General Laws, Title 17, Section 14.1.1. *(Rule 13.H)*

- b. An individual can qualify as a candidate for district-level delegate to the 2020 Democratic National Convention by filing a statement of candidacy designating his or her singular presidential (or uncommitted) preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) with the State Party by fulfilling the requirements as outlined in the Rhode Island General Laws, Title 17, Section 12.1, as amended. (*Rule 13.B, Rule 15.F & Reg. 4.23*) Additionally, an individual can modify their presidential preference by submitting an updated pledge to the Rhode Island Democratic Party before the filing deadline.
- c. From February 26, 2020 until 4 p.m. on February 27, 2020, preceding the Presidential Preference Primary, each voter desiring to be a delegate at the forthcoming convention shall file a declaration of candidacy with the Rhode Island Secretary of State, Elections Division, 148 West River Street, Providence, RI 02904. Declaration forms may be obtained from the Secretary of State's office and will be available the first week of February 2020. They may be mailed or delivered in person to the aforementioned address. Original signatures are required, so fax or email are not acceptable. Candidates should also bear in mind that mailing the form does not guarantee it will arrive on time. Said form requires the following (R.I.G.L. §17-12.1-3):
  - i. The voter to sign one's name as it appears on the voting list.
  - ii. Print one's name and address as they appear on the voting list, party designation, place of birth and length of residence in the state and in the city or town in which one resides.
  - iii. A statement that, if elected, one would comply with all party rules of the Rhode Island and national committees of the Democratic Party.
  - iv. A pledge of support form provided by the RI Democratic Party to the Secretary of State must simultaneously be filed with the declaration of candidacy form. Copies in Attachment 8.
  - v. Upon receipt of the Declaration of Candidacy form, the Secretary of State shall prepare nomination papers for each candidate who has qualified. By 4 p.m. the next business day after filing, the RI Secretary of State must deliver nomination papers to the proper candidate or to such persons designated in writing. (R.I.G.L. §17-12.1-5)
  - vi. The nomination papers of a qualified candidate for delegate to the Democratic National Convention shall be signed, in the aggregate, by at least one hundred fifty (150) qualified Democratic voters from the Congressional District from which said voter seeks to be a delegate. (R.I.G.L. §17-12.1-6)
  - vii. Each nomination paper shall be submitted on or before 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 to the local board of canvassers of

the city or town where the signers appear to be voters. The nomination papers shall be checked, processed, and certified to the Secretary of State by the local boards before 4 p.m. on Friday, March 3, 2020. (R.I.G.L. §17-12.1-7)

viii. The number of signatures required in the aforementioned districts do not exceed one half of one percent (.5%) of the registered/enrolled Democrats in the district or one half of one percent (.5%) of the total votes in such districts for all Democratic presidential candidates (including uncommitted) cast during the 2016 presidential nominating process. (Rule 14.C.)

ix. Candidates for delegate positions are required to file a statement of candidacy designating their presidential or uncommitted preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) with the Rhode Island Democratic Party and the Rhode Island Secretary of State by 4 p.m. at the same time as the declaration of candidacy filing. (R.I.G.L. §17-12.1-3).

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

- a. The Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than March 4, 2020 at 4pm, 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair by March 6, 2020 at 4pm, a list of all such candidates they have approved. (*Rule 13.E.1, Reg. 4.24 & Reg. 4.25*) The presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), may approve a number of delegate candidates equal to or greater than the number of delegates allocated to the district. (*Rule 13.E.1*)
- 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair not later than March 6, 2020 at 4pm.
- 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 at that level pledged to that presidential candidate. (*Rule 13.E & Reg. 4.24*)
- e. The Rhode Island Democratic Party 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

- a. Presidential Primary - Proportional Representation Plan (*Rule 14.A, Rule 14.B & Rule 14.D*) The Rhode Island presidential primary election is a “binding” primary. Accordingly, delegate positions shall be allocated so as to fairly reflect the expressed presidential (or uncommitted) preference of the primary voters in each 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.
- b. Within a 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*)
- c. If a presidential candidate is to be allocated delegate(s) but cannot reach this goal because of the lack of delegate candidates, the Democratic State committee shall elect such delegates using the following procedures:
  - (1) All persons wishing to be a delegate candidate must file a statement of candidacy form designating the presidential or uncommitted preference and a signed pledge of support form for the presidential candidate the person favors, if any, with the Rhode Island Democratic Party on April 30, 2020 or before 4 p.m. on May 1, 2020. (*Rule 12.G.*) The state chairman shall convey to the presidential candidate or that candidate’s authorized representative no later than 4 p.m. on May 4, 2020, a list of all persons who have filed a delegate pledge of support form to the presidential candidate.
  - (2) Each presidential candidate’s authorized representative or steering committee shall cause to be transmitted to the Rhode Island Democratic State Chair on or before 4 p.m. on May 6, 2020, documentation that said delegate candidate has the approval of such candidate for presidential nominee.
  - (3) 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 to that presidential candidate at that level.
  - (4) The selection of these delegates must take place prior to the selection of pledged party leader and elected official delegates and at-large delegates on June 13, 2020. Members of the RI Democratic State Committee shall elect delegates if needed on June 7. (*Rule 14.C*)

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) delegate positions within each district will be designated by presidential preference beginning with the highest vote-getting presidential preference. This assignment of delegate positions, will continue with the next highest vote-getting preferences in descending order, with positions assigned to either male or female alternating by gender as mathematically practicable, until the gender of each position has been assigned. In the case of non-binary gender delegates, they shall not be counted in either the male or female category. (*Rule 6.C., Rule 6.C.1 & Reg. 4.10*)

*To ensure that the number of male and female (binary) identifying delegates in the district vary by no more than one within each presidential candidate's delegation, Rhode Island will use a dual system. Since both districts have an odd number of delegates, the first delegate selected for the winning presidential preference must be of the same gender as the advantaged gender in that district. Following that determination, the allocation would continue alternating by gender for the winning presidential preference and any subsequent preferences.*

8. The Rhode Island Democratic Party 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 Rhode Island'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; (*Rule 9.A.4, Call I.H & Call I.J*)
- 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair the names of the Automatic delegates who legally reside in Rhode Island. *(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 Rhode Island Democratic Party 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. Rhode Island is allotted 3 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 submitting a statement of request to the Rhode Island Democratic Party at 200 Metro Center Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02886 on or before 4 p.m. on April 29, 2020. *(Rule 10.A.3, Rule 15.G, Reg.4.18 & Reg. 4.17)*
3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
  - a. The Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than May 1, 2020 at 4pm, 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair, by 4 p.m. on May 4, 2020, a list of all such candidates they have approved, as long as approval is given to at least one (1) name 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair not later than 4 p.m. on May 4, 2020. (*Rule 13.D*)
  - d. Rhode Island Democratic Party 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 on May 17, 2020 at a time and location that will be publicly announced. This selection prior to the selection of at-large delegates and alternates on a simple majority vote of the qualified members of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee.
  - c. These delegates will be selected by the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee (*Rule 10.B*), provided that:
    - (1) Membership on the State Party Committee is apportioned on the basis of population and/or some measure of Democratic strength. Members of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee are elected in the following way:
      - (a) One (1) woman and one (1) man from each General Assembly representative district are elected in the primary held to nominate a candidate for governor
      - (b) Eighteen (18) at large members: four (4) minority, two (2) LGBT, three (3) women and three (3) men from each congressional district recommended by Chair and voted on by State Committee
      - (c) Five (5) state general officers when Democrats
      - (d) Four (4) federal office holders when Democrat
      - (e) One (1) woman and one (1) man as national party representatives

- (f) Thirty-nine (39) Chairs of city and town committees, elected by voters within said city or town and certified by State Committee
  - (g) Three (3) members of Rhode Island House of Representatives, appointed by highest ranking Democrat in the House
  - (h) Three (3) members of Rhode Island Senate, appointed by highest ranking Democrat in Senate
  - (i) the Mayor of the City of Providence; the City of Johnston; the City of North Providence; the City of Cumberland; the City of Pawtucket; the City of Warwick; the City of Cranston; when such officers are Democrats
  - (j) President of Rhode Island Young Democrats
  - (k) President of College Democrats of Rhode Island (*Rule 10.B.1 & Reg. 4.18.A*)
- (b) Members of the State Party Committee have been elected through open processes in conformity with the basic procedural guarantees utilized for delegate selection. With the exception of at-large and appointed members of the State Party Committee, all members are elected using a process that mirrors the election of delegates for this convention. Specifically, they must all file candidate declarations, receive nomination papers, and collect signatures to qualify for the ballot. There are no fees for running on the ballot for any of these offices. (*Rule 10.B.2 & Reg. 4.18.B*)
- (c) Such delegates are elected at a public meeting subsequent to the election of district-level delegates. Selection of the pledged PLEO delegates will occur on June 13, 2020 at a time and location that will be publicly announced. This selection occurs after the election of district-level delegates and prior to the selection of at-large delegates and alternates. (*Rule 10.B.3*)
- (d) All members of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee have been elected and certified on March 24, 2019. (*Rule 10.B.4 & Reg. 4.18.B*)
- (e) Membership of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee complies with the equal division requirements of Article 9, Section 16 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States. Specifically, a majority of members of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee are elected in the following way: one (1) woman and one (1) man from each General Assembly representative district are elected in the primary held to nominate a candidate for governor. (*Rule 10.B.5 & Reg. 4.18.C*)
5. The Rhode Island Democratic Party 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 Rhode Island is allotted 2 at-large delegates and 2 at-large alternates. *(Rule 8.C, Call I.B, II, Appendix B & Reg. 4.34)*
2. At-Large Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements
  - a. Persons desiring to seek at-large delegate or alternate positions may file a statement of candidacy designating their singular presidential or uncommitted preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) with the Rhode Island Democratic Party on or before 4 p.m. on April 29, 2020. 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)*
  - 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 Rhode Island Democratic State Committee, 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than 11:59pm on May 17, 2020, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. *(Rule 13.D) (Reg. 4.24.D & Reg. 4.31.C)*
  - b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair, by 11:59pm on May 18, 2020 a list of all such candidates they have approved, provided that, at a minimum, one (1) name remain(s) 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair not later than 11:59pm on May 18, 2020.
  - d. The Rhode Island Democratic Party 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:
  - (1) the state-wide 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 I.I & Reg. 4.33)*

#### 5. Selection of At-Large Delegates and Alternates

- a. The selection of the at-large delegates and alternates will occur on *May 17, 2020 at a meeting of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee at a location to be determined*, which is after all pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates have been selected. *At the meeting, all qualified members of the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee will elect both at-large delegates and at-large alternates by simple majority vote. This vote will take place after the election of all PLEOs. (Call III)*
- c. These delegates and alternates will be selected by the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee. *(Rule 11.B & Rule 11.B)*
  - (1) See III.C.4.C.3 above
- d. 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's at-large delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within 10 days after their election. *(Rule 8.C & Call IV.A)*

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

1. A pledged delegate or alternate may be replaced according to the following guidelines:
  - a. Permanent Replacement of a Delegate: *(Rule 19.D.3)*
    - (1) A permanent replacement occurs when a delegate resigns or dies prior to or during the national convention and the alternate replaces the delegate for the remainder of the National Convention.
    - (2) Any alternate permanently replacing a delegate shall be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) and gender of the delegate they replace, and to the extent possible shall be from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.
      - (a) In the case where the presidential candidate has only one (1) alternate, that alternate shall become the certified delegate.
      - (b) If a presidential candidate has only one (1) alternate, and that alternate permanently replaces a delegate of a different gender, thereby causing the delegation to no longer be equally divided, the delegation shall not be considered in violation of Rule 6.C. In such a case, notwithstanding Rule 19.D.2, the Rhode Island Democratic State 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 Rhode Island Democratic 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 (including uncommitted status) as the delegate they replace, and to the extent possible shall be of the same gender and from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.
  - b. The following system will be used to select permanent and temporary replacements of delegates: The delegation chooses the alternate. (*Rule 19.D.1*)
  - 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party 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 the Rhode Island Democratic Party's 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 (or uncommitted status), of the same gender and, to the extent possible, from the same political subdivision as the alternate being replaced. *(Rule 19.E)*
2. Automatic delegates shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except under the following circumstances: *(Call IV.D.2 & Reg. 4.37)*
    - a. Members of Congress and the Democratic Governor shall not be entitled to name a replacement. In the event of changes or vacancies in the state's Congressional Delegation, following the official confirmation and prior to the commencement of the National Convention, the DNC Secretary shall recognize only such changes as have been officially recognized by the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives or the Democratic Conference of the U.S. Senate. In the event of a change or vacancy in the state's office of Governor, the DNC shall recognize only such changes as have been officially recognized by the Democratic Governors' Association. *(Call IV.D.2.a)*
    - b. Members of the Democratic National Committee shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except in the case of death of such delegates. In the case where the state's DNC membership changes following the DNC Secretary's official confirmation, but prior to the commencement of the 2020 Democratic National Convention, acknowledgment by the Secretary of the new DNC member certification shall constitute verification of the corresponding change of Automatic delegates. *(Call, IV.D.2.b)*
    - c. 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. Rhode Island has been allocated 1 member on the three (3) standing committees for the 2020 Democratic National Convention (Credentials, Platform and Rules), for a total of 1 member. *(Call VII.A & Appendix D)*
2. Members of the Convention Standing Committees need not be delegates or alternates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention. *(Call VII.A.3)*
3. These members will be selected in accordance with the procedures indicated below. *(Rule 1.G)*

#### **B. Standing Committee Members**

1. Selection Meeting
  - a. The members of the standing committees shall be elected by a quorum Rhode Island's National Convention delegates, at a meeting to be held on June 6, 2020. *(Call VII.B.1)*
  - b. All members of the delegation shall receive adequate notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the standing committee members. *(Call VII.B.1)*
2. Allocation of Members
  - a. The members of the standing committees allocated to Rhode Island shall proportionately represent the presidential preference of all candidates (including uncommitted status) receiving the threshold percentage used in the state's delegation to calculate the at-large apportionment pursuant to Rule 14.E. of the Delegate Selection Rules. *(Call VII.C.1 & Reg. 5.9)*
  - b. The presidential preference of each candidate receiving the applicable percentage or more within the delegation shall be multiplied by the total number of standing committee positions allocated to Rhode Island. 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair, by June 3, 2020 at 4pm, a minimum of (1) name for each slot awarded to that candidate for members of each committee. The delegation shall select the standing committee members from among names submitted by the presidential candidates (including uncommitted status). Presidential candidates shall not be required to submit the name of more than one (1) person for each slot awarded to such candidate for members of standing committees. *(Call VII.D.2)*

### 4. Selection Procedure to Achieve Equal Division

- a. Presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) shall use their best efforts to ensure that their respective delegation of standing committee members shall achieve Rhode Island'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.I & Reg. 4.10)*
- b. The first binary gender position on each standing committee shall be assigned by binary gender as self-identified. For example, the first binary position on the Credentials Committee of the presidential candidate with the most standing committee positions shall be designated for a male, and the next binary position, if one occurs, will be designated for a female, and the remaining binary positions, to the extent they occur, shall be designated in like fashion, alternating between males and females, where applicable. For avoidance of doubt: there is no requirement that positions be assigned to gender non-binaries, but the described alternation of binary genders may not be used to exclude a gender non-binary from consideration for a committee position. Positions for presidential candidates on each committee shall be ranked according to the total number of standing positions allocated to each such candidate. After positions on the Credentials Committee are designated by

gender, the designation shall continue with the Platform Committee, then the Rules Committee.

- (1) A separate election shall be conducted for membership on each standing committee.
- (2) The male and female membership of the standing committees shall be 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party 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**

Rhode Island will select one 1 person to serve as Delegation Chair and 2 people 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 June 6, 2020. *(Call IV.E & Call VII.B.1)*
  - b. All members of the delegation shall receive timely notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the Delegation Chair. *(Rule 3.C)*
2. The Rhode Island Democratic Party 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 individuals will be selected to serve as Rhode Island's Convention Pages by the Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair in consultation with the members of the Democratic National Committee from the state. This selection will take place on June 6, 2020 during the meeting of the Rhode Island National Convention Delegation. *(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 Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair shall certify the individuals to serve as Rhode Island'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**

Rhode Island will select 4 persons to serve as Presidential Electors for the 2020 Presidential election.

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

The Presidential Electors shall be selected by the Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair. Nominations are submitted to the Executive Committee of the Rhode Island Democratic Party or the party executive director by 4pm on September 15, 2020. Any registered Democrat may be nominated to be an elector, provided they submit a resume, cover letter and two references from the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee membership to any executive committee member or the Party executive director by the deadline above. The nominations will be vetted by the executive committee, who shall submit a list of final recommendations to the Chair no later than October 1, 2020. The Chair must then make his selections within 7 days of the submission of names and communicate his selection to the Rhode Island Department of State Elections Division by October 15, 2020. (Call VIII)

#### **C. Affirmation**

1. Each candidate for Presidential Elector shall certify in writing that they will vote for the election of the Democratic Presidential and Vice-Presidential nominees. *(Call VIII)*
2. In the selection of the Presidential Electors, the Rhode Island Democratic Party will take the following steps to ensure the persons selected are bona fide Democrats who are faithful to the interests, welfare, and success of the Democratic Party of the United States, who subscribe to the substance, intent and principles of the Charter and the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States: All electors will sign a affidavit affirming their support of the Rhode Island Democratic Party and attesting to their allegiance to the interests, welfare, and success of the Democratic Party of the United States. Under Rhode Island law, electors are not bound to vote for the party's nominee in the presidential election. *(Call VIII)*

## **Section VII**

### **General Provisions and Procedural Guarantees**

- A. The Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island, on all levels, should support the broadest possible registration without discrimination based on “status.” (*Rule 4.B.4*)
  5. The Democratic Party in Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island 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. Rhode Island’s delegation shall be equally divided between delegate men and delegate women, and alternate men and alternate women, i.e. the number of men and women shall not vary by more than one. Such goal applies to the entire delegation, which includes all pledged delegates and alternates and all automatic delegates. Delegates and alternates shall be considered separate groups for purposes of achieving equal division as determined by gender self-identification. In the case of gender non-binary delegates or alternates, they shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the delegation shall be equally divided by gender. (*Rule 6.C*)
- D. All delegate and alternate candidates must be identified as to presidential preference or uncommitted status at all levels which determine presidential preference. (*Rule 13.A*)
- E. No delegate at any level of the delegate selection process shall be mandated by law or Party rules to vote contrary to that person’s presidential choice as expressed at the time the delegate is elected. (*Rule 13.I*)
- F. Delegates elected to the national convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them. (*Rule 13.J*)
- G. Each delegate, alternate and standing committee member must be a bona fide Democrat, including being registered as a Democrat under the laws of the State of Rhode Island, 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*)
  
- L. In electing and certifying delegates and alternates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention, the Rhode Island Democratic Party hereby undertakes to assure all Democratic voters in Rhode Island, 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 Rhode Island. *(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 Rhode Island 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, Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party has established goals and timetables for other underrepresented groups, including the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities, and youth. *(Rule 6.A & Rule 7)*
  - (1) The goal of the programs shall be to encourage participation in the delegate selection process and in Party organizations at all levels by the aforementioned groups as indicated by their presence in the Democratic electorate. *(Rule 6.A.1)*
  - (2) For the delegate selection process, “Youth” is defined as any participant younger than 36 years old at the time of election. *(Reg. 5.3.A)*
  - (3) For the delegate selection process, individuals identifying as Native Americans should provide their tribal affiliation and indicate if they are enrolled in a tribe. *(Reg. 5.3.B)*

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

## 2. Organizational Structure

- a. An Affirmative Action Committee shall be appointed by the Rhode Island Democratic Chair on March 1, 2019. (*Rule 6.F*)
  - b. The Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair shall certify in writing to the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Democratic National Committee the compliance of the Rhode Island'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. (*See Attachment 1*)
  - 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party 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 Rhode Island Democratic State 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*)
  - e. Financial and staff support for the Affirmative Action Committee shall be provided by the Rhode Island Democratic State 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.
- ## 3. Implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program shall begin on **September 3, 2020** 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 Rhode Island Democratic 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 Rhode Island Democratic 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. *Working in consultation with the DNC Data and Analytics team, we have determined the following goals (methodology for determining goals and data relied upon to substantiate goals is further described in Attachment 3):*

	African Americans	Hispanics	Native Americans	Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders	LGBTQ+ Americans	People with Disabilities	Youth
Percent in Democratic Electorate	6%	12%	0%	3%	5%	15%	32%
Numeric Goals for Delegation	2	2	0	1	1	2	2

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 Rhode Island Democratic 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 Rhode Island Democratic 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 each of the delegate districts beginning in September 2019. These workshops will be designed to encourage participation in the delegate selection process, including apprising potential delegate and alternate candidates of the availability of financial assistance. These workshops will be held in places that are easily accessible to persons with disabilities. The times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of all education workshops, meetings and other events involved in the delegate selection process shall be effectively publicized by the party organization and include mailings to various

organizations representative of the Democratic voting electorate. (*Rule 3.A, Rule 3.C & Rule 3.D*)

2. A speakers bureau of volunteers from the Rhode Island Democratic 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 Rhode Island Democratic 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 Rhode Island Democratic 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party shall also make available copies of the 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party and Affirmative Action Committee will distribute them in the various delegate districts not later than October 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. (*Rule 2.A*)
6. The Rhode Island Democratic 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. (*Rule 2.C*)
7. The Affirmative Action Committee will develop a state party strategy to be implemented beginning June 8, 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party shall direct special attention to publicizing the delegate selection process in the state. Such publicity shall include information on eligibility to vote and how to become a candidate for delegate, the time and location of each stage of the delegate selection process, and where to get additional information. The foregoing information will also be published in the Rhode Island Democratic Party communications and on the 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party shall have a Delegate Selection Media Plan (**see Attachment 2.i**) 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 Rhode Island Democratic 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 all public meetings shall be effectively publicized, multilingually where necessary, to encourage the participation of minority groups. (*Rule 6.D*)
4. Not later than May 3, 2019, the Rhode Island Democratic 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 Rhode Island Democratic 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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair by October 1, 2019 which indicates the specific steps they will take to encourage full participation by their supporters in Rhode Island'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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party will make accommodations to facilitate greater participation by people with disabilities. All public meeting will be held in fully accessible facilities and the Party will create a process for individuals with hearing disabilities to request sign language interpretation for all meetings held during the delegate selection process.

4. In addition to the education, publicity and other steps described above, the Rhode Island Democratic Party will hold several well-publicized educational workshops will be conducted in each of the delegate districts beginning in September 2020. These workshops will be designed to encourage participation in the delegate selection process, including apprising potential delegate candidates of the availability of financial assistance. These workshops will be held in places that are easily accessible to persons with physical 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 populace.

Additionally, the Rhode Island Democratic 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 targeted in the Party's Diversity and Inclusion Goals. Specifically, information about the delegate selection process will be provided to minority newspapers and radio stations, ethnic press, Native American, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Spanish-speaking and other non-English press, radio stations and publications, and women's organizations, student newspapers, LGBT press, disability press, and any other specialty media in the state that is likely to reach the Democratic constituency groups.

## **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 Rhode Island Democratic 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party and Challenges to the Plan**

1. A challenge to the status of the Rhode Island Democratic State 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 Rhode Island Democratic Party and the Co-Chairs of the Rules and Bylaws Committee within 15 calendar days after the adoption of the Plan by the Rhode Island Democratic 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 Rhode Island Democratic State Committee and with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than 15 days after the alleged violation occurred. The Rhode Island Democratic 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 Rhode Island Democratic 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 the Rhode Island Democratic Party has adopted and implemented an approved affirmative action program, the Rhode Island Democratic 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

Rhode Island will use a proportional representation system based on the results of the Presidential Preference Primary apportioning its delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention.

The “first determining step” of Rhode Island’s delegate selection process will occur on April 28, 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	14 <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b>	0	April 28, 2020	Selecting Body: <i>all registered Democrats in Rhode Island</i>
				February 26-27, 2020 filing period; March 3, 2020 deadline for nomination papers with 150 signatures to be submitted to local boards of canvassers; March 6, 2020 Presidential right of approval deadline. A special post-primary caucus shall be held May 17, 2020 by the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee to select additional delegates if a presidential candidate has qualified to receive delegates but has not slated a sufficient number.
Automatic Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates*	5	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)	3	**	May 17, 2020	Selecting Body: <i>Rhode Island Democratic State Committee</i>
				April 29, 2020 filing deadline with RIDP by 4 p.m.; May 1, 2020 Presidential right of approval;
At-Large Delegates At-Large Alternates	2	2	May 17, 2020	Selecting Body: <i>Rhode Island Democratic State Committee</i>
				May 17, 2020 filing deadline with RIDP by 4 p.m.; May 18, 2020 Presidential right of approval
TOTAL Delegates and Alternates	30	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 Rhode Island’s National Convention delegates as summarized below:

Members Per Committee	Total Members	Selection Date	Filing Requirements and Deadlines
1	1	June 6, 2020	Elected by RI’s National Convention Delegates.

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

The Delegation Chair will be selected by the National Convention Delegates on June 6, 2020.

Two Convention Pages will be selected by the Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair on June 6, 2020.

**D. Selection of Presidential Electors**

4 Presidential Electors will be selected by Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair by October 15, 2020.

**E. Presidential Candidate Filing Deadline**

January 23 - 25, 2020. Presidential Statements of Intent must be filed with the Rhode Island Department of State, Elections Division (148 West River Street, Providence, RI 02904) and the Rhode Island Democratic Party (200 Metro Center Boulevard Warwick, RI 02886). (*Rule 11.B & Rule 14.E*)

Presidential candidates must certify the name of their authorized representative(s) to the Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair by January 25, 2020.

**F. Timetable**

Date	Activity
<b>2019</b>	
March 1	Delegate Selection Affirmative Action Committee members are appointed by the Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair.
March 15	List of Affirmative Action Committee members submitted to DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee.
April 15	Affirmative Action Committee meets to draft proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans.
April 3	Proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program is tentatively approved for public comment by the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee’s Executive Committee.

Date	Activity
April 3	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 3	Period for public comment on Rhode Island Democratic Party Plan is concluded. Responses are compiled for review by the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee's Executive Committee.
May 3	Rhode Island Democratic State Committee's Executive 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 3	Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program is forwarded to the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee.
Sept. 3	Rhode Island Democratic 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.
October 1	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. (Individuals who announce their candidacy after this date must provide this full participation statement to the State Party not later than 30 days after their announcement.)
<b>2020</b>	
January 23-25	Presidential candidate deadline for certifying the name(s) of their authorized representative(s) to the State Party.
January 23-25	Presidential candidate deadline for filing the petition of candidacy with the Secretary of State and a copy to the State Party.
February 3-27	Delegate 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 <b><i>www.ridemocrats.org</i></b>
February 26-27	District-level delegate deadline for filing the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms with the Rhode Island Secretary of State, Elections Division (148 West River Street, Providence, RI 02904)
March 3	Deadline for delegates to return nomination papers to local board of canvassers.
March 4	Rhode Island Democratic Party provides list of district-level delegate candidates to the respective Presidential candidates.
March 6	Presidential candidates provide list of approved district-level delegate candidates to State Party.
April 28	<b>Presidential preference primary.</b>
April 29	Pledged PLEO, at-large and alternate delegate deadline for filing the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms with State Party.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
May 1	Rhode Island Democratic Party provides list of PLEO candidates to the respective Presidential candidates.
May 4	Presidential candidates provide approved list of pledged PLEO delegate candidates to State Party.
May 8	Secretary of State certifies results of primary; pre-slated district-level delegates are allocated according to presidential preference.
May 17	Rhode Island Democratic Party certifies elected district-level delegates to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee.
May 17	Rhode Island Democratic State Committee selects delegates if Presidential candidate is to be allocated delegates but is unable to do so because of lack of delegate candidates.
May 17	Rhode Island Democratic State Committee Convention convenes. Pledged PLEO delegates selected.
May 17	Deadline for persons seeking at-large or alternate positions to file a statement of candidacy with the State party.
May 18	Rhode Island Democratic Party provides list of At-large and alternate candidates to the respective Presidential candidates.
May 18	Presidential candidates provide list of at-large and alternate delegate and alternate candidates to State Party.
June 6	National Convention delegation meeting. Delegates select National Convention Standing Committee Members and Delegation Chair. Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair names convention pages. Selection of at-large and alternate delegates.
June 8	Rhode Island Democratic Party certifies remainder of elected delegates and alternates (PLEOs and at-large), along with standing committee members, delegation chair, and convention pages.
June 9	Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair certifies in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the Rhode Island Delegation Chair, Convention Pages and Standing Committee Members.
June 9	Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair certifies in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the Pledged PLEOs and At-Large Delegates and Alternates.
June 15	Rhode Island Democratic Party certifies in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the presidential preference (including uncommitted) of the state's Unpledged Delegates.