

ANNOTATED
Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party
[2016]

Annotations

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ALL THINGS ARE SUBJECT TO
INTERPRETATION.

WHICHEVER INTERPRETATION
PREVAILS AT A GIVEN TIME
IS A FUNCTION OF

POWER AND NOT TRUTH.

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PREAMBLE: We, the members of the Democratic State Central Committee of Michigan, do hereby establish and adopt these rules of the Democratic Party of Michigan based on the following principles:

The Principle of People - giving service to the needs and aspirations of all people.

The Principle of Democracy - working for equal opportunity for access and full participation of all elements of society in all political and governmental processes.

We further state that the Democratic Party of the State of Michigan consists of those qualified members of the Democratic Party as described in these rules that work for and support the principles of the Democratic Party.

Comment 1: This is very weak tea. In our present political climate, we need to be especially clear and forceful in our support for core small-d democratic principles and values.

Example Principles of Democracy

1. Every person has the inalienable right to absolute authority over their body and data.
2. Every person has the inalienable right to equal political power.
3. Every person has the inalienable right to equal representation in government.
4. A government is a system of rules designed to aggregate and regulate the collective power of the people.
5. The aim and purpose of democratic government is to serve the common good, in the public interest, for the benefit of all people equally.
6. All government power and authority belongs to the people indivisibly and inalienably.
7. The people may delegate authority to wield their power only collectively and temporarily.
8. Every delegation of authority is void, unless it preserves each person's inalienable rights.
9. Every person has the inherent responsibility to promote equal rights, freedom, security, justice, peace, and prosperity for all, regardless of actual or perceived race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, ability, appearance, national origin, economic circumstance, religious or other belief(s).
10. Each person delegated authority to wield the power of the people has the obligation to faithfully serve the people according to these principles.

ARTICLE 1. STATUTORY PROVISIONS

The Democratic Party of Michigan, in the exercise of its constitutional rights of association and speech, reserves the right to accept or decline the application of Michigan statutory provisions, which appear to govern its affairs. The incorporation of statutory provisions in these rules is voluntary and is subject to the foregoing reservation.

Comment 2: Replace with:

The members of the Democratic Party of Michigan, in the exercise of their constitutional rights to freedom of speech and association, reserve the right to accept or decline the application of Michigan statutory provisions, which may appear to govern their affairs.

ARTICLE 2. POLICY

A. Fundamental Principles

1. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party in Michigan shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical appearance or disability.

2. No tests for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party in Michigan shall 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 on the grounds of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical appearance or disability.

Comment 3: All "public meetings ... shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party ... "

If it's only open to members of the Democratic Party, it's *not a public meeting*. It's a private meeting.

Comment 4: What about tests of membership or oaths of office which do not have this effect?

This needs to be corrected to ensure all tests of membership and all oaths of loyalty are forbidden.

Replace with:

No test of any kind shall be required for membership in the Michigan Democratic Party.

No oaths of loyalty shall be required for membership in the Michigan Democratic Party.

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

Comment 5: According to 2.A.1 above, "public meetings" means only Democratic Party members may attend.

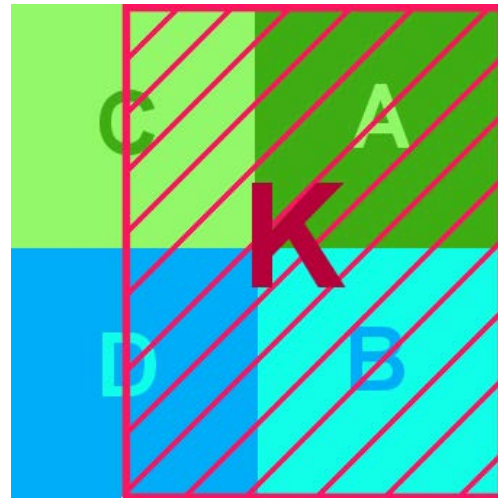
1 and 3 need to be combined to establish actual public meetings where the public is explicitly allowed to attend, and ensure that all meetings are announced with as much notice as possible (and setting a minimum, at least 15 days), and the notice of the meeting should carry a draft agenda.

4. The Democratic Party, on all levels, shall support the broadest possible participation without discrimination on grounds of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical appearance or disability.

Comment 6: What does this mean in practice? What does it require the MDP and all its units to do?

Needs to be clarified and made explicit.

5. The Democratic Party in each County/District shall 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 representation on all levels. Publication of these procedures shall be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of each County/District Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedure in time to participate in each selection procedures at all levels of the Democratic Party organization.



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Comment 7: The MDP Appeals Committee has ruled against the plain language of this and the following paragraph (MDP Rule 2B.6, see next page).

The Appeals Committee reasoned that since the State Party has been publishing these details for decades, it is no longer necessary for the County/District committees to publish and publicize this information. Yet in their ruling the Appeals Committee relied on precedents going back decades, which have never been published or publicized. These precedents specifically and directly contradict the plain meaning of the rules as written, contradicting their own line of reasoning.

There are several additional flaws in this reasoning.

1. The MDP Rules have indeed been widely published for decades by the state party. However, the rules allow each County/District to choose among several election procedures. If each County/District does not publish its own procedures, then either:

A. The State party must publish which procedure each County/District is going to use, in each and every election. The State party does not, and has not, done this.

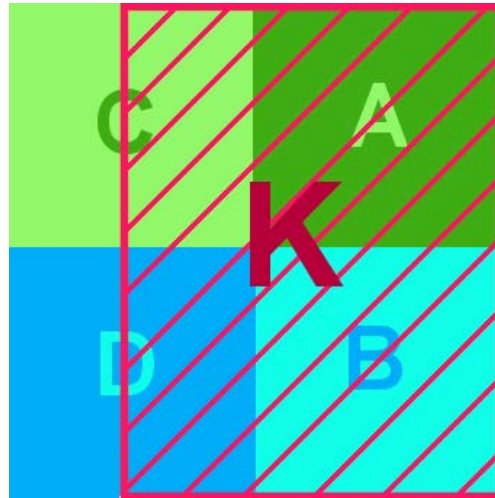
B. The members of each County/District must be prepared for each election to use any procedure which meets proportional voting, without knowing which will be used until actually present at that election.

2. The MDP Rules *allow* the County/District to apportion the positions to be filled at the election among pre-existing subdivisions (MDP Directive on Proportional Voting (DPV) Section III). Meaning a District that overlaps several counties could apportion their delegates among the counties the District overlaps.

For example, suppose District K is apportioned 6 seats of the position SCC Delegate - Male. District K contains Counties A and B, and also portions of Counties C and D. The District is allowed to require that 2 seats of the position be filled by residents of County A, 2 seats by residents of County B, 1 seat by a resident of County C, and 1 by a resident of County D (assuming those counties have roughly similar populations spread out proportionally).

(Continued in Comment 8...)

6. The Democratic Party in each County/District shall publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications for all officers and representatives of the Democratic Party. Such publication shall be done in a timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within each County/District Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.



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Comment 8: (Continued from Comment 7)

This effectively creates a new eligibility requirement that candidates must meet in order to run for office. Again, this means that either:

- A. The State party must publish eligibility requirements for each County/District. The State party does not, and has not, done this.
- B. The Candidates of each County/District must prepare for each election, presuming *each* eligibility requirement will be used, without knowing which will be used until actually present at that election. Does the candidate need to be resident anywhere in District K, or just that portion which is also County D? Does my group need to have a Slate with Candidates from each County (and the right number of those) or just have 6 from the whole District?

If the County/District is not required to publish and publicize which procedures and eligibility requirements will be used in each election, the members and candidates of the County/District are exceedingly overburdened. They must in effect be prepared for the election to be run under any one of an unknown number of procedures, and with an unknown set of eligibility requirements.

Solutions:

1. Specify that for elections where multiple seats of the same position are to be filled (such as members of the Executive Committee), slate voting using the Hare quota shall be used for those positions, to ensure proportionality. For elections where there are single-seat positions to be filled (such as each Officer of the Executive Committee), each single-seat position must be voted on individually, using Ranked Choice Voting (RCV).
2. Require the County/District to publish and publicize the step-by-step procedures that will be followed at the election, and the qualifications for office.
3. Add a section to the MDP Rules called "Election Procedures" and provide the step-by-step procedures for slate voting using the Hare quota and for RCV, to make it easy for any MDP Unit holding an election to follow these rules.

7. The Michigan Democratic Party shall establish endorsement and censure procedures on the state and legislative levels where warranted. At the local level, these procedures shall be the function of the local party.

Comment 9: It is not clear what kinds of censure or endorsement are allowed. There should be guidelines.

There should be clear and strict limits on “endorsement and censure” procedures. Some Congressional District bylaws have attempted to ban people from meetings, for example, as a form of censure. Not just any kind of censure should be allowed.

8. Proportional voting shall be used in the election of delegates and alternates to any County or Congressional District Convention, delegates and alternates of the Democratic State Central Committee, and members of any County or District Executive Committee.

Comment 10: In a ruling this year, the Appeals Committee asserted that proportional voting is not in fact required if the chair or the caucus conducting the election chooses to interpret the slate voting procedure so that the mechanism that creates proportionality is removed, and the election is conducted in a manner functionally equivalent to plurality winner first past the post elections.

In effect, the Appeals Committee rules that because it is *possible* to interpret a line of the rules to allow a procedure that does not fit the definition of proportional voting, that interpretation is allowed under the rules.

The Appeals Committee provided no rational for this other than they had ruled this way in the past. The Appeals Committee cited as precedent many different decisions, some reaching back as far as 1996.

These precedents are unpublished and in direct contradiction of the plain language of the MDP Rules.

In effect, the Appeals Committee maintains a set of secret rules that contradict the plain meaning of the MDP Rules in ways that no one not already familiar with those precedents could reasonably be expected to derive from the MDP Rules as written and published by the MDP.

Solutions:

1. Reform the appeals committee (see comment #63)
2. Require proportional representation, specify that proportional voting is required in order to comply with the requirement for proportional representation. Make clear that systems that fail to produce proportional representation are invalid.
3. Specify every election procedure allowed - and keep the list as short as possible. We only need two - slate voting with the Hare quota for proportional voting and Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for single-seat offices. A complete re-write of the Directive on Proportional Voting that takes this view will be finished shortly.

9. Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any meeting of the Democratic Party in Michigan at any level.
10. Official documents of the Michigan Democratic Party, bearing the Party's logo or disclaimer, may not be altered by those who reproduce them for any purpose.

Comment 11: Requiring that votes be taken by public ballot – everyone can see who each person votes for – can inhibit people from voting their conscience due to public pressure.

MDP Rule 2.B.7 (see below), reads in full:
"The Unit Rule shall be prohibited at all levels of the Democratic Party structure.

The "unit rule" is a rule requiring all members of a group ("unit") to vote the same way.

MDP Rule 2.B.8 (see below), reads in full:
"No rule shall be adopted by any unit of the Democratic Party that would require any person to cast a vote or be recorded as voting contrary to that person's judgment. "

MDP Rule 2.A.9 effectively undermines 2.B.7 and 2.B.8. It may not be a unit rule, and it may not "require" anyone to cast a vote contrary to their conscience, but 2.A.9 allows groups to apply pressure to individuals - intentionally or otherwise - that can have an effect at least very close to and in my opinion functionally equivalent to what 2.B.7 and 2.B.8 explicitly forbid.

It places an undue and entirely unnecessary burden on each individual to ensure 2.B.7 and 2.B.8 are followed.

Solution:

Require votes among members to be by secret ballot.
Require votes among elected representatives to be publicly recorded votes.

We want members to know how their representatives vote, but we don't want members to have to deal with group pressure to vote against their conscience.

B. Standard Rules of All Levels of the Party Structure

The official structure of the Michigan Democratic Party shall consist of Precinct, County, District and Statewide organizations established by these rules (hereinafter referred to as units).

1. Any unit of the Democratic Party is authorized to establish a system of standing rules for that unit. Such rules may relate to questions of implementation or policy and may be changed as required.
2. No rule shall be adopted by any unit of the Democratic Party that is inconsistent with the rules of this document.
3. Any rule adopted by any unit of the Democratic Party shall be made available on request in writing to any member of the Democratic Party in that unit.

Comment 12: Why only "in that unit"?

Why can't the public - for example, a prospective member - see the rules of any unit they might be interested in joining?

Why shouldn't the public see what our rules are?

Solution:

Require the MDP to maintain a page on its website where each unit of the MDP is listed and its rules posted publicly.

Require all MDP units with websites to include a page with their rules listed and kept up to date.

4. Any rule adopted by any unit of the Democratic Party shall within thirty (30) days be submitted by the Secretary of that unit to the Corresponding Secretary of the State Central Committee. Copies of all rules shall be maintained at the office of the State Central Committee.

Comment 13: This procedure is often not followed. Many members have found it difficult to obtain the rule of their county or district party. The rules of some caucuses have also been unavailable.

Replace with:

The MDP shall maintain a public web page on the MDP website where the current rules of the MDP and each MDP Unit are available to the public.

No rule adopted by the MDP, or any Unit of the MDP, shall be valid unless publicly posted on the MDP website.

No rule shall be publicly posted unless it has been reviewed and deemed consistent with MDP Rules by the State Central Committee's Standing Rules Committee, or a sub-committee of the Standing Rules Committee created for this purpose.

5. In any unit of the Democratic Party on any question of procedure, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used.

Comment 14: A recent ruling of the Appeals Committee ignored this rule.

At the CD12 caucus at the February MDP Convention, CD12's own Rules Report for the election specified that delegates and alternates to the MDP State Central Committee would be elected by cumulative voting. When the CD12 chair described the procedure he intended to use, it was obviously not cumulative voting. An objection was raised, and eventually an appeal filed.

One part of the appeal noted that Robert's Rules of Order (RRoO) specifies the procedure for cumulative voting, and that the procedure in RRoO was not followed. Rather than rule that CD12 must run the election according to the procedure in RRoO, the appeals committee unanimously decided that CD12 didn't really mean to use cumulative voting, but instead really meant to say slate voting, so RRoO didn't apply.

This despite the fact that:

1. CD12 had specified cumulative voting for SCC in their Rules Report.
2. CD12 had specified slate voting for other elections, but not SCC, in their Rules Report.
3. CD12 had copied and pasted the description of cumulative voting from the MDP DPV into their Rules Report.

I note this here because when we get to the section on the appeals committee itself, we need to consider how to restrain this kind of abuse of power.

6. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of any unit, Committee, Caucus or Convention of the Democratic Party within the State, shall be of a different gender.
7. The **Unit Rule** shall be prohibited at all levels of the Democratic Party structure.
8. No rule shall be adopted by any unit of the Democratic Party that would require any person to cast a vote or be recorded as voting contrary to that person's judgment.

Comment 15: The "unit rule" means any rule that requires an entire unit of the MDP (county/district committee, club, caucus, etc) to vote the same way regardless of individual personal preference.

ARTICLE 3: PRECINCT ORGANIZATION

A. Apportionment of Precinct Delegates

On or before April 1 in even-numbered years, the Chairperson of the County Committee or District Committee considered a County under Section 592 of the Michigan Election Law shall forward by mail or deliver to the Board of Election Commissioners in each County, a certificate showing the number of delegates to the County and/or District Conventions to which each precinct of the County is entitled.

If the Chairperson fails to have such a certificate forwarded by mail or delivered to the Board of Election Commissioners of any County by the day specified, then that Board of Election Commissioners immediately shall determine the number of delegates to the County and/or District Conventions that each precinct shall elect which is necessary for the appropriate implementation of these rules.

The allotment of delegates to all precincts in the state shall be made to insure, as near as is practicable, equal apportionment based on the total vote cast for either the President of the United States or Secretary of State at the last general election when elections for those offices were held, whichever is later, but each precinct shall have at least one (1) delegate. The apportionment shall be based on the precincts as they exist one hundred eighty (180) days before the August primary election in even-numbered years.

As many delegates in each precinct as each precinct is entitled to, according to the certificate authorized by the Chairperson of the County Committee or the Board of Election Commissioners, shall be elected at the August primary in even-numbered years by direct vote of the qualified and registered Democratic electors in the precinct.

Comment 16: Re-write to clarify and simplify.

Comment 17: Suggested Replacement:

To determine the number of delegates for each Precinct, take the number of votes cast for the Democratic nominee for US President or Michigan Secretary of State (whichever is more recent) in each Precinct divided by the number of votes in the smallest Precinct. Multiply that by the number of delegates to be given to that smallest Precinct (minimum of 1). Round up to the nearest whole number. The apportionment shall be based on the Precincts as they existed one hundred eighty (180) days before the August primary election in even-numbered years.

Alternately, we should consider granting each precinct a number of precinct delegates equal to the number of votes cast for the Democratic nominee, or perhaps twice that number. This meets the requirements of the law, and allows maximum participation by the grassroots.

B. Precinct Delegate Election

1. Qualifications

Any person, including a person holding a public office in this state or municipal subdivision thereof, may become a candidate for delegate to the County and/or District Conventions under the procedures and qualifications prescribed by state law.

2. Election to Office

Election to delegate to the County and/or District Conventions, including write-ins, shall be conducted under the procedures prescribed by state law.

C. Duties

All precinct delegates will be delegates to all County and/or District Conventions during their term of office. In their precinct, delegates shall register Democrats to vote, identify other Democrats and recruit new State Party members, take information on issues and candidates to voters, help turn out the vote on Election Day and keep Party leaders informed about the issues which concern voters.

D. Vacancies in Precinct

No delegate elected to any District or County Convention shall give a proxy to represent them at such a Convention. All vacancies occurring in any delegation to any County or District Convention may be filled by a majority vote of the delegation for that Convention only. That delegation shall not be permitted to fill any vacancy which may occur in its number by any person not a qualified and registered elector, and resident of the ward, district, county, township or precinct, as the case may be, from which the absent delegate was chosen.

E. Precinct Committee

Whenever appropriate the precinct delegates of each precinct or groups of precincts may be organized into a Precinct Committee and elect a Chairperson and ViceChairperson of a different gender from their numbers. The purpose of this Committee shall be to promote the interests of the Democratic Party within the precinct or groups of precincts.

Comment 18: This is left over from when only precinct delegates could vote for anything at county conventions. We now allow any MDP member resident in the county to vote at county conventions. Therefore, replacing a delegate for the purpose of a convention is moot - if they qualify to be a precinct delegate, they can already have a vote at the convention without being a precinct delegate.

This can be **deleted.**

Comment 19: Add:

Precinct committees must file bylaws with the MDP as required for any other Unit of the MDP.

ARTICLE 4: MICHIGAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership

A member of the Michigan Democratic Party shall be any legal resident of Michigan age 16 or older who has filed a current Michigan Democratic Party membership form at State Party headquarters. A financial contribution is not required to be and to remain a member of the Michigan Democratic Party. Membership is effective on the date that the membership form is postmarked, received in person at State Party Headquarters, received online or received by fax machine at the State Party. County, District, Club, Precinct Committee and Caucus chairs who solicit memberships shall immediately forward membership forms to the Michigan Democratic Party to comply with the above rule.

Comment 20: Suggested Replacement:

Any Michigan resident 16 years of age or older may become a member of the Michigan Democratic Party by filling out and submitting the current membership form. No financial contribution is ever required. Membership is effective on the date the form is received by the MDP, unless sent by post, in which case membership is effective on the postmarked date.

The MDP shall create and maintain an easy to use online membership form, ensuring Michigan residents can join as easily as possible, at no charge.

Membership does not expire.

Members wishing to resign from the MDP may do so by written declaration delivered to the MDP. When a member resigns, the member shall be immediately removed from all MDP databases.

Any person soliciting memberships shall deliver all completed membership forms to the MDP immediately.

B. Voting Privileges

In order to vote at any Convention, Caucus or meeting of any unit of the Michigan Democratic Party at any level, a person must be a member of the Michigan Democratic Party for at least thirty (30) days prior to that Convention, Caucus or meeting. A Party member must be a qualified and registered elector in order to vote on nominations for public office.

Precinct delegates, Democratic elected officials and Democratic nominees to partisan offices are exempt from the thirty (30) day advance membership requirement. However, Precinct Delegates, Democratic elected officials and Democratic nominees to partisan offices must be a member of the Michigan Democratic Party in order to vote at any Convention, Caucus or meeting of any unit of the Michigan Democratic Party at any level.

Comment 21: Suggested Replacement:

All members of the MDP are equal in their voting rights in all MDP elections.

All members of each MDP Unit have equal voting rights in their MDP Unit.

All votes among members shall be by secret ballot.

All votes among elected representatives shall be publicly recorded.

No member shall be denied the right to vote in any MDP election, at any level, for any reason.

C. Holding Party Office

In order to be elected or appointed to, and to hold any Party office in any unit of the Michigan Democratic Party at any level, a person must be a member of the Michigan Democratic Party for at least thirty (30) days prior to election or appointment, and maintain membership during the term of office. If Michigan Democratic Party membership lapses while a person holds Party office, all rights and privileges of that office are suspended until membership is renewed, at which time all rights and privileges are immediately restored.

Precinct delegates Democratic elected officials and Democratic nominees to partisan offices are exempt from the thirty (30) day advance membership requirements in order to be elected or appointed to any office in any unit of the Michigan Democratic Party at any level. However, Precinct Delegates Democratic elected officials and Democratic nominees to partisan offices who hold Party office must maintain membership during the term of Party office. If membership lapses while a Precinct Delegate Democratic elected official or Democratic nominee to partisan office holds Party office, all rights and privileges of that office are suspended until membership is renewed, at which time all rights and privileges are immediately restored.

For purposes of this section, Party office includes National and State Convention Delegate and Alternate, Member of National and State Convention Committees, DNC Member, Michigan Democratic Party Officer, State Central Committee Delegate and Alternate, Member of State Central Committees, and Officers and Executive Committee Members of all Precinct, County and Congressional District organizations.

Comment 22: Suggested Replacement:

Membership is the only requirement to be elected or appointed to any party office within the MDP.

Membership in a Unit of the MDP is the only requirement to be elected or appointed to any office within that Unit.

D. Assistance to Officeholders and Candidates

Only those officeholders and candidates who are members of the Michigan Democratic Party shall be eligible to receive election assistance of any kind from any unit of the Michigan Democratic Party at any level. Judicial officeholders and judicial candidates are exempt from this requirement.

E. Notification of Membership Requirements

The Michigan Democratic Party shall notify all precinct delegate candidates and Democratic candidates for Federal and State office of these membership requirements. Notification shall occur after the filing deadline in every even numbered year.

Comment 23: Why not?

What about a Green Party candidate running for an office for which there is no Democratic nominee?

Or where the majority of the Democrats in the district feel the Green Party or Independent Candidate is a better candidate than they've been able to recruit to run on the Democratic ticket?

Recall MDP Rules 2.B.8:

"No rule shall be adopted by any unit of the Democratic Party that would require any person to cast a vote or be recorded as voting contrary to that person's judgment."

If, in the opinion of the majority of the MDP unit, the best candidate in their jurisdiction isn't the Democrat, why not nominate them as a Democrat anyway and support them?

Isn't the point to elect the best candidates to represent the people?

For many Democrats, MDP Rule 4.D may conflict with MDP Rules 2.B.8.

So we have a choice. Write our rules so our members can choose the candidate they want, or keep these rules and restrict the choices our members can make.

Which is more small-d democratic, and which is more authoritarian?

ARTICLE 5: COUNTY COMMITTEES

A. Executive Committee

Comment 24: This largely copied/re-stated from Michigan law.

According to Michigan law, the Executive Committee of each county unit of a political party is composed of:

1.
The party's nominees, elected or not, for county-level offices, State House and Senate seats, and US House of Representatives. I'll call these nominee-members below.

2.
Twice that number of persons elected from among the members of the county party. I'll call these elected-members below.

Some additional rules apply here:

If a nominee, for a State House seat (for example), is serving on the Executive Committee and a new person is nominated for that same State House seat, the new nominee immediately replaces the old nominee on the Executive Committee.

If an elected-member seat on the Executive Committee is vacant, the remaining elected-members elect a new member.

Every even-numbered year, the delegates to the Fall County Convention in each County in this State having a population of less than 1,500,000 shall convene at the call of the County Chairperson within twenty (20) days following the November election. The call shall be sent to each delegate by mail, telegram, FAX or e-mail at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the County Convention. The purpose of the Convention is to elect a number of persons equal to twice the number of candidates for County, State legislative and U.S. House of Representatives offices for which candidates were nominated at the most recent fall primary election for that office. Those persons, together with the persons most recently nominated by the Party for each of those offices, shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Party for that County. When a new nomination is made for an office, the nominee for which is entitled to serve as a member of the Executive Committee, the new nominee shall replace the former nominee as a member of the Executive Committee. If a vacancy occurs in the position of delegate-elected member of the Executive Committee, the remaining delegate-elected members shall fill the vacancy. Except as otherwise provided in this article, the Executive Committee may elect the officers it considers proper to carry out the purposes of the Committee, and may fill a vacancy in any of its offices.

Comment 25: Suggested Replacement:

In each Michigan County, the MDP County Committee shall consist of all MDP members residing in the County.

Every even-numbered year, each MDP County Committee shall hold a County Convention. The County Conventions shall be held not more than 20 days after the November general election. The Executive Committee of the County Committee shall announce and publicize a Call to Convention. The Call to Convention shall include the time, date, and location of the Convention, the purposes of the Convention, including a list of any seats or positions to be filled at the Convention, the qualifications to run for such positions, and the step-by-step procedures for each election to be held.

The County Convention shall elect a chair, a vice-chair, and an executive committee of the County Committee. The chair and the vice-chair shall be of different genders. Separate votes shall be held for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Executive Committee.

The Chair and Vice-Chair elections shall be held by Ranked Choice Voting.

The Executive Committee election shall be held by slate voting using the Hare quota.

The number of executive committee seats to be filled by the election is calculated by counting the number of partisan offices on the ballot in the county during the most recent election held in an even-numbered year, then multiplying that number by 2.

The Democratic Party nominees for those partisan offices, successfully elected or not, may join the County Executive Committee as ex-officio members with voting rights by submitting their intent in writing to County Committee no later than the date of the Executive Committee election.

Vacancies are filled by a special election held not more than 45 days from the date the seat was vacated. Multiple vacancies at the same time shall be filled by a slate voting election using the Hare quota. Single seat vacancies, or vacancies in the Chair or Vice-Chair, shall be by Ranked Choice Voting.

B. Certification, Notice to Selectee

Immediately following the election of members of the Executive Committee, including the filling of vacancies, the Secretary of the County Committee shall certify the names and addresses of persons chosen to the County Clerk and to the Democratic State Central Committee.

C. Selection of Officers, Proxy, Ensuing County Committee; Nominees as Delegates at Large

Within thirty (30) days following the convening of the Fall County Convention, the Executive Committee acting without the officers of the County Committee who are not otherwise members of the Executive Committee shall meet. The notice of this meeting shall be sent to each member of the Executive Committee by mail, telegram, FAX or e-mail at least seven (7) days before the date of the meeting. At the meeting, the Executive Committee shall elect a temporary chairperson and temporary secretary. The temporary officers shall serve only during the election of the officers of the Executive Committee, who shall also serve as the officers of the County Committee for the two (2) years commencing on January 1 next. The officers shall be a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson of a different gender to the Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Each officer shall have a vote on the Executive Committee. Candidates for legislative offices consisting of more than one (1) County may give a written proxy to any other member of the Executive Committee.

After the officers of the County Committee have taken office and within forty-five (45) days after January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the County Committee shall consist of those members as the Executive Committee may determine. The County Committee shall have the right to elect additional officers which in its judgment are proper to carry out the purposes

Comment 25:

After changing 5.A as noted above, 5.C can be **deleted** and replaced with this much simpler language.

Suggested Replacement:

The Executive Committee of each County Committee shall elect from among the members of the MDP residing in the County a Secretary and a Treasurer. The election of Secretary and Treasurer to be held not later than 45 days after the election of the Executive Committee.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall have no vote on the Executive Committee unless otherwise elected to the Executive Committee.

of the County Committee, and shall have power to fill a vacancy which may occur in the membership of the County Committee or in any of its additional offices. Between meetings of the County Committee the Executive Committee shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the County Committee, including the filling of vacancies in nominations as prescribed by law. The term of service of a County Committee shall continue for two (2) years or until the selection of its successor.

A person nominated as a candidate for County office shall be a delegate at large to the Fall County Convention held in the year of the candidate's nomination and to all County Conventions during the term of office for which the candidate was nominated. A person nominated as a candidate for legislative office shall be a delegate at large to the Fall County Convention held in the year of the candidate's nomination in each County or part of a County contained in the legislative district and to all County Conventions held during the term of office for which the candidate was nominated. The number of delegates at large shall be in addition to the number of delegates specified in the call for the Fall County Convention. If a person is elected both a delegate at large and a precinct delegate, a vacancy shall exist in the precinct and shall be filled as provided in Article 3.D.

D. Expansion of Executive or County Committees

The members of an Executive or County Committee may vote to expand the membership of the Committee. These rules encourage the expansion of the Committees for the purpose of achieving more participation and representation.

Comment 27: With the changes already suggested for 5.A, the County Committee is composed of all MDP members residing in the County. So there is no further expansion necessary for the County Committee.

Suggested Replacement:

The County Committee or the Executive Committee of any County may call an election to add members to the Executive Committee. A simple majority vote is required. The motion to add seats to the Executive Committee must include the number of seats to be added, the date, time, and location of the election, and must specify the steps to be taken to publish and publicize the election.

The number of seats to be added at any such election must be no less than 5.

The total seats to be added shall be divided between genders to ensure that the Executive Committee will be gender balanced once the new members are seated.

The election shall be held by slate voting using the Hare quota.

The details of the election as included in the motion shall be published and publicized by the County beginning at least 45 days before the date of the election.

E. County Comprising Single District Committee

In a County comprising a single representative, senatorial or judicial district, the County Committee of such County shall constitute the representative, senatorial or judicial committee of the Party of such representative, senatorial or judicial district, as the case may be.

F. County Comprising More Than One District Committee

In a County comprising more than one (1) representative or senatorial district, the members of the County Committee residing in each such representative or senatorial district of such County shall constitute a committee for each representative or senatorial district, as the case may be, and the committee shall elect its Chairperson and other officers. The Chairperson shall have the right to vote on all questions arising in the committee.

Comment 28: These are copied from Michigan law, but not one of those we have to follow. There is a provision of the same law that says we don't have to follow these if we don't include them in our bylaws.

ARTICLE 6: CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT COMMITTEES

A. Executive Committee

At the Spring Congressional District Convention in odd-numbered years for Congressional Districts, the majority of the electors of which reside in a County having a population over 1,500,000 and at a Caucus of each other Congressional District held at the Spring State Convention every odd-numbered year there shall be elected a Congressional District Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson of a different gender of the Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a committee of at least fifteen (15) members to serve for 2-year terms or until their successors are duly elected. Additional officers may be elected at the discretion of the Executive Committee. These persons shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Party for that Congressional District. The Executive Committee may fill a vacancy in any of its offices or membership.

Within thirty (30) days following the election of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall meet to adopt or readopt bylaws and pass a resolution indicating its acceptance of these rules. A copy of the bylaws and resolution shall be promptly sent to the Chairperson of the State Central Committee who shall review them for compliance with these rules. If they are in compliance, the Chairperson shall issue a charter to the Executive Committee. A charter may be suspended or revoked by the Appeals Committee for non-compliance with these rules.

Comment 29: Suggested Replacement:

In each Michigan Congressional District (CD), the MDP Congressional District Committee shall consist of all MDP members residing in the District.

Every odd-numbered year, each MDP CD Committee shall hold a CD Convention. The CD Conventions shall be held not less than 30 days before the Spring State Convention.

The Executive Committee of the CD Committee shall announce and publicize a Call to Convention. The Call to Convention shall include the time, date, and location of the Convention, the purposes of the Convention, including a list of any seats or positions to be filled at the Convention, the qualifications to run for such positions, and the step-by-step procedures for each election to be held.

The CD Convention shall elect an Executive Committee of the CD Committee and a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee. The chair and the vice-chair shall be of different genders. Separate votes shall be held for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Executive Committee.

The Chair and Vice-Chair elections shall be held by Ranked Choice Voting.

The Executive Committee election shall be held by slate voting using the Hare quota.

Each CD Executive Committee shall have 17 seats, divided as evenly as possible between genders.

Vacancies are filled by a special election held not more than 45 days from the date the seat was vacated. Multiple vacancies at the same time shall be filled by a slate voting election using the Hare quota. Single seat vacancies, or vacancies in the Chair or Vice-Chair, shall be by Ranked Choice Voting.

B. Ensuing Congressional District Committee

Within thirty (30) days following the election of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall meet to elect the District Committee. The officers of the Executive Committee shall serve as officers of the District Committee. The District Committee shall consist of those members as the Executive Committee may determine, including the filling of vacancies. Between meetings of the District Committee the Executive Committee shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the District Committee, including the filling of vacancies in nominations as prescribed by law. The term of service of a District Committee shall continue for two (2) years or until the selection of its successor.

Comment 30: Given the suggested changes to 6.A, 6.B can be **deleted** entirely.

C. Expansion of Executive or District Committees

The members of an Executive or District Committee may vote to expand the membership of the Committee. These rules encourage the expansion of the Committees for the purpose of achieving more participation and representation.

Comment 31: With the changes already suggested for 6.A, the CD Committee is composed of all MDP members residing in the District. So there is no further expansion necessary for the County Committee.

Suggested Replacement:

The CD Committee or the Executive Committee of any CD may call an election to add members to the Executive Committee. A simple majority vote is required. The motion to add seats to the Executive Committee must include the number of seats to be added, the date, time, and location of the election, and must specify the steps to be taken to publish and publicize the election.

The number of seats to be added at any such election must be no less than 5.

The total seats to be added shall be divided between genders to ensure that the Executive Committee will be gender balanced when the new members are seated.

The election shall be held by slate voting using the Hare quota.

The details of the election as included in the motion shall be published and publicized by the County beginning at least 45 days before the date of the election.

ARTICLE 7: DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Democratic State Central Committee shall have general responsibility for the affairs of the Michigan Democratic Party between State Conventions, subject to these rules and to the resolutions or other actions of the State Convention.

Comment 32: Suggested Replacement:

The membership assembled at a State Party Convention is the highest authority in the MDP.

The Michigan Democratic Party State Central Committee (MDP SCC) is the second highest authority in the MDP, with the responsibility to ensure State Party Convention directives are carried out and the affairs of the MDP are well-managed.

The MDP SCC shall have the authority to review any action of any MDP Unit, committee, or other sub-group thereof, excepting only the votes of the assembled membership of the State Party Convention.

A. Delegates

1. Delegates to the Democratic State Central Committee shall be elected at the Congressional District Spring Conventions and Caucuses held every odd-numbered year and the DSCC shall be the ultimate decisionmaking body of the Michigan Democratic Party between State Conventions.
2. The State Central Committee shall consist of delegates elected from each Congressional District. Each District will be allowed a minimum of four (4) delegates: two (2) men and two (2) women. Additional delegates will be allocated to each Congressional District based on the percentage of votes from that District for the Democratic candidate for either President of the United States or Secretary of State at the last general election when such election for those offices were held, whichever is later. All additional seats shall be allocated as equally as possible between men and women. A reallocation of delegate strength shall follow each election and be completed prior to the odd-year Spring Convention.

Comment 33: Add:
by a system of proportional voting.

Comment 34: Replace with:

The State Central Committee shall consist of delegates elected from each Congressional District. To determine the number of delegates for each District, take the number of votes cast for the Democratic nominee for US President or Michigan Secretary of State (whichever is more recent) in each CD divided by the number of votes in the smallest District. Multiply that by the number of delegates to be given to that smallest CD (minimum of four (4)). Round up to the nearest whole number. All seats shall be allocated as equally as possible between men and women.

B. Alternates

1. At its odd-year Spring Convention or Caucus, each Congressional District shall elect the same number of alternates as delegates to the State Central Committee. Alternates temporarily replace delegates who are not present in person or by written proxy at a State Central Meeting. Alternates shall assume all the rights and perform all the duties and functions of the delegates of the State Central Committee while seated.
2. Each District will determine the manner as to which an alternate shall replace an absent delegate and report such method in writing to the DSCC Secretary within ten (10) days of the odd-year Spring Convention.
3. Before the first meeting of the State Central Committee following the election of the delegates and alternates, each District Secretary shall communicate to the Secretary of the State Central Committee, in writing, the names of each delegate and alternate. No member shall be seated until the Secretary of the State Central Committee has been notified of the election results. The addresses of those elected shall be forwarded by the District Secretary to the Secretary of the State Central Committee within ten (10) days of the odd-year Spring Convention.

Comment 35: Delete the highlighted passage.

Alternates in attendance should take precedence over delegates not in attendance.

Comment 36: Delete.

Replace with a standard method used for all alternates.

Example: first come first seated in each district.

C. National Committee Members

All National Committee Members for the State of Michigan shall be ex officio members of the State Central Committee with all voting and other rights accorded to the members thereof.

Comment 37: 7.C and 7.D are part of a larger problem involving a number of different sections. The underlying problem is that the MDP Rules currently allow the SCC to add voting members by simple majority vote. This undermines the principle of proportional voting.

In the remainder of this document I'll refer to this as the "**SCC Officer Problem**". I will present a series of changes I would recommend to address this issue.

Recommendations:

Delete 7.C and 7.D entirely.

Effects:

DNC members no longer have voting privileges on the SCC.

Being an officer of the SCC does not award voting privileges on the SCC.

Note:

The Chair and the two Vice-Chairs elected by the full State Convention are not affected, they still retain their voting privileges on the SCC.

D. Officers

All officers of the State Central Committee shall be ex officio members of the State Central Committee with all voting and other rights accorded to the members thereof.

Comment 38: Delete, per the comment on 7.C above.

(SCC Officer Problem)

E. Vacancies

Any nominee to fill a vacancy in the position of State Central Committee delegate or alternate must be a qualified and registered elector and resident of the District where the vacancy occurs. The Executive Committee of the Congressional District shall fill such a vacancy by communicating to the Secretary of the State Central Committee, in writing, their selection. If the Executive Committee of the District does not fill this vacancy, the existing State Central Committee members from that District shall select a person of the same sex to fill this vacancy. In both cases priority shall be given to alternates to fill vacant delegate positions.

Comment 39: Suggested Replacement:

In the event of a vacancy in the position of State Central Committee delegate, the Congressional District shall run an election under Ranked Choice Voting to fill the seat. The candidates shall be the sitting State Central Committee alternates of the same gender as the missing delegate. The election shall be announced and publicized at least 45 days in advance of the election. All MDP members resident in the District shall have one vote.

F. Ex Officio Members

District and County Chairpersons not elected delegates or alternates shall be ex officio members of the State Central Committee without vote.

Comment 40: Replace with:

District Chairpersons, County Chairpersons, Democratic National Committee members, and State Central Committee officers not elected delegates or alternates shall be ex officio members of the State Central Committee without vote.

Effects:

Allows SCC officers and DNC members not elected delegates or alternates to the SCC to participate in SCC meetings, but without voting privileges. This is currently the rule for District and County Chairpersons, this just moves DNC members and officers of the SCC not otherwise elected to the SCC to the same non-voting status already in the rules for District and County Chairpersons.

(SCC Officer Problem)

G. Proxy Voting

Proxy voting by delegates, DNC Members and officers shall be permitted at State Central Committee meetings. A written proxy vote shall be given only to another delegate, alternate, DNC Member or officer of the State Central Committee. Proxy votes from District delegates shall be cast only in the District of the delegate who gave the proxy.

Comment 41: Delete.

(SCC Officer Problem)

Comment 42: Delete.

(SCC Officer Problem)

**ARTICLE 8: STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

A. Officers and Executive Committee

1. *Election of Officers*

The Spring State Convention in each odd-numbered year shall elect a Chairperson and two (2) Vice-Chairpersons of the State Central Committee: one (1) each of a different gender and race. The State Central Committee so constituted shall elect a Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as in its judgment may be proper. The term of service of State Central Committee officers shall continue until the election of their successors.

Comment 43: Replace with:

The Spring State Convention in each odd-numbered year shall elect a Chairperson and two (2) Vice-Chairpersons of the State Central Committee: one (1) each of a different gender and race. The State Central Committee so constituted shall elect a Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as in its judgment may be proper. The term of service of State Central Committee officers shall continue until the election of their successors, or for 26 months, whichever is shorter.

Effect:

Sets a maximum limit to an officer's term. Allows up to 26 months in order to accommodate shifts in the timing of State Conventions.

(SCC Officer Problem)

2. Election of Democratic National Committee Members

The State Central Committee, at its last meeting in each year in which there is a presidential election, shall elect the number of Democratic National Committee Members apportioned to Michigan by the Democratic National Committee according to their Bylaws, Article 2, Section 2(b). There shall be an equal division of Members between male and female unless the number apportioned to Michigan is odd, in which case the variance shall be no greater than one (1). The election shall be conducted in an open meeting after effective public notice of the agenda. For purposes of serving on the State Central Committee and Executive Committee, the terms of the Democratic National Committee Members shall continue until the election of their successors. For purposes of serving on the Democratic National Committee, their terms shall be as prescribed in the National Charter.

Comment 44: Specify that the election shall be by proportional voting using slate voting with the Hare quota.

When filling a vacancy of a single seat, the election shall be held by Ranked Choice Voting.

3. Executive Committee

The officers, including all National Committee Members, of the State Central Committee, shall comprise the Executive Committee. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for transaction of the business by the Executive Committee.

The power of the Executive Committee shall be limited to dealing with questions of policy arising from time to time between the regular meetings of the State Central Committee. A summary of the minutes of all Executive Committee meetings shall be supplied to all members of the State Central Committee. When questions of serious importance may arise, a special meeting of the Executive Committee shall be called by the Chairperson. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called on a 24-hour notice by letter, telegram, fax or e-mail. Executive Committee members may participate in a meeting by means of a conference telephone or similar equipment by means of which all Executive Committee members participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute attendance at such a meeting. Proxy voting shall be permitted at Executive Committee meetings. A written proxy vote shall be given only to another Executive Committee member.

Comment 45: Replace with:

The Executive Committee of the State Central Committee shall be composed of the Chair and the two Vice-Chairs, together with 28 at-large members elected by the voting members and from among the delegates and alternates of the State Central Committee using slate voting with the Hare Quota. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

The power of the Executive Committee shall be limited to dealing with questions of policy arising from time to time between the regular meetings of the State Central Committee. The minutes of all Executive Committee meetings shall be distributed to all members of the State Central Committee not later than two working days following each Executive Committee meeting. When questions of serious importance may arise, a special meeting of the Executive Committee shall be called by the Chairperson, or any three members of the Executive Committee. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called on a 24-hour notice by fax or e-mail. Executive Committee members may participate in a meeting by means of a conference telephone or similar equipment by means of which all Executive Committee members participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute attendance at such a meeting. Proxy voting shall be permitted at Executive Committee meetings. A written proxy vote shall be given only to another Executive Committee member.

Effect:

1. Defines the Executive Committee of the State Central Committee and the method of its election.
2. Requires Executive Committee members to be elected by and from among SCC members.
3. Require the Executive Committee to distribute the minutes of their meetings to SCC members. Under the current rules, SCC members are only entitled to a "summary" of the meeting minutes, and only if they ask.
4. Allows a coalition of three or more members to call an Executive Committee meeting, instead of reserving this authority solely to the chair.

(SCC Officer Problem)

B. Duties of Officers

1. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the State Central Committee and of the Executive Committee. The Chairperson shall carry out the programs and policies of the State Conventions and the State Central Committee and shall have such other powers and duties as may be granted to them from time to time by express resolution of the State Conventions or State Central Committee or as are provided by statute.
2. The Vice-Chairperson of a different gender shall, in case of death, disability or absence of the Chairperson, preside at all meetings of the State Central Committee and of the Executive Committee. The Vice-Chairpersons shall have other powers and duties as may be granted from time to time by express resolution of the State Central Committee or as provided by statute.
3. The Secretary shall keep a record of the minutes of the proceedings of meetings of the State Central Committee and of the Executive Committee. They shall have custody of all books, records, and papers of the State Central Committee except such as shall be in charge of the Treasurer or of some other person authorized to have custody and possession thereof by resolution of the State Central Committee. All records shall be maintained at the office of the State Central Committee.

Comment 46: Add:

All decisions of the chair are subject to review and reversal by any simple majority of the State Central Committee.

Comment 47: Add:

All decisions of the chair are subject to review and reversal by any simple majority of the State Central Committee.

Comment 48: Add:

The Secretary shall ensure that all MDP materials in their possession are made available to any SCC member within 7 days of any request.

4. The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for all official correspondence of the State Central Committee (except where the laws of the State require certification by the Secretary) and shall assume the duties of Secretary in their absence. They shall also be responsible for maintaining and adding any newly adopted amendments to Party rules within ten (10) days after adoption.
5. The Treasurer shall keep accounts of all monies of the State Central Committee and Michigan Democratic Party, received and disbursed, and shall deposit all monies and valuables in the name of and to the credit of the State Central Committee and Michigan Democratic Party in such banks and depositories as the State Central Committee shall designate by appropriate resolution duly adopted.
6. The Treasurer shall provide a surety bond in the amount of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), the cost of the bond to be borne by the State Central Committee. An audit by outside professional CPA shall be performed at the end of every 2-year term.
7. The Treasurer shall submit a financial report at all regular meetings of the State Central Committee.
8. The Chairperson and Treasurer shall present a 2-year budget to the State Central Committee for approval at a spring meeting in the odd-numbered year. Upon approval of the budget, all expenditures authorized by the budget shall be paid upon presentation of receipted bills, invoices, vouchers or other appropriate written instruments.

Comment 49: Suggested Replacement:

They shall also be responsible for ensuring each newly adopted amendments to the MDP Rules, or the Rules of any MDP Unit, is publicly posted to the MDP website.

Comment 50: Add:

The Treasurer shall ensure that all MDP materials in their possession are made available to any SCC member within 7 days of any request.

Comment 51: Add:

The budget and all supporting materials shall be made available to the State Central Committee at least two weeks in advance of any vote on the budget.

C. Vacancies

When a vacancy occurs among the officers, including National Committee Members, of the State Central Committee, a meeting of the State Central Committee shall be called within forty-five (45) days after the vacancy arises by the State Central Committee Chairperson, or by the Vice-Chairpersons and an election held for the purpose of filling such vacancy.

Comment 52: Add:

Vacancies among officers of the State Central Committee must be filled by a Ranked Choice Voting election.

D. Removal from Office

1. Any officer of the State Central Committee may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership of the State Central Committee. This vote shall be taken at a meeting specifically called for such purpose.
2. Any meeting for the purpose of removing an officer from office must be called by the Chairperson or Vice-Chairpersons of the State Central Committee, or by a notice signed by at least a majority of the members of the State Central Committee from any six (6) Congressional District delegations.
3. The notice of such a meeting must indicate the specific time and place of the meeting and the basis for the complaint upon which the action is founded; and the notice of such meeting shall be served by mail upon each of the members of the State Central Committee at least ten (10) days prior to such meeting.

Comment 53: Replace with:

three (3)

Comment 54: Replace with:

fifteen (15)

4. At any meeting of the State Central Committee for the purpose of removing an officer, when a motion is made for removal of any officer who is then presiding, said presiding officer shall immediately relinquish the chair. If there is no other regularly elected presiding officer present to preside, the members present may elect a temporary chairperson to preside. The temporary chairperson shall preside until consideration and disposition of the motion for removal is concluded. If the motion for removal carries by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership of the State Central Committee, the temporary chairperson shall continue to preside and immediately conduct an election of a successor for the officer. If the motion for removal does not carry, the temporary chairperson shall immediately relinquish the chair to the regular presiding officer.

5. Before any motion for removal of an officer can actually be made at a meeting, a good faith effort to resolve the conflict shall be made by the parties involved. This shall include a hearing before the Appeals Committee, which shall be called by its Chairperson upon receipt for a request for such a hearing submitted by the Chairperson or ViceChairpersons of the State Central Committee or by a majority of the members of the State Central Committee from any six (6) Congressional District delegations. The officer involved must be given at least seven (7) days notice of such a hearing and an opportunity to answer any complaints lodged at the hearing. The Appeals Committee may recommend a course of action on the matter, but this shall not be binding on the members of the State Central Committee.

Comment 55: Replace with:

three (3)

ARTICLE 9: STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- A. Regular meetings of the State Central Committee shall be held not less than four (4) times each calendar year, and at least once in each quarter year. Meetings will be held at various locations throughout the entire State so that all Democrats will have a reasonable opportunity to attend or participate. The Chairperson shall call all regular or statutory meetings. In the event of their neglect, failure or refusal, the ViceChairpersons shall call such regular or statutory meetings.
- B. Emergency or special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or the Executive Committee of the State Central Committee or by a notice signed by at least a majority of the members of the State Central Committee from any three (3) Congressional District delegations.
- C. All meetings shall be held within the State of Michigan. Notice of the times and places of any regular meetings and of the time, place and purpose of any special meeting shall be sent by mail, telegram, fax or e-mail to each member of the State Central Committee at least five (5) days prior to such meeting; provided that in case of an emergency, any reasonable notice shall be sufficient.

Comment 56: Replace with:

ten (10)

- D. Any action within the power of the State Central Committee may be taken at any regular meeting, but no matters shall be brought before a special meeting except those matters covered by the notice of the meeting.
- E. A majority of the State Central Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- F. If the number of delegates, proxies and alternates from any Congressional District at any meeting of the State Central Committee does not equal the number of votes allocated to that delegation under Article 7.A-2, the remaining votes allowed that District delegation shall be divided equally among those delegates and alternates present from that District.

Comment 57: There are 172 delegates and 172 alternates to the State Central Committee. Both delegates and alternates are members of the State Central Committee. There are three voting officers (the chair and the first two vice-chairs) elected by the full State Convention. Therefore, there are $172 \times 2 = 344 + 3 = 347$ members of the State Central Committee. A majority of 347 is 174. However, there are only 172 voting members seated at any one time, plus three voting officers. The rule should specify that it is a majority of votes, not members.

Therefore:

Delete 9.E entirely and **replace with:**

A majority of the delegates of the State Central Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Alternates properly seated to replace absent delegates shall be counted as delegates for purposes of establishing a quorum.

Only sitting delegates and properly seated alternates shall be counted towards a quorum. Proxy votes shall not be counted towards a quorum.

ARTICLE 10: STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chairperson shall, within sixty (60) days of assuming office, by and with the consent and approval of the State Central Committee, appoint the following Standing Committees, together with such others as may be deemed advisable.

A. Formation

- Committee on Rules and Political Reform
- Committee on Policy and Resolutions
- Committee on Finance

B. Policy and Resolutions Committee

Except for resolutions reported by standing or special committees, all resolutions shall be considered and reported by the Policy and Resolutions Committee before debate and action by the State Central Committee.

C. Meetings

Standing Committees shall meet as necessary. No proxy voting shall be permitted. Standing Committee members may participate in a meeting by means of a conference telephone or similar equipment by means of which all Standing Committee members participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute attendance at such a meeting.

Comment 58: Suggested Replacement:

Each Standing Committee shall be composed of no more than 28 members elected from among the members of the SCC, including both delegates and alternates. Election of Standing Committee members shall be by slate voting using the Hare quota.

If there are fewer than 28 nominees for a Standing Committee, the nominees may be appointed en-mass by majority vote of the SCC.

Standing Committee elections shall be held at the first SCC meeting held at least one day after the Spring State Convention where the SCC was elected.

ARTICLE 11: STATE CONVENTIONS

The State Convention is a statewide unit of the Michigan Democratic Party and shall be the highest authority of the Michigan Democratic Party, subject to these rules.

The Michigan Democratic Party shall assemble in State Convention at a Fall State Convention in even-numbered years and at a Spring State Convention in odd-numbered years at the date, time and place, and for the purposes set out in the Call to Convention issued by the State Central Committee.

Delegates to the State Convention shall be all persons who meet the requirements of Article 4.C. All State Convention Delegates shall cast their share of the vote allocated to their County or District by the Convention Call using proportional voting as set forth in the Directive on Proportional Voting. A delegate must be a qualified and registered elector in order to vote on nominations for public office.

The State Convention shall adopt permanent rules governing the conduct of business at the beginning of each Convention. Until the adoption of those rules, the Convention and related activities shall be governed by the Call to Convention.

No fee or poll tax of any kind shall be required of any individual as a condition of voting at a State Convention, provided that the Call to Convention may require Congressional District and County organizations to help defray Convention costs.

At all State Conventions, Congressional Districts shall meet in caucus prior to any consideration by the Convention of nominations for office or adoption of resolutions or a platform.

At all State Conventions, seating of Congressional Districts shall rotate so that all Democrats will have a reasonable opportunity to be seated at the front of the State Convention.

The Michigan Democratic Party shall assemble in State Convention for the purposes of endorsing one candidate for Secretary of State, one candidate for Attorney General, and one candidate for each available seat on the Michigan Supreme Court, no later than April 30 immediately preceding the general election for these offices, unless a 60% vote of the Democratic State Central Committee suspends this requirement in whole or in part no later than 60 days prior to this deadline. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits the Michigan Democratic Party from endorsing other candidates by this deadline, consistent with the rules of this document. This amendment will take effect beginning with the 2018 general election.

ARTICLE 12: HART-KENNEDY HOUSE, INC.

Hart-Kennedy House, Inc. shall be established as a statewide unit of the Michigan Democratic Party organized under 1982 PA 162 to take and hold title to real estate and personal property to be used as offices of the State Central Committee and to lease and sublease real and personal property for such purposes, and to operate or cause to be operated and maintain or cause to be maintained such real and personal property for the uses and purposes of the State Central Committee. In furtherance of or incidental to its purposes, the Corporation may exercise all powers conferred on nonprofit corporations and engage in all activities permitted to nonprofit corporations by the laws of the State of Michigan.

The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in Ingham County, Michigan. The Corporation may have such other offices as the Board of Directors may determine or as the affairs of the Corporation may require from time to time.

The members of the Corporation shall be the members of the Michigan Democratic Party. The officers of the Corporation shall be the DNC Members and the officers of the State Central Committee. The board of directors of the Corporation shall be the delegates and alternates of the State Central Committee.

The property of Hart-Kennedy House, Inc. shall be reasonably available for use by all Michigan Democratic Party members, units, officeholders, and candidates.

ARTICLE 13: APPEALS COMMITTEE

A. Establishment

To insure fairness and prevent injustice in the internal operations of Precinct, County, District and Statewide units of the Democratic Party of Michigan, an Appeals Committee is established.

B. Composition

1. The Appeals Committee shall consist of eleven (11) persons including a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, appointed by the Chairperson of the Democratic State Central Committee of Michigan with the approval of the Democratic State Central Committee. The persons so appointed shall be well recognized Democrats, provided that no County or District Chairperson or State officer shall be eligible for appointment.

Comment 59: Suggested Replacement:

The Appeals Committee shall consist of a number of members equal to the number of US House Districts in Michigan. Should this result in an even number, one extra member will be added to the total count. These members shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Democratic State Central Committee of Michigan.

These appointments shall be voted on at a meeting of the State Central Committee where the candidate names, along with any information submitted by them, have been published and publicized at least 45 days in advance, to allow all members, if they so choose, the opportunity to speak with or comment to the Chairperson regarding any of the candidates.

Each candidate shall be voted for or against individually.

2. Members of the Appeals Committee shall serve 3-year terms. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be appointed from among its members and shall serve 2-year terms in those capacities concurrent with the term of the Chairperson of the Democratic State Central Committee. All vacancies shall be filled in the manner provided in the preceding paragraph of this section at the first State Central Committee meeting after the vacancy occurs.

Comment 60: Suggested Replacement:

... elected by and from among its members ...

3. The Chairperson of the Democratic State Central Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that all vacancies are filled and that newly appointed members of the Appeals Committee receive appropriate training as to their responsibilities.

Comment 61: Suggested Replacement:

...occurs, which meets the 45 day review time.

4. Care shall be taken in making appointments to ensure that the Appeals Committee be balanced by gender, race and geography to be representative of the Michigan Democratic Party membership as a whole. The persons so appointed shall be well recognized Democrats, provided that no County or District Chairperson or State officer shall be eligible for appointment.

Comment 62: Delete the highlighted section.

C. Jurisdiction

1. The Appeals Committee shall have jurisdiction over matters of procedural fairness and observance of Party rules and regulations in the internal operations of the Democratic Party of Michigan as guided by the Political Reform Convention and resolutions of other Democratic State Conventions and the Democratic State Central Committee.
2. The Appeals Committee shall have no jurisdiction over matters of Party Policy or Hart-Kennedy House, Inc.
3. Decisions of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding to the extent permitted by law on all matters within its jurisdiction.

Comment 63: Suggested Replacement:

Every ruling of the Appeals Committee shall be published on the MDP website adjacent to the MDP Rules. Appeals Committee Rulings are void unless they include a summary sheet specifying the wording under dispute and the Appeals Committee's interpretation of that wording.

The Appeals Committee shall take care to ensure all rulings are consistent with the purpose and intent of the rules as a whole.

The State Central Committee Standing Rules Committee shall review each Appeals Committee ruling. For each ruling the Standing Rules Committee shall recommend to the SCC amendments to the MDP Rules, either adopting or rejecting the principles of the ruling.

Each ruling of the Appeals Committee shall be considered precedent until the SCC takes action on the Standing Rules Committee recommendation, or for one year from the date of the ruling, whichever comes first.

Rulings not acted on by the SCC expire after one year. The Appeals Committee is barred from relying on expired rulings or the arguments therein.

Any ruling of the Appeals Committee may be appealed to the full State Central Committee, if at least 1/3rd of the Standing Rules Committee agrees. Any MDP member may request this review.

D. Who May Appeal

1. Any member or group of members of the Democratic Party or Democratic precinct delegates who feels personally aggrieved by the action or decision of the State Central Committee or any other Democratic Party unit may appeal by petition such action or decision to the Appeals Committee, provided such petition contains the signatures of at least five (5) persons.
2. Any readily identifiable group within the Democratic Party of Michigan, or any part thereof, which deems itself aggrieved by the action or decision of the State Central Committee or any other Democratic Party unit may appeal such action or decision to the Appeals Committee.
3. Any Democratic Party unit, which deems itself aggrieved by the action or decision of the State Central Committee or any other Democratic Party unit to which it relates, may appeal such action or decision to the Appeals Committee.

Comment 64: Specify that electronic signatures are accepted.

E. Procedures

1. All appeals shall be presented in writing within fifteen (15) days after the action or decision appealed from.
2. Upon receipt of an appeal, a copy shall be forwarded by the Appeals Committee to the Democratic Party unit to whom the appeal relates. That Democratic Party unit shall have fifteen (15) days within which to present its answer or response.
3. The Appeals Committee shall meet within thirty (30) days of receipt of an appeal to consider the appeal. A quorum for the meeting shall consist of a majority of members serving. Attendance may be in person or by means of a conference telephone or similar equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time. Decisions of the Appeals Committee may be based either on a written record or on testimony at a public hearing. Any public hearing shall be held within fifteen (15) days of the initial meeting of the Appeals Committee on that appeal. Parties to the appeal will be given seventy-two (72) hours notice of any meeting of the Appeals Committee and any public hearing, which notice shall be confirmed by certified mail.
4. Public hearings may be conducted by a panel of (3) three or more members of the Appeals Committee.

Comment 65: Suggested Replacement:

Decisions of the Appeals Committee may be based on either a written record or on testimony at a public hearing. Any party named in the appeal shall have the right to a public hearing. Public hearings of the Appeals Committee shall be recorded and made publicly available through the MDP website.

All parties to an appeal shall have the right to speak at the public hearing on the appeal.

Comment 66: Suggested Replacement:

All parties to an appeal shall be given at least 10 days notice of any public meeting or hearing, which notice shall be confirmed by certified mail.

5. Decisions of the Appeals Committee shall be made within fifteen (15) days of the public hearing, if a public hearing is held. If no public hearing is held decisions of the Appeals Committee shall be made within fifteen (15) days of the initial meeting of the Appeals Committee on that appeal. Decisions shall be made at a public meeting of the Appeals Committee where a quorum is present in person or by means of a conference telephone or similar equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time. Decisions shall be made by a majority of those voting at that meeting. Decisions shall then be issued in writing giving the reasons therefore in reasonable detail.
6. The Chairperson of the Appeals Committee may make procedural rulings, which rulings may only be reversed by a majority of those present and voting at the meeting. The rules governing any hearing shall be set out at the initial meeting of the Appeals Committee for that appeal. These rules shall be consistent for all appeals. Counsel to the Michigan Democratic Party shall serve as counsel to the Appeals Committee.
7. In the case of appeals on the procedure used to elect any delegate or alternate or group of delegates or alternates to the State Central Committee, the Appeals Committee shall be notified of such appeal no later than noon of the day of plenary session of the Spring Convention, if the grounds for such an appeal are known by that time. The Appeals Committee shall hear any such appeal and report its recommendation with regard to the permanent or temporary seating of any such delegate or alternate or groups of delegates or alternates as the first order of business of the State Central Committee meeting following the Spring Convention.

Comment 67: Suggested Replacement:

No ruling of the Appeals Committee shall be valid unless reached at a public meeting called for the purpose of ruling on pending appeals.

Meetings called for this purpose shall include time for the Appeals Committee members to discuss each appeal among themselves. Following the Committee discussion of each appeal, the Appeals Committee shall open the floor to comments and questions from MDP members regarding that appeal.

After comments and questions from MDP members, the Appeals Committee may rule on that appeal, before moving on to the next appeal.

No ruling made without reasonable time allowed for comments and questions shall be valid.

The main purpose of the Appeals Committee is the education of members regarding their Rules, not merely settling disagreements between members. Such education ensures less need for future appeals.

F. Dismissals

Notwithstanding the provisions in the previous section, the Appeals Committee shall have the right to dismiss an appeal setting forth its reasons in writing where it concludes from the appeal itself:

1. A question presented by the appeal is insignificant or frivolous.
2. The subject matter of the appeal is not within the jurisdiction of the Appeals Committee.
3. The jurisdiction of the Appeals Committee has not been properly invoked.

Comment 68: Delete. We should not be rejecting appeals on frivolous technicalities.

G. Reports

The Appeals Committee shall report on its activities at each regular meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee. Such report or a synopsis thereof shall be regularly published in the Michigan Democratic Party newsletter.

Comment 69: Add:

The Appeals Committee shall deliver each written ruling to the SCC Standing Rules Committee as soon as the document is available.

H. Staff

The Appeals Committee shall have the right to call upon the staff of the Democratic State Central Committee for such assistance as it may reasonably require to perform its work.

ARTICLE 14: DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Michigan Democratic Party, all assets remaining after the satisfaction of all debts shall be distributed to the Democratic National Committee.

ARTICLE 15: AMENDMENTS

- A. Proposals for changes or amendments to these rules may be made by motion, without debate, at any meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee, and all proposed amendments shall be first referred to the Rules and Political Reform Committee which shall report its recommendation at the next succeeding regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.
- B. Any amendment to these rules shall be by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast by the Democratic State Central Committee provided that written notice setting forth the proposed amendment has been given to members at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting at which a vote is to be taken.

ARTICLE 16: PRIORITY OF THESE RULES

These rules, having been adopted as amended by the Democratic State Central Committee on January 16, 2016 shall supersede all previous rules and bylaws adopted by the State Central Committee.

Comment 70: Replace with:

liquidated and distributed equally among all MDP members at the time of dissolution.

STATE PARTY

DIRECTIVE ON PROPORTIONAL VOTING

Commented [1]: There are so many problems with the DPV, there is no question it needs to be completely re-written, simplified, and augmented with well-written instructions and preferably videos covering the key election procedures.

In my comments below I have therefore focused almost entirely on pointing out and explaining problems, rather than providing the solutions.

A completely re-written DPV follows this document.

Section I

Our Convention Call requires that the proportional voting system (by county in multi-county districts 1-12, 14 and 15; by district in district 13) shall be used in Conventions and Caucuses, and on the floor of the Endorsement Convention.

Commented [2]: There are three completely different procedures in the MDP DPV I've head referred to as "proportional voting".

To clarify, we've provided each with its own name.

1. From DPV Section I

The number of votes each county gets in its Congressional District Caucuses. This is called the "State Allocation of Delegate Vote" (SADV). Under SADV, each county gets a total number of votes in their District Caucuses proportional to the number of votes cast for the Democratic nominee in the last even-numbered year election. Each MDP member from the county present receives an equal share of these votes. Similarly, for parts of counties overlapped by a district. We'll call this "**Proportional Vote Allocation**".

2. From DPV Section II

A voting system designed to ensure proportional representation of each group of voters in the electorate. This is what MDP Rule 2.A.8 refers to as "proportional voting". We'll call this "**Proportional Representation**".

3. From DPV Section III

Geographic allocation of delegates among counties in the same Congressional District. We'll call this "**Geographic Allocation**".

All three of these are good practices for any democratic organization. We just need to make sure we distinguish between them and explain each clearly.

A. Multi-County Districts (1-12, 14 and 15)

Each county's "State Allocation of Delegate Vote" will be equally divided by the number of persons from that county. If Y county had an SADV of 60, and there were 20 persons present on the floor from that county and they voted 15-5 on a certain resolution, the State Allocated Delegate Vote would be 45-15. If 120 persons had been present and the vote was 100-20, the SADV would be 50-10. There are two ways to compute this:

1. Divide the number of persons present into the SADV which gives you the SADV vote per person (20 into 60 give 3 SADV votes per person).
2. Take the vote of the people present, figure the percentages to the SADV for that county (a 15-5 vote equals 75%-25%; 75% of 60 = 45, 25% of 60 = 15; SADV vote is 45-15).

B. District 13

Each district's "State Allocation of Delegate Vote" will be equally divided by the number of persons from that district. If Y district had an SADV of 60, and there were 20 persons present on the floor from that district and they voted 15-5 on a certain resolution, the State Allocated Delegate Vote would be 45-15. If 120 persons had been present and the vote was 100-20, the SADV would be 50-10. There are two ways to compute this:

3. Divide the number of persons present into the SADV which gives you the SADV vote per person (20 into 60 gives 3 SADV votes per person).
4. Take the vote of the people present, figure the percentages from that vote, and apply the percentages to the SADV for that district (a 15-5 vote equals 75%-25%; 75% of 60 = 45, 25% of 60 = 15; SADV vote is 45-15).

Commented [3]: We no longer have 15 Congressional Districts, and we no longer have any single-county Congressional Districts.

We should re-write this to clarify.

Section II: Proportional Voting Systems

As provided by Michigan Democratic Party Rules (Article 2.A.8), proportional voting shall be used in the election of delegates and alternates to any Convention, for the election of delegates and alternates of the Democratic State Central Committee, and for the election of members of any County or District Executive Committee.

Any of the following systems may be adopted by a Convention or Caucus in order to insure compliance with the Party's rules on Proportional Voting. (Lots shall be drawn to break any ties).

A. Cumulative Voting

All candidates appear in alphabetical order. Each voter has as many votes as there are positions to be filled. The voter can distribute his/her vote(s) in any manner, for example all votes for one candidate or one per position to be filled, or anything in between. Those elected are those with the highest vote total, counting down to the number of positions to be filled.

Commented [4]: Cumulative voting is more difficult to set up and run than any of the other systems here. It also has several flaws that can be exacerbated by the circumstances under which the election is run.

If the majority can see how the minority is voting, the majority can use a voting strategy that undermines the goal of proportional representation. Having all those voting gathered in the same room is one of the circumstances that makes it easier to subvert cumulative voting as a method for proportional representation.

Not having secret ballots is another factor that can make it easy to undermine proportional representation when cumulative voting is used.

For these reasons, we should eliminate cumulative voting from the list of options here.

B. List or Slate Voting

When slate voting is used, the rules should describe a nominating process that groups the positions to be filled by title and gender. It is permissible for such groupings to create single member offices so long as equal division of gender is maintained.

Under this system a list or slate may be submitted by any person or group. Each slate has an identifying name or symbol. The number of names on a slate may be as few as one person or any number up to the number to be selected. Each voter has one vote, which is cast for a particular slate. The results are tabulated and the percentages set. The number of those elected from each slate is based on the formula $N > 1/(x+1)$, when N equals the vote required to elect one person and x equals the number of positions. If there are any unfilled positions, the largest unused percentage shall receive the first unfilled position, the second highest unused percentage shall receive the second position, and so on.

The persons selected are determined by the order in which their names are listed on the slate beginning with the top and moving down until the total number of positions which the slate is entitled to has been filled.

Commented [5]: Slate voting does a good job of ensuring proportional representation when run with the right "settings". There are aspects of slate voting that can be adjusted. The key adjustment is the "quota".

The quota is the minimum number of votes (equivalently, the minimum percentage of the vote) required to win one seat.

Mathematically, the quota that produces the most proportional representation is called the Hare quota.

In the re-write of the DPV we provide step-by-step procedures for slate voting using the Hare quota.

For filling multi-seat positions, this is the only voting system we need.

For filling single-seat offices, we can use Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Then we have exactly two voting procedures in the MDP, and we need no others.

Commented [6]: Changing this to read

$$N = 1/x$$

Is equivalent to requiring the Hare quota. I would need to be changed in several other places as well.

C. At-Large Preferential

All candidates are listed on the ballot. The voter ranks the candidates in order of preference as far as he/she wishes to. Points are assigned to each rank order depending upon the number of positions to be filled, for example, if there are five positions to be filled, a person receiving a number 1 ranking would receive 4 points, and so on. The number of candidates equal to the number of positions to be elected that receive the highest number of points are elected.

Commented [7]: Not a bad system, but Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is easier to use and has the same essential effects.

Section III: Geographical Distribution System

A system of geographical distribution may be adopted. Under this system, the positions to be elected are allocated to pre-existing political or election subdivisions. This must be done on a one Democrat-one vote basis. If this system is adopted and there is more than one person elected from any of these subdivisions, a proportionate voting system (See II, above) must be used.

Section IV: Instant Runoff Voting

In an election for a single member office, this system may be used. Under this system, each voter has one (1) vote and voters rank their candidates in order of choice (1, 2, 3, and so on). Voters can rank as few or as many candidates as they desire. If no candidate gets more than 50 percent of the first-choice votes, the one with the lowest first choice percentage is removed and all the ballots are counted again with the removed candidate's votes redistributed to their voters' next choice candidates, as indicated on the ballot. The process repeats until one candidate has the support of a simple majority of the votes cast.

Commented [8]: This is equivalent to Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). The explanation needs to be clarified and a step-by-step procedure provided.

We'll do that in the re-write.

Section V: Slate Voting Procedures

- * Any delegate or seated alternate can submit a slate.
- * Each slate will have an identifying name or symbol.
- * Candidates not appearing on a submitted slate are considered a slate of one.
- * Each delegate or seated alternate has one vote to cast for a particular slate.

Step 1: The permanent caucus chair will read the names of approved candidates into nomination.

Step 2: Caucus participants submit slates.

Step 3: The slates are read and votes cast.

Step 4: The results are tabulated and the percentage each slate received is determined.

(# of votes cast for the slate/total votes cast)

Step 5: The percentage required to elect one person is determined.

$$\text{Percentage to elect one person} > \frac{1}{(\# \text{ of positions}) + 1}$$

Step 6: By comparing the percentage necessary to elect one position with the total percentage received by a slate will determine the allocation of positions. Any unfilled positions are allocated to the largest unused percentages.

The persons selected are determined by the order in which their names are listed on the slate.

Commented [9]: These procedures are poorly written, and use the wrong quota. They use what's called the Droop quota, which is mathematically less proportional than the Hare quota. Specifically, it disadvantages smaller groups over larger groups. The larger the size difference between two groups, the more the Droop quota favors the larger group.

In effect, it makes those who are already weak, weaker, and those who are already strong, stronger, rather than treating them equally.

The Hare quota treats everyone equally.

For these reasons, the Droop quota has no place in a grassroots democratic organization.

We'll provide a set of step-by-step procedures in what follows.

Example

5 positions to be elected

Slate A:	Slate B:	Slate C:
Sue	Debbie	Alfred
Bob	Sven	Oscar
Betty	Tom	Ralph
Steve	Ingrid	Olaf
Time	Jack	Donna
10 votes	15 votes	25 votes
20%	30%	50%

% to elect one position > $\frac{1}{5 + 1} = .1666$

Allocating Positions

.20	.30	.50
- <u>.1667</u> (1)	- <u>.1667</u> (1)	- <u>.1667</u> (1)
.0333	.1333	.3333
		- <u>.1667</u> (2)
		.1666 (3)

OR

of positions awarded = $\frac{\text{Slate Percentage}}{\% \text{ needed to elect one delegate}}$

The candidates elected are:

$\frac{.20}{1.1998}$ =.1667	$\frac{.30}{1.7996}$ =.1667	$\frac{.50}{2.9994}$ =.1667
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Slate A: Sue	Slate B: Debbie	Slate C: Alfred Oscar Ralph
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