

STATE PARTY DIRECTIVE ON PROPORTIONAL VOTING

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.

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:

1. 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).
2. 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).

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

$$(\# \text{ of votes cast for the slate} / \text{total votes cast})$$

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.

Example

5 positions to be elected

Slate A: Sue Bob Betty Steve Time 10 votes 20%	Slate B: Debbie Sven Tom Ingrid Jack 15 votes 30%	Slate C: Alfred Oscar Ralph Olaf Donna 25 votes 50%
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$$\% \text{ to elect one position} > \frac{1}{5 + 1} = .1666$$

Allocating Positions

.20 - $\frac{.1667}{1}$.0333	.30 - $\frac{.1667}{1}$.1333	.50 - $\frac{.1667}{1}$.3333 - $\frac{.1667}{2}$.1666 (3)
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OR

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

$\frac{.20}{.1667} = 1.1998$	$\frac{.30}{.1667} = 1.7996$	$\frac{.50}{.1667} = 2.9994$
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The candidates elected are:

Slate A: Sue	Slate B: Debbie	Slate C: Alfred Oscar Ralph
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