

# CALL TO CONVENTION

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## 2020 State Convention Democratic Party of Virginia Richmond, Virginia June 20, 2020

### I. Call to Convention

Pursuant to the authority provided by the Virginia Democratic Party Plan (“Party Plan”), and the Virginia Delegate Selection Plan for the 2020 Democratic National Convention (“Delegate Selection Plan”), as approved by the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Democratic National Committee, the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Virginia hereby calls a State Convention to convene at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2020, at The Greater Richmond Convention Center, Grand Ballroom, 403 North Third Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. The Convention shall continue until all business set forth in this Call, and any subsequent agenda to be provided by the Convention Rules Committee, shall be completed.

The Party Plan and the Delegate Selection Plan are hereby incorporated into this Call, and shall govern where applicable. The provisions of the final Call to the 2020 Democratic National Convention shall govern where inconsistent with this Call, the Party Plan or the Delegate Selection Plan.

The State Convention shall: Elect 13 Pledged Party Leaders and Elected Official (“PLEO”) Delegates, 21 At-Large Delegates, and 2 At-Large Alternates to the Democratic National Convention; elect 2 Democratic Electors; elect 5 Members to the Democratic National Committee, and conduct any other business properly placed before the convention by the Rules

Committee, pursuant to the Party Plan and the Delegate Selection Plan. The State Chair shall certify the appropriate number of Automatic Unpledged PLEO Delegates, as directed by the Democratic National Committee.

## **II. General Provisions**

Times, dates, locations, and rules for the conduct of all caucuses, conventions and procedures relevant to the selection of delegates and alternates to the State and National Conventions shall be effectively publicized in accordance with Articles 3 and 9 of the Party Plan, and in accordance with the Affirmative Action provisions of the Delegate Selection Plan.

Caucuses, Congressional District Conventions, and the State Convention shall be governed by Article 10, and Articles 14 through 20 of the Party Plan. All caucuses and conventions shall be held at locations that are ADA-accessible.

Delegates and alternates elected at county or city caucuses or convention shall serve as delegates and alternates to both the Congressional District and State Conventions (“State Delegates and Alternates”). There shall be elected 2,000 State Delegates and 500 State Alternates. The apportionment of State Delegates and Alternates among counties and cities is detailed in Section VIII of this Call, as determined by the State Central Committee, based on a formula giving equal weight population and to average of the Democratic Vote for President in 2016 (Clinton), for Governor in 2017 (Northam), and for U.S. Senator in 2018 (Kaine) (method (a) of Section 15.1 of the Party Plan). *See* Attachment A.

Pre-filing of candidates for State Delegates and alternates, and delegate and alternate to any county or city convention is required. Each person pre-filing must designate a single Presidential candidate preference. The District and State Convention delegates and alternates shall be allocated among the Presidential candidate caucuses according to the votes each candidate received in the Presidential preference primary. In Congressional Districts nominating U.S. House candidates at Congressional District Conventions, the delegate and alternate candidates shall state a House candidate preference or “uncommitted.”

State Party Headquarters shall make available pre-filing forms to the county and city committees, or the committees may print their pre-filing forms, provided State Headquarters

approves the text in advance. The pre-filing form is included in this Call as Attachment B.

There will be a voluntary administrative fee of \$10.00 for each candidate for State Delegate and Alternate. For the purpose of paying the expenses of their respective costs, a Congressional District Committee may request an additional administrative fee of \$5.00; a county or city committee may request an additional fee of no more than \$10.00. The total maximum voluntary administrative fee is then \$25.00. No person shall be denied the right to participate in the delegate selection process due to nonpayment of the voluntary administrative fee.

Persons wishing to be elected at the State Convention as National At-Large Delegate or Alternate, Pledged PLEO, Democratic National Committee member, or Democratic elector must pre-file with the State Party by 5:00 p.m. May 21, 2020.

### **III. Caucuses and Conventions**

Caucuses shall be called by each county and city Democratic Committee to elect State Delegates and Alternates. City and County caucuses may be assembled or unassembled and will be held either on April 18, 2020 beginning at 12:00 noon or on April 20, 2020 beginning at 7:30 p.m., at the option of the committee.

The pre-filing deadline for State Delegate and Alternate candidates shall be 5:00 p.m., Saturday, April 11, 2020, for caucuses held on Saturday, April 18, 2020. The prefilling deadline will be Monday, April 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., for caucuses held on Monday, April 20, 2020. The county or city committee calling the caucus or convention will determine whether State Alternates shall be elected separately from State Delegates or whether the Alternates shall be those persons with the next highest number of votes after the persons with the highest number of votes have been elected State Delegates.

Each county and city Democratic Committee shall meet to determine the day and time (April 18, 2020 at 12:00 noon or April 20, 2020 at 7:30 pm), and location of the caucus, the type of caucus (assembled or unassembled), the method of selecting alternate delegates, local committee voluntary administrative fees (if any), and the apportionment of delegates and alternates among the electing units, if applicable, and shall advise the State Party headquarters of

such information no later than February 14, 2020.

Any county or city committee holding an unassembled caucus on Saturday, April 18, 2020 or Monday, April 20, 2020, may provide an opportunity for voters to appear in person and cast an absentee ballot to be counted in the final totals for delegates and alternates in such caucuses. Such absentee voting may be scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending at a reasonable time. The day and time for beginning and ending of such absentee voting and the location shall be stated in the Call for the caucus and shall be publicized under the Affirmative Action provisions of the Delegate Selection Plan. The chairs of committees exercising this option of absentee voting shall ensure that sites are fully staffed to serve the voters as well as ADA accessible, properly supervised, information materials and ballots provided, declaration forms available, and that voted ballots are secured and properly counted in the caucus voting totals.

Any person attending a caucus, before participating in that meeting, shall sign a standardized declaration form, included in this Call as Attachment C, stating that he or she is a Democrat; does not intend to support any candidate who is opposed to a Democratic nominee in the next ensuing election; is not a member of any other political Party; has not participated and will not participate in the nominating process of any other Party for the 2020 Presidential election; and is a registered voter in such jurisdiction.

Pursuant to the Delegate Selection Plan provisions, at each county and city caucus, the State Convention Delegates and Alternates shall be allocated among the Presidential candidate caucuses according to the votes each candidate received in the Presidential preference primary. The State Convention delegates will be the highest vote-getters within each Presidential candidate caucus. Ballots used in county and city caucuses shall list the Presidential preferences. The stated Presidential preference shall be binding at the Congressional District and State Conventions for all elected delegates and alternates and shall prevail in all caucuses and voting for National Delegates and Alternates. Only those State Delegates elected through presidential caucuses shall be eligible to vote for members of the Democratic National Committee and Presidential Electors at the State Convention. Election of State Delegates and Alternates shall be conducted as provided in the Delegate Selection Plan.

Congressional District Conventions to elect Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention (“National Delegates and Alternates”), to elect Democratic electors, and to accomplish any other business required by the Party Plan, shall be held on May 2, May 9, or May 16, 2020. The apportionment of National Delegates and Alternates to be elected at the Congressional District Conventions is as follows:

District	Delegates			Alternates		
	Males*	Females*	Total	Males*	Females*	Total
<b>1</b>	3	3	6			
<b>2</b>	3	2	5			
<b>3</b>	3	4	7	1		1
<b>4</b>	3	3	6	1		1
<b>5</b>	3	3	6			
<b>6</b>	3	2	5			
<b>7</b>	3	3	6		1	1
<b>8</b>	3	4	7	1		1
<b>9</b>	2	2	4			
<b>10</b>	3	3	6		1	1
<b>11</b>	4	3	7		1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>

Each Congressional District Democratic committee shall meet to determine the day (May 2, or 9, or 16, 2020), time, and location of its Congressional District convention and the congressional district voluntary administrative fees (if any) for State Delegate filings, and shall advise the State Party headquarters of such information no later than February 21, 2020.

The Presidential preference primary will be held on March 3, 2020. The results of that primary shall determine the allocation among Presidential candidates of delegates who will be elected at the state and national level, as described in the Delegate Selection Plan.

Persons wishing to be elected as a District-level Delegate or Alternate to the National Convention or as a congressional district elector must pre-file with the Congressional District

Chair (and with a copy to the State Party Chair) by 5:00 PM fifteen (15) days prior to the Congressional District Convention at which the individual seeks election. National At-Large Delegate or Alternate, Pledged PLEO, Democratic National Committee member, or Democratic elector must pre-file with the State Party by 5:00 p.m. May 21, 2020. All filing forms, both paper and online filings, can be found on the Democratic Party website, [www.vademocrats.org/2020](http://www.vademocrats.org/2020).

#### **IV. Procedures for U.S. House of Representatives** **Nominations**

If appropriate, Congressional District Committees shall include in their Calls to the Congressional District Convention a provision for the nomination of a candidate for the United States House of Representatives. Such Congressional District Committees may determine whether the stated preference for the House shall be only for the information of voters and/or shall be binding on elected delegates and alternates on the first vote at Congressional District Conventions; establish necessary rules as required; and exercise full authority in managing their Congressional District nominations. Such Convention Calls shall be issued no later than Wednesday, April 1, 2020.<sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

#### **V. State Convention Committees**

Temporary Credentials, Rules, and Resolutions committees shall be established for the State Convention with one (1) member of each temporary committee being elected by each Congressional District Committee and four (4) elected by the State Central Committee. In addition, the State Party Chair shall appoint six (6) members of the temporary Resolutions Committee. All members of temporary committees shall be selected no later than February 28, 2020. An Arrangements Committee shall be appointed by the Chair. The Chair shall have the power to appoint other appropriate committees at the Chair's discretion.

The Temporary Credentials Committee shall make its report to the permanent Credentials Committee of the State Convention. The Temporary Rules Committee shall report to the State Steering Committee by May 21, 2020, and such report as approved shall be distributed to members of the State Central Committee and county and city Democratic Committee chairs. The Temporary Rules Committee shall also report to the permanent Rules Committee of the State Convention.

The Temporary Credentials Committee shall consider challenges to delegates and alternates properly filed as provided in Section V of this Call and in Section IX of The Delegate Selection Plan, and shall report its findings to any affected Congressional District Convention. The temporary Resolutions Committee shall make its report as provided in the Delegate Selection Plan and Party Plan. Proposed resolutions should be submitted by May 21, 2020. The other requirements for the Resolutions Committee shall be as set forth in Party Plan section 17.2.

The State Party Chair shall appoint the chair of each temporary committee from among its members as set forth in Party Plan section 17.1. The temporary chair appointed by the State Party Chair shall also serve as the permanent chair of each committee at the State Convention. Each Congressional District Convention shall nominate two (2) members each to the permanent Credentials and Rules Committees of the State Convention. The permanent Committees on Credentials and Rules shall be elected at the State Convention and shall elect their secretaries from among their members. The temporary Resolutions Committee shall serve as the permanent Resolutions Committee at the State Convention.

## **VI. Challenges to Delegates and Alternates**

A challenge to any State Delegate or Alternate elected at any county or city caucus must be submitted in writing to the Democratic Party of Virginia, SunTrust Building, 919 East Main Street, Suite 2050, Richmond, Virginia 23218, Telephone: 804-644-1966, or through electronic means as provided by the Democratic Party of Virginia. Such challenge shall be submitted not more than ten (10) days after the election of such delegate or alternate.

The temporary Credentials Committee shall begin hearing challenges within seven (7) days after the deadline for filing such challenges. The rules and procedures for the temporary Credentials Committee shall provide for adequate notice for meetings and hearings.

The staff of the State Party Headquarters shall provide adequate support for the work of the temporary Credentials Committee.

## **VII. Delegation Meeting**

The Virginia delegation to the Democratic National Convention, including National Delegates and Alternates elected at both the State and Congressional District Conventions, shall meet on June 21, 2020, the day after State Convention. The delegation will elect its chair and

other officers as needed, elect members of the Permanent Committees of the Democratic National Convention as provided in the final Call to that Convention, and complete any related arrangements for the National Convention.

### **VIII. Election Requirements for Non-Delegate Offices**

According to section 20.3 of the Party Plan, the DNC candidates must obtain the signatures of 50 registered voters in Virginia representing at least six congressional districts. Procedure for the signature collection will be detailed in the Convention Rules.

The State Party Chair shall review the filing forms of candidates for Elector to ensure that the candidate meets the necessary criteria. The State 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: Candidates for Elector have to sign the following statement, “I, the undersigned, certify that I am a Democrat, am a registered voter in \_\_\_\_\_, subscribe to the principles of the Democratic Party, do not intend to support any candidate who is opposed to a Democratic Nominee in the next ensuing election, and will not participate in the nominating process of any other political party.” Under State Code § 24.2-542, Electors are required to vote for their party’s nominee and they must submit a signed and notarized oath to that effect.

### **XI. Attachments**

1. Allocation of State Convention Delegates and Alternates;
2. State Convention Delegate or Alternate Pre-Filing Form;
3. Caucus Declaration Form;
4. 2020 Delegate Selection Calendar.

**To be:**

Adopted by Democratic Party of Virginia, State Central Committee December 7, 2019