

## NORTHERN MARIANAS DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN FOR THE 2020 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Enter name of state: Northern Marianas

Enter total number of Delegates: 11

Enter total number of Alternates: 2

Select type of System: Caucus

Enter number of District-Level Delegates: 0

Date of selection of District-Level  
Delegates: N/A

Enter number of District-Level Alternates: 0

Date of selection of District-Level  
Alternates: N/A

Enter number of Pledged PLEO

Delegates: 0

Date of Selection of Pledged PLEO  
Delegates: N/A

Enter number of At-Large Delegates: 6

Date of Selection of At-Large Delegates:  
3/14/2020

Enter number of At-Large Alternates: 2

Date of Selection of At-Large Alternates:  
3/14/2020

Enter total number of Standing Committee  
Members: 3

Enter total number of Convention Pages: 1

**NORTHERN MARIANAS  
DELEGATE  
SELECTION PLAN**

FOR THE 2020 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL  
CONVENTION

ISSUED BY THE

NORTHERN MARIANAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY

MARCH 3, 2020

# The Northern Mariana Islands Delegate Selection Plan For the 2020 Democratic National Convention

---

## Table of Contents

I.	Introduction & Description of Delegate Selection Process .....	1
A.	Introduction.....	1
B.	Description of Delegate Selection Process .....	1
C.	Voter Participation .....	2
II.	Presidential Candidates .....	6
III.	Selection of Delegates and Alternates.....	7
A.	District Level Delegates and Alternates .....	7
B.	Automatic Delegates.....	7
C.	Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) Delegates .....	8
D.	At-Large Delegates and Alternates .....	8
E.	Replacement of Delegates and Alternates.....	12
IV.	Convention Standing Committee Members .....	14
A.	Introduction.....	14
B.	Standing Committee Members.....	14
V.	The Delegation.....	17
VI.	Presidential Electors .....	18
VII.	General Provisions and Procedural Guarantees.....	18
VIII.	Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program.....	20
A.	Statement of Purpose and Organization .....	20
B.	Efforts to Educate on the Delegate Selection Process .....	23
C.	Efforts to Publicize the Delegate Selection Process.....	23
D.	Representation Goals.....	24
E.	Obligations of Presidential Candidates to Maximize Participation .....	25
F.	Outreach and Inclusion Program .....	26
IX.	Challenges.....	26
A.	Jurisdiction and Standing.....	26
B.	Challenges to the Status of the State Party and Challenges to the Plan .....	27
C.	Challenges to Implementation .....	27
X.	Summary of Plan.....	29
A.	Selection of Delegates and Alternates .....	29
B.	Selection of Standing Committee Members .....	29
C.	Selection of Delegation Chair and Convention Pages.....	30
D.	Selection of Presidential Electors .....	30
E.	Presidential Candidate Filing Deadline .....	30
F.	Timetable.....	30-31

Exhibits to the Affirmative Action Plan & Attachments to the Delegate Selection Plan

# Northern Marianas Delegate Selection Plan For the 2020 Democratic National Convention

## Section I Introduction & Description of Delegate Selection Process

### A. Introduction

1. Northern Marianas has a total of 11 delegates and 2 alternates. (*Call I & Appendix B*)
2. The delegate selection process is governed by the *Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States*, the *Delegate Selection Rules for the 2020 Democratic National Convention* (“Rules”), the *Call for the 2020 Democratic National Convention* (“Call”), the *Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2020 Democratic National Convention* (“Regs.”), the rules of the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas, the election code, and this Delegate Selection Plan. (*Call II.A*)
3. Following the State Party Committee’s adoption of this Delegate Selection Plan, the State Party shall submit the Plan for review and approval by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee (“RBC”). The State Party Chair shall be empowered to make any technical revisions to this document as required by the RBC to correct any omissions and/or deficiencies as found by the RBC to ensure its full compliance with Party Rules. Such corrections shall be made by the State Party Chair and the Plan resubmitted to the RBC within 30 days of receipt of notice of the RBC’s findings. (*Reg. 2.5, Reg. 2.6 & Reg. 2.7*)
4. Once this Plan has been found in Compliance by the RBC, any amendment to the Plan by the State Party must be submitted to and approved by the RBC before it becomes effective. (*Reg. 2.9*)

### B. Description of Delegate Selection Process

1. The Northern Marianas will use a proportional representation system based on the results of the caucus for apportioning delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention.
2. The “first determining step” of the Northern Mariana Islands’ delegate selection process will occur on March 14, 2020, with a Caucus.

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

### C. Voter Participation

1. Participation in the Northern Mariana Islands' delegate selection process is open to all voters who wish to participate as Democrats
  - a. There is no deadline to register to vote. Voters may register at the caucus.
  - b. Voter registration in the Northern Marianas does not include political party affiliation. Individuals who wish to participate in the Caucus shall declare their affiliation by form to the Democratic Party when signing in at the Caucus on March 14, 2020. This preference will be publicly recorded by the State Party.<sup>1</sup> (*Rule 2.A & Reg. 4.3*).
  - c. To encourage participation by youth in the delegate selection process, any individual who will have turned 18 by the date of the general election will be allowed to participate in the delegate selection process.
  - d. At no stage of the Northern Marianas' 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. There are no fees or contributions directly associated with the Delegate Selection process (*Rule 2.D & Reg. 4.4*).
  - e. No person shall participate or vote in the nominating process for the Democratic presidential candidate who also participates in the nominating process of any other party for the corresponding elections. (*Rule 2.E*).
  - f. Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any stage of the delegate selection process, including processes leading up to the selection of DNC Members or State Chairs or Vice Chairs, who serve as DNC members by virtue of their office, except that use of such voting by secret ballot may be used in a process that is the first determining stage of the delegate election process and in which all individual voters who wish to participate as Democrats are eligible to do so. (*Rule 2.F*)
  - g. No person shall vote in more than one (1) meeting which is the first meeting in the delegate selection process. (*Rule 3.E & Reg. 4.7*)

---

<sup>1</sup> Northern Marianas Democratic Party Bylaws provide for automatic party membership upon application and allow withdrawal from membership by written notice or public announcement of such intention. Members may also be removed for cause by the party leadership.

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

2. The Northern Marianas Democratic Party is committed to the enactment of legislation, rules, and policies to enhance voter and election security, to accomplish the following seven goals:
  - a. Maintain secure and accurate state voter registration rolls, so that every eligible American who registers to vote has their personal information protected and secure; (*Rule 2.H.1*)
  - b. Implement transparent and accurate voter registration list maintenance procedures that comply with federal requirements and ensure that every eligible voter stays on the rolls; (*Rule 2.H.2*)
  - c. Promote the acquisition, maintenance, and regular replacement of precinct based optical scan voting systems; (*Rule 2.H.3*)
  - d. Ensure that any direct recording electronic systems in place have a voter verified paper record; (*Rule 2.H.4*)
  - e. Implement risk limiting post-election audits such as manual audits comparing paper records to electronic records; (*Rule 2.H.5*)
  - f. Ensure that all voting systems have recognized security measures; (*Rule 2.H.6*)
  - g. Use accessible and secure voting machines that make it possible for individuals with disabilities to vote securely and privately. (*Rule 2.H.7*)
  
3. The Democratic Party's commitment to assess and improve participation with respect to presidential preference and the delegate selection process is shared by the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas, which is prepared to take steps to establish, with DNC assistance, year-round voter protection programs to support educational, administrative, legislative, and litigation-based efforts to protect and expand the vote and advance election fairness and security, including the six goals set forth below. The Northern Marianas Democratic Party presidential preference caucus does not utilize the CNMI's election machinery and is exclusively Party-run. While the CNMI allows for voting in-person prior to Election Day, beginning one week before Election Day and ending the day before Election Day, this is inapplicable to the presidential preference caucus. The CNMI allows for vote-by-mail, or absentee, voting, but this is not "no excuse" absentee. Because absentee voting in the Northern Marianas does not apply to the presidential preference caucus, the deadline for requesting a ballot and when/how far in advance of Election Day ballots are mailed to voters is not included in this Delegate Selection Plan. The small population of the Northern Marianas, in-person nature of the delegate selection caucus, and lack of an administrative apparatus and budgetary resources for vote-by-mail and early voting make

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

such enhanced voter participation mechanisms impractical for the presidential preference caucus. (Rule 2.I and 2.I.1)

- a. Expand access to voting, including by early voting, no excuse absentee, same-day voter registration, and voting by mail; (Rule 2.I.1.a)
  - b. Ensure that voting locations are accessible, fairly placed, and adequate in number, and have a sufficient number of voting machines; (Rule 2.I.1.b)
  - c. Speed up the voting process and minimize long lines; (Rule 2.I.1.c)
  - d. Eliminate onerous and discriminatory voter identification requirements; (Rule 2.I.1.d)
  - e. Count and include in the final total ballots from voters who are eligible to vote but cast their ballots in the wrong precinct, for offices for which they are eligible to vote; and (Rule 2.I.1.e)
  - f. Facilitate military and overseas voting. (Rule 2. I.1.f)
4. As part of encouraging participation in the delegate selection process by registered voters, the Northern Marianas Democratic Party is evaluating efforts to make voter registration easier, including: (Rule 2.I.2)
- a. Voter registration modernization, including online voter registration and automatic and same-day registration; (Rule 2.I.2.a)
  - b. Pre-registration of high school students so that they are already registered once they reach voting age; (Rule 2.I.2.b)
  - c. Restoration of voting rights to all people who have served the time for their criminal conviction, without requiring the payment of court fees or fines; (Rule 2.I.2.c) and

This Delegate Selection Plan provides for same-day registration of voters for the Democratic presidential nominating process.] (Rule 2.I.2.d)

5. The Northern Marianas does not use government run voting systems to establish presidential preference, (Rule 2.J and Rule 2.J.1)
6. The Northern Marianas has included strict non-discrimination requirements in its Plan to ensure an open and inclusive process and resist attempts at voter suppression and disenfranchisement.

The Northern Marianas Democratic Party's caucus plan meets the following nine requirements as indicated: (Rule 2.K)

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

- a. Incorporating mechanisms with reasonable safeguards against error and fraud to vote absentee or vote early – There is no absentee or early voting, (Rule 2.K.1)
- b. The Northern Marianas is developing a plan that ensures the State Party has the technical ability and financial resources to successfully run the process; (Rule 2.K.2)
- c. The Northern Marianas Plan implements same-day voter registration and party-affiliation changes at the voting location; (Rule 2.K.3)
- d. The Northern Marianas has in place a process for publicly reporting the total statewide and district level results for each candidate based on the first expression of preference by the participants at the first determining step, as determined in the State's Plan; (Rule 2.K.4)
- e. The Northern Marianas requires that the allocation of all national delegates, be locked in at the final expression of preference at the first determining step, as determined by the State's Plan, subject to recount; (Rule 2.K.5)
- f. The Northern Marianas requires that final expressions of preference as part of the presidential nominating process be securely preserved, by the method specified in the State's Plan, that ensures the availability of a prompt and accurate recount or recanvas; (Rule 2.K.6)
- g. A presidential candidate may request a recount or recanvas that is paid for by the candidate and carried out in a timely manner, which request for a recount or recanvas may not be refused provided the presidential candidate has provided credible evidence of errors that could change the allocation of delegates. Unless otherwise agreed by interested parties, any recount or recanvas will be held at the caucus site, ballots will be counted by party staff and volunteers under the observation of representatives of presidential candidates interested in the outcome, will be conducted in public view to the greatest extent practicable, and ballots will be reviewed to determine and give effect to the intent of the voter insofar as possible; (Rule 2.K.7)
- h. Given its small population and limited resources, the Northern Marianas is unable make available mechanisms that allow voters who are unable to be a part of the process in person to participate (such as persons serving in the military, those with a disability or illness preventing participation, those who are not able to take time off from work or obtain child care) and actual attendance at the caucus is necessary to participate; (Rule 2.K.8) and



---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

- i. The Northern Marianas will take appropriate steps to ensure voters in party-run processes, like those in primary states, have a right to participate in the process. These steps could include any required rules changes and the proper education and outreach to ensure accessibility, including specifically for people with disabilities and for people with limited English proficiency in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act and Sections 203 and 208 of the Voting Rights Act. (*Rule 2.K.9*)
7. Scheduling of Delegate Selection Meetings  
The dates, times and places for all official Party meetings and events related to the state's delegate selection process have been scheduled to encourage the participation of all Democrats. Such meetings will begin and end at reasonable hours. The state party is responsible for selecting the dates and times and providing facilities for all official meetings and events related to this process. In addition, the scheduling of meetings shall consider any religious observations that could significantly affect participation (*Rule 3.A & Reg. 4.5*).

## Section II Presidential Candidates

### A. Ballot Access

1. By February 28, 2020, the State Chair shall declare the names of candidates to be placed on the ballot. These names will include candidates (1) recognized as candidates in national news media throughout the United States based on reported results of polling results across the nation, (2) candidates who have garnered delegates in caucuses or primaries preceding February 28, 2020, and (3) candidates who have qualified for the ballot by petition as provided in paragraph 2.
2. A candidate can gain access to the ballot by filing a petition with the signatures of 100 Northern Mariana Islanders that affiliate themselves with the Democratic Party and will be 18 years of age by November 3, 2020. This petition is due January 15, 2020. (*Rule 12.D.1*).
3. Uncommitted will appear on the ballot as a presidential preference option only if at least one person has registered their desire to seek a delegate position with an uncommitted preference. Write-In presidential preferences will not be allowed.

### B. Other Requirements

1. Each presidential candidate shall certify in writing to the Chair of the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas, the name(s) of his or her authorized representative(s) by February 28, 2020. (*Rule 12.D.1*)

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

## **Section III**

### **Selection of Delegates and Alternates**

#### **A. District Level Delegates and Alternates**

The Northern Marianas is not allocated any district-level delegates.

#### **B. Automatic Delegates**

1. Automatic Party Leaders and Elected Officials
  - a. The following categories (if applicable) shall constitute the Automatic Party Leaders and Elected Official delegate positions:
    - (1) Members of the Democratic National Committee who legally reside in the Northern Mariana Islands; *(Rule 9.A.1, Call I.F, Call I.J, & Reg. 4.15)*
    - (2) All of Northern Marianas' Democratic Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; *(Rule 9.A.3, Call I.H & Call I.J)*
    - (3) The Democratic Governor (if applicable); *(Rule 9.A.4, Call I.H & Call I.J)*
    - (4) Distinguished Party Leader delegates who legally reside in the Northern Mariana Islands. *(Rule 9.A.5, Call I.G & Reg. 4.14)*
  - b. An automatic delegate may run and be elected as a Pledged delegate. If an Automatic delegate is elected and certified as a Pledged delegate, that individual shall not serve as an Automatic delegate at the 2020 National Convention. *(Call I.J)*
  - c. The certification process for the Automatic Party Leader and Elected Official delegates is as follows:
    - (1) Not later than March 6, 2020, the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee shall officially confirm to the State Democratic

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

Chair the names of the Automatic delegates who legally reside in Northern Mariana Islands. (*Rule 9.A*)

- (2) Official confirmation by the Secretary shall constitute verification of the Automatic delegates from the categories indicated above. (*Call IV.B.1*)
  - (3) The Northern Marianas Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the presidential preference of state's Automatic delegates 10 days after the completion of the State's Delegate Selection Process. (*Call IV.C*)
2. For purposes of achieving equal division between delegate men and delegate women within the state's entire convention delegation (determined by gender self-identification), the entire delegation includes all pledged and Automatic delegates, including those who identify as male or female. (*Rule 6.C and Reg. 4.9*).

### **C. Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) Delegates**

The Northern Marianas is not allocated any Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates. (*Call I.D, Call I.E & Appendix B*)

### **D. At-Large Delegates and Alternates**

1. The Northern Mariana Island is allotted 6 at-large delegates and 2 at-large alternates. (*Rule 8.C, Call I.B, II, Appendix B & Reg. 4.34*).
2. Northern Marianas will use a Caucus System to elect the At-Large delegates and alternates. The Caucus will be held on March 14, 2020, at a time and place to be announced by the State Chair. Any Democrat who will be 18 years of age or older by November 3, 2020, may participate by attending the Caucus and showing evidence of U.S. citizenship and residence in the Northern Mariana Islands.
3. At-Large Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements
  - a. Persons desiring to seek an at-large delegate position may file a statement of candidacy designating their singular presidential or uncommitted preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) with the State Party by 5 p.m. on March 8, 2020. Forms for this purpose and filing instructions will be available on the state party website (nmidems.org) by February 27, 2020. A delegate or alternate candidate may modify their singular presidential preference by submitting an updated pledge of support no later than the filing deadline. (*Rule 13.A, Rule 13.B, Rule 15.G, & Reg. 4.23*)

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

- 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 caucus, those persons not chosen will then be considered candidates for at-large alternate positions unless they specify otherwise when filing. (*Rule 19.A*)
4. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
  - a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidates, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than 8 p.m. on March 9, 2020, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. (*Rule 13.D, Reg. 4.24 & Reg. 4.31*)
  - b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the State Democratic Chair, by 8:00 p.m. on March 10, 2020, a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, provided that, at a minimum, one (1) name remain(s) for every national convention delegate or alternate position to which the presidential candidate is entitled. (*Rule 13.D.4, Rule 13.E.2 & Reg. 4.25*)
  - c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate or the authorized representative(s) signifies otherwise in writing to the State Democratic Chair not later than 8:00 p.m. on March 10, 2020.
  - d. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective at-large delegate candidates and at-large alternate candidates meet the affirmative action and outreach and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action and Outreach and Inclusion section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved at-large delegate candidates and at-large alternate candidates as indicated in this section.
5. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference
  - a. At-large delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated among presidential preferences according to: (*Rule 11.C*)
    - (1) The division of preferences among caucus participants as determined through the caucus process as specified in this plan. No person participating shall automatically serve by virtue of holding a public or Party office. Participants will be

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

provided with pre-printed ballots containing the names of the presidential candidates qualified for the ballot. After these ballots are cast, the results will be tabulated and delegates allocated pursuant to the Plan. Caucus participants will then be permitted to align to elect delegates pledged to the respective candidates who have been allocated delegates. *(Rule 9.B, Rule 11.C & Reg. 4.19)*

- (2) The primary caucus site will be on the island of Saipan. Simultaneous sub-caucuses will be held on the islands of Rota and Tinian. Results of the sub-caucuses on Rota and Tinian will be aggregated with those on Saipan and announced. The three caucus sites will be linked with live real-time communication throughout the caucus process. Delegate selection will be based entirely on the aggregate results.
- b. Preferences which have not attained a 15% threshold on a state-wide basis shall not be entitled to any at-large delegates. *(Rule 14.E)*
  - c. If no presidential preference reaches a 15% threshold, the threshold shall be half the percentage of the statewide vote received by the front-runner. *(Rule 14.F)*
  - d. Members of preference groups that do not reach the minimum viability threshold shall have the opportunity to realign for purposes of electing delegates. Delegates will be allocated among the viable preference groups according to the following formula:  
  
(persons in preference groups divided by total persons in viable groups)  
  
Any fraction of a delegate .5 or above shall be rounded up. Any fraction of a delegate below .5 shall be rounded down. Should the results allocate too many delegates, the preference group(s) with the highest fraction(s) above .5 shall be awarded a delegate until the appropriate number of delegates are allocated. Should the results allocate too few delegates, the preference group(s) with the highest fraction(s) below .5 shall be awarded a delegate until the appropriate number of delegates are allocated. Should the results compute to an exact tie resulting in the allocation of too many or too few delegates, a designated individual from the tied preference groups shall participate in a game of chance (either the flipping of a coin or the drawing of straws) conducted by the State Party Chair to award the appropriate number of delegates.
  - e. [Not applicable]. *(Rule 11.C)*
  - f. If a given presidential preference is entitled to one (1) or more delegate positions but would not otherwise be entitled to an alternate position,

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

that preference shall be allotted one (1) at-large alternate position. (*Rule 19.B, Call I.I & Reg. 4.34 & Reg. 4.36*)

6. Selection of At-Large Delegates and Alternates
  - a. Due to its small size, the Northern Marianas does not have district level delegates; all delegates are to be selected at-large. Accordingly, the at-large delegates serve the same function as district level delegates under Section 3.A and will be selected by caucus consistently with the rules and regulations applicable to district-level delegates. (*Rule 8.A, Rule 8.E, Reg. 4.11 & Appendix A*) The selection of the at-large delegates and alternates will occur at 6 p.m. on March 14, 2020. Participants will caucus to determine the At-Large delegates. (*Rule 11.B & Call III*)
  - b. These delegates and alternates will be selected by eligible caucus attendees. (*Rule 8.E & Rule 11.B*)
  - c. Priority of Consideration
    - (1) In the selection of the at-large delegation priority of consideration shall be given to African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and women, if such priority of consideration is needed to fulfill the affirmative action goals outlined in the state's Delegate Selection Plan. (*Rule 6.A.3*)
    - (2) In order to continue the Democratic Party's ongoing efforts to include groups historically under-represented in the Democratic Party's affairs and to assist in the achievement of full participation by these groups, priority of consideration shall be given other groups by virtue of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identify, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, economic status or disability. (*Rule 5.C, Rule 6.A.3, Rule 7 & Reg. 4.8*)
    - (3) The election of at-large delegates and alternates shall be used, if necessary, to achieve the equal division of positions between men and women as far as mathematically practicable, and may be used to achieve the representation goals established in the Affirmative Action and Outreach and Inclusion Program section of this Plan. (*Rule 6.A & Rule 6.C & Reg. 4.9*)
    - (4) Delegates and alternates are to be considered separate groups for this purpose. (*Rule 6.C.1, Rule 11.A, Reg. 4.9 & Reg. 4.20*)
7. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's at-large delegates

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within 10 days after their election. (*Rule 8.C & Call IV.A*)

### E. Replacement of Delegates and Alternates

1. A pledged delegate or alternate may be replaced according to the following guidelines:
  - a. Permanent Replacement of a Delegate: (*Rule 18.D.3*)
    - (1) A permanent replacement occurs when a delegate resigns or dies prior to or during the national convention and the alternate replaces the delegate for the remainder of the National Convention.
    - (2) Any alternate permanently replacing a delegate shall be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) and gender of the delegate they replace, and to the extent possible shall be from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.
      - (a) In the case where the presidential candidate has only one (1) alternate, that alternate shall become the certified delegate.
      - (b) If a presidential candidate has only one (1) alternate, and that alternate permanently replaces a delegate of 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 18.D.2, the State Party Committee 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. (*Reg. 4.33*)
    - (3) If a delegate or alternate candidate who has been elected but not certified to the DNC Secretary resigns, dies or is no longer eligible to serve, he or she shall be replaced, after consultation with the State Party, by the authorized representative of the presidential candidate to whom he or she is pledged. (*Rule 18.D.2*)
  - b. Temporary Replacement of a Delegate: (*Rule 18.D.3*)
    - (1) A temporary replacement occurs when a delegate is to be absent for a limited period of time during the convention and an alternate temporarily acts in the delegate's place.
    - (2) Any alternate who temporarily replaces a delegate must be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) as the

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

delegate they replace, and to the extent possible shall be of the same gender and from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.

- c. In the event that a delegate needs a temporary replacement, the delegate chooses the alternate (*Rule 18.D.1*).
  - d. 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 Democratic Chair. (*Rule 18.D.3*)
    - (2) Permanent replacement of a delegate (as specified above) by an alternate and replacement of a vacant alternate position shall be certified in writing by the Northern Marianas' Democratic Chair to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the replacement is selected. (*Call IV.D.1*)
    - (3) Certification of permanent replacements will be accepted by the Secretary up to 72 hours before the first official session of the Convention is scheduled to convene. (*Call IV.D.1 & Reg. 4.32*)
    - (4) In the case where a pledged delegate is permanently replaced after 72 hours before the time the first session is scheduled to convene or, in the case where a pledged delegate is not on the floor of the Convention Hall at the time a roll call vote is taken, an alternate may be designated (as specified above) to cast the delegate's vote. In such case, the Delegation Chair shall indicate the name of the alternate casting the respective delegate's vote on the delegation tally sheet. (*Call VIII.F.3.d, Call VIII.F.3.b & Reg. 5.6*)
  - e. A vacant alternate position shall be filled by the delegation. The replacement shall be of the same presidential preference (or uncommitted status), of the same gender and, to the extent possible, from the same political subdivision as the alternate being replaced. (*Rule 18.E*)
2. Automatic delegates shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except under the following circumstances: (*Rule 18.E & Reg. 4.33*)
- a. Members of Congress and the Democratic Governor shall not be entitled to name a replacement. In the event of changes or vacancies in the state's Congressional Delegation, following the official confirmation and prior to the commencement of the National Convention, the DNC Secretary shall recognize only such changes as have been officially



---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

recognized by the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives or the Democratic Conference of the U.S. Senate. In the event of a change or vacancy in the state's office of Governor, the DNC shall recognize only such changes as have been officially recognized by the Democratic Governors' Association. *(Call IV.D.2.a)*

- b. Members of the Democratic National Committee shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except in the case of death of such delegates. In the case where the state's DNC membership changes following the DNC Secretary's official confirmation, but prior to the commencement of the 2020 Democratic National Convention, acknowledgment by the Secretary of the new DNC member certification shall constitute verification of the corresponding change of automatic delegates. *(Call, IV.D.2.b)*
- c. Automatic distinguished Party Leader delegates allocated to the state pursuant to Rule 9.A.(5), shall not be entitled to name a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to name a replacement. *(Call IV.D.2.c)*
- d. In no case may an alternate cast a vote for an automatic delegate. *(Call VIII.F.3.d)*

## Section IV Convention Standing Committee Members

### A. Introduction

1. The Northern Marianas has been allocated 1 member on each of the three (3) standing committees for the 2020 Democratic National Convention (Credentials, Platform and Rules), for a total of 3 members. *(Call VII.A & Appendix D)*
2. Members of the Convention Standing Committees need not be delegates or alternates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention. *(Call VII.A.3)*
3. These members will be selected in accordance with the procedures indicated below. *(Rule 1.G)*

### B. Standing Committee Members

1. Selection Meeting
  - a. The members of the standing committees shall be elected by a quorum of the Northern Mariana Islands' National Convention delegates, at a meeting to be held on or before March 24, 2020. *(Call VII.B.1)*

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

- b. All members of the delegation shall receive adequate notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the standing committee members. *(Call VII.B.1)*
2. Allocation of Members
    - a. The members of the standing committees allocated to each presidential candidate shall proportionately represent the presidential preference of all candidates (including uncommitted status) receiving the threshold percentage used in the state's delegation to calculate the at-large apportionment pursuant to Rule 13.E. of the Delegate Selection Rules. *(Call VII.C.1 & Reg. 5.8)*
    - 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 the Northern Marianas. If the result of such multiplication does not equal 0.455 or above, the presidential preference in question is not entitled to representation on the standing committee. If the result of such multiplication is 0.455 but less than 1.455, the presidential preference is entitled to one (1) position. Those preferences securing more than 1.455 but less than 2.455 are entitled to two (2) positions, etc. *(Call VII.C.2)*
    - c. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation exceeding the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is farthest from its eventual rounded-off total shall be denied that one (1) additional position. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation falling short of the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is closest to the next rounding level shall be allotted an additional committee position. *(Call VII.C.3)*
    - d. Standing committee positions allocated to a presidential candidate shall be proportionately allocated, to the extent practicable, to each of the three (3) standing committees. When such allocation results in an unequal distribution of standing committee positions by candidate preference, a drawing shall be conducted to distribute the additional positions. *(Call VII.C.4)*
3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
    - a. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), shall be given adequate notice of the date, time and location of the meeting of the state's delegation authorized to elect standing committee members. *(Call VII.D.1)*

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must submit to the State Democratic Chair, by 5 p.m. on March 20, 2020, a minimum of (1) name for each slot awarded to that candidate for members of each committee. The delegation shall select the standing committee members from among names submitted by the presidential candidates (including uncommitted status). Presidential candidates shall not be required to submit the name of more than one (1) person for each slot awarded to such candidate for members of standing committees. *(Call VII.D.2)*
4. Selection Procedure to Achieve Equal Division
  - a. Presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) shall use their best efforts to ensure that their respective delegation of standing committee members shall achieve Northern Marianas' affirmative action goals and that their respective gender binary members are equally divided between men and women. *(Rule 6.1 & Reg. 4.9)*
  - b. Disregarding the number of gender non-binary members, the difference in the number of committee members by gender (in aggregate numbers from all three committees) will not exceed one (1). For purposes of equal division, gender non-binary committee members will not count as either a man or a woman and the remaining binary members may not vary in number by more than one male or one female. Non-binary gender individuals should not be counted in either the male or female category.
    - (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 gender binary 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 (3) standing committees. In the case of a non-binary gender individual, the should not be counted in either the male or female category. *(Call VII.E.1)*
    - (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 gender, if applicable.
5. Certification and Substitution

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

- a. The State Democratic Chair shall certify the standing committee members in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after their selection. *(Call VII.B.3)*
- b. No substitutions will be permitted in the case of standing committee members, except in the case of resignation or death. Substitutions must be made in accordance with the rules and the election procedures specified in this section, and must be certified in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the substitute member is selected but not later than 48 hours before the respective standing committee meets. *(Call VII.B.4)*

### Section V

#### Delegation Chair and Convention Pages

- A.** The Northern Marianas will select one (1) person to serve as Delegation Chair and one (1) to serve as Convention Page. *(Call IV.E, Call IV.F.1 & Appendix C)*

**B. Delegation Chair**

1. Selection Meeting
  - a. The Delegation Chair shall be selected by a quorum of the state's National Convention Delegates, at a meeting to be held on or before March 24, 2020. *(Call IV.E)*
  - b. All members of the delegation shall receive timely notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the Delegation Chair. *(Rule 3.C)*
2. The State Democratic Chair shall certify the Delegation Chair in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after his or her selection. *(Call IV.E)*

**C. Convention Pages**

1. One (1) individual will be selected to serve as the Northern Marianas' Convention Page by the State Democratic Chair in consultation with the members of the Democratic National Committee from the state. This selection will take place on or before March 24, 2020. *(Call IV.F.3, Appendix C & Reg. 5.7)*
2. The Convention Page shall reflect as much as possible, the Affirmative Action guidelines in the Affirmative Action Plan. *(Reg. 5.7.A)*
3. The State Democratic Chair shall certify the individual to serve as the Northern Mariana Islands' Convention Page in writing to the Secretary of the

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the selection. (*Call IV.F.3 & Reg. 5.7.B*)

### **Section VI Presidential Electors**

- A. The Northern Marianas is not allocated any Presidential Electors.

### **Section VII General Provisions and Procedural Guarantees**

- A. The Northern Marianas Democratic Party reaffirms its commitment to an open party by incorporating the “six basic elements” as 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. (*Rule 4.A. & Rule C*)
1. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status or physical disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as “status”). (*Rule 4.B.1*)
  2. No test for membership nor any oaths of loyalty to the Democratic Party in the Northern Marianas should be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination based on “status.” (*Rule 4.B.2*)
  3. The time and place for all public meetings of the Democratic Party in the Northern Marianas on all levels should be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons. (*Rule 4.B.3*)
  4. The Democratic Party in the Northern Marianas, on all levels, should support the broadest possible registration without discrimination based on “status.” (*Rule 4.B.4*)
  5. The Democratic Party in the Northern Marianas should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties, a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures should be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of each State Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

- the Democratic Party organization. As part of this, the Northern Marianas Democratic Party will develop a strategy to provide education programs directly to voters who continue to experience confusing timelines for registration or lack of awareness of the process for running for delegate, to ensure all Democratic voters understand the rules and timelines and their impact on voter registration. *(Rule 4.B.5)*
6. The Democratic Party in the Northern Marianas should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties, a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications of all positions as officers and representatives of the State Democratic Party. Such publication should be done in timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within each State Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office. *(Rule 4.B.6)*
- B. Discrimination on the basis of “status” in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited. *(Rule 5.B)*
- C. The Northern Mariana Islands’ 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 automatic delegates. Delegates and alternates shall be considered separate groups for purposes of achieving equal division. In the case of gender non-binary delegates or alternates, they shall not be counted as either a male or female and the remainder of the delegations shall be equally divided by gender. *(Rule 6.C)*
- D. All delegate and alternate candidates must be identified as to presidential preference or uncommitted status at all levels which determine presidential preference. *(Rule 12.A)*
- E. No delegate at any level of the delegate selection process shall be mandated by law or Party rules to vote contrary to that person’s presidential choice as expressed at the time the delegate is elected. *(Rule 12.I)*
- F. Delegates elected to the national convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them. *(Rule 12.J)*
- G. All delegates, alternates and standing committee members must be bona fide Democrats who have the interests, welfare and success of the Democratic Party of the United States 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. *(Rule 12.H & Reg. 4.25)*
- H. 40% of the members of any Party body above the first level of the delegate selection process shall constitute a quorum for any business pertaining to the

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

selection of National Convention delegates, alternates, standing committee members, and other official Convention participants. (*Rule 15*)

- I. An accredited participant in a caucus, convention or committee meeting, after having appeared at such meeting and having established credentials, may register a non-transferable proxy with another duly accredited participant at that meeting (except where an accredited alternate is present and eligible to serve as a replacement), provided that no individual may hold more than one (1) proxy at one (1) time. (*Rule 16 & Reg. 4.29*)
- J. The unit rule, or any rule or practice whereby all members of a Party unit or delegation may be required to cast their votes in accordance with the will of a majority of the body, shall not be used at any stage of the delegate selection process. (*Rule 17.A*)
- K. Any individual or group of Democrats may sponsor or endorse a slate of candidates for convention delegates. But no slate may, by virtue of such endorsement, receive a preferential place on a delegate selection ballot or be publicly identified on the ballot as the official Democratic Party organization slate, and all slates must meet identical qualifying requirements for appearing on a ballot at all levels of the delegate selection process. (*Rule 17.B*)
- L. 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. (*Rule 1.F & Rule 11.B*)
- M. In electing and certifying delegates and alternates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention, the Northern Marianas thereby undertakes to assure all Democratic voters in the state a 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: that the delegates and alternates to the Convention shall be selected in accordance with the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2020 Democratic National Convention: and that the delegates certified will not publicly support or campaign for any candidate for President or Vice President other than the nominees of the Democratic National Convention. (*Call II.B*)

## Section VIII

### Affirmative Action, Outreach and Inclusion Plan

#### A. Statement of Purpose and Organization

##### 1. Purpose and Objectives

- a. 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 by the Northern Marianas. *(Rule 5.A)*
- b. Discrimination on the basis of “status” in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited. *(Rule 5.B)*
- c. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party in the Northern Marianas should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status or physical disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as “status”). *(Rule 4.B.1)*
- d. Consistent with the Democratic Party’s commitment to including groups historically under-represented in the Democratic Party’s affairs, by virtue of race/ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability, the Northern Marianas has established goals for these groups. The State Party shall develop outreach programs that include recruitment, education and training. *(Rule 5.C & Reg. 4.7)*.
- e. In order to encourage full participation by all Democrats in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs, the Northern Marianas Democratic Party has adopted and will implement programs with specific goals and timetables for African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and women. To further encourage full participation in the process, the State Party has established goals and timetables for other underrepresented groups, including LGBTQ Americans, people with disabilities and youth. As an organized party of short duration and limited resources, and serving a very limited population, the programs to encourage inclusion in the processes of the Democratic Party of the United States to be implemented by the Northern Marianas Democratic Party shall primarily include the planning and conduct of the caucuses outlined in this Delegate Selection Plan. *(Rule 6.A & Rule 7)*
  - (1) The goal of the programs shall be to encourage participation in the delegate selection process and in Party organizations at all levels



---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

by the aforementioned groups as indicated by their presence in the Democratic electorate. *(Rule 6.A.1)*

- (2) For the delegate selection process, “Youth” is defined as any participant younger than 36 years old at the time of election.
- (3) For the delegate selection process, individuals identifying as Native Americans should provide their tribal affiliation and indicate if they are enrolled in a tribe.
- (4) These goals shall not be accomplished either directly or indirectly by the Party’s imposition of mandatory quotas at any level of the delegate selection process or in any other Party affairs. *(Rule 6.A.2)*

### 2. Organizational Structure

- a. An Affirmative Action Committee shall be appointed by the State Democratic Chair on March 1, 2019. *(Rule 6.F)*
- b. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Democratic National Committee the compliance of the State’s Affirmative Action Committee with Rules 5.C, 6.A and 7, and submit the names, demographic data and contact information of members no later than 15 days after their appointment. *(Reg. 2.2.K)*
- c. The Committee shall, as much as possible, consist of members from each delegate district representing the Democratic constituency groups set forth in the Introduction to the Affirmative Action Plan.
- d. The Affirmative Action Committee shall be responsible for:
  - (1) Reviewing the proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans and making recommendations to the State Democratic Chair.
  - (2) Reviewing the proposed Inclusion Programs and making recommendations to the State Democratic Chair.
  - (3) Directing the implementation of all requirements of the Affirmative Action section of this Plan.
  - (4) Implementing a financial assistance program for delegates and alternates. *(Rule 6.G)*

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

- (5) Ensuring, on behalf of the State Party Committee, that district lines used in the delegate selection process are not gerrymandered to discriminate against African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and women. (*Rule 6.E*)
      - e. Financial and staff support for the Affirmative Action Committee shall be provided by the State Party Committee to the greatest extent feasible, including, but not limited to, making available on a priority basis, the State Party staff and volunteers and covering all reasonable costs incurred in carrying out this Plan.
3. Implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program will begin on September 13, 2019, with the distribution of the press kits, and will continue through the end of the delegate selection process.

### **B. Efforts to Educate on the Delegate Selection Process**

1. The Northern Marianas Democratic Party shall comply with Rules 3.A, 3.C, and 3.D. The times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of all meetings and other events involved in the delegate selection process shall be effectively publicized by the party organization. The delegate selection process is open to all voters (including persons who will be eligible to vote by Election Day) who wish to participate as Democrats. The State Party will email all NMI Democrats for whom it has an email address on file a concise description of the delegate selection process, including the times, dates, and general rules and link to the State Party website, not later than January 10, 2020. (*Rule 3.A, Rule 3.C & Rule 3.D*)
2. The Northern Marianas Democratic Party will publish and make available at no cost its rules, the 2020 National Delegate Selection Plan, and a clear and concise explanation of how Democratic voters can participate in the delegate selection process. This information will be available on the State Party website beginning not later than August 1, 2019, and will be promptly updated and supplemented as appropriate. (*Rule 1.H*)
3. The Northern Marianas Democratic Party will take all feasible steps to encourage persons to register and to vote as Democrats and will seek to ensure simple and easy registration procedures. (*Rule 2.C*)

### **C. Efforts to Publicize the Delegate Selection Process**

1. 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 Party organization, official, candidate, or member calling a

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

meeting or scheduling an event, shall effectively publicize the role that such meeting or event plays in the selection of delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention. *(Rule 3.C & Rule 3.D)*

2. 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. Regular releases during the delegate selection process to local media sources within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands should complete timely coverage. *(Rule 4.B.3 & Rule 6.D)*
3. A priority effort shall be directed at publicity among the Democratic Party's constituencies. 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 shall be effectively publicized, multilingually where necessary, to encourage the participation of minority groups. *(Rule 6.D)*
4. Information and materials related to the delegate selection process will be on the Northern Marianas Democratic Party website beginning not later than August 1, 2019, and will be promptly updated and supplemented as appropriate.

### D. Representation Goals

1. Given the limited direct evidence on the composition of the Democratic electorate in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the State Party adopts the Democratic National Committee's determination of the demographic composition of African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the state's Democratic electorate. These constituency percentages shall be established as goals for representation in the state's convention delegation. *(Rule 6.A)*
2. Given the limited direct evidence on the composition of the Democratic electorate in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the State Party adopts the Democratic National Committee's determination of the demographic composition of members of the LGBT community, people with disabilities, and youth in the state's Democratic electorate and furthermore, the State Party has chosen to establish these percentages as goals for representation in the state's convention delegation.

The Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas first participated in the delegate selection process in 2016. Of our 11 delegates, eight were Pacific Islanders and one was African-American. Based on the latest census data, 98% of residents are either Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Hawaiian, or another ethnic group. African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans all make up less than 1% of the population, while 2010 census

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

data did not record any Native Americans in the population. Accordingly, a numeric goal of 1 for African American delegates has been set in light of historical considerations. Likewise, a numerical goal of 1 has been set for Hispanics and Native Americans, despite their negligible presence in the CNMI population, in light of historical considerations nationwide.

	African Americans	Hispanics	Native Americans	Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders	LGBTQ Americans	People with Disabilities	Youth
Percent in Democratic Electorate	<1%	<1%	<1%	98%	6%	12%	30%
Numeric Goals for Delegation	1	1	1	7	1	2	3

3. When selecting the at-large portion of the delegation, the demographic composition of the other delegates (automatic) shall be compared with the State Party's goals in order to achieve an at-large selection process that helps to bring about a representative balance.
4. 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. (*Rule 6.A.3*)

### **E. Obligations of Presidential Candidates to Maximize Participation**

1. Presidential candidates shall assist the Northern Marianas Democratic Party in meeting the demographic representation goals reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan. (*Rule 6.H*)
2. Each presidential candidate must submit a written statement to the State Democratic Chair by December 1, 2019, which indicates the specific steps he or she will take to encourage full participation in the Northern Mariana Islands' delegate selection process, including, but not limited to, procedures by which persons may file as candidates for delegates or alternates. Candidates filing for presidential ballot access after December 1, 2019, shall concurrently file a full participation statement. (*Rule 6.H.1*)
3. Each presidential candidate must submit demographic information with respect to all candidates for delegates and alternates pledged to them. Such information shall be submitted in conjunction with the list of names approved for consideration as delegate and alternate candidates pledged to the presidential candidate. (*Rule 6.H.2*)
4. Presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) shall use their best effort to ensure that their respective delegations within the state's delegate,

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

alternate and standing committee 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 considerations in order to achieve the affirmative action goals and equal division for their respective delegations. (*Rule 6.1 & Reg. 4.9*)

### F. Outreach and Inclusion Program

1. The Northern Marianas Democratic Party is committed to help achieve full participation of groups who have historically been explicitly denied the right to vote or who have been subjected to discriminatory exclusionary practices that have denied them voting rights and full participation in the delegate selection process and other Party meetings, events and elections, along with other groups who are also underrepresented in Party affairs.
2. The Northern Marianas Democratic Party will utilize ADA compliant facilities for all events and activities in the delegate selection process and will affirmatively identify means to accommodate any disability faced by a potential participant in the process upon becoming aware of the disability.
3. The Northern Marianas Democratic Party through its Affirmative Action Committee will identify members of our small island communities who have disabilities and potentially share the values, objectives, and interests of the Democratic Party, and reach out to such individuals and invite and facilitate their participation with such accommodations as may be necessary.

## Section IX Challenges

### A. Jurisdiction & Standing

1. Challenges related to the delegate selection process are governed by the *Regulations of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2020 Democratic National Convention (Reg. Sec. 3)*, and the “Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2020 Democratic National Convention.” (*Call Appendix A*)
2. Under Rule 21.B. of the *2020 Delegate Selection Rules*, the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction over challenges pertaining to the submission, non-implementation and violation of state Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program. (*Rule 21.B & Call Appendix A*)

---

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

3. The Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction to hear and decide any challenge provided it is initiated before the 56th day preceding the date of the commencement of the 2020 Democratic National Convention. (*Call Appendix A & Reg. 3.1*)
4. Challenges to the credentials of delegates and alternates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention initiated on or after the 56th day preceding the date of commencement of the Democratic National Convention shall be processed in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2020 Democratic National Convention.” (*Call Appendix A*)
5. Any challenge to the credentials of a standing committee member shall be considered and resolved by the affected standing committee in accordance with Appendix A of the *Call for the 2020 Democratic National Convention*. The Rules and Bylaws Committee shall have jurisdiction over challenges brought before the 56th day preceding the date of the commencement of the Democratic National Convention. (*Call VII.B.5*)
6. Copies of the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee and/or the Call for the 2020 Democratic National Convention, including the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee (*Appendix A*), shall be made available by the State Party upon reasonable request.
7. Any group of 15 Democrats with standing to challenge as defined in Reg. 3.2 or the Call (*Appendix A, Sec. 2.A*), may bring a challenge to this Plan or to the implementation of this Plan, including its Affirmative Action provisions.

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

1. A challenge to the status of the State Party Committee as the body entitled to sponsor a delegation from that state shall be filed with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than 30 calendar days prior to the initiation of the state’s delegate selection process. (*Rule 21.A & Reg. 3.4.A*)
2. A challenge to the state’s Delegate Selection Plan shall be filed with the Chair of the Democratic Party and the Co-Chairs of the Rules and Bylaws Committee within 15 calendar days after the adoption of the Plan by the State Party. (*Reg. 3.4.B*)
3. A challenge to a Plan must be brought in conformity with the Rules and the RBC Regulations., which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

**C. Challenges to Implementation**

1. A challenge may be brought alleging that a specific requirement of an approved Plan has not been properly implemented. Jurisdiction over all challenges initiated in a timely fashion shall reside with either the Rules and Bylaws Committee or the Credentials Committee of the National Convention (See Section VII.A. above). However, the Rules and Bylaws Committee may provide advice, assistance or interpretations of the Delegate Selection Rules at any stage of the delegate selection process. *(Reg. 3.1.C)*
  
2. An implementation challenge brought before the Rules and Bylaws Committee is initiated by filing a written challenge with the State Party Committee and with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than 15 days after the alleged violation occurred. The State Party has 21 days to render a decision. Within 10 days of the decision, any party to the challenge may appeal it to the Rules and Bylaws Committee. If in fact, the State Party renders no decision, any party to the challenge may request the Rules and Bylaws Committee to process it. The request must be made within 10 days after expiration of the above 21-day period. *(Reg. 3.4.C, Reg. 3.4.E & Reg. 3.4.H)*
  
3. Performance under an approved Affirmative Action Plan and composition of the convention delegation shall be considered relevant evidence in the challenge to any state delegation. If a State Party has adopted and implemented an approved affirmative action program, the State Party shall not be subject to challenge based solely on delegation composition or primary results. (Rule 6.B) The procedures are the same for challenges alleging failure to properly implement the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Programs of a Plan, except that such challenges must be filed not later than 30 days prior to the initiation of the state's delegate selection process. *(Reg. 3.4.C)*
  
4. Depending on the appropriate jurisdiction (see Section VIII.A. above), implementation challenges must be brought in conformity with the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee or the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee, which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

## Section X Summary of Plan

### A. Selection of Delegates and Alternates

The “first determining step” of the Northern Mariana Islands’ delegate selection process will occur on March 14, 2020, with a Caucus.

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

Type	Delegates	Alter-nates	Date of Selection	Selecting Body
				Filing Requirements and Deadlines
District-Level Delegates District-Level Alternates	n/a	n/a	n/a	See At-Large Section  Filing Deadline: n/a
Automatic Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates*	5	n/a	n/a	Automatic by virtue of respective public or Party office as provided in Rule 9.A. of the 2020 Delegate Selection Rules.
Pledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials (PLEOs)	0	**	n/a	n/a  n/a
At-Large Delegates At-Large Alternates	6	2	3/14/2020	Selecting Body: <b>Caucus</b>  <b>File: 3/5/2020</b>
TOTAL Delegates and Alternates	11	2		

\* Automatic Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates includes the following categories, if applicable, who legally reside in the state: the Democratic National Committee Members, the Democratic President, the Democratic Vice President, all Democratic Members of U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, the Democratic Governor, and any other Distinguished Party Leader as specified in Rule 9.A. of the *2020 Delegate Selection Rules*. The exact number of Automatic PLEO Delegates is subject to change due to possible deaths, resignations, elections or special elections.

\*\* Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) alternates are selected with the At-Large alternates.

### B. Selection of Standing Committee Members (For the Credentials, Platform and Rules Committees)

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



## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

Members Per Committee	Total Members	Selection Date	Filing Requirements and Deadlines
1	3	<i>by 3/24/20</i>	<i>Pres. Candidates submit names by 3/9/2020</i>

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

The Delegation Chair will be selected by the National Convention Delegates on or before March 24, 2020.

One (1) Convention Page will be selected by the State Democratic Chair on or before March 24, 2020.

### D. Selection of Presidential Electors

The Northern Marianas is not allocated any Presidential Electors.

### E. Presidential Candidate Filing Deadline

By February 28, 2020, the State Chair shall declare the names of all candidates to be placed on the ballot. These names will be ones recognized as candidates in national news media throughout the United States or who have garnered delegates in primaries or caucuses held prior to February 28, 2020. A candidate can also gain access to the ballot by filing a petition with the signatures of 100 Northern Mariana Islanders that affiliate themselves with the Democratic Party and will be 18 years of age by November 3, 2020. This petition is due January 15, 2020.  
(Rule 11.B & 14.E)

Presidential candidates must certify the name of their authorized representative(s) to the State Democratic Chair by February 28, 2020.

### F. Timetable

Date	Activity
<b>2019</b>	
March 1	Affirmative Action Committee appointed.
September 13	Affirmative Action Plan takes effect.
December 1	Deadline for each announced presidential candidate to submit a statement specifying steps the candidate will take to encourage full participation in the delegate selection process. (Individuals who announce their candidacy after this date must provide this full participation statement to the State Party concurrently with their announcement.)
<b>2020</b>	
January 15	Petition for candidate names to be placed on ballot due.
February 27	Delegate candidacy forms and filing instructions available on State Party website (nmidems.org).

## Northern Marianas 2020 Delegate Selection Plan

---

Date	Activity
February 28	State Chair shall announce recognized presidential candidates to be placed on the Caucus ballot. Presidential candidate deadline for certifying the name(s) of their authorized representative(s) to the State Party.
March 8	At-Large delegate candidates submit statement of candidacy and pledge of support to State Party.
March 9	State Party provides list of At-Large candidates to presidential candidates.
March 10	Presidential candidates provide list of approved At-Large delegate and alternate candidates to State Party.
March 14	<b>Presidential preference caucus.</b> Caucuses elect At-Large delegates and alternates.
March 20	Presidential candidates provide list of approved Standing Committee Members to State Party.
March 21	Delegation elects Standing Committee Members and Chair. Chair selects page. <b>Certification of Standing Committee Members, the Delegation Chair, and Pages within three (3) days of their selection.</b>
March 24	State Chair shall certify names of delegates and alternates, together with presidential preferences, to the DNC.

## Exhibits to the Affirmative Action Plan

### A. Members of the Affirmative Action Committee

- Nola Hix - Women / Saipan Community
- Dan Quitugua - Retirees / Covenant
- Edith Deleon Guerrero - Labor / Disabilities
- John Paul Indalecio - LGBTQ Community
- Marie Camacho - Youth / Millennials
- Gregory Cing - Tinian Community
- Gordon Marciano - Native Carolinians
- Bryan Manabat - Filipino Americans
- Jackie Che - Chinese Americans
- Paul Manglona - Rota Community

### B. Media Outlets to be Contacted Regarding the Delegate Selection Process

1. Major Daily Newspapers, Radio and Television Stations
  - *Saipan Tribune* – Saipan
  - *Marianas Variety* -- Saipan
  - KPRG, 89.1FM – Public radio Guam
  - KKMP, 92.1FM, 1440AM – Garapan-Saipan
  - KWAU/Magic 100.3, 100.3FM – Garapan-Saipan
  - KPXP, 97.9FM – Garapan-Saipan
  - KZMI, 103.9FM – Garapan-Saipan
  - KCNM, 1080AM – Saipan
  - KORU, 89.9FM – Garapan-Saipan
2. Other “Non-Minority” Media Outlets
  - *Marianas Business Journal* – Saipan
  - *Pacific Daily News* -- Guam
  - *Guam Post* -- Guam
3. Constituency and Specialty Media Outlets and Targeted Groups
  - *Saipan Times* -- Korean newspaper



**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS**  
*"The People's Party • A Better Deal for a Hopeful Future"*

February 26, 2020

Ms. Lorraine Miller & Mr. James Roosevelt, Jr.  
Co-Chairs  
Rules and By-Laws Committee  
Democratic National Committee  
Washington, DC

Dear Co-Chairs Miller and Roosevelt:

I am pleased to certify that the foregoing final version of the Northern Marianas Delegate Selection Plan was approved by the Central Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas, Inc., on February 26, 2020, at a duly called and noticed meeting, a quorum being present.

We look forward to a successful caucus on March 14, 2020, and to our participation in the 2020 Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Nola K. Hix  
Chairwoman



**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS**  
*"The People's Party • A Better Deal for a Hopeful Future"*

February 26, 2020

Ms. Lorraine Miller & Mr. James Roosevelt, Jr.  
Co-Chairs  
Rules and By-Laws Committee  
Democratic National Committee  
Washington, DC

**Re: 30-Day Comment Period and Plan Development History**

Dear Co-Chairs Miller and Roosevelt:

I am pleased to certify that the Northern Marianas Delegate Selection Plan was made available on the State Party website ([nmidems.org](http://nmidems.org)) for public comment for 30 days beginning June 11, 2019, prior to approval by the Central Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas, Inc., on July 11, 2019, at a duly called and noticed meeting, a quorum being present, and submission to the DNC Rules & By-Laws Committee for review.

The Delegate Selection Plan remained available on the website continuously thereafter in the most up-to-date version available, including those attachments and appendices as were at the time available.

No copy of a press release announcing the adoption of the Plan and summarizing the major components of the Northern Marianas process is available.

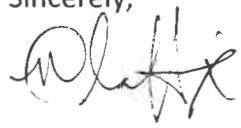
No comments on the Plan were received during the 30-day comment period or thereafter.

The Northern Marianas DSP was found in Conditional Compliance by the Rules & Bylaws Committee on July 30, 2019. We then revised the Plan based on the August 2, 2019 Staff Evaluation, and submitted an October 14, 2019 revised Plan to the Rules & Bylaws Committee and made it available on the State Party website.

We then were provided with an October 30, 2019 Staff Evaluation. This final version reflects the Northern Marianas Democratic Party's best efforts to be fully responsive to the October 30, 2019 Staff Evaluation.

This final version of the Northern Marianas Delegate Selection Plan is available on State Party website ([nmidems.org](http://nmidems.org)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nola K. Hix', written in a cursive style.

Nola K. Hix  
Chairwoman

# DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

## Declaration of Candidacy for Delegate or Alternate to 2020 Democratic National Convention

Please print all information

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE/CELL \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (non-governmental) \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_ MALE \_\_\_ FEMALE \_\_\_ OTHER

Note: Candidates not elected as delegates will automatically become candidates for alternates pledged to the same presidential preference unless opting out below.

I do **NOT** want to be considered for election as an alternate. Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ (to opt out).

**I pledge my support to (write name of Presidential candidate, or Uncommitted):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Demographics:** Your answers to the questions below (optional) help the Party determine the demographics of the Delegation. Please mark "X" where applicable.

1. Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply): \_\_\_ Caucasian/White \_\_\_ Hispanic \_\_\_ African American  
\_\_\_ Asian/Pacific Islander \_\_\_ Native American / Alaska Native \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal Affiliation  
\_\_\_ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you have a disability? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO
4. Your sexual orientation? \_\_\_ Heterosexual \_\_\_ LGBTQ
5. Your gender identity? \_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Non-Binary
6. Are you an elected official? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO If YES, list title(s) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Are you a party leader? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO If YES, list title(s) \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I affirm that all of the above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2020



**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS**  
*"The People's Party • A Better Deal for a Hopeful Future"*

February 26, 2020

Ms. Lorraine Miller & Mr. James Roosevelt, Jr.  
Co-Chairs  
Rules and By-Laws Committee  
Democratic National Committee  
Washington, DC

**Re: Affirmative Action Committee Certifications**

Dear Co-Chairs Miller and Roosevelt:

As State Party Chair and Chairwoman of our Affirmative Action Committee, I certify that our Affirmative Action Committee was appointed in accordance with Rule 6.F and reviewed our Delegate Selection Plan (including, specifically, the outreach program required in Rule 5.C) before submission to the DNC Rules & Bylaws Committee.

I further certify that the composition of the Affirmative Action Committee complies with Rules 5.C, 6.A, and 7, and that the names, demographic data and contact information of members were submitted to the Rules & Bylaws Committee within 15 days after appointment.

Sincerely,

Nola K. Hix  
State Party Chair  
Chairwoman, Affirmative Action Committee





**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS**  
*"The People's Party • A Better Deal for a Hopeful Future"*

February 26, 2020

Ms. Lorraine Miller & Mr. James Roosevelt, Jr.  
Co-Chairs  
Rules and By-Laws Committee  
Democratic National Committee  
Washington, DC

**Re: Numerical Goals Data Source**

Dear Co-Chairs Miller and Roosevelt:

In setting numerical goals established under Rules 5.C, 6.A, and 7, the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas utilized the most reliable data available, including, specifically, 2010 U.S. Census data for the Northern Mariana Islands and the composition of the Northern Marianas Delegation to the 2016 Democratic National Convention, as determined by the participation and results of the Northern Marianas 2016 Caucus.

Sincerely,

Nola K. Hix  
State Party Chair  
Chairwoman, Affirmative Action Committee

# Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

## Article VII

### ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

Section 1: Qualifications of Voters. A person is eligible to vote who, on the date of the election, is eighteen years of age or older, is domiciled in the Commonwealth, is a resident of the Commonwealth and has resided in the Commonwealth for a period of time provided by law, is not serving a sentence for a felony, has not been found by a court to be of unsound mind, and is either a citizen or national of the United States. The legislature may require that persons eligible to vote be citizens of the United States.

Section 2: Prohibition of Literacy Requirement. A person may not be denied the right to vote because that person is unable to read or write.

Section 3: Domicile and Residence. The legislature shall implement section 1 by providing the criteria by which domicile and residence shall be determined for voting purposes and specifying the length of residence within the Commonwealth that shall be required.

## Article VIII

### ELECTIONS

Section 1: Regular General Election. The regular general election of the Commonwealth shall be held the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years.

Section 2: Other Elections. Other elections may be held as provided by law.

Section 3: Election Procedures. The legislature may provide for the registration of voters, nomination of candidates, absentee voting, secrecy in voting, administration of elections, resolution of election contests, and other matters with respect to election procedures.

Section 4: Taking Office After Elections. Officers elected at the regular general election shall take office on the second Monday of January of the year following the year in which the election was held.

Section 5: Resignation from Public Office. An elected public official shall resign from office upon certification to be a candidate for another public office, if the term of the office sought begins before the end of the term of the office held.

Commonwealth Code

Title 1

Division 6

Elections

**§ 6004. Political Party: Rights.** In addition to any other rights accorded in this part to a political party, a recognized political party shall have the right to a place on the ballot, in any election, and to have the names of its candidates identified thereon with the party's name or other official designations. Any recognized political party which shall fail to poll on any general election, the percentage of total votes cast as required by Section 6003(o)(3) shall lose its recognition as a recognized political party, and shall be denied a place upon the ballot unless it complies with the provisions of Section 6005.

**§ 6201. Voting: Eligibility.**

(a) Pursuant to Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a person is eligible to vote who, on the date of the election, is 18 years of age or older, is domiciled in the Commonwealth, is a resident in the Commonwealth and has resided in the Commonwealth for a period of time provided by law, is not serving a sentence for a felony, has not been declared by a court to be of unsound mind, and is either a citizen or national of the United States.

(b) Pursuant to Article VII, Section 2 of the Commonwealth Constitution, a person shall not be denied the right to vote because that person is unable to read or write.

(c) Under the authority of Article VII, Section 1 of the Commonwealth Constitution, no person shall be eligible to vote who has not resided in the Commonwealth at least 120 days prior to the election day.

(d) Consistent with Article VII, Section 1 of the Commonwealth Constitution, no person who is confined to a mental institution shall be eligible to vote.

(e) In accordance with Article VII, Section 1 of the Commonwealth Constitution, no person serving a sentence for a felony, as defined by Section 6003(t) of this part, shall be eligible to vote.

(f) No person shall register or vote in any other precinct than that in which the person resides.