

## NORTHERN MARIANAS DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN FOR THE 2024 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: Two-Part Primary

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:  
3/14/2024

Enter number of At-Large Alternates: 2

Date of Selection of At-Large Alternates:  
3/14/2024

Enter total number of Standing Committee  
Members: 3

Enter total number of Convention Pages: 1

# **NORTHERN MARIANAS DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN**

FOR THE 2024 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL  
CONVENTION

ISSUED BY THE

NORTHERN MARIANAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY

DRAFT AS OF APRIL 30, 2024

# The Northern Mariana Islands Delegate Selection Plan For the 2024 Democratic National Convention

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# Northern Marianas Delegate Selection Plan For the 2024 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 2024 Democratic National Convention* (“Rules”), the *Call for the 2024 Democratic National Convention* (“Call”), the *Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2024 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 Democratic 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 Democratic 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 presidential preference primary for apportioning delegates to the 2024 Democratic National Convention.

## Northern Marianas 2024 Delegate Selection Plan

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2. The “first determining step” of the Northern Mariana Islands’ delegate selection process will occur on March 5-12, 2024, with a Party-Run two-part primary.

### 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 primary.
  - b. Voter registration in the Northern Marianas does not include political party affiliation. Individuals who are not already registered members of the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas and wish to participate in the primary shall declare their affiliation by form to the Democratic Party when signing in to vote in the Primary on March 5-12, 2024. 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*)

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<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.

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- 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*)
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 primary does not utilize the CNMI's election machinery and is exclusively Party-run. The Northern Marianas presidential preference and delegate selection primary will allow for voting in-person during an 8-day window March 5-12, 2024. 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 primary and would be impracticable, 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

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- the Northern Marianas and lack of an administrative apparatus and budgetary resources for vote-by-mail make such enhanced voter participation mechanisms impractical for the presidential preference primary. (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.

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

- 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 primary 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



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child care) and actual attendance at the polls is necessary to participate; (Rule 2.K.8) and

- 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 January 18, 2024, the State Chair shall declare the names of candidates to be placed on the ballot. These names will include only candidates who have qualified for the ballot as provided in paragraph 2.
2. A presidential candidate can gain access to the ballot by filing with the State Party a declaration of intention to seek election of delegates from the Northern Marianas and paying a \$2,500 filing fee, not later than January 16, 2024. (*Rule 15.B & Rule 15.D*).
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 January 16, 2024. (*Rule 13.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**

1. The Northern Marianas consists of a single district and is allocated 6 delegates and 2 alternates to be elected at-large in a two-part primary with polling stations on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. (Rule 8.C, Call I.I, & Appendix B Reg. 4.32)
2. The Northern Marianas will use a two-part primary to elect the district level delegates and alternates. The presidential preference primary will be held on March 5, 2024 to March 12, 2024, at polling places on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, open and closing each day at times, to be announced by the State Chair. Any Democrat who will be 18 years of age or older by November 5, 2024, may participate by proceeding to a polling place and showing evidence of U.S. citizenship and residence in the Northern Mariana Islands and complying with all other requirements of this plan.

Primary voters will be provided with pre-printed ballots containing the names of the presidential candidates qualified for the ballot and, beneath those names, the names of delegate candidates pledged to that presidential candidate. Voters will be permitted to cast votes for one (1) presidential candidate and for a number of delegate candidates pledged to that presidential candidate not to exceed the maximum number of delegates and alternates to be selected at the district-level. After these ballots are cast, the results will be tabulated and delegates allocated pursuant to the Plan.

An initial tabulation of votes will be made after the polls close on March 5, 2024, and the results reported to the media. After the polls close on March 12, 2024, a final tabulation shall be made and the final results, aggregating the results for all 8 days and all polling places, shall be reported.

3. Apportionment of District-Level Delegates and Alternates [Not applicable] (Rule 8.A, Reg. 4.12, Reg. 4.11 & Appendix A)

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### 4. District-Level Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements

- a. All district-level delegate and alternate candidates must be registered to vote in the CNMI. (*Rule 13.H*)
- b. An individual can qualify as a candidate for district-level delegate or alternate to the 2024 Democratic National Convention by filing 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 February 26, 2024. Forms for this purpose and filing instructions will be available on the state party website (nmidems.org) by February 1, 2024. 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.B, Rule 15.F, & Reg. 4.22*)

Qualification as a candidate for district-level delegate or alternate is not complete until the individual has established membership in the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas, paid a filing fee of \$50.00, and the candidate's statement of candidacy, singular presidential preference, pledge of support, and completed candidacy form has been received by the State Party via its website nmidems.org, at its office at the corner of Chalan Pale Arnold and Quartermaster Road, or at P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_, Saipan, MP 96950. (*Rule 1.A.7, Rule 1.A.8 & Reg. 4.22*)

- c. The statement of candidacy for district-level delegates and alternates will be the same. After the district-level delegates are elected in the primary, those individuals not chosen will then be considered candidates for alternate positions unless they specify otherwise when filing. (*Rule 13.C*)

### 5. 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 February 27, 2024, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. (*Rule 13.D & Rule 13.F*)
- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the State Democratic Chair, by 8:00 p.m. on March 2, 2024, 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.E.1 & Reg. 4.23 & Reg. 4.24*)

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- 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 1, 2024.
  - d. National convention delegates and alternate candidates removed from the list of bona fide supporters by a presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), may not be elected as a delegate or alternate at that level pledged to that presidential candidate. *(Rule 13.E & Reg. 4.23)*
  - e. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective district-level delegate candidates and district-level alternate candidates meet the affirmative action and outreach and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved district-level delegate candidates and district-level alternate candidates as indicated in this section. *(Rule 6.I & Reg. 4.10.C)*
5. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference
- a. Presidential Primary – Proportional Representation Plan *(Rule 14.A, Rule 14.B & Rule 14.D)*

The Northern Marianas presidential primary election is a “binding” primary. Accordingly, delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated so as to fairly reflect the expressed presidential (or uncommitted) preference of the primary voters. The National Convention delegates and alternatives selected shall be allocated in proportion to the percentage of the primary vote won by each preference, except that preferences falling below a 15% threshold shall not be awarded any delegates or alternates.
  - b. 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)*
  - c. [Not applicable]. *(Rule 13.G)*
  - d. In the event a presidential candidate qualifies to receive delegates based on the primary results and failed to slate a sufficient number of delegate and alternate candidates, the State Democratic Chair shall solicit individuals willing to serve as delegate or alternate and pledge to the presidential candidate short of delegates and/or alternates. The State Democratic Chair may then

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designate individuals to serve as delegate or alternate pledged to the presidential candidate, subject to presidential candidate right of review.

The State Democratic Chair shall convey the names of the individuals so designated to the presidential candidate. The presidential candidate, or the candidate's authorized representative(s), may approve or reject the individuals designated within 96 hours of notice. 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 within 96 hours of notice. This process shall be concluded within 30 days of the conclusion of the primary. (*Rule 14.C*)

### 7. Equal Division of District-Level Delegates and Alternates

- a. To ensure the district-level binary-gendered delegates are equally divided between men and women (determined by gender self-identification) the gender of the first binary delegate elected in each district will be designated. At the time of election of delegates in the district, the binary gender advantage will alternate as delegate positions are filled and the alternation shall continue across presidential preferences in order of vote-getting preference. In the case of non-binary gender delegates, they shall not be counted in either the male or female category, but do count towards the total delegate allotment. (*Rule 6.C., Rule 6.C.1 & Reg. 4.10*)

To ensure that the number of male and female (binary) identifying delegates and alternates within each presidential candidate's delegation vary by no more than one, a system of binary gender advantage will be used in declaring delegates elected. After the number of delegates and alternates to which a presidential candidate is entitled have been determined, delegates are declared elected in order of vote-getting preference under the presidential candidate to whom they are pledged. Non-binary gendered delegate candidates with the highest vote count of delegate candidates remaining to declared elected are declared elected without shifting the binary gender advantage.

Beginning with the presidential candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the primary, the delegate candidates with highest votes, up to the number of delegates to which the candidate is entitled, shall be declared elected; provided that in the case of binary-gendered delegate candidates, the candidates declared elected must alternate gender notwithstanding a lower vote count for the candidate holding the binary gender advantage. This process shall continue for each presidential candidate in the order of number of votes received, with the binary gender advantage for the first delegate elected for a presidential candidate being that determined by the gender of the last delegate

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elected for the preceding presidential candidate, and shall so proceed until all Northern Marianas delegates and alternates have been elected.

- b. After the delegates are selected, the alternates will be awarded, using the same process described above.
8. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) the election of the state's district-level delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within ten (10) days after their election. (*Rule 8.C & Call IV.A*)

### B. Automatic Delegates

1. Automatic Party Leaders and Elected Officials
  - a. The following categories (if applicable) shall constitute the Automatic Party Leaders and Elected Official delegate positions:
    - (1) Members of the Democratic National Committee who legally reside in the 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 2024 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, 2024, the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee shall officially confirm to the State Democratic Chair the names of the Automatic delegates who legally reside in Northern Mariana Islands. (*Rule 9.A*)

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- (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 Marianas consists of a single district and is allocated 6 delegates and 2 alternates to be elected at-large in a two-part primary with polling stations on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. (*Rule 8.C, Call I.I, & Appendix B Reg. 4.32*)
2. Accordingly, all pledged delegates and alternates are elected at-large at the district level and the remainder of this section is inapplicable.

### **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.

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- (a) In the case where the presidential candidate has only one (1) alternate, that alternate shall become the certified delegate.
  - (b) If a presidential candidate has only one (1) alternate, and that alternate permanently replaces a delegate of a different gender, thereby causing the delegation to no longer be equally divided, the delegation shall not be considered in violation of Rule 6.C. In such a case, notwithstanding Rule 19.D.2, the State Party Committee shall, at the time of a subsequent permanent replacement, replace a delegate with a person of a different, 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 19.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 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 19.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 19.D.3*)
  - (2) Permanent replacement of a delegate (as specified above) by an alternate and replacement of a vacant alternate position shall be certified in writing by the 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*)



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- (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. 4.33*)
    - (4) In the case where a pledged delegate is permanently replaced after 72 hours before the time the first session is scheduled to convene or, in the case where a pledged delegate is not on the floor of the Convention Hall at the time a roll call vote is taken, an alternate may be designated (as specified above) to cast the delegate's vote. In such case, the Delegation Chair shall indicate the name of the alternate casting the respective delegate's vote on the delegation tally sheet. (*Call IX.F.3.e, Call IX.F.3.c & Reg. 5.6*)
  - 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 19.E*)
2. Automatic delegates shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except under the following circumstances: (*Call IV.D.2 & Reg. 4.35*)
  - a. Members of Congress and the Democratic Governor shall not be entitled to name a replacement. In the event of changes or vacancies in the state's Congressional Delegation, following the official confirmation and prior to the commencement of the National Convention, the DNC Secretary shall recognize only such changes as have been officially recognized by the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives or the Democratic Conference of the U.S. Senate. In the event of a change or vacancy in the state's office of Governor, the DNC shall recognize only such changes as have been officially recognized by the Democratic Governors' Association. (*Call IV.D.2.a*)
  - b. Members of the Democratic National Committee shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except in the case of death of such delegates. In the case where the state's DNC membership changes following the DNC Secretary's official confirmation, but prior to the commencement of the 2024 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 IX.F.3.e*)

## **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 2024 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 2024 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 26, 2024. (*Call VII.B.1*)
  - b. All members of the delegation shall receive adequate notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the standing committee members. (*Call VII.B.1*)
2. Allocation of Members
  - a. The members of the standing committees allocated to 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 14.E. of the Delegate Selection Rules. (*Call VII.C.1 & Reg. 5.9*)
  - b. The presidential preference of each candidate receiving the applicable percentage or more within the delegation shall be multiplied by the total number of standing committee positions allocated to 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

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## Northern Marianas 2024 Delegate Selection Plan

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multiplication is 0.455 but less than 1.455, the presidential preference is entitled to one (1) position. Those preferences securing more than 1.455 but less than 2.455 are entitled to two (2) positions, etc. (*Call VII.C.2*)

- c. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation exceeding the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is farthest from its eventual rounded-off total shall be denied that one (1) additional position. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation falling short of the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is closest to the next rounding level shall be allotted an additional committee position. (*Call VII.C.3*)
  - d. Standing committee positions allocated to a presidential candidate shall be proportionately allocated, to the extent practicable, to each of the three (3) standing committees. When such allocation results in an unequal distribution of standing committee positions by candidate preference, a drawing shall be conducted to distribute the additional positions. (*Call VII.C.4*)
3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
- a. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), shall be given adequate notice of the date, time and location of the meeting of the state's delegation authorized to elect standing committee members. (*Call VII.D.1*)
  - b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must submit to the State Democratic Chair, by 5 p.m. on March 20, 2024, 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. 4.10*)

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- 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 male and female membership of the standing committees shall be as equally divided among the men and women as possible under the state allocation; the variance between men and women in any committee and among the three committees in aggregate shall not exceed one. *(Call VII.E.2)*
  - (3) Gender non-binary committee members shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the delegation shall be equally divided between male gender (men) and female gender (women). *(Call VII.E.1)*
  - (4) The positions allocated to each presidential candidate on each committee shall be voted on separately, and the winners shall be the highest vote-getter(s) of the appropriate gender.
- 5. Certification and Substitution
  - a. The 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 26, 2024. (*Call IV.E & Call VII.B.1*)
    - b. All members of the delegation shall receive timely notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the Delegation Chair. (*Rule 3.C*)
  2. The State Democratic Chair shall certify the Delegation Chair in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after their selection. (*Call IV.E*)
- C. Convention Pages**
1. 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 26, 2024. (*Call IV.F.3, Appendix C & Reg. 5.7*)
  2. The Convention Page shall reflect as much as possible, the Affirmative Action and Outreach and Inclusion guidelines in the State Plan. In the case of gender non-binary pages, they shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the pages shall be equally divided. (*Reg. 5.7.A*)
  3. The State Democratic Chair shall certify the individual to serve as the Northern Mariana Islands' Convention Page in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the selection. (*Call IV.F.3 & Reg. 5.7.B*)

## Section VI Presidential Electors

- A.** 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 4.C*)
1. 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 and expression, economic status or 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 the Northern Marianas Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Democratic Party organization. As part of this, the 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*)

## Northern Marianas 2024 Delegate Selection Plan

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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 Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas. Such publication should be done in timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within the Northern Marianas 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, , i.e. the number of men and women shall not vary by more than one. Delegates and alternates shall be considered separate groups for purposes of achieving equal division as determined by gender self-identification. In the case of gender non-binary delegates or alternates, they shall not be counted as either a male or female and the remainder of the 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 13.A)*
- E. No delegate at any level of the delegate selection process shall be mandated by law or Party rules to vote contrary to that person’s presidential choice as expressed at the time the delegate is elected. *(Rule 13.I)*
- F. Delegates elected to the national convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them. *(Rule 13.J)*
- G. Each delegate, alternate and standing committee member must be a bona fide Democrat who is faithful to the interests, welfare and success of the Democratic Party of the United States, who subscribes to the substance, intent and principles of the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States, and who will participate in the Convention in good faith. *(Rule 12.H, Call VII.A & 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 selection of National Convention delegates, alternates, standing committee members, and other official Convention participants. *(Rule 16)*
- I. An accredited participant in a caucus, convention or committee meeting, after having established credentials, may register a non-transferable proxy with (i.e.,

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## Northern Marianas 2024 Delegate Selection Plan

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deliver a signed proxy to) 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 a time. *(Rule 17 & Reg. 4.30)*

- 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 18.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 18.B)*
- L. All steps in the delegate selection process, except the filing of presidential candidates as allowed by rule 15.D, must take place within the calendar year of the Democratic National Convention, except with respect to the implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Programs or as otherwise allowed. *(Rule 1.F & Rule 12.B)*
- M. In electing and certifying delegates and alternates to the 2024 Democratic National Convention, the Northern Marianas thereby undertakes to assure all Democratic voters in the Northern Mariana Islands a full, timely and equal opportunity to participate in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs and to implement the affirmative action and outreach and inclusion plan toward that end: that the delegates and alternates to the Convention shall be selected in accordance with the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2024 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)*



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- 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 primary 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 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)*

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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)*
    - (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, 2024. (*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 2024 National Delegate Selection Plan, and a clear and concise explanation of how Democratic voters can participate in the delegate selection process. This information is available on the State Party website, and is promptly updated and supplemented whenever 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 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

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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 April 30, 2023, 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 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

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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, 2023, 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, 2023, 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, 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.I & 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 section 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 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 2024 Democratic National Convention (Reg. Sec. 3)*, and the “Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2024 Democratic National Convention.” (*Call Appendix A*)
2. Under Rule 21.B. of the *2024 Delegate Selection Rules*, the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction over challenges pertaining to the submission, non-implementation and violation of state Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program. (*Rule 21.B & Call Appendix A*)
3. The Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction to hear and decide any challenge provided it is initiated before the 56th day preceding the date of the commencement of the 2024 Democratic National Convention. (*Call Appendix A & Reg. 3.1*)
4. Challenges to the credentials of delegates and alternates to the 2024 Democratic National Convention initiated on or after the 56th day preceding the date of commencement of the Democratic National Convention shall be

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processed in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2024 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 2024 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 2024 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

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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 Northern Marianas will use a proportional representation system based on the results of the Party-Run Primary apportioning its delegates to the 2024 Democratic National Convention.

The “first determining step” of the Northern Mariana Islands’ delegate selection process will occur on March 5-12, 2024, with a Party-Run two-part Primary.

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	6	2	3/5-12/ 2024	Selecting Body: <b>Party-Run <i>Primary</i></b>  <b>File: 2/26/2024</b>
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 2024 Delegate Selection Rules.
Pledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials (PLEOs)	0	**	n/a	n/a
				n/a
At-Large Delegates At-Large Alternates	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
				Filing Deadline: n/a
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 *2024 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.

## Northern Marianas 2024 Delegate Selection Plan

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### 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:

Members Per Committee	Total Members	Selection Date	Filing Requirements and Deadlines
1	3	<i>by 3/26/20</i>	<i>Pres. Candidates submit names by 3/20/2024</i>

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

The Delegation Chair will be selected by the National Convention Delegates on or before March 26, 2024.

One (1) Convention Page will be selected by the State Democratic Chair on or before March 26, 2024.

### D. Selection of Presidential Electors

The Northern Marianas is not allocated any Presidential Electors.

### E. Presidential Candidate Filing Deadline

By January 18, 2024, the State Chair shall declare the names of all candidates to be placed on the ballot. These names will be the ones who have gained access to the ballot by filing a declaration of intention with the State Party and paying the \$2,500 filing fee on or before the January 16, 2024 deadline.

*(Rule 15.D)*

Presidential candidates must certify the name of their authorized representative(s) to the Chair of the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas by January 16, 2024.

### F. Timetable

Date	Activity
<b>2023</b>	
March 3	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.)

## Northern Marianas 2024 Delegate Selection Plan

Date	Activity
<b>2024</b>	
January 16	Filing deadline for presidential candidate names to be placed on ballot. Presidential candidate deadline for certifying the name(s) of their authorized representative(s) to the State Party.
January 18	State Chair shall announce recognized presidential candidates to be placed on the Primary ballot.
February 1	Delegate candidacy forms and filing instructions available on State Party website (nmidems.org).
February 26	District-level delegate candidates submit statement of candidacy and pledge of support to State Party.
February 27	State Party provides list of district-level candidates to presidential candidates.
March 2	Presidential candidates provide list of approved district-level delegate and alternate candidates to State Party.
March 5-12	<b>Presidential preference primary.</b> Primary elects district-level delegates and alternates.
March 20	Presidential candidates provide list of approved Standing Committee Members to State Party.
March 26	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 29	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

- Tina Sablan - Women / Saipan Community
- Luella Marciano - Retirees / Native Carolinians
- Edith Deleon Guerrero - Labor / Disabilities
- Shawna Indalecio – LGBTQ+ Community
- Leila Staffler – Millennials / Environment
- Gregory Cing - Tinian Community
- Jonathan Cabrera - Native Chamorros
- Kat Punzlan - Filipino Americans / Youth
- Stephen Woodruff – Multinational U.S. Citizens
- Paul Manglona - Rota Community
- Richard Lizama - Veterans

### 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

## ATTACHMENTS TO THE DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN

**B. [As specified in Reg. 2.2, the following documentation must accompany the state's Delegate Selection Plan at the time it is formally submitted to the Rules and Bylaws Committee.]**

1. **A summary** of the process for selecting delegates, alternates, standing committee members, the delegation chair and convention pages, and Presidential Electors, along with related deadlines. ***[It is recommended that this information be incorporated as part of the state's Delegate Selection Plan - see Section X. of the Model Plan.]*** (Reg. 2.2.A)
2. **A timetable** reflecting all significant dates in the state's delegate selection process. ***[It is recommended that this information be incorporated as part of the state's Delegate Selection Plan - see Section I. of the Model Plan.]*** (Reg. 2.2.B)
3. **A copy of the press release** distributed by the State Party Committee announcing its adoption of the Plan and summarizing the major components of the Plan. (Reg. 2.2.D)
4. **A statement from the State Democratic Chair certifying the following:**
  - a. **The Plan** as submitted to the RBC was approved by the State Party Committee. (Reg. 2.2.C)
  - b. **The proposed Plan**, including all attachments and appendices, was placed on the State Party website during the 30-day public comment period. (Reg. 2.2.E)
  - c. **Compliance with Rule 1.C** which requires a 30-day public comment period prior to the adoption of the Plan by the State Party Committee, provided that the State Party has published specific guidance for the submission of public comments. (Reg. 2.2.F)
5. A statement from the Chair of the Affirmative Action Committee certifying **compliance with Rule 6.F.**, which requires that the Affirmative Action Committee has reviewed the proposed Affirmative Action outreach plan, including any numerical goals established. (Rule 6.F & Reg. 2.2.I)
6. **A copy of all written public and online comments** submitted through the process provided above about the Plan. ***[Include information identifying each person and/or organization making the comment and where appropriate, a description of the person or group so represented, if such information has been provided or is available to the State Party.]*** (Rule 1.C & Reg. 2.2.G)

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## Northern Marianas 2024 Delegate Selection Plan

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7. **A blank copy of forms** to be filed with the state and the State Party by delegate and alternate candidates. (*Rule 1.A.7, Rule 1.A.8 & Reg. 2.2.H*)
8. **Copies of all state statutes and other relevant legal authority** reasonably related to:
  - a. The Delegate Selection Process [*For example, include any and all state statutory requirements related to: ballot access for presidential candidates; filing requirements for delegate and alternate candidates; timing of the presidential primary, caucuses, and/or the state convention; participation in the state's presidential primary or caucuses, including Party registration or enrollment provisions; and any other stipulations made by the state regarding the selection process or the role of National Convention delegates.*] (*Reg. 2.2.L*)
  - b. The election of Presidential Electors [*i.e., state statutory requirements related to the selection of Presidential Electors, including whether the Electors are required to vote for the Party's nominee and how that is enforced.*] (*Call VIII*)
9. A copy of all **presidential candidate qualifying forms** to be filed with the state and the State Party. (*Reg. 2.2.M*)
10. A copy of the **State Delegate Selection Media Plan**, describing how the State Party will communicate information about the process to all available and appropriate sources, including social and specialty media directed toward Democratic constituency groups as described in the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program.

### **C. [For Caucus States]**

1. Attach a copy of the **State Party's proposed budget** outlining State Party's financial plan and demonstrating the technical ability to successfully run the delegate selection process. (*Rule 2.K.2*)
2. Attach a copy of the **State Party's Caucus Plan** specifically describing how the caucus process will be implemented and how each level of the caucuses will be conducted.

### **D. [For States in receipt of a 12.A Waiver]**

1. A copy of the terms for providing a base voter file to presidential candidates qualified under Call Article VI.