

2016 Ohio Delegate Selection Plan

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I. Summary of Plan

A. Selection of Delegates and Alternates

Ohio will use a primary proportional representation system.

The first determining step will occur on March 15, with the 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
District Level	97	9	March 15 January 5	Primary Pre-Primary Caucus	December 26 with the Ohio Democratic Party December 16 with Secretary of State
Members of Congress	5	None	March 15	Automatic	None
Unpledged DNC	11	None	March 15	Automatic	None
Distinguished Party Leaders	1	None	March 15	Automatic	None
PLEOs	19	0	May 14	State Executive Committee	May 6 with the Ohio Democratic Party
At-Large	32	3	May 14	State Executive Committee	May 6 with the Ohio Democratic Party December 16 with Secretary of State
Total	165	12			

B. Selection of Standing Committee Members

(for Credentials, Platform, and Rules Committee)

Members per Committee	Total Members	Selection Date	Filing Requirements and Deadlines
6	18	May 24	Nomination by candidate or authorized representative by May 20

C. Selection of Delegation Chair and Convention Pages

The Delegation Chair will be selected by the National Convention Delegates on May 24, 2016.

Four (4) Convention Pages will be selected by the State Chair on May 14, 2016.

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D. Presidential Candidate Filing Deadlines

Presidential candidates must certify the names of their authorized representative(s), in writing to the Chair of the Ohio Democratic Party by December 1, 2015. The deadline by which presidential candidates must file with the appropriate Board of Elections or the Secretary of State is December 16, 2015.

E. Timetable

In the event that the State of Ohio changes the date of Ohio's Primary, the Chair of the Ohio Democratic Party is hereby granted the authority to change the dates within this plan to comply with State law.

Date	Activity
2015	
February 27	State Chair appoints the Delegate Selection/Affirmative Action Committee
March 2	Public comment period for the proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans begins.
March 2-31	Delegate Selection/Affirmative Action Committee meets to recommend a Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan to the State Democratic Executive Committee.
April 2	Public comment period ends
April 11	State Democratic Executive Committee adopts Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans.
April 18	Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans are forwarded to the Rules and Bylaws Committee.
September 17 October - December	Affirmative Action Plan goes into effect. Virtual Workshop On Internet www.ohiodems.org
November 9	Presidential candidate petitions, delegate and alternate declaration of candidacy and consent forms, and pledge of support forms are available from the Ohio Democratic Party.

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- December 1 Presidential candidates shall certify in writing to the Chair of the Ohio Democratic Party the names of their authorized representative(s) who will exercise candidate right of approval.
- December 6 The State Chair shall appoint a congressional district caucus coordinator for each congressional district after consultation with each presidential candidate or their authorized representative. Each presidential candidate or their authorized representative shall appoint a caucus chair for each caucus they will participate in.
- Each presidential candidate must submit a written statement to the State Chair indicating steps to be taken to insure full participation in the delegate selection process.
- December 16 All state forms must be filed with the Board of Elections in the most populous county of each district or with the Secretary of State no later than 4:00 PM.
- If the presidential candidate is achieving ballot access under II.B.1.b. (statewide petition method), a presidential At-Large delegate candidate files a "Declaration of Candidacy" and petition containing the signatures of 1000 to 3000 qualified electors of the Democratic Party who reside in the state along with a statement stating their first and second choices for president and a "Consent for Use of Name" form with the Secretary of State.
- December 10- January 2 Caucus coordinator and caucus chair training sessions will be conducted by Ohio Democratic Party staff.
- December 18 Caucus Coordinators report site or sites for their caucus to State Chair.
- December 26 All persons interested in running as a delegate or alternate at the district level must file an Ohio Democratic Party Declaration of Candidacy and Consent form including a signed pledge of support with the State Chair.
- December 30 State Chair files with respective campaign representative(s) a list of persons who have filed an Ohio Democratic Party "Declaration of Candidacy and Consent" form.

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January 2	Campaign representatives(s) file with the State Chair a list of all approved candidates for district delegates and alternates.
January 5	District pre-primary caucuses.
January 9	Chair of each caucus certifies outcome of their caucus to State Chair. Coordinator of each caucus shall file with the State Chair a list of those people who filled out signed statements of support at each caucus meeting.
February 18	State Executive Committee files with the Secretary of State its rules governing the issuance of certificates of elections. Presidential candidates using the petition method of selecting delegates and alternates must submit a list indicating the order in which certificates of election are to be issued to delegate or alternate candidates.
March 15	Presidential Preference Primary election.
April 8 (tentative)	Secretary of State certifies results of March 8th Primary. This is a tentative date. A change in this date could affect all of the dates which follow. District-level delegates and alternates will be certified within (3) days of confirmation of the election results by the Secretary of State
April 16	Special post-primary caucuses.
April 20	State Chair shall certify to the Secretary of the DNC the results of the special post-primary caucuses.
May 7	All persons interested in running as delegate at the pledged party leader and elected official level or delegate or alternate at the at-large level must file an Ohio Democratic Party "Declaration of Candidacy and Consent " form including a signed pledge of support with the State Chair. The form will allow persons to file for all types of delegates and alternates at the same time.
May 10	State Chair files with the respective campaign

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representative(s) a list of persons who have filed as a pledged party leader and elected official delegate or as an at-large delegate or alternate.

- May 12 Campaign representative(s) file with the State Chair list of all approved candidates for pledged party leader and elected official, as well as all approved candidates for at-large delegates and alternates
- Coordinator of each caucus shall file with the State Chair a list of those people who filled out signed statements of support at each special post-primary caucus meeting.
- May 14 Pledged party leader elected official delegates selected by the state Democratic Executive Committee.
- At-Large delegates and alternates will be selected by the State Democratic Executive Committee. Convention pages will be selected by the State Chair.
- May 21 Presidential Candidates or their authorized representatives submit list of standing committee candidates to the State Chair.
- May 23 State Chair shall certify to the Secretary of the DNC the pledged party leader and elected official delegates and the at-large delegates and alternates
- May 24 National Convention Delegates select Standing Committee members and Delegation Chair.
- May 31 State Chair shall certify to the Secretary of the DNC the chosen members of Standing Committees and the Delegation Chair

II. Selection of Delegates and Alternates

A. Introduction

1. Number of Delegates and Alternates

Ohio has a total of 165 delegates and 12 alternates. Ohio will choose Option A and will allocate 75% of its alternates at the District Level and 25% at the At-Large Level.

2. Governing Rules

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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 2016 Democratic National Convention ("Rules"), the Call for the 2016 Democratic National Convention ("Call"), the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2016 Democratic National Convention ("Regs"), the rules of the Democratic Party of Ohio, the Ohio Revised Code and this Delegate Selection Plan.

3. Qualifications of Delegates

To be qualified to serve as a delegate or alternate, a candidate must:

- a. Be 18 years of age before the date of the general election;
- b. Be a resident of Ohio;
- c. Be a citizen of the United States;
- d. Be a qualified elector in the congressional district from which he or she seeks to be elected (residence will be determined according to Ohio Revised Code 3503.02); and
- e. Must sign a statement that he or she will not participate in the nominating processes of any other party for the corresponding elections.

B. Presidential Candidates

1. Ballot Access

A Democratic presidential candidate may gain ballot access in Ohio for the Presidential Primary Election in order to elect delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention by following the procedure provided in Ohio Revised Code section 3513.12. A presidential candidate authorizes one or two qualified electors of the State of Ohio who are affiliated with the Democratic Party to circulate petitions and file as at-large delegates for the candidate. If the at-large delegate candidates are certified to the ballot by the Ohio Secretary of State, then the name of the presidential candidate who was listed as the delegate candidate's first choice will appear on every Democratic Party primary election ballot in every precinct in the state. The names of the actual at-large delegate candidates do not appear on the ballot. It is recommended by the Secretary of State that a presidential candidate authorize two at-large delegate candidates to file in the event that there is a fatal flaw in the petition of one of the at-large delegate candidates that would prevent the presidential candidate's name from appearing on the primary election ballot. An at-large delegate candidate must file the following forms with

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the Ohio Secretary of State no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 90th day before the Presidential Primary Election:

1. Ohio SOS Form 2-N – Declaration of Candidacy and Petition – At-Large Delegate or Alternate – Single Candidate. This form must be signed by the at-large delegate candidate and contain the signatures of at least 1,000 but not more than 3,000 qualified electors of the State of Ohio who are affiliated with the Democratic Party. Each part petition may only contain the signatures of electors of one county in Ohio. Each part petition must also contain a properly-completed circulator statement from the circulator who witnessed the signing of the part petition.

2. Ohio SOS Form 2-R – Consent for Use of Name as First Choice for Presidency – Single Candidate. This form must bear the original signature of the Presidential candidate authorizing the at-large delegate candidate to run on the Presidential candidate’s behalf. If the Presidential candidate chooses to have two at-large delegates circulate and file, then a separate SOS Form 2-R must be filed for each at-large delegate candidate.

3. Ohio SOS Form 2-S – Consent for Use of Name as Second Choice for Presidency – Single Candidate. This form must bear the original signature of the individual the Presidential candidate has chosen for a “Second Choice” authorizing the at-large delegate candidate to run on the “Second Choice’s” behalf. “Second Choices” typically are respected party leaders or former public officials who are supporting the Presidential Candidate but are not actually Presidential Candidates themselves. If the Presidential candidate chooses to have two at-large delegates circulate and file, then a separate SOS Form 2-S must be filed for each at-large delegate candidate.

The actual delegates and alternates candidates will be selected at the May 14, 2016 State Executive Committee meeting based on the results of the March 15, 2016 Primary Election.

2. Authorized Representative

Each presidential candidate shall certify in writing to the State Chair, the name(s) of his or her authorized representative(s) by December 1, 2015. If the presidential candidate certifies more than one authorized representative, one name shall be identified to the State Chair to facilitate operations and communications between the presidential candidate and the Ohio Democratic Party.

The authorized representative shall:

a. Supervise the proper filing of both party and state documentation. This documentation shall be filed as stipulated in the plan.

b. Ensure that district and at-large delegates and alternates are in rank order and in compliance with equal division and the affirmative action provisions of this plan.

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c. Inform the State Chair of the date, time, place, and purpose of any meeting/event that involves the delegate selection process.

d. Consult with the State Chair on the selection of Caucus Coordinators and Caucus Chairs.

e. Name in each Congressional District an Outreach Committee consisting of two to six persons, of which at least two persons are between the ages of 18 and 25. This committee will be formed for the purpose of recruiting new Party members among people who will shape the future of the political process.

3. Affirmative Action

Each presidential candidate shall use his or her best efforts to ensure that his or her respective delegation within the state delegation achieves the affirmative action goals established by this Plan and is equally divided between men and women.

4. Uncommitted

“Uncommitted” does not appear on the Presidential Primary ballot.

C. District-Level Delegates and Alternates

1. Number of Delegates and Alternates

Ohio is allocated 97 district-level delegates and 9 district-level alternates.

2. Presidential Primary

District-level delegate and alternate positions will be allocated to presidential preferences through a proportional representation system based on a primary, with the first determining step on March 15, 2016.

3. Allocation of District-Level Delegates and Alternates

a. The district-level delegates and alternates shall be elected by a pre-primary caucus to slate delegates to be held in each congressional district on January 5, 2016 followed by a presidential preference primary held on March 15, 2016.

b. Ohio's district-level delegates and alternates are apportioned among the districts based on a formula giving equal weight to the vote for the Democratic candidates in the 2012 presidential and the 2014 gubernatorial election. Ohio uses this option as it ensures that true

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Democratic performance is rewarded as base Dem voters vote in non-Presidential election years.

c. The state's total number of district-level delegates and alternates will be equally divided between men and women.

d. The district-level delegates and alternates are apportioned to districts as indicated in the following chart:

District	Delegates			Alternates			1 st Delegate
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
1	2	2	4	1	0	1	Female
2	2	2	4	0	0	0	Male
3	7	6	13	0	1	1	Male
4	2	2	4	0	0	0	Female
5	2	2	4	0	0	0	Male
6	2	2	4	0	0	0	Female
7	2	2	4	0	0	0	Female
8	2	2	4	0	0	0	Female
9	4	5	9	1	0	1	Female
10	2	2	4	0	1	1	Male
11	9	9	18	0	1	1	Male
12	2	2	4	0	0	0	Female
13	5	4	9	0	1	1	Male
14	2	2	4	1	0	1	Male
15	2	2	4	1	0	1	Female
16	2	2	4	0	1	1	Male
Total	49	48	97	4	5	9	

4. District-Level Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements

a. All delegate and alternate candidates must be identified as to a singular presidential preference or uncommitted status at all levels which determine presidential preference. Any candidate is able to modify their singular presidential preference by submitting an updated pledge of support no later than the filing deadline for that delegate.

b. A district-level delegate and alternate candidate may run for election only within the district in which he or she is registered to vote.

c. An individual can qualify as a candidate for district-level delegate or alternate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention by the proper filing of the following:

Ohio Democratic Party "Declaration of Candidacy and Consent" form including a signed pledge of support. This form must be filed with the Ohio Democratic Party, 340 E. Fulton, Columbus, Ohio 43215 by 5:00 PM on December 26, 2015.

The Democratic Party "Declaration of Candidacy and Consent" forms may be obtained from the Ohio Democratic Party or the registered authorized representatives of the presidential candidates.

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d. Candidates for delegate or alternate positions shall file a statement of candidacy designating their presidential preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidate with the Ohio Democratic Party by December 26, 2015.

5. Presidential Candidate Right of Approval

a. The State Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative, not later than 12:00 Noon on December 30, 2015, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate.

b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative must then file with the State Chair by 5 PM on January 2, 2016, a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, provided that approval be given to at least three (3) times the number of candidates for delegate men, and three (3) times the number of candidates for delegate women, and three (3) times the number of candidates for alternate men, and three (3) times the number of candidates for alternate women to be selected.

c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate and alternate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate, or the authorized representative signifies otherwise in writing to the State Chair not later than 5 PM on January 2, 2016.

d. National convention alternate and delegate candidates removed from the list of bona fide supporters by a presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative may not be elected as a delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate at this level.

6. Pre-Primary Caucus Procedure

a. Delegates and alternates pledged to a presidential candidate shall be selected or nominated by a caucus of persons from the congressional district electing the delegates and alternates who sign statements of support for that presidential candidate. There shall be one caucus location per congressional district. The State Chair may after consultation with the presidential candidates or their authorized representatives order separate caucus locations for each candidate. No candidate may have more than one caucus per congressional district. All caucuses will meet January 5, 2016 and begin promptly at 7:00 PM.

b. The State Chair shall appoint a Caucus Coordinator for each congressional district no later than December 6, 2015 after consultation with each presidential candidate or their authorized representative. If a

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Caucus Coordinator resigns a new appointment shall be made prior to January 3, 2016 using the same consultation procedure.

c. Each presidential candidate or their authorized representative shall appoint a Caucus Chair for each Congressional District Caucus they will participate in no later than December 6, 2015 after consultation with the State Chair. If a Caucus Chair resigns, a new appointment shall be made prior to January 3, 2016 using the same consultation procedure. If a vacancy occurs on January 5, 2016, the Caucus Coordinator shall train and appoint a replacement.

d. The Caucus Coordinator in consultation with the caucus chairs shall select a centrally located site for their caucus and report this location(s) to the State Chair no later than December 18, 2015. Caucus sites may be in separate locations for each presidential candidate. The site must accommodate separate rooms for each individual caucus unless otherwise agreed to by the Caucus Chairs. If there are multiple locations, the caucus coordinator may designate additional coordinators as necessary.

e. Each Caucus Coordinator and Caucus Chair shall be required to attend a caucus training session held between December 10, 2015 and January 2, 2016. The training session shall train the Caucus Coordinators and Caucus Chairs in caucus procedures. The training session shall be conducted by Ohio Democratic Party staff or by trained Caucus Coordinators.

f. The following procedure shall be used in the conduct of each congressional district caucus:

(1) One hour prior to the caucuses, the doors will be opened to allow participants to sign statements of support indicating their presidential preference. Participants may only sign one statement of support. These statements will be available at the caucuses and only those individuals who sign such statements of support will be allowed to participate. Individuals who arrive after the meeting begins shall be allowed to sign the statements of support.

(2) The Caucus Coordinator or their designee shall call the meeting to order promptly at 7:00 PM and read a welcome and announcements from the State Chair. The Caucus Coordinator or their designee shall remind participants of the need to sign statements of support and indicate that Ohio Democratic Party membership applications are available for those wishing to make a voluntary donation to the Party.

(3) The caucus shall then divide into individual caucuses composed of the participants who signed statements of support for each specific candidate. The Caucus Chairs for each presidential candidate shall conduct these meetings.

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(4) The Caucus Chairs shall read the names of all candidates for the district delegate positions and shall indicate the number of male and female delegates that may be selected from their congressional district. Only those individuals who have filed an "Ohio Democratic Party Declaration of Candidacy" form and who have been approved by the presidential candidate or his authorized representative may be considered for the delegate or alternate slots.

(5) The Caucus Chair may allow each delegate candidate to speak to the caucus. The Caucus Chair may limit candidates speech to a reasonable time.

(6) Participants who have signed statements of support shall then vote by signed ballot. Ballots shall be distributed at a central location by the Caucus Coordinator or their designee(s). Participants shall only be allowed to vote for delegates/alternate pledged to the candidate for whom they signed a statement of support. Separate ballots shall be distributed for male and female candidates. The ballots shall be collected, counted, and the results announced.

(7) A separate election shall then be held for the alternate position if available for the congressional district using the same procedure. All delegate candidates are eligible to be alternate candidates.

(8) The ranking of elected candidates for district delegate and alternate shall be determined in a manner set by the pre-primary caucus in accordance with the Rules & Bylaws of the Democratic National Committee. This ranking must be reported to the state chair.

(9) The Caucus Chair must certify the outcome of the caucuses to the State Chair no later than January 9, 2012.

(10) By January 9, 2012, the Caucus Coordinator shall file with the State Chair, a list of those people who filled out signed statements of support at each caucus meeting. The list shall include the names, addresses and phone numbers of all caucus participants as designated on their statements of support.

g. The following Democratic National Committee rules for scheduling of delegate selection meetings are incorporated as part of this plan:

(1) All official Party meetings and events related to the national convention delegate selection process, including caucuses,

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conventions, committee meetings, filing dates, and Party enrollment periods, shall be scheduled for dates, times and public places which would be most likely to encourage the participation of all Democrats, and must begin and end at reasonable hours.

(2) All such meetings or events which are the first meeting or event in the delegate selection process shall be scheduled at times and dates which are uniform throughout the state, except where it is established by the state party and approved by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee that such uniform times and dates would significantly reduce participation in the delegate selection process.

(3) The times, dates, places, and rules for the conduct of all caucuses, conventions, meetings and other events involved in the delegate selection process shall be effectively publicized by the Party organization, official, candidate or member calling the same.

(4) Concise statements in advance of all meetings and events concerning the relationship between the business to be conducted and the delegate selection process shall be effectively publicized by the Party organization, official, candidate or member calling the same.

(5) No person shall participate in more than one meeting which is the first meeting in the delegate selection process.

7. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference

a. Presidential Primary - Proportional Representation Plan

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

The following method shall be used in allocating delegates by proportional representation:

(1) Calculate to three decimals the percentage of vote that each presidential preference received.

(2) Identify those preferences who met the 15% threshold and total their sums. This will be the new base vote. Then recalculate to

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three decimals the percentage of the vote that each presidential preference received against the new base vote.

(3) Multiply the percentage for each presidential preference by the number of delegates to be awarded in the congressional district. Calculate the figure to three decimals.

(4) Each presidential preference shall be entitled to the whole number of delegates assigned in (3).

(5) Any remaining delegates are awarded in the order of the highest fractional remainders for the final tally.

b. Within a district, if no presidential preference reaches a 15% threshold, the threshold shall be the percentage of the vote received in that district by the front-runner minus 10%.

c. If a presidential candidate has certified at least one candidate for delegate in a congressional district or has qualified through the filing of a statewide petition and receives enough votes to qualify for more delegates than the number of certified candidates, than a special post-primary caucus shall be held in the congressional district to select these delegates or alternates.

8. Equal Division of District-Level Delegates and Alternates

a. In order to ensure the district-level delegates are equally divided between men and women, delegate positions within each district will be designated by presidential preference beginning with the highest vote-getting presidential preference. The assignment of delegate positions, alternating by sex as mathematically practicable, will continue with the next highest vote-getting preferences in descending order until the gender of each position has been assigned.

The gender of the first delegate assigned in each congressional district shall be as indicated on the chart of delegates and alternates.

b. After the delegates are selected, the alternates will be awarded using the same process described above.

9. Certification of Delegates and Alternates

The State Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's district level delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within ten (10) days after their election is certified by the Secretary of State.

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The time frame for certification of election results is as follows:

- March 15 Primary Election Day
- March 29 Armed Service Ballot Deadline
- March 30 Canvass of Election Returns Begins

The canvass does not have to begin until March 30. Canvass continues until completed, there is no deadline. Normally all canvassing is completed within fourteen days.

- April 8 (est.) Secretary of State Certifies Results

10. Special Post-Primary Caucus

If a presidential candidate has qualified to receive delegates and alternates but has failed to slate a sufficient number of delegate and alternate candidates, then additional delegates and alternates for that preference will be selected in a special post-primary caucus according to the following procedure:

- a. An individual may qualify as a candidate for delegate or alternate by filing a "Declaration of Candidacy and Consent" form including a signed pledge of support with the Ohio Democratic Party by 5:00 PM on April 13, 2016.
- b. The State Chair shall appoint a Caucus Coordinator for each congressional district in which a special post-primary caucus is necessary no later than April 8, 2016 after consultation with each participating presidential candidate or their authorized representative.
- c. The State Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative, not later than 5:00 PM on April 14, 2016, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate.
- d. Each Caucus Coordinator shall select a site for their caucus and report this location to the State Chair no later than April 11, 2016.
- e. Each participating presidential candidate or their authorized representative shall appoint a Caucus Chair for each special post-primary caucus no later than April 11, 2016 after consultation with the State Chair.
- f. Each participating presidential candidate or their authorized representative must file with the State Chair by April 15, 2016, a list of all delegate or alternate candidates he or she has approved, provided that

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approval be given to at least three (3) names for every position to which the presidential candidate is entitled.

Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate and alternate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate.

g. All special post-primary caucuses will be held on April 16, 2016 and shall follow the same procedure and rules outlined for the pre-primary caucus outlined in C (6) (f) & (g).

h. The Caucus Chairs must certify the outcome of their caucus to the State Chair no later than 5:00 PM on April 18, 2016.

i. The State Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the results of the special post-primary caucus no later than April 23, 2016.

j. By April 20, 2016, the Caucus Coordinator shall file with the State Chair, a list of those people who filled out signed statements of support at each caucus meeting. The list shall include the names, addresses and phone numbers of all caucus participants as designated on their statements of support.

D. Unpledged Delegates

1. Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials

a. The following categories shall constitute the unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official delegate positions:

(1) Members of the Democratic National Committee who legally reside in Ohio.

(2) All of Ohio's Democratic Members of Congress.

(3) All former Democratic Presidents, all former Democratic Vice Presidents, all former Democratic Leaders of the US Senate, all former Democratic Speakers and Minority Leaders of the US House of Representatives, and all former Chairs of the Democratic National Committee

b. The certification process for the unpledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates is as follows:

(1) Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee shall officially confirm to the Ohio Democratic Party Chair the names of the unpledged delegates who legally reside in Ohio.

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(2) Official confirmation by the Secretary shall constitute verification of the unpledged delegates from the categories indicated above.

(3) The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the presidential preference of the State's unpledged delegates the (10) days after the completion of the State's Delegate Selection process.

E. Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates

1. Number of PLEO Delegates

Ohio is allotted 19 pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates.

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: statewide elected officials; big city mayors; state legislative leaders, state legislators, and other state, county, and local elected officials and party leaders.

b. An individual can qualify as a candidate for a position as a pledged PLEO delegate by properly filing the Ohio Democratic Party "Declaration of Candidacy and Consent" form including a signed pledge of support with the Ohio Democratic Party by May 7, 2016.

3. Presidential Candidate Right of Approval

a. The State Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative, not later than May 10, 2016, a list of all persons who have filed for a party and elected official delegate pledged to that presidential candidate.

b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative must file with the State Chair by May 12, 2016 a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, as long as approval is given to at least two (2) names for every position to which the presidential candidate is entitled.

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 signifies otherwise in writing to the State Chair by May 12, 2016.

4. Selection of Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates

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- a. The pledged PLEO slots shall be allocated among presidential preferences on the same basis as the at-large delegates.
- b. Selection of the pledged PLEO delegates will occur on May 14, 2016 at the State Executive Committee meeting prior to the selection of at-large delegates and alternates.
- c. These delegates will be selected by the State Executive Committee (membership composition described in Section VIII.) using the following procedure:
 - (1) The State Chair will announce the results of the March 8, 2016 primary and indicate the number of PLEO delegates each Presidential candidate is entitled to.
 - (2) The State Chair will announce the candidates pledged to each presidential candidate and call for a separate vote for each set of delegates.
 - (3) The vote shall be taken by hand vote or by signed ballot.
- d. Alternates are not selected at the Party Leader and Elected Official level. These alternates are combined with the at-large alternates and selected as one unit.

5. Certification of Delegates

The State 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 ten (10) days after their election.

F. At-Large Delegates and Alternates

1. Number of Delegates and Alternates

The state of Ohio is allotted 32 at-large delegates and 3 at-large alternates.

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 presidential preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidates with the Ohio Democratic Party by May 7, 2016. This form shall allow persons to file for all types of delegates and alternates at the same time.
- 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 the

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State Executive Committee, those persons not chosen will then be considered candidates for at-large alternate positions unless they specify otherwise when filing.

3. Presidential Candidate Right of Approval

a. The State Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative, not later than May 10, 2016, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate.

b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative must then file with the State Chair, following the selection of Party Leader and Elected Officials, a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, provided that at a minimum, two (2) names remain for every national convention delegate or alternate position to which the presidential candidate is entitled.

c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all at-large delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate or the authorized representative signifies otherwise in writing to the State Chair prior to their selection.

4. Selection of At-Large Delegates and Alternates

a. At-large delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated among presidential preferences according to the state-wide primary vote.

b. Preferences which have not attained a 15% threshold on a state-wide basis shall not be entitled to any at-large delegates.

c. If no presidential preference reaches a 15% threshold, the threshold shall be the percentage of the statewide vote received by the front-runner, minus 10%.

d. The selection of the at-large delegates and alternates will occur on May 14, 2016 after all pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates have been selected.

e. These delegates and alternates will be selected by the State Executive Committee (membership composition described in Section VIII.)

f. In the selection of the at-large delegation, priority of consideration shall be given to African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans, the LGBT community, women and youth. The election of at-large delegates and alternates shall be used, if necessary, to

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achieve the equal division of positions between men and women, and may be used to achieve the representation goals established in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan. Delegates and alternates are to be considered separate groups for this purpose.

In order to continue the Democratic Party's ongoing efforts to include groups historically under-represented in the Democratic Party's affairs, priority of consideration should be given to other groups by virtue of race/ethnicity, age, sexual orientation or disability.

g. If a presidential candidate is no longer a candidate at the time of selection of the at-large delegates, then those at-large slots that would have been allocated to the candidate will be proportionally divided among the remaining preferences entitled to an allocation.

h. If a given presidential preference is entitled to one or more delegate positions but would not otherwise be entitled to an alternate position, that preference shall be allotted one at-large alternate position.

i. The following procedure shall be used for the selection of at-large delegates and alternates:

(1) The State Chair will announce the results of the March 8, 2016 primary and indicate the number of at-large delegates each Presidential candidate is entitled to.

(2) The State Chair will announce the candidates pledged to each presidential candidate and call for a separate vote for each set of delegates and alternates.

(3) The vote shall be taken by hand vote or by signed ballot.

5. Certification of Delegates and Alternates

The State 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 ten (10) days after their election.

G. Replacement of Delegates and Alternates

1. Replacement of Pledged Delegates and Alternates

A pledged delegate or alternate may be replaced according to the following guidelines.

a. Permanent Replacement of a Delegate

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(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.

(a) If a delegate or alternate candidate who has been elected but not yet certified to the DNC Secretary resigns, dies or is no longer eligible to serve, then the presidential candidate's authorized representative names the replacement after consulting with the State Party.

(2) Any alternate permanently replacing a delegate shall be of the same presidential preference and sex of the delegate he/she replaces, 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 alternate, that alternate shall become the certified delegate.

(b) If a presidential candidate has only one alternate, and that alternate permanently replaces a delegate of the opposite sex, 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 17 D (2), the presidential candidate or their authorized representative shall, at the time of a subsequent permanent replacement, replace a delegate with a person of the opposite sex, in order to return the delegation to equal division of men and women.

(c) If the delegate is pledged to a presidential candidate, the presidential candidate or their authorized representative will select the alternate who replaces the delegate subject to the approval of the delegation members pledged to the presidential candidate.

b. Temporary Replacement of a Delegate

(1) A temporary replacement occurs when a delegate is to be absent for a limited period of time during the convention and an alternate temporarily acts in the delegate's place.

(2) Any alternate who temporarily replaces a delegate must be of the same presidential preference as the delegate he/she replaces, and to the extent possible shall be of the same sex and from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.

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(3) The presidential candidate or their authorized representative shall choose the alternate who temporarily replaces the pledged delegate, subject to the approval of the delegation members pledged to the presidential candidate.

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 State Chair.

(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 State Chair to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the replacement is selected.

(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.

(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.

d. A vacant alternate position shall be filled by the delegation. The replacement shall be of the same presidential preference, of the same sex, and to the extent possible, from the same political subdivision as the alternate being replaced.

2. Replacement of Unpledged Delegates

Unpledged delegates shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except under the following conditions:

a. Members of Congress 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

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Democratic Caucus of the U S House of Representatives or the Democratic Conference of the U S Senate.

- 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 2012 Democratic National Convention, acknowledgment by the Secretary of the new DNC member certification shall constitute verification of the corresponding change of unpledged delegates.
- c. Distinguished Party Leaders shall not be entitled to name a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to name a replacement.
- d. In no case may an alternate cast a vote for an unpledged delegate.

III. Selection of Standing Committee Members

A. Introduction

1. Number of Members

Ohio has been allocated 6 members on each of the three standing committees for the 2016 Democratic National Convention (Credentials, Platform and Rules), for a total of 18 members.

2. Membership Requirements

Members of the Convention Standing Committees need not be delegates or alternates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

B. Selection of Members

1. Selection Meeting

a. The members of the standing committee shall be elected by a quorum of Ohio's National Convention Delegates, at a meeting to be held on May 24, 2016.

b. A quorum shall consist of 40% of Ohio's delegates to the National Convention.

c. All members of the delegation shall receive timely notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the standing committee members.

2. Allocation of Members

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a. The members of the standing committees allocated to Ohio shall proportionately represent the presidential preference of all candidates receiving the threshold percentage used in Ohio's delegation to calculate the at-large apportionment pursuant to Rule 12 E of the Delegate Selection Rules.

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 Ohio. 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.

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

d. Standing committee positions allocated to a presidential candidate shall be proportionately allocated, to the extent practicable, to each of the three 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.

3. Presidential Candidate Right of Approval

a. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative 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.

b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative, must submit to the State Chair, by May 23, 2016, a minimum of one (1) name for each slot awarded to that candidate for members of each committee. The delegation shall select the standing committee members submitted by the presidential candidates. Presidential candidates shall not be required to submit the name of more than one person for each slot awarded to such candidate for members of standing committees.

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4. Selection Procedure to Achieve Equal Division

a. Presidential candidates shall use their best efforts to ensure that their respective delegation of standing committee members shall achieve Ohio's affirmative action goals and that their respective members are equally divided between men and women.

b. Each position on each standing committee shall be assigned by gender. For example, the first position on the Credentials Committee of the presidential candidate with the most standing committee positions shall be designated for a female, the second position for a male, and the remaining positions shall be designated in like fashion, alternating between males and females. Positions for presidential candidates on each committee shall be ranked according to the total number of standing positions allocated to each candidate. After positions on the Credential Committee are designated by sex, 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 membership of the standing committees shall be as equally divided as possible under the state allocation; if the number is even, the membership shall be equally divided between men and women; if the number is odd, the variance between men and women may not exceed one (1), and the advantaged gender must not remain constant for the three standing committees.

(3) 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 sex.

5. Certification and Substitution

a. The State Chair shall certify the standing committee members in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after their selection.

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

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after the substitute member is selected. Substitutions of standing committee members are encouraged to be made up to forty-eight (48) hours prior to the time the standing committee meets, except in the case of death.

IV Selection of the Delegation Chair and Convention Pages

A. Introduction

Ohio will select one (1) person to serve as Delegation Chair and 4 to serve as Convention Pages.

B. Delegation Chair

1. Selection Meeting

a. The Delegation Chair shall be selected by a quorum of Ohio's National Convention Delegates, at a meeting to be held on May 24, 2016.

b. A quorum shall consist of 40% of the state's delegates to the National Convention.

c. All members of the delegation shall receive timely notice of the time, date, and place of the meeting to select the Delegation Chair.

2. Certification of Delegation Chair

The State Chair shall certify the Delegation Chair in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within (3) days after his or her selection.

C. Convention Pages

1. Four individuals will be selected to serve as Ohio's Convention Pages by the State Chair in consultation with the members of the Democratic National Committee from the state. This selection will take place on May 14, 2016 at the State Executive Committee meeting.

2. The Convention Pages shall be as evenly divided between men and women as possible under the state allocation and shall reflect as much as possible, the Affirmative Action guidelines in the Affirmative Action Plan.

3. The State Chair shall certify the individuals to serve as Ohio's Convention Pages in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the selection.

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V. General Provisions and Procedural Guarantees

A. Participation in Ohio's delegate selection process is open to all voters who wish to participate as Democrats. Duly registered or publicly declared Democrats will not be required to undertake a further enrollment as a condition of participation. Ohio law sets forth provisions for challenging a qualified elector's right to vote in a party primary election. Such a challenge may be asserted against one who is not affiliated with or is not a member of the party, according to Ohio Revised Code, Section 3513.15.

B. At no stage of Ohio'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.

C. No persons 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 elections.

D. No person shall vote in more than one meeting which is the first meeting in the delegate selection process.

E. The Ohio Democratic Party reaffirms its commitment to an open party by incorporating the provisions listed below. 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.

1. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party in Ohio should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status, or physical disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as "status.")

2. No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to the Democratic Party in Ohio 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."

3. The time and place for all public meetings of the Democratic Party in Ohio on all levels should be publicized fully and in such manner 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.

4. The Democratic Party in Ohio, on all levels, should support the broadest possible registration without discrimination based on "status."

5. The Democratic Party in Ohio 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

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all prospective and current members 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.

6. The Democratic Party in Ohio 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 Ohio Democratic Party. Such publication should be done in timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

F. Discrimination on the basis of "status" in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited.

G. Ohio's delegation shall be equally divided between delegate men and delegate women, and alternate men and alternate women. Such goal applies to the entire delegation, which includes all pledged delegates and alternates and all unpledged delegates. Delegates and alternates shall be considered separate groups for purposes of achieving equal division.

H. 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.

I. Delegates elected to the national convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them.

J. Forty percent 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 convention delegates.

K. No proxy voting will be permitted in any delegate selection caucus committee or any other body selecting delegates or alternates in Ohio.

L. 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 the majority of the body, shall not be used at any stage of the delegate selection process.

M. 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.

N. 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.

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O. In electing and certifying delegates and alternates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention, Ohio thereby undertakes to assure all Democratic voters in the state full, timely and equal opportunity to participate in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs and to implement affirmative action programs toward that end, and that the delegates and alternates to the Convention shall be selected in accordance with the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2016 Democratic National Convention, and that the voters in the state will have the opportunity to cast their election ballots for the Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees selected by said Convention, and for electors pledged formally and in good conscience to the election of these Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees, under the label and designation of the Democratic Party of the United States, 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.

P. All delegates, alternates and standing committee members must be bona fide Democrats who have the interests, welfare, and success of the Democratic Party at heart, who subscribe 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.

Q. All delegate and alternate candidates must be identified as to presidential preference at all levels which determine presidential preference.

R. Ohio is participating in the state government-run presidential preference primary that will utilize government-run voting systems. The State Party has taken (or will take) provable positive steps to:

- a. Promote the acquisition, maintenance and regular replacement of accessible precinct based optical scan systems, wherever possible. (Rule 2.H. (1))
- b. Seek enactment of legislation, rules, and policies at the state and local level to ensure that direct recording electronic systems include a voter verified paper trail (Rule 2.H. (2))
- c. Seek enactment of legislation, rules and policies at the state and local level to ensure that both optical scan and direct recording electronic systems include recognized security measures. These measures include automatic routine annual audits comparing paper records to electronic records following every election and prior to certification or results where possible; parallel testing on election day; physical and electronic security for equipment; banning use of wireless components and connections; public disclosure of software design; use of transparent and random selection for all auditing procedures; and effective procedures for addressing evidence of fraud or error. (Rule 2.H. (3))

VI. Affirmative Action Plan

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A. Introduction

1. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party in Ohio should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status, or physical disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as "status").
2. In order 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 in Ohio.
3. Discrimination on the basis of "status" in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited.
4. In order to achieve full participation by groups that are significantly under-represented in our Party's affairs, Ohio has developed Party outreach programs.
 - a. Such programs include recruitment, education and training, in order to achieve full participation by such groups in the delegate selection process and at all levels of Party affairs for 2016.
 - b. As part of these programs, outreach will be directed at all Democratic constituencies, including groups such as ethnics, youth, persons over 65 years of age, the LGBT community, workers, persons with a high school education or less, persons with physical disabilities, and persons of low and moderate income.
5. In order to encourage full participation by all Democrats in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs, the Ohio Democratic Party has adopted and will implement affirmative action programs with specific goals and timetables for African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans, the LGBT community, and women and youth.
 - a. The goal of the affirmative action 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.
 - b. This goal 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.
6. Presidential candidates shall assist the Ohio Democratic Party in meeting the demographic representation goals reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan.

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a. Each presidential candidate must submit a written statement to the State Chair by November 23, 2015 which indicates the specific steps he or she will take to encourage full participation in Ohio's delegate selection process, including, but not limited to, procedures by which persons may file as candidates for delegate or alternate.

b. 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.

7. Presidential candidates shall use their best effort to ensure that their respective delegations shall achieve the affirmative action goals reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan and that the respective delegations of each presidential candidate shall be equally divided between men and women. Furthermore, presidential candidates shall use their best efforts at the district-level to approve delegate and alternate candidates who meet applicable equal division and affirmative action goals and equal division for their respective delegations.

8. Implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan shall begin on September 15, 2015, with the distribution of the press kits, and will continue through the end of the process.

B. Organizational Structure - Affirmative Action Committee

1. An Affirmative Action Committee shall be appointed by the State Chair on February 27, 2015.

2. The names, addresses, contact numbers and demographic information of the Affirmative Action Committee should be submitted to the RBC by March 15, 2015. (Reg. 2.2K)

3. The Affirmative Action Committee shall be responsible for:

a. Reviewing the proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans and making recommendations to the State Chair.

b. Directing the implementation of all requirements of the Affirmative Action section of this plan.

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c. Implementing a financial assistance program for delegates and alternates. In carrying out this responsibility, the Affirmative Action Committee shall:

- (1) Encourage the participation and representation of persons of low and moderate income;
- (2) Advise prospective delegates and alternates in a timely manner of the role and mandate of this Affirmative Action Committee;
- (3) Receive requests for financial assistance from delegates and alternates otherwise unable to participate in the National Convention.
- (4) Prepare specific information for all delegates and alternates as to how and where to seek financial assistance to defray expenses to the Convention. This information may include lists of groups or organizations willing to help and fund-raising ideas; and
- (5) Plan and conduct the fundraising events or solicitations necessary to supplement other efforts.

d. Ensuring, on behalf of the Ohio Democratic Party, that district lines used in the delegate selection process are not gerrymandered to discriminate against African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans, the LGBT community, and women.

4. Financial and staff support for the Affirmative Action Committee shall be provided by the Ohio Democratic Party to the greatest extent feasible, including, but not limited to, the state party staff and volunteers and all reasonable costs incurred in carrying out this plan.

C. Implementation of the Plan

1. Publicity

a. Special attention shall be directed at 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 state party newsletter. 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.

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b. Newspapers, radio and television will be utilized to inform the general public how, when and where to participate in the delegate selection process. Specifically, this information should provide details as to how to qualify to run as a delegate candidate. Special effort shall be directed to the major daily newspapers, radio and television stations by the State Chair, Affirmative Action Committee members and staff. Regular releases during the delegate selection process to all other media sources, weekly newspapers, and wire services should complete timely coverage.

c. A priority effort shall directed at publicity in minority newspapers and radio stations, ethnic press, Native American, Asian/Pacific American, Spanish-speaking and other non-English press, radio stations, and publications, and women's organizations, student newspapers and any other special media in the state that is likely to reach the Democratic constituency groups set forth in the introduction of this Affirmative Action Plan. The State Party shall be responsible for the implementation of this publicity effort. For purposes of providing adequate notice of the delegate selection process, the times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of caucuses and state executive committee meetings shall be effectively publicized, bilingual where necessary, to encourage the participation of minority groups.

d. Not later than September 15, 2015, a press kit shall be made and provided to each daily and weekly newspaper as well as to the electronic media. This press kit will include:

- (1) a summary of all pertinent rules related to the state's delegate selection process;
- (2) a map of delegate districts and how many delegates will be elected within each district;
- (3) a summary explaining the operation and importance of the 2016 Convention; and
- (4) materials designed to encourage participation by prospective delegate candidates.

2. Education

a. A virtual workshop shall take place at the Ohio Democratic Party's website beginning in November 2015 which will take and answer all questions from any interested parties concerning the delegate selection process. Information on the delegate selection process, including this plan will be available for all interested parties to read and download. The Ohio Democratic Party's website is www.ohiodems.org.

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b. A speakers bureau of volunteers from the Affirmative Action Committee 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.

c. The state party will publish and make available at no cost: a clear and concise explanation of how Democratic voters can participate in the delegate selection process; an explanation of how, where and when persons can register to vote; and delegate district maps. As well, the State Party shall also make available copies of the State Party Rules, the Delegate Selection Plan (and its attachments), the Affirmative Action Plan, and relevant state statutes at no cost. Copies of documents related to the state's delegate selection process will be prepared and the Affirmative Action Committee will distribute them in the various delegate districts not later than September 15, 2015.

d. The state shall take all feasible steps to encourage persons to register and to vote as Democrats and will seek to ensure simple and easy registration procedures.

3. Representation Goals

a. The state party has determined the demographic composition of African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans, the LGBT community, and youth (those 18-36 yrs old) in the state's Democratic electorate. These constituency percentages shall be established as goals of representation in the state's convention delegation. Native Americans should provide their tribal affiliation and whether or not they are enrolled in their tribe.

b. When selecting the at-large portion of the delegation, the demographic composition of the other delegates (district-level, pledged PLEO, and unpledged) shall be compared with the state party's goals in order to achieve an at-large selection process which helps to bring about a representative balance. Priority of consideration will be given to women, African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans, the LGBT community and youth in the selection of the at-large delegation.

c. Use of the at-large delegation to achieve the affirmative action goals established by this Plan does not obviate the need for the state party to conduct outreach activities such as recruitment, education and training.

VII. Challenges

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A. Introduction

1. Jurisdiction

a. Challenges related to the delegate selection process are governed by the *Regulations of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2016 Democratic National Convention* and the "Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2016 Democratic National Convention."

b. Under Rule 19 B of the *2016 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 Plans.

c. The Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction to hear and decide any challenge provided that it is initiated before July 7, 2016.

d. Challenges to the credentials of delegates and alternates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention initiated on or after May 31, 2016 shall be processed in accordance with the "Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2016 Democratic National Convention."

e. 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 2016 Democratic National Convention*. The Rules and Bylaws Committee shall have jurisdiction over challenges brought before May 31, 2016.

f. Copies of the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee and/or the Call for the 2016 Democratic National Convention, including the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee (Appendix A) shall be made available by the state party upon reasonable request.

2. Standing

Any group of fifteen Democrats with standing to challenge as defined in Reg. 3.2 or the Call (Appendix A, Sec. 2:A), may bring a challenge to this Plan or to the implementation of this Plan, including its Affirmative Action provisions.

B. Challenges to the Status of the State Party and the Plan

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1. A challenge to the status of the Ohio Democratic Party as the body entitled to sponsor a delegation from Ohio shall be filed with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the initiation of the state's delegate selection process.
2. A challenge to the state's Delegate Selection Plan shall be filed with the Chair of the Ohio Democratic Party and the Co-Chairs of the Rules and Bylaws Committee within fifteen (15) calendar days after the adoption of the Plan by the State Party.
3. A challenge to a Plan must be brought in conformity with the Rules and the Regs., 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.
2. An implementation challenge brought before the Rules and Bylaws Committee is initiated by filing a written challenge with the Ohio Democratic Party and with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than fifteen (15) days after the alleged violation occurred. The state party has twenty-one (21) days to render a decision. Within ten (10) days of the decision, any party to the challenge may appeal it to the Rules and Bylaws Committee. If in fact, the state party renders no decision, any party to the challenge may request the Rules and Bylaws Committee to process it. The request must be made within ten (10) days after the expiration of the above twenty-one (21) day period.
3. Performance under an approved Affirmative Action Plan and composition of the convention delegation shall be considered relevant evidence in the challenge to any state delegation. If the state party has adopted and implemented an approved affirmative action program, the state party shall not be subject to challenge based solely on delegate composition or primary results. The procedures are the same for challenges alleging failure to properly implement the Affirmative Action section of a Plan, except that such challenges must be filed not later than thirty (30) days prior to the initiation of the state's delegate selection process.
4. Depending on the appropriate jurisdiction (see Section VII. 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

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Committee, which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

VIII. State Executive Committee

The State Executive Committee is the selecting body for Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates, and Pledged At-Large Delegates and Alternates.

The State Executive Committee, pursuant to Article Three Section 6 of the Constitution of the Ohio Democratic Party, is composed of 66 members (one male and one female) elected from Ohio's 33 State Senate Districts on Primary Election Day in Gubernatorial years; ex-officio members which includes all non-Judicial Statewide officeholders, Democratic Candidates for Statewide Office, and the Democratic leaders of both the Ohio House of Representative and the Ohio Senate; 65 at-large members; 10 members of the Finance Council, and 5 members who represent various statewide Democratic organizations. Those members who are not elected are recommended by the State Chair and approved by the State Executive Committee and must be broadly representative of all the various elements of the party in accordance with the principles contained in the Charter and By-Laws of the Democratic Party of the United States. These at-large members include the chairpersons of the twelve most populous democratic counties, and representatives from allied affiliated organizations. This requires the membership to comply with the equal division requirements of Article 9, Section 16 of the Charter of the Democratic Party.

The State Executive Committee pursuant to the authority granted to it by the State Central Committee shall promulgate and file with the Secretary of State its rules governing the issuance of certificates.

2016 Exhibits

1. Media Outlets

Major Daily Newspapers, Radio and Television Stations

The following major media outlets that will be the target of special efforts by the State Democratic Chair, the Affirmative Action Committee members, and the staff to publicize information about the state's delegate selection process:

Major Daily Newspapers

Akron Beacon Journal
Cincinnati Enquirer
Columbus Dispatch
Dayton Daily News

The Plain Dealer (Cleveland)
The Repository (Canton)
The Vindicator (Youngstown)
Toledo Blade

Radio Stations

WAKR-AM (Akron)

WHIO-AM (Dayton)

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WNIR-FM (Akron)	WHKO-FM (Dayton)
WHBC-AM (Canton)	WMAN-AM (Mansfield)
WLW-AM (Cincinnati)	WLEC-AM (Sandusky)
WERE (Cleveland)	WBLY-AM (Springfield)
WOSU-AM (Columbus)	WSPD-AM (Toledo)
WTVN-AM (Columbus)	WKBN-AM (Youngstown)
WTAM (Cleveland)	WCPN (Cleveland)
WCBE (Columbus)	WIMA (Lima)
WSTV (Steubenville)	WIZF-FM (Cincinnati)

Television Stations

WJW (Cleveland)	WKYC (Cleveland)	WNEO (Kent)
WOIO (Cleveland)	WEAO (Kent)	WOUB (Athens)
WUAB (Cleveland)	WLIO (Lima)	WOUC (Athens)
WVIZ (Cleveland)	WTLW (Lima)	WHIZ (Zanesville)
WBGU (Bowling Green)	WBNS (Columbus)	WMFD (Mansfield)
Wafa (Bucyrus)	WCMH (Columbus)	WQHS (Parma)
WOSU (Columbus)	WTOV (Steubenville)	WSYX (Columbus)
WGTE (Toledo)	WWHO (Chillicothe)	WTTE (Columbus)
WNWO (Toledo)	WBNX (Cuyahoga Falls)	WTOL (Toledo)
WCPO (Cincinnati)	WDNT (Dayton)	WTVG (Toledo)
WKRC (Cincinnati)	WHIO (Dayton)	WUPW (Toledo)
WLWT (Cincinnati)	WKEF (Dayton)	WFMJ (Youngstown)
WSTR (Cincinnati)	WPTD (Dayton)	WKBN (Youngstown)
WXIX (Cincinnati)	WPTO (Dayton)	WYTV (Youngstown)
WEWS (Cleveland)	WRGT (Dayton)	WHIZ (Zanesville)

Other "Non-Minority" Media Outlets

The following media outlets will receive regular releases during the delegate selection process:

Associated Press	Gallipolis Daily Tribune
United Press International	Ohio Public Radio
Gongwer News Service	Ironton Tribune
Ohio News Network Radio	Journal-News (Hamilton)
Alliance Review	Kenton Times
Ashland Times Gazette	Lancaster Eagle Gazette
Athens Messenger	Logan Daily News
Beavercreek News	Mansfield News Journal
Bellevue Gazette	Marietta AM
Chillicothe Gazette	Marietta Times
Daily Advocate (Greenville)	Marysville Journal Tribune
Daily Sentinel Tribune	Massillon Independent
Delphos Herald	Middletown Journal
Galion Enquirer	Mount Vernon News
Massillon Independent	Middletown Journal
Mount Vernon News	Newark Advocate

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Newark Advocate	Northwest Signal
Norwalk Reflector	Piqua Daily Call
Pomeroy Daily Sentinel	Port Clinton News Herald
Portsmouth Daily Times	Ravenna Record-Courier
St Marys Evening Leader	Salem News
Shelby Daily Globe	Sidney Daily News
Springfield News-Sun	Steubenville Herald-Star
Bryan Times	Bucyrus Telegraph-Forum
The Chronicle-Telegram (Elyria)	Circleville Herald
The Courier (Findlay)	The Crescent-News (Defiance)
Daily Chief Union (Upper Sandusky)	Daily Standard (Celina)
Delaware Gazette	Evening Review (East Liverpool)
Fairborn Daily Herald	The Lima News
Lisbon Morning Journal	Lorain Morning Journal
Marion Star	Medina County Gazette
New Philadelphia Times Reporter	News-Messenger (Fremont)
The Review Times (Fostoria)	The Star-Beacon (Ashtabula)
The Times Leader (Martins Ferry)	The Tribune (Coshocton)
Tiffin Advertiser-Tribune	Troy Daily News
Urbana Daily Citizen	Van Wert Times Bulletin
Wapakoneta Daily News	Warren Tribune Chronicle
Willoughby News Herald	Wilmington News-Journal
Wooster Daily Record	Xenia Daily Gazette
Zanesville Times Recorder	Ohio News Network Television
Washington Court House Record Herald	
Cincinnati City Beat	

Minority and Special Media Outlets

The following media outlets will be targeted for a priority effort to effectively publicize information about the delegate selection process:

College/Student Publications

BG News	Bowling Green State University
Ohio State Lantern	The Ohio State University
Daily Kent Stater	Kent State University
Dynamo	Mount Union College
Collegian	Ashland University
The Exponent	Baldwin Wallace College
The Cauldron	Cleveland State University
The Observer	Case Western Reserve University
Chimes	Capital University
News Record	University of Cincinnati
The Clarion	Sinclair Community College
Flyer News	University of Dayton
The Guardian	Wright State University
The Transcript	Ohio Wesleyan University
The Denisonian	Denison University

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The Marcolian	Marietta College
Black & Magenta	Muskingum College
Oberlin College Review	Oberlin College
The Miami Student	Miami University
Signals	University of Rio Grande
The Wittenberg Torch	Wittenberg University
Troubadour	Franciscan University of Steubenville
The Collegian	University of Toledo
Carroll News	John Carroll University
The Wooster Voice	College of Wooster
Jambar	Youngstown State University

Other Targeted Publications

American Israelite (Religious)	Buckeye Review (African American)
Call and Post (African American)	Catholic Chronicle (Religious)
Catholic Telegraph (Religious)	Catholic Times (Religious)
Cincinnati Herald (African American)	Cleveland Jewish News (Religious)
Communicator News (African American)	
The Columbus Post (African American)	
Dayton Weekley News (African American)	
Dirva-Lithuanian Newspaper (Ethnic)	
Labor Union Gazette (Union)	La Prensa Weekly (Hispanic)
Nueva Horizontes Magazine (Hispanic)	
Ohio Jewish Chronicle (Religious)	Ohio Labor Citizen (Union)
Reporter Newspapers (African American)	
Toledo Journal (African American)	Toledo Union Journal (Union)
UTU News (Union)	
Gay People’s Chronicle	Outlook News

Major Metro-Area African American Radio Stations

WZIP-FM (Akron)	WCKX-FM (Columbus)
WIZF-FM (Cincinnati)	WVKO-AM (Columbus)
WZAK-FM (Cleveland)	WDAO-AM (Dayton)
WZJM-FM (Cleveland)	WROU-FM (Dayton)
WWWM-AM (Toledo)	WANR-AM (Warren)
WCSU-FM (Wiberforce - Central State University)	
WDBZ-AM (Cincinnati)	WOSL-FM (Cincinnati)

The media outlets listed are not exclusive. Additional media outlets will be added upon request.

2. Demographic Study and Analysis

The demographic composition of Ohio's Democratic electorate will determined by using a combination of 2010 Census Data and the NY Times National Exit Poll conducted in November, 2012 in which respondents indicated their vote for President.

U S Census Data (OH 2010)	NY Times Exit Poll (OH, unless noted)
% of Population	Obama Vote 2012

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African Americans	12.2 %	96 %
Hispanics	3.1 %	54 %
Asian Pacific Americans	1.7 %	73 % (nationally)
Native Americans	0.23 %	NA
*LGBT	4.5% (est)	76% (nationally)
#Youth (18-19)	2.7 % (est)	63 % (18-29)
(20-39)	25%	51 % (30-44)

Affirmative Action Goals

	Percent	Delegates	Alternates	Committees
African Americans	23.13 %	38	3	4
Hispanics	3.31 %	6		1
Asian Pacific Americans	2.45 %	4		
Native Americans	0.23 %	1		
People w/ Disabilites	NA	2		
LGBT	6.75 %	11	1	1
Young Democrats	15.30 %	25	2	3

*LGBT based on numbers based on the 2011 Williams Institute study and Ohio HRC data that shows LGBT at about 4.5% of population of Ohio, allowing for under-reporting. The 76% Dem performance is based on national NYTimes poll of nationwide respondents. No data on Ohio is available.

#Young Democrats are Democrats age 18-35. The US Census numbers break down ages from 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34 and 35-39. The range of population is 6.0-7.2 of the total population of the state for each group. When you factor in 18-19 yr olds and 35 yr olds, the estimation of 20% is derived from adding these up. That number is then multiplied by the median % of vote for Obama from exit polls to arrive at the % of democratic vote.