

FLORIDA DELEGATE SELECTION & AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN

FOR THE 2008 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

ISSUED BY:

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SECTION I

INTRODUCTION & DESCRIPTION OF DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Florida has a total of **two-hundred and ten (210)** delegates and **thirty-five (35)** alternates. (Call, I. & Appendix B.)
2. The delegate selection process is governed by the *Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States*, the *Delegate Selection Rules for the 2008 Democratic National Convention* (“Rules”), the *Call for the 2008 Democratic National Convention* (“Call”), the *Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2008 Democratic National Convention* (“Regs.”), the rules of the Florida Democratic Party, the Election Laws of the State of Florida, and this Delegate Selection Plan. (Call, II.A.)
3. Following the adoption of this Delegate Selection Plan by the Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee, it shall be submitted for review and approval by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee (“RBC”). The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall be empowered to make any technical revisions to this document as required by the RBC to correct any omissions and/or deficiencies as found by the RBC to ensure its full compliance with Party Rules. Such corrections shall be made by the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party and the Plan resubmitted to the RBC within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice of the RBC’s findings. (Regs. 2.5, 2.6 & 2.7)
4. Once this Plan has been found in Compliance by the RBC, any amendment to the Plan by the Florida Democratic Party will be submitted to and approved by the RBC before it becomes effective. (Reg. 2.9)

B. DESCRIPTION OF DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS

1. Florida will use a proportional representation system based on the results of a Presidential Preference Primary for apportioning delegates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention.
2. The “first determining step” of Florida’s delegate selection process will occur on **Tuesday, 29 January 2008**, with a Presidential Preference Primary.
3. Voter Participation in Process
 - a. Participation in Florida’s delegate selection process is open to all voters who wish to participate as Democrats. Florida is a closed primary state and persons interested in voting in the 29 January 2008 Presidential Preference Primary shall register as a Democratic voter no later than **Monday, 31 December 2007**.
 - b. At no stage of Florida’s delegate selection process shall any person be required, directly or indirectly, to pay a cost or fee as a condition for participating. Voluntary contributions to the Party may be made, but under no circumstances shall a contribution be mandatory for participation. (Rule 2.D. & Reg. 4.4.)
 - c. No persons shall participate or vote in the nominating process for the Democratic presidential candidate who also participates in the nominating process of any other party for the corresponding elections. (Rule 2.E.)

- d. No person shall vote in more than one meeting at the Post-Primary Congressional District Caucus which is the first meeting in the delegate selection process. (Rule 3.E. & Reg. 4.6.)
4. Florida is participating in the state government-run Presidential Preference Primary that will utilize government-run voting systems. The Florida Democratic Party has taken (or will take) provable positive steps to:
 - a. Promote the acquisition of accessible precinct based optical scan systems with a paper trail, wherever possible. (Rule 2.H.(1))
 - b. Seek enactment of legislation, rules, and policies at the state and local level to ensure that optical scan systems include a voter verified paper trail (Rule 2.H.(2))
 - c. Seek enactment of legislation, rules and policies at the state and local level to ensure that optical scan systems include recognized security measures. These measures include automatic routine manual audits comparing paper records to electronic records following every election and prior to certification or results where possible; parallel testing on election day; physical and electronic security for equipment; banning use of wireless components and connections; public disclosure of software design; use of transparent and random selection for all auditing procedures; and effective procedures for addressing evidence of fraud or error. (Rule 2.H.(3))

SECTION II

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

A. BALLOT ACCESS

A presidential candidate gains access to the Florida Presidential Preference Primary ballot by the following procedure:

There shall be a Presidential Candidate Selection Committee composed of the Secretary of State, who shall be a non-voting Chair; the Speaker of the House of Representatives; the President of the Senate; the Minority Leader of each house of the Legislature; and the chairs of each political party required to have a Presidential Preference Primary.

By **Wednesday, 31 October 2007**, the Florida Democratic Party shall submit to the Secretary of State a list of its presidential candidates to be placed on the Presidential Preference Primary ballot.

The Secretary of State shall prepare and publish a list of the names of the presidential candidates submitted. The Secretary of State shall submit such a list of names of presidential candidates to the selection committee by **Tuesday, 6 November 2007**. The selection committee shall meet in Tallahassee, Florida on **Tuesday, 6 November 2007**. The selection committee shall publicly announce and submit to the Department of State no later than 5:00 P.M. EST on **Wednesday, 7 November 2007**, the names of the presidential candidates who shall have their names appear on the Presidential Preference Primary ballot. The Department of State shall immediately notify each presidential candidate designated by the committee. Such notification shall be in writing by registered mail with return receipt requested. The Department of State shall immediately notify such candidate of the selection committee's decision.

A candidate's name shall be printed on the Presidential Preference Primary ballot unless she or he submits to the Department of State at the address below on or before **Tuesday, 12 November 2007**, an affidavit stating she or he is not now and does not presently intend to become a candidate for President at the upcoming national convention.

The Secretary of State can be reached by writing to:

*The Office of the Secretary of State
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1705*

If a candidate so withdraws, the Department of State shall notify the Florida Democratic Executive Committee that the candidate's name will not be placed on the ballot. The Department of State shall, no later than **Tuesday, 20 November 2007**, certify to each supervisor of elections the name of each candidate for nomination to be printed on the ballot.

- B. Each presidential candidate shall certify in writing to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party, the name(s) of his or her authorized representative(s) by **Friday, 14 September 2007**. Individuals who announce their candidacy after this date must provide this information to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party not later than ten (10) days after their announcement. (Rule 12.D.(1))
- C. Each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) shall use his or her best efforts to ensure that his or her respective delegation within the state delegation achieves the affirmative action goals established by this Plan and is equally divided between men and women. (Rule 6.I.)

SECTION III

SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

A. DISTRICT-LEVEL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

1. Florida is allocated **one hundred and twenty-one (121)** District-Level delegates and **twenty (25)** District-Level alternates. (Rule 8.C., Call, I.B. & I.I.)
2. District-Level delegates and alternates shall be allocated to presidential preferences through a proportional representation system based on a Presidential Preference Primary, with the first determining step being that of the Presidential Preference Primary held on **Tuesday, 29 January 2008**, followed by a post-primary congressional district caucus on **Saturday, 1 March 2008**.
3. Apportionment of District-Level Delegates and Alternates
 - a. Florida's District-Level delegates and alternates are apportioned among the districts based on a formula giving one-third (1/3) weight to each of the following three factors: (Rule 8.A.; Regs. 4.11., 4.12. & Appendix A)
 - (1) Equal weight to the average vote for the Democratic candidates in the 1996 and 2000 presidential elections. Due to redistricting, the Congressional Districts from the 2000 election do not align with the current Congressional Districts. Since this alignment issue was already aptly navigated by the 2004 Delegate Selection Plan, we utilized their vote share numbers.

- (2) Equal weight to the vote for the Democratic candidate in the 2004 presidential election.
- (3) Equal weight to Democratic Party registration or enrollment as of March 31, 2007.
- b. One (1) Alternate has been allocated to each district.
- c. The state’s total number of District-Level delegates will be equally divided between men and women. (Rule 6.C.(1) & Reg. 4.8.)
- d. The District-Level delegates and alternates are apportioned to districts as indicated in the following chart:

District	Delegates			Alternates		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1	2	2	4	1	0	1
2	3	3	6	0	1	1
3	2	3	5	1	0	1
4	2	2	4	0	1	1
5	3	2	5	0	1	1
6	2	3	5	1	0	1
7	3	2	5	0	1	1
8	2	2	4	1	0	1
9	2	2	4	0	1	1
10	2	3	5	1	0	1
11	3	2	5	0	1	1
12	2	2	4	1	0	1
13	2	3	5	1	0	1
14	2	2	4	0	1	1
15	3	2	5	0	1	1
16	2	3	5	1	0	1
17	4	3	7	0	1	1
18	1	2	3	1	0	1
19	4	3	7	0	1	1
20	3	3	6	1	0	1
21	2	2	4	0	1	1
22	2	3	5	1	0	1
23	3	3	6	1	0	1
24	2	2	4	1	0	1
25	2	2	4	0	1	1
TOTAL			121			25

4. District-Level Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements

- a. A District-Level delegate and alternate candidate may run for election only within the district in which he or she is registered to vote. (Rule 12.H.)

- b. An individual can qualify as a candidate for District-Level delegate or alternate to the 2008 Democratic National Convention by filing a Loyalty Oath and a Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support to the Florida Democratic Party online at www.fladems.com or with the County Chair, Vice-Chair, State Committeewoman or State Committeeman of the County Democratic Executive Committee in the county in which such person is registered to vote. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of such Party officers can be obtained from the Florida Democratic Party's website or by calling 850-222-3411. Qualification forms shall be accepted beginning **Monday, 3 December 2007** and must be filed prior to twelve (12) noon EST on **Tuesday, 29 January 2008**.

Immediately upon close of qualifying, copies of all forms shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party at 214 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 32301-1705, by registered mail postmarked no later than **Friday, 1 February 2008**.

Persons receiving these forms shall certify the date and time of receipt. Such forms shall contain the person's name, address including city and zip code, email address if one is available, county, congressional district, precinct number, party registration, age, gender and race, and shall state whether the candidate is seeking a District-Level delegate or alternate position. All delegate candidates shall be identified as to presidential preference, uncommitted status at all levels which determine presidential preference.

Each Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support shall contain such person's presidential (or uncommitted) preference for whom she or he seeks to become a delegate. No person shall file more than one (1) Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support at the District-Level.

- c. All candidates considered for District-Level alternate positions must meet the same requirements as candidates for District-Level delegate positions. Delegate candidates who were not chosen at the delegate level shall be considered at the alternate level unless they chose otherwise.
5. Presidential Candidate Right of Review for District-Level Delegates and Alternates
 - a. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than 5 P.M. EST on **Monday, 11 February 2008**, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. (Rules 12.D. & 12.F.)
 - b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party by 5 P.M. EST on **Friday, 15 February 2008**, a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, provided that approval be given to at least three (3) times the number of candidates for delegate men and three (3) times the number of candidates for delegate women, and three (3) times the number of candidates for alternate men and three (3) times the number of alternate women to be selected. (Rule 12.E.(1), Reg. 4.23.)
 - c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate and alternate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate, or the authorized representative(s), signifies otherwise in writing to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party not later than 5 P.M. EST on **Friday, 15 February 2008**.

- d. National convention delegate and alternate candidates removed from the list of bona fide supporters by a presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), shall not be elected as a delegate or alternate at that level pledged to that presidential candidate (including uncommitted status). (Rule 12.E. & Reg. 4.23.)
 - e. After consultation with the members of the Affirmative Action Committee, the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective District-Level delegate candidates and District-Level alternate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved District-Level delegate candidates and District-Level alternate candidates as indicated in section III.A.5.b of this Plan.
6. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference
- a. Presidential Primary – Proportional Representation Plan (Rules 13.A., 13.B. & 13.D.)

The Florida Presidential Primary election is a “binding” primary. Accordingly, delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated so as to fairly reflect the expressed presidential (or uncommitted) preference of the primary voters in each district. The National Convention delegates and alternates selected at the District-Level shall be allocated in proportion to the percentage of the primary vote won in that district by each preference, except that preferences falling below a fifteen percent (15%) threshold shall not be awarded any delegates or alternates.
 - b. Within a district, if no presidential preference reaches a fifteen percent (15%) threshold, the threshold shall be the percentage of the vote received in that district by the front-runner minus ten percent (10%). (Rule 13.F.)
7. Equal Division of District-Level Delegates and Alternates
- a. In order to ensure the District-Level delegates are equally divided between men and women, delegate positions within each district will be designated by presidential preference beginning with the highest vote-getting presidential preference. This assignment of delegate positions, alternating by gender as mathematically practicable, will continue with the next highest vote-getting preferences in descending order until the gender of each position has been assigned. (Rule 6.C.(1) & Reg. 4.8.)
 - b. District delegate positions shall be pre-designated by the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party so the gender of the final position to be filled by the winning presidential candidate is pre-determined. Once the allocation of district delegates among the presidential preference(s) has been calculated, the remaining delegate positions can be assigned to the presidential preference(s), in order of vote won, alternating by gender.
 - c. After the delegates are selected, the alternates will be awarded, using the same process described above.
8. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) the election of the state's District-Level delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within three (3) days after their election. (Rule 8.C. & Call, IV.A.) (Regs. 5.3.B. & C.)

B. UNPLEDGED DELEGATES

1. Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials

- a. The following categories (if applicable) shall constitute the Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official delegate positions:
 - (1) Members of the Democratic National Committee who legally reside in the state; (Rule 9.A.(1), Call, I.F., J., K., & Reg. 4.13.)
 - (2) All of Florida's Democratic Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; (Rule 9.A.(3), Call I.G. & K.)
 - (3) "Distinguished Party Leader" delegates who legally reside in the state (if applicable).
- b. The certification process for the Unpledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates is as follows:
 - (1) Not later than **Saturday, 1 March 2008**, the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee shall officially confirm to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party the names of the unpledged delegates who legally reside in Florida. (Rule 9.A.)
 - (2) Official confirmation by the Secretary shall constitute verification of the unpledged delegates from the categories indicated above. (Call, IV.B.1.)

2. Unpledged Add-On Delegates

- a. Florida will select **three (3)** unpledged add-on delegates. (Rule 9.B., Call, I.I. & Reg. 5.1.)
- b. The procedures to be used in selecting the unpledged add-on delegates will be as follows:
 - (1) Selection of the unpledged add-on delegates will occur at 10 A.M. EST on **Saturday, 5 April 2008**, in Tallahassee, Florida, which is after the election of district delegates and alternates and prior to the selection of the pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates. (Rule 9.B.(1))
 - (2) These delegates will be selected by the Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee, which is the same selecting body used to select the pledged Party Leader and Elected Official as well as the At-Large delegates and alternate. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall chair the meeting. Members of the Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee shall vote, by written signed ballot, for the number of delegate positions available. Receipt of a plurality of the votes cast shall constitute election as a delegate. (Rule 9.B.(1))
 - (3) The equal division and affirmative action provisions of Rule 10.A. apply to the selection of these unpledged add-on delegates. (Rule 9.B.(2))
 - (4) Individuals are nominated for these positions by the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party (Reg. 4.14.)
 - (5) The list from which the selecting body chooses the unpledged add-on delegates shall contain at least two (2) names for every unpledged add-on position to be filled. (Rule 9.B.(3))

- (6) Unpledged add-on delegate candidates may be selected whether or not they previously filed a Statement of Candidacy for a delegate position or submitted a Pledge of Support for a presidential candidate. (Rule 9.B.(5) & Reg. 4.14.)
- c. Unpledged add-on delegates, selected pursuant to Rule 9.B., shall be certified in writing by the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the selection. (Call, IV.B.2.)

C. PLEDGED PARTY LEADER AND ELECTED OFFICIAL (PLEO) DELEGATES

1. Florida is allotted **twenty-four (24)** pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates. (Call, I.D. & E.)
2. Pledged PLEO Delegate Filing Requirements
 - a. Individuals shall be eligible for the pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegate positions according to the following priority: big city mayors and state-wide elected officials (to be given equal consideration); state legislative leaders, state legislators, and other state, county and local elected officials and party leaders. (Rule 9.C.(1) & Reg. 4.15.)
 - b. An individual can qualify as a candidate for a position as a pledged PLEO delegate by submitting a Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support to the Florida Democratic Party online at www.fladems.com or by mail at 214 South Bronough, Tallahassee, FL, 32301-1705. The form shall contain all the information specified on the form required of all District-Level delegate candidates. An individual may or may not have previously filed a Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support and still may be eligible to file under this category. Qualification forms will be available online and at the aforementioned address beginning on **Monday, 25 February 2008** and must be filed by 5 P.M. EST on **Friday, 14 March 2008**. (Rules 9.C.(3), & 14.G., Reg. 4.16.)
 - c. Pledged PLEO delegate candidates must be identified as to presidential preference.
3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
 - a. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than **Monday, 24 March 2008**, a list of all persons who have filed for a party and elected official delegate pledged to that presidential candidate. (Rules 9.C.(3) & 12.D.)
 - b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must file with the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party, by 5 P.M. EST on **Friday, 28 March 2008**, a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, as long as approval is given to at least two (2) names for every position to which the presidential candidate is entitled. (Rule 12.E.(2) & Reg. 4.23.)
 - c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate or the authorized representative(s) signifies otherwise in writing to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party not later than 5 P.M. EST on **Friday, 28 March**.

- d. After consultation with the members of the Affirmative Action Committee, the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective pledged PLEO delegate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved pledged PLEO candidates as indicated in section III.C.3.b of this Plan.
4. Selection of Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates
 - a. The pledged PLEO slots shall be allocated among presidential preferences on the same basis as the At-Large delegates. (Rule 9.C.(2), 10.C., 13.E. & F.)
 - b. Selection of the pledged PLEO delegates will occur on twelve (12) noon EST on **Saturday, 5 April 2008** in Tallahassee, Florida, which is after the election of District-Level delegates and alternates and the unpledged add-on delegates and prior to the selection of At-Large delegates and alternates. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall chair the meeting. Members of the Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee shall vote, by written signed ballot, for the number of delegate positions available, from the list of candidates who have filed Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support forms with the State Chair, and who have received approval from the presidential candidates. Receipt of a plurality of the votes cast shall constitute election as delegate. (Rule 9.C.)
 - c. These delegates will be selected by the Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee provided such delegates are elected at a public meeting subsequent to the election of the District-Level delegates and provided that the membership of the State Executive Committee complies with equal division requirements of Article 9, Section 16 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States. (Rule 9.D.)
 - (1) Alternates are not selected at the pledged Party Leader and Elected Official level. These alternates are combined with the At-Large alternates and selected as one unit. (Reg. 4.30.)
 5. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates to the Democratic National Convention within three (3) days after their election. (Rule 8.D. & Call, IV.A.)

D. AT-LARGE DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

1. The state of Florida is allotted **forty (40)** At-Large delegates and **eleven (11)** At-Large alternates. (Rule 8.C., Call, I.B. & 1.)
2. At-Large Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements
 - a. Persons desiring to seek At-Large delegate or alternate positions may file a Loyalty Oath and a Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support with the Florida Democratic Party online at www.fladems.com or at 214 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL, 32301-1705 beginning **Monday, 7 April 2008** and must be filed by 5 P.M. EST on **Friday, 25 April 2008**. Qualifying forms will be available online and at the aforementioned address. Persons may qualify for both At-Large and PLEO delegate positions. (Rules 12.B. & 14.G.; Regs. 4.22. & 4.27.)

Each Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support shall contain such person's presidential (or uncommitted) preference for whom she or he seeks to become a delegate. No person shall file more than one (1) Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support at this level.

- b. The Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support for At-Large delegates and for At-Large alternates will be the same as the District-Level delegates. After the At-Large delegates are elected by the Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee, those persons not chosen will then be considered candidates for At-Large alternate positions unless they specify otherwise when filing. (Rule 18.A.)
3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
 - a. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than **Monday, 5 May 2008**, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. (Rule 12.D.) (Reg. 4.22. & 4.27.)
 - b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party by not later than 5 P.M. EST on **Friday, 9 May 2008**, a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, provided that, at a minimum, two (2) names remain for every national convention delegate or alternate position to which the presidential candidate is entitled. (Rule 12.E.(2) & Reg. 4.23.)
 - c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate or the authorized representative(s) signifies otherwise in writing to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party not later than 5 P.M. EST on **Friday, 9 May 2008**.
 - d. After consultation with the members of the Affirmative Action Committee, the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective At-Large delegate candidates and At-Large alternate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved At-Large delegate candidates and At-Large alternate candidates as indicated in section III.D.3.b of this Plan.
 4. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference
 - a. At-Large delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated among presidential preferences according to the state-wide primary vote (Rule 10.C.)
 - b. Preferences which have not attained a fifteen percent (15%) threshold on a state-wide basis shall not be entitled to any At-Large delegates. (Rule 13.E.)
 - c. If no presidential preference reaches a fifteen percent (15%) threshold, the threshold shall be the percentage of the statewide vote received by the front-runner, minus ten percent (10%). (Rule 13.F.)

- d. If a presidential candidate is no longer a candidate at the time of selection of the At-Large delegates, then those At-Large slots that would have been allocated to the candidate will be proportionally divided among the remaining preferences entitled to an allocation. (Rule 10.C.)
 - e. If a given presidential preference is entitled to one or more delegate positions but would not otherwise be entitled to an alternate position, that preference shall be allotted one At-Large alternate position. (Rule 18.B., Call, I.J. & Reg. 4.30.& 4.33.)
5. Selection of At-Large Delegates and Alternates
- a. The selection of the At-Large delegates and alternates will occur on **Saturday, 17 May 2008** in Tallahassee, Florida, which is after all unpledged delegates and pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates have been selected. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall chair the meeting. Members of the Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee shall vote, by written signed ballot, for the number of delegate positions available, from the list of candidates who have filed Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support forms with the State Chair, and who have received approval from the presidential candidates. Receipt of a plurality of the votes cast shall constitute election as delegate. (Rule 8.D. & Call, III.)
 - b. These delegates and alternates will be selected by the Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee provided such delegates are elected at a public meeting subsequent to the election of the District-Level delegates and provided that the membership of the Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee complies with equal division requirements of Article 9, Section 16 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States. (Rules 10.B. & 8.D.)
 - c. Priority of Consideration
 - (1) In the selection of the At-Large delegation, priority of consideration shall be given to African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans, and women. (Rule 6.A.)
 - (2) In order to continue the Democratic Party's ongoing efforts to include groups historically under-represented in the Democratic Party's affairs and to assist in the achievement of full participation by these groups, priority of consideration shall be given to other groups by virtue of race/ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation and/or disability, including members of the GLBT community, people with disabilities, youth, and military veterans. (Rules 5.C., 6.A.(3), & Reg. 4.7.)
 - (3) The election of At-Large delegates and alternates shall be used, if necessary, to achieve the equal division of positions between men and women, and may be used to achieve the representation goals established in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan. (Rule 6.A.)
 - (4) Delegates and alternates are to be considered separate groups for this purpose. (Rules 6.A.(3), 10.A. & Regs. 4.8 & 4.19.)
6. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's At-Large delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within three (3) days after their election. (Rule 8.C. & Call, IV.A.)

E. REPLACEMENT OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

1. A pledged delegate or alternate may be replaced according to the following guidelines:
 - a. Permanent Replacement of a Delegate: (Rule 18.D.(2))
 - (1) A permanent replacement occurs when a delegate resigns or dies prior to or during the national convention and the alternate replaces the delegate for the remainder of the National Convention.
 - (2) Any alternate permanently replacing a delegate shall be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) and gender of the delegate he/she replaces, and to the extent possible shall be from the same congressional district within the state as the delegate.
 - (a) In the case where the presidential candidate has only one alternate, that alternate shall become the certified delegate.
 - (b) If a presidential candidate has only one alternate, and that alternate permanently replaces a delegate of the opposite gender, thereby causing the delegation to no longer be equally divided, the delegation shall not be considered in violation of Rule 6.C. In such a case, notwithstanding Rule 18.D.(2), the Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee shall, at the time of a subsequent permanent replacement, replace a delegate with a person of the opposite gender, in order to return the delegation to equal division of men and women. (Reg. 4.32.)
 - b. Temporary Replacement of a Delegate: (Rule 18.D.(3))
 - (1) A temporary replacement occurs when a delegate is to be absent for a limited period of time during the convention and an alternate temporarily acts in the delegate's place.
 - (2) Any alternate who temporarily replaces a delegate must be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) as the delegate he/she replaces, and to the extent possible shall be of the same gender and from the same congressional district within the state as the delegate.
 - c. The following system will be used to select permanent and temporary replacements of delegates: (Rule 18.D.(1))
 - (1) The delegation chooses the alternate.
 - d. Certification of Replacements
 - (1) Any alternate who permanently replaces a delegate shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the DNC by the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party. (Rule 18.D.2.)
 - (2) Permanent replacement of a delegate (as specified above) by an alternate and replacement of a vacant alternate position shall be certified in writing by the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the replacement is selected. (Call, IV.C.1.)

- (3) Certification of permanent replacements will be accepted by the Secretary up to forty-eight (48) hours before the first official session of the Convention is scheduled to convene. (Call, IV.C.1. & Reg. 4.32.)
 - (4) In the case where a pledged delegate is permanently replaced after forty-eight (48) hours before the time the first session is scheduled to convene or, in the case where a pledged delegate is not on the floor of the Convention Hall at the time a roll call vote is taken, an alternate may be designated (as specified above) to cast the delegate's vote. In such case, the Delegation Chair shall indicate the name of the alternate casting the respective delegate's vote on the delegation tally sheet (Call, VIII.F.3.d., VIII.F.3.b. & Reg. 5.4.)
 - e. A vacant alternate position shall be filled by the delegation. The replacement shall be of the same presidential preference (or uncommitted status), of the same gender and, to the extent possible, from the same congressional district as the alternate being replaced. (Rule 18.F.)
2. Unpledged delegates shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except under the following circumstances: (Rule 18.E. & Reg. 4.33.)
 - a. Members of Congress shall not be entitled to name a replacement. In the event of changes or vacancies in the state's Congressional Delegation, following the official confirmation and prior to the commencement of the National Convention, the DNC Secretary shall recognize only such changes as have been officially recognized by the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives or the Democratic Conference of the U.S. Senate. (Call, IV.C.2.a.)
 - b. Members of the Democratic National Committee and unpledged add-on delegates shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except in the case of death of such delegates. In the case where the state's DNC membership changes following the DNC Secretary's official confirmation, but prior to the commencement of the 2008 Democratic National Convention, acknowledgment by the Secretary of the new DNC member certification shall constitute verification of the corresponding change of unpledged delegates. (Call, IV.C.2.b.)
 - c. Unpledged distinguished Party Leader delegates allocated to the state pursuant to Rule 8.A.(5), shall not be entitled to name a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to name a replacement. (Call, IV.C.2.c.)
 - d. In no case may an alternate cast a vote for an unpledged delegate. (Call, VIII.F.3.d.)

SECTION IV

CONVENTION STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Florida has been allocated **eight (8)** member(s) on each of the three standing committees for the 2008 Democratic National Convention (Credentials, Platform and Rules), for a total of **twenty-four (24)** members. (Call, VII.A. & Appendix D.)
2. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party will nominate such candidates to serve on the Convention Standing Committees. Candidates nominated by the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party will then file a Loyalty Oath with the Florida Democratic Party.

3. In the selection of Convention Standing Committee members, priority of consideration shall be given to African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans, members of the GLBT community, people with disabilities, youth, military veterans and women.
4. Members of the Convention Standing Committees need not be delegates or alternates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention. (Call, VII.A.3.)
5. These members will be selected in accordance with the procedures indicated below. (Rule 1.G.)

B. PERMANENT STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Selection Meeting
 - a. The members of the standing committees shall be approved by a quorum of Florida's National Convention delegates, at a meeting to be held on **Saturday, 17 May 2008**. (Call, VII.B.1.)
 - b. All members of the delegation shall receive adequate notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the standing committee members. (Call, VII.B.1.)
2. Allocation of Members
 - a. The members of the standing committees allocated to Florida shall proportionately represent the presidential preference of all candidates (including uncommitted status) receiving the threshold percentage used in the state's delegation to calculate the At-Large apportionment pursuant to Rule 13.E. of the Delegate Selection Rules. (Call, VII.C.1. & Reg. 5.7.)
 - b. The presidential preference of each candidate receiving the applicable percentage or more within the delegation shall be multiplied by the total number of standing committee positions allocated to Florida. If the result of such multiplication does not equal 0.455 or above, the presidential preference in question is not entitled to representation on the standing committee. If the result of such multiplication is 0.455 but less than 1.455, the presidential preference is entitled to one (1) position. Those preferences securing more than 1.455 but less than 2.455 are entitled to two (2) positions, etc. (Call, VII.C.2.)
 - c. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation exceeding the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is farthest from its eventual rounded-off total shall be denied that one (1) additional position. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation falling short of the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is closest to the next rounding level shall be allotted an additional committee position. (Call, VII.C.3.)
 - d. Standing committee positions allocated to a presidential candidate shall be proportionately allocated, to the extent practicable, to each of the three standing committees. When such allocation results in an unequal distribution of standing committee positions by candidate preference, a drawing shall be conducted to distribute the additional positions. (Call, VII.C.4.)
3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
 - a. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), shall be given adequate notice of the date, time and location of the meeting of the state's delegation authorized to elect standing committee members. (Call, VII.D.1.)

- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must submit to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party, by 5 P.M. EST on **Friday, 9 May 2008**, a minimum of one (1) name for each slot awarded to that candidate for members of each committee. The delegation shall select the standing committee members submitted by the presidential candidates (including uncommitted status). Presidential candidates shall not be required to submit the name of more than one person for each slot awarded to such candidate for members of standing committees. (Call, VII.D.2.)
4. Selection Procedure to Achieve Equal Division
 - a. Presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) shall use their best efforts to ensure that their respective delegation of standing committee members shall achieve Florida's affirmative action goals and that their respective members are equally divided between men and women. (Rule 6.I. & Reg. 4.9.)
 - b. Each position on each standing committee shall be assigned by gender. For example, the first position on the Credentials Committee of the presidential candidate with the most standing committee positions shall be designated for a female, the second position for a male, and the remaining positions shall be designated in like fashion, alternating between males and females. Positions for presidential candidates on each committee shall be ranked according to the total number of standing positions allocated to each such candidate. After positions on the Credentials Committee are designated by gender, the designation shall continue with the Platform Committee, then the Rules Committee.
 - (1) A separate election shall be conducted for membership on each standing committee.
 - (2) The membership of the standing committees shall be as equally divided as possible under the state allocation; if the number is even, the membership shall be equally divided between men and women; if the number is odd, the variance between men and women may not exceed one (1), and the advantaged gender must not remain constant for the three standing committees. (Call, VII.E.1.)
 - (3) The positions allocated to each presidential candidate on each committee shall be voted on separately, and the winners shall be the highest vote-getter(s) of the appropriate gender.
 5. Certification and Substitution
 - a. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall certify the standing committee members in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after their selection. (Call, VII.B.3.)
 - b. No substitutions will be permitted in the case of standing committee members, except in the case of resignation or death. Substitutions must be made in accordance with the rules and the election procedures specified in this section, and must be certified in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the substitute member is selected. (Call, VII.B.4.)

SECTION V

THE DELEGATION

- A. Florida will select **one (1)** person to serve as Delegation Chair and **five (5)** persons to serve as Convention Pages. (Call, IV.D., E.1. & Appendix C.)
- B. DELEGATION CHAIR
1. Selection Meeting
 - a. The Delegation Chair shall be selected by a quorum of Florida's National Convention Delegates, at a meeting to be held on **Saturday, 17 May 2008**. (Call, IV.D.)
 - b. All members of the delegation shall receive timely notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the Delegation Chair. (Rule 3.C.)
 2. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall certify the Delegation Chair in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after his or her selection. (Call, IV.D.)
- C. CONVENTION PAGES
1. Individuals will be selected to serve as Florida's Convention Pages by the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party in consultation with the members of the Democratic National Committee from the state. This selection will take place on **Saturday, 17 May 2008**. (Call, IV.E.3. & Reg. 5.5.)
 2. The Convention Pages shall be as evenly divided between men and women as possible under the state allocation and shall reflect as much as possible, the Affirmative Action guidelines in the Affirmative Action Plan. (Reg. 5.5.A.)
 3. The Chair of the Florida Democratic Party shall certify the individuals to serve as Florida's Convention Pages in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the selection. (Call, IV.E.3. & Reg. 5.5.B.)

SECTION VI

GENERAL PROVISIONS AND PROCEDURAL GUARANTEES

- A. The Florida Democratic Party reaffirms its commitment to an open party by incorporating the 'six basic elements' as listed below. These provisions demonstrate the intention of the Democratic Party to ensure a full opportunity for all minority group members to participate in the delegate selection process. (Rules 4.A. & C.)
1. All public meetings at all levels of the Florida Democratic Party should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, gender, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, gender, sexual orientation, economic status and/or physical disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as "status"). (Rule 4.B.(1))
 2. No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to the Florida Democratic Party should be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination based on "status." (Rule 4.B.(2))

3. The time and place for all public meetings of the Florida Democratic Party on all levels should be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons. (Rule 4.B.(3))
 4. The Florida Democratic Party, on all levels, should support the broadest possible registration without discrimination based on "status." (Rule 4.B.(4))
 5. The Florida Democratic Party should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures should be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of each State Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Democratic Party organization. (Rule 4.B.(5))
 6. The Florida Democratic Party should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties, a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications of all positions as officers and representatives of the State Democratic Party. Such publication should be done in timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within each State Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office. (Rule 4.B.(6))
- B. Discrimination on the basis of 'status' in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited. (Rule 5.B.)
- C. Florida's delegation shall be equally divided between delegate men and delegate women, and alternate men and alternate women. Such goal applies to the entire delegation, which includes all pledged delegates and alternates and all unpledged delegates. Delegates and alternates shall be considered separate groups for purposes of achieving equal division. (Rule 6.C.)
- D. All delegate and alternate candidates must be identified as to presidential preference or uncommitted status at all levels which determine presidential preference. (Rule 12.A.)
- E. No delegate at any level of the delegate selection process shall be mandated by law or Party rules to vote contrary to that person's presidential choice as expressed at the time the delegate is elected. (Rule 12.I.)
- F. Delegates elected to the national convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them. (Rule 12.J.)
- G. All delegates, alternates and standing committee members must be bona fide Democrats who have the interests, welfare and success of the Democratic Party of the United States at heart, who subscribe to the substance, intent and principles of the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States, and who will participate in the Convention in good faith. (Rule 12.H. & Reg. 4.23.)
- H. Forty percent (40%) of the members of any Party body above the first level of the delegate selection process shall constitute a quorum for any business pertaining to the selection of National Convention delegates, alternates, standing committee members, and other official Convention participants. (Rule 15)
- I. There may be no proxy voting in the selection of delegates at the District-Level. There may be no proxy voting in the selection of Delegation Chair, Permanent National Convention Committee members and Convention Pages. Proxy voting at the State Executive Committee level of delegate selection is permitted under the provisions of the Florida Democratic Party Charter and Bylaws, provided that no individual may hold more than three (3) proxies at one time.

- J. The unit rule, or any rule or practice whereby all members of a Party unit or delegation may be required to cast their votes in accordance with the will of a majority of the body, shall not be used at any stage of the delegate selection process. (Rule 17.A.)
- K. Any individual or group of Democrats may sponsor or endorse a slate of candidates for convention delegates. But no slate may, by virtue of such endorsement, receive a preferential place on a delegate selection ballot or be publicly identified on the ballot as the official Democratic Party organization slate, and all slates must meet identical qualifying requirements for appearing on a ballot at all levels of the delegate selection process. (Rule 17.B.)
- L. All steps in the delegate selection process, including the filing of presidential candidates, must take place within the calendar year of the Democratic National Convention, except with respect to the implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan. (Rules 1.F. & 11.B.)
- M. In electing and certifying delegates and alternates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention, Florida thereby undertakes to assure all Democratic voters in the state full, timely and equal opportunity to participate in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs and to implement affirmative action programs toward that end, and that the delegates and alternates to the Convention shall be selected in accordance with the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2008 Democratic National Convention, and that the voters in the state will have the opportunity to cast their election ballots for the Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees selected by said Convention, and for electors pledged formally and in good conscience to the election of these Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees, under the label and designation of the Democratic Party of the United States, and that the delegates certified will not publicly support or campaign for any candidate for President or Vice President other than the nominees for the Democratic National Convention. (Call, II.B.)

SECTION VII

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, OUTREACH AND INCLUSION PLAN

A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

1. Purpose and Objectives

- a. In order that the Democratic Party at all levels be an open Party which includes rather than excludes people from participation, a program of effective affirmative action is hereby adopted by Florida. (Rule 5.A.)
- b. Discrimination on the basis of "status" in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited. (Rule 5.B.)
- c. All public meetings at all levels of the Florida Democratic Party should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, gender, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, gender, sexual orientation, economic status and/or physical disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as "status"). (Rule 4.B.(1))
- d. Consistent with the Democratic Party's commitment to including historically under-represented in the Democratic Party's affairs, by virtue of race/ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation and/or disability, Florida has developed Party outreach programs. Such programs include recruitment, education and training, in order to achieve full participation by such groups and diversity in the delegate selection process and at all levels of Party affairs for 2008. (Rule 5.C & Reg. 4.7.)

The outreach programs will concentrate on all Democratic constituencies, including but not limited to African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans, women, members of the GLBT community, people with disabilities, youth, and military veterans.

Targeted organizations for workshops and presentations include but are not limited to educational institutions, labor organizations, Democratic Clubs and Caucuses both at the local and statewide level, and Affirmative Action Committees under county Democratic Executive Committees (DECs).

Locations used in conjunction with the outreach program and at any point during the delegate selection process will be convenient to all formerly disenfranchised communities, including communities of low to moderate income.

Outreach efforts will accommodate people with disabilities through sites with wheelchair accessibility and ensuring a sign language interpreter be present at sites where applicable.

Any candidate for delegate or alternate who self-identifies with a specific gender, regardless of their assigned sex at birth or their gender expression or perceived gender expression, shall be considered as a candidate in the gender category with which they identify.

In addition, the Florida Democratic Party will, in a good faith effort, utilize culturally sensitive and/or appropriate terminology when conducting outreach efforts, including translated printed material.

- e. In order to encourage full participation by all Democrats in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs, the Florida Democratic Party has adopted and will implement programs with specific goals and timetables for African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans and women. (Rule 6.A.) In order to achieve full participation of other groups that may be under-represented in Party affairs, including members of the GLBT community, people with disabilities, military veterans and youth, the Florida Democratic Party has adopted and will implement Inclusion Programs. (Rule 7)
 - (1) The goal of the programs shall be to encourage participation in the delegate selection process and in Party organizations at all levels by the aforementioned groups as indicated by their presence in the Democratic electorate. (Rule 6.A.(1))
 - (2) This goal shall not be accomplished either directly or indirectly by the Party's imposition of mandatory quotas at any level of the delegate selection process or in any other Party affairs. (Rule 6.A.(2))

2. Organizational Structure

- a. An Affirmative Action Committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party on **Thursday, 1 March 2007**. (Rule 6.F.)
- b. The Affirmative Action Committee shall be responsible for:
 - (1) Reviewing the proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan and making recommendations to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party.

- (2) Reviewing the proposed Inclusion Programs and making recommendations to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party.
 - (3) Directing the implementation of all requirements of the Affirmative Action section of this Plan.
 - (4) Implementing a financial assistance program for delegates and alternates. (Rule 6.G.)
 - (5) Ensuring, on behalf of the Florida Democratic Party, that district lines used in the delegate selection process are not gerrymandered to discriminate against African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans and women. (Rule 6.E.)
- c. Financial and staff support for the Affirmative Action Committee shall be provided by the Florida Democratic Party to the greatest extent feasible, including, but not limited to, making available on a priority basis, the Florida Democratic Party staff and volunteers and covering all reasonable costs incurred in carrying out this Plan.
3. Implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan shall begin on **Monday, 10 September 2007**, with the distribution of the press kits, and will continue through the end of the delegate selection process. (Rule 1.F.)

B. EFFORTS TO EDUCATE ON THE DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS

1. Well publicized educational workshops will be conducted in each of the delegate districts beginning in September 2007. These workshops will be designed to encourage participation in the delegate selection process, including apprising potential delegate candidates of the availability of financial assistance. These workshops will be held in places which are easily accessible to persons with physical disabilities. The times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of all education workshops, meetings and other events involved in the delegate selection process shall be effectively publicized by the party organization and include mailings to various organizations representative of the Democratic voting populace. (Rules 3.A. & 3.C.)
2. A speaker's bureau of volunteers from the Affirmative Action Committee comprised of individuals, who are fully familiar with the process, will be organized to appear before groups as needed, to provide information concerning the process.
3. The Florida Democratic Party's education efforts will include outreach to community leaders within the Democratic Party's constituencies and making sure that information about the delegate selection process is available to Democratic clubs and Party caucuses representing specific constituencies.
4. The Florida Democratic Party will publish and make available at no cost: a clear and concise explanation of how Democratic voters can participate in the delegate selection process; an explanation of how, where and when persons can register to vote; and delegate district maps. As well, the Florida Democratic Party shall also make available copies of the State Party Rules, the Delegate Selection Plan (and its attachments), the Affirmative Action Plan, and relevant state statutes at no cost. Copies of documents related to the state's delegate selection process will be prepared and the Affirmative Action Committee will distribute them in the various delegate districts not later than **Monday, 10 September 2007**. (Rule 1.H.)
5. The Florida Democratic Party shall take all feasible steps to encourage persons to register and to vote as Democrats and will seek to ensure simple and easy registration procedures. (Rule 2.C.)

C. EFFORTS TO PUBLICIZE THE DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS

1. Special attention shall be directed at publicizing the delegate selection process in the state. Such publicity shall include information on eligibility to vote and how to become a candidate for delegate, the time and location of each stage of the delegate selection process and where to get additional information. The foregoing information will also be published on the Florida Democratic Party's website, www.fladems.com. The Party organization, official, candidate, or member calling a meeting or scheduling an event, shall effectively publicize the role that such meeting or event plays in the selection of delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention. (Rules 3.C. and 3.D.)
2. Newspapers, radio and television will be utilized to inform the general public how, when and where to participate in the delegate selection process. Specifically, this information should provide details as to how to qualify to run as a delegate candidate. Special effort shall be directed to the major daily newspapers, radio and television stations by the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party, Affirmative Action Committee members and staff. Regular releases during the delegate selection process to all other media sources, weekly newspapers, and wire services should complete timely coverage. (Rules 4.B.(3) & 6.D.)
3. A priority effort shall be directed at publicity among the Democratic Party's constituencies.
 - a. Information about the delegate selection process will be provided to minority newspapers and radio stations, ethnic press, Native American, Asian/Pacific American, Spanish-speaking and other non-English press, radio stations and publications, and women's organizations, student newspapers, gay and lesbian press, disability press, and any other specialty media in the state that is likely to reach the Democratic constituency groups set forth in the Introduction of this Affirmative Action Plan.
 - b. The Florida Democratic Party shall be responsible for the implementation of this publicity effort. For purposes of providing adequate notice of the delegate selection process, the times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of delegate selection shall be effectively publicized, bilingually where necessary, to encourage the participation of minority groups. (Rule 6.D.)
4. Not later than **Monday, 10 September 2007**, a press kit shall be made and provided to each daily and weekly newspaper as well as to the electronic media. The press kit will include:
 - a. a summary of all pertinent rules related to the state's delegate selection process;
 - b. a map of delegate districts and how many delegates will be elected within each district;
 - c. a summary explaining the operation and importance of the 2008 Convention; and
 - d. materials designed to encourage participation by prospective delegate candidates.

D. REPRESENTATION GOALS

1. The Florida Democratic Party has determined the demographic composition of African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asian/Pacific Americans in the state's Democratic electorate. These constituency percentages shall be established as goals for representation in the state's convention delegation. In addition, the Florida Democratic Party has determined the demographic composition of members of the GLBT community, people

with disabilities, youth, and military veterans in the state’s Democratic electorate and furthermore, the Florida Democratic Party has chosen to establish these percentages as goals for representation in the state’s convention delegation. (Rule 6.A.)

	African Americans	Hispanics	Native Americans	Asian/Pacific	GLBT	People with Disabilities	Veterans	Youth (18-30)
% in Democratic Electorate	24.00	8.70	0.30	0.80	10.00	8.5	3.00	8.10
Minimum Numeric Goals for Delegation	59	21	1	2	25	21	7	20

2. The Florida Democratic Party has determined the goals of representation among the 2008 delegates in the following manner:

African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asian/Pacific Americans are all coded as such in the Secretary of State's statewide voter file. We utilized the proportion of Democrats of these specific races to the overall registration of Democrats in the state.

The Secretary of State's file also gives the dates of birth of registered voters. Utilizing this data we were able to calculate the share of youth among registered Democrats.

The veteran/military category was based on several sources. All members of the armed forces receiving absentee ballots are specifically coded as such. The total number of all registered Democrats given this specific absentee code were added to a universe of Democratic voters given specific veteran property tax rates. Also included was any voter who was identified by the John Kerry campaign as a veteran. Utilizing all of this data we were able to make a rough estimate of the number of Democratic veterans in the state.

Determining the ratios of GLBT and disabled voters were more difficult to obtain. Since there are no codes or tags of these voters, these decisions were made in consultation with their respective statewide caucuses. The numbers were informed by exit polling (for GLBT Americans) and the American Community Survey (for persons with disabilities) but the ultimate ratio utilized was a rough estimate agreed upon by the Florida Democratic Party and the respective statewide caucuses

3. When selecting the At-Large portion of the delegation, the demographic composition of the other delegates (District-Level, pledged PLEO, and unpledged) shall be compared with the Florida Democratic Party’s goals in order to achieve an At-Large selection process which helps to bring about a representative balance.
4. Use of the At-Large delegation to achieve the affirmative action goals established by this Plan does not obviate the need for the Florida Democratic Party to conduct outreach activities such as recruitment, education and training. (Rule 6.A.(3))

E. OBLIGATIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO MAXIMIZE PARTICIPATION

1. Presidential candidates shall assist the Florida Democratic Party in meeting the demographic representation goals reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan. (Rule 6.H.)

2. Each presidential candidate must submit a written statement to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party by **Friday, 14 September 2007**, which indicates the specific steps he or she will take to encourage full participation in Florida's delegate selection process, including, but not limited to, procedures by which persons may file as candidates for delegate or alternate. Individuals who announce their candidacy after this date must provide this full participation statement to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party not later than ten (10) days after their announcement. (Rule 6.H.(1))
3. Each presidential candidate must submit demographic information with respect to all candidates for delegate and alternate pledged to them. Such information shall be submitted in conjunction with the list of names approved for consideration as delegate and alternate candidates pledged to the presidential candidate. (Rule 6.H.(2))
4. Presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) shall use their best effort to ensure that their respective delegations within the state's delegate, alternate and standing committee delegations shall achieve the affirmative action goals reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan and that the respective delegations of each presidential candidate shall be equally divided between men and women. Furthermore, presidential candidates shall use their best efforts at the District-Level to approve delegate and alternate candidates who meet applicable equal division and affirmative action considerations in order to achieve the affirmative action goals and equal division for their respective delegations. (Rule 6.I. & Reg. 4.9.)

SECTION VIII

CHALLENGES

A. JURISDICTION & STANDING

1. Challenges related to the delegate selection process are governed by the *Regulations of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2008 Democratic National Convention* (Regs., Sec. 3.), and the "Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2008 Democratic National Convention." (Call, Appendix A.)
2. Under Rule 20.B. of the *2008 Delegate Selection Rules*, the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction over challenges pertaining to the submission, non-implementation and violation of state Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans. (Rule 20.B.)
3. The Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction to hear and decide any challenge provided it is initiated before the 56th day preceding the date of the commencement of the 2008 Democratic National Convention. (Call, Appendix A. & Reg., 3.1.)
4. Challenges to the credentials of delegates and alternates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention initiated on or after the 56th day preceding the date of commencement of the Democratic National Convention shall be processed in accordance with the "Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2008 Democratic National Convention." (Call, Appendix A)
5. Any challenge to the credentials of a standing committee member shall be considered and resolved by the affected standing committee in accordance with Appendix A of the *Call for the 2008 Democratic National Convention*. The Rules and Bylaws Committee shall have jurisdiction over challenges brought before the 56th day preceding the date of the commencement of the Democratic National Convention. (Call, VII.B.5.)

6. Copies of the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee and/or the Call for the 2008 Democratic National Convention, including the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee (Appendix A), shall be made available by the Florida Democratic Party upon reasonable request.
7. Any group of fifteen Democrats with standing to challenge as defined in Reg. 3.2 or the Call (Appendix A, Sec. 2.A.), may bring a challenge to this Plan or to the implementation of this Plan, including its Affirmative Action provisions.

B. CHALLENGES TO THE STATUS OF THE STATE PARTY AND CHALLENGES TO THE PLAN

1. A challenge to the status of the Florida Democratic Party as the body entitled to sponsor a delegation from that state shall be filed with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the initiation of Florida's delegate selection process. (Rule 20.A. & Reg. 3.4.A.)
2. A challenge to Florida's Delegate Selection Plan shall be filed with the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party and the Co-Chairs of the Rules and Bylaws Committee within fifteen (15) calendar days after the adoption of the Plan by the Florida Democratic Party. (Reg. 3.4.B.)
3. A challenge to a Plan must be brought in conformity with the Rules and the Regs., which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

C. CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION

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

SECTION IX

SUMMARY OF PLAN

A. SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Florida will use a proportional representation system based on the results of a Presidential Preference Primary apportioning its delegates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

The “first determining step” of Florida’s delegate selection process will occur on **Tuesday, 29 January 2008**, with a Presidential Preference Primary.

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

Type	Delegates	Alternates	Date of Selection	Selecting Body
				Filing Requirements and Deadlines
District-Level Delegates & Alternates	121	25	1 March 2008	Allocated by Presidential Preference Primary on 29 January 2008
				Must qualify between 3 December 2007 and 29 January 2008 (Specific names to fill allocated delegate positions occur in a Post-Primary Congressional District Caucus on 1 March 2008)
Unpledged Party Leader & Elected Official Delegates*	n/a	n/a	n/a	Automatic by virtue of respective public or Party office as provided in Rule 8.A. of the 2008 Delegate Selection Rules.
Unpledged Add-on Delegates**	3	n/a	5 April 2008	Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee
				Chair of the Florida Democratic Party nominates candidates
Pledged Party Leaders & Elected Officials (PLEOs)	24	***	5 April 2008	Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee
				Must qualify between 25 February and 14 March 2008
At-Large Delegates & Alternates	40	11	17 May 2008	Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee
				Must qualify between 7 April and 25 April 2008
TOTAL	210	36		

B. SELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (FOR THE CREDENTIALS, PLATFORM AND RULES COMMITTEES)

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

Members Per Committee	Total Members	Selection Date	Filing Requirements and Deadlines
8	24	17 May 2008	Qualify with Presidential candidates by 9 May 2008

C. SELECTION OF DELEGATION CHAIR AND CONVENTION PAGES

The Delegation Chair and will be selected by the National Convention Delegates on **Saturday, 17 May 2008**. **Five (5)** Convention Pages will be selected by the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party on **Saturday, 17 May 2008**.

D. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE

By **Wednesday, 31 October 2007** the Florida Democratic Party shall submit to the Secretary of State a list of its presidential candidates to be placed on the Presidential Preference Primary ballot. Presidential candidates must certify in writing the name(s) of their authorized representative(s) to the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party by **Friday, 14 September 2007**.

E. TIMETABLE

DATE	ACTIVITY
2007	
March 1	Party Chair appoints Delegate Selection Affirmative Action Committee members.
June 13	Affirmative Action Committee approves proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan for public comment.
June 18	Public comment period begins on the proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan. Notifications are mailed announcing the public comment period.
July 20	Public comment period concludes. Responses are compiled and reviewed by the Florida Democratic Party.
August 4	Affirmative Action Committee and State Executive Committee meet to discuss and approve revised Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan.
August 7	Florida Democratic Party sends Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan to the DNC Rules & Bylaws Committee. Press releases are distributed announcing the approval of the Plan.
August	DNC Rules & Bylaws Committee reviews State Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan for compliance.
September 10	State Party begins implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan. Press kits, as described in the Affirmative Action Plan, are sent to all state media. Educational workshops in delegate districts begin. State Party Rules, the Delegate Selection Plan (and its attachments), the Affirmative Action Plan and relevant state statutes are available to the public; Affirmative Action Committee distributes delegate selection information in delegate districts.
September 14	Presidential candidates certify in writing names of his or her authorized representatives. Deadline for each announced presidential candidate to submit a statement specifying steps the candidate will take to encourage full participation in the delegate selection process. (Individuals who announce their candidacy after this date must provide this full participation statement to the State Party no later than 10 days after their announcement.)
October 31	The Florida Democratic Party submits names of the presidential candidates to the Secretary of State.
November 6	Florida's Secretary of State submits names of the presidential candidates to the Presidential Candidate Selection Committee.
November 7	The Presidential Candidate Selection Committee publicly announces names of presidential candidates who shall have their names appear on the Presidential Preference Primary ballot.
November 12	Last day for presidential candidates to withdraw and not have their names appear on the Presidential Preference Primary ballot.
November 20	Florida's Secretary of State certifies names of candidates for county Supervisors of Elections to place on ballot.
December 3	Qualifying opens for district-level delegate and alternates.

DATE	ACTIVITY
2008	
January 29	PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY. Qualifying closes for district-level delegate or alternates.
February 1	Copies of district-level delegate or alternate forms are sent to the State Party Chair.
February 11	State Chair sends presidential candidates lists of names of Democrats qualified to be district-level delegates or alternates.
February 15	Presidential campaigns approve names on list and strike names they do not approve.
February 25	Qualifying opens for PLEO delegates to be selected at state level.
March 1	Post-Primary Congressional District Caucuses to elect names to fill delegate positions. DNC Secretary certifies names of unpledged delegates who legally reside in Florida.
March 4	State Party certifies elected district-level delegates and alternates to the DNC Secretary.
March 14	Qualifying closes for PLEO delegates.
March 24	State Party provides list of PLEO candidates to the respective presidential candidates.
March 28	Presidential candidates provide approved list of pledged PLEO candidates to State Party.
April 5	Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee meets to select state-level unpledged add-on and PLEO delegates.
April 7	Qualifying opens for At-Large delegates and alternates to be selected at state level.
April 8	State Party certifies PLEO and unpledged add-on delegates to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee.
April 25	Qualifying closes for At-Large delegates and alternates.
May 5	State Party provides list of at-large delegate and alternate candidates to the respective presidential candidates.
May 9	Presidential candidates return approved list of at-large delegate candidates to State Party. Presidential candidates provide names for standing committee membership to the State Party.
May 17	Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee meets to select at-large delegates. State Executive Committee also selects state-level alternates. Delegation meets to select Delegation Chair and Convention Pages as well as Permanent Committee Members.
May 20	State Party certifies state-level selected delegates and alternates to the DNC Secretary. State Party certifies Delegation Chair, Convention Pages and Permanent Committee Members to the DNC Secretary.