

Hi Friends of Democracy!

If you are working in a state to pass this, please add your name and state to my FB page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/DianeMarieRussell/posts/10154035927966276>

I also just set up a Google Spreadsheet here:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1urq0DcljNYliHmTaA7A-x9a82Q2x6uwVIEyj7I-h\\_eY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1urq0DcljNYliHmTaA7A-x9a82Q2x6uwVIEyj7I-h_eY/edit?usp=sharing)

There are a lot of people who want to connect within their states and these were the easiest ways I can think of to connect y'all. Thank you!

I'm getting a lot of requests for what we did in Maine, so I've added another [GoogleDoc with a brief explanation](#).

~Diane Russell

**P.S. You all rock; I cannot tell you how inspired I am. <3 <3 <3**

**Promotion of Fair Representation by Unpledged  
Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates ("Superdelegates")**

Proposed Amendments to the Maine Democratic Party Rules for consideration at the Maine Democratic Party  
Convention, May 6 and 7, 2016

Summary and Purpose. These amendments are proposed to help ensure that National Democratic Party Rules creating and granting voting powers to certain Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates (commonly called "superdelegates") do not unfairly distort the desires of Maine Democratic Party Members as expressed in votes cast at a presidential election year caucus or primary.

Recognizing the limitations imposed by existing national party rules in the 2016 delegate selection process and the inherent unfairness of changing delegate selection procedures after the selection process is underway, the amendments do not propose to change the voting powers of superdelegates in 2016. The amendments do, however, express strongly the resolve of the Maine Democratic Party that 2016 superdelegates should confer and voluntarily vote for presidential candidates at the national convention in the same relative proportion as Maine's elected delegates.

Beginning with the 2020 presidential election cycle, the amended rules will require superdelegates to declare their presidential candidate preference to the State Party Chair at the opening of the state convention, with the Chair empowered to take those preferences into account in reallocating national convention delegates among presidential candidates .so as to maintain a fair reflection of the candidate preferences of state convention delegates elected at local and county caucuses.

In both the 2016 and 2020 versions, superdelegates are released from their first ballot obligation if the presidential nomination is already decided, by national numbers of pledged delegates or by concession of competing candidates, by the time of the national convention.

The amendments also direct the Maine Democratic Party's representatives to the Democratic National Committee to propose and support changes to national party rules that would eliminate the existence of superdelegates, or require superdelegates in each state to vote in the same relative proportion as the elected delegates of the state

they represent, or prohibit superdelegates from endorsing or publicly supporting a presidential candidate before all primaries and caucuses nationwide are completed.

Proposed Amendments.

**Chapter 6, Section 660**, shall be amended as follows:

CHAPTER 6. STATE CONVENTION

660. Election of Delegates and Alternates to National Conventions and Conferences

7. *Prohibition of Unit Rules and Binding Instructions.*

B. Except as provided in Subsection 9 of this Section, No Delegate at any level of the delegate selection process shall be mandated by law or Party rule to vote contrary to that individual's expressed Presidential choice.

9. *Obligation of First-Ballot Support.*

- A. All pledged delegates to the National Convention, other than uncommitted delegates, shall be obligated to vote on the first ballot for the Presidential Candidates whom they were elected to support, unless released in writing by the Presidential Candidate or the Candidate's Authorized Representatives.
- B. It is the resolve of the Maine Democratic Party that in 2016 persons named under national Democratic Party Rules as Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates should confer and agree voluntarily to allocate their votes on the first ballot for Presidential Candidates in the same proportion as Maine's pledged delegates to the National Convention, with rounding necessary to achieve whole delegate votes in favor of the Presidential Candidate with the most pledged delegates. If at the time of commencement of the National Democratic Party Convention a Presidential Candidate has already secured the nomination by winning sufficient pledged delegates to constitute a majority of all delegates, or because all other Presidential Candidates have conceded, Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates shall be free to cast their first ballot vote without restriction.
- C. Effective with the 2020 Maine Democratic Party Convention, persons named under national Democratic Party Rules as Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates are required at the opening of the State Convention to inform the Chair of the Democratic State Committee regarding their Presidential Preference for their first ballot votes at the National Democratic Party Convention, for which the Delegate shall be obligated to vote on the first ballot. Based on those stated preferences, which shall be made public, the Chair will reallocate the at-large (and, if necessary, the district-level) pledged delegates allocated to each Presidential Candidate so as to maintain a proportional distribution of both elected and Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates that fairly reflects Presidential Candidate preferences demonstrated in the signed statements of support filed by State Convention delegates, with rounding necessary to achieve whole delegate votes in favor of the Presidential Candidate with the most overall signed statements of support. If at the time of commencement of the National Democratic Party Convention a Presidential Candidate has already secured the nomination by winning sufficient pledged delegates to constitute a majority of all delegates, or because all other Presidential Candidates have conceded, Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates shall be free to cast their first ballot vote without restriction.

**Chapter 10, Section 1010**, shall be amended as follows:

CHAPTER 10. DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

1010. *Duties of National Committee Members*

National Committee members' duties include, but are not limited to:

3. Ensuring that the total of voting delegates of the Maine Democratic Party delegation to the National Democratic Party Convention in a presidential election year fairly represents the preferences of voters in a Democratic Party primary or caucus held that year by proposing and supporting adoption of a rule by the National Democratic Party to: (1) eliminate Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates from the Presidential Candidate selection process, except as non-voting delegates to the National Democratic Party Convention; or, failing that, (2) require that on the first ballot for presidential selection at a National Democratic Party Convention the votes that would otherwise be cast by Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates assigned to any state delegation shall be automatically cast in the same proportion of presidential preferences as that of elected delegates of that state delegation, with rounding necessary to achieve whole delegate votes in favor of the presidential candidate with the most elected delegates in that state delegation; or, failing that, (3) prohibit Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates from endorsing or publicly supporting any Presidential Candidate until after completion of delegate selection primaries and caucuses in every state or other governmental unit holding such primaries or caucuses.