

DELEGATE SELECTION RULES

FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

2007 STATE CONVENTION

PREAMBLE TO DELEGATE SELECTION RULES

The Florida Democratic Party (FDP) shall be guided by its affirmative action goals and policies in all phases of the Delegate Selection Process in order that the process shall be open and free from all forms of discrimination.

The FDP includes many different groups and ideologies and every effort will be made to ensure that all are included in the Delegate Selection Process.

The FDP and its County Democratic Executive Committees (DECs) shall make certain that all groups traditionally underrepresented in Party activities are made aware of and included in the Delegate Selection Qualifying Procedure and given proper consideration in the appointment process.

The State Party Chair of the FDP and the officers of each County DEC shall be responsible for disseminating Delegate qualification information through the media when possible.

Some groups are traditionally underrepresented in FDP activities. Therefore, Delegate appointments allotted to the State Party Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary, and Treasurer will be used to compensate for any shortfalls of representation in the entire body of Delegates.

The FDP is committed to the election of Democratic office holders as promulgated in our Party's Charter and Bylaws and the Rules of 2007 State Convention. Therefore, Delegates to the State Convention shall execute by written oath or affirmation the loyalty oath before qualifying as a Delegate to the Convention. The exception to this will be DEC members who have already executed the loyalty oath and representatives of organizations that are not able to endorse the candidates of a particular political party.

SECTION I: ALLOCATION OF DELEGATES

Delegates to the Florida Democratic Party 2007 State Convention shall be selected based on the following formula:

A. AUTOMATIC DELEGATES (Estimated totals)

1. County Chairs, Vice Chairs, State Committeemen and Committeewomen	268
2. Membership of Standing Committees (not otherwise entitled to an automatic appointment)	
Affirmative Action	3
Budget and Finance	2
Campaign	19
Clubs, Organizations and Caucuses	3
Legislative Liaison	6
Rules	1
3. Elected Officials	
Democratic U.S. Senators and Members of Congress	10
State Democratic Legislators	56
Cabinet Members	1
County Democratic Elected Officials	?
Clerks of the Court	39
Sheriffs	33
Property Appraisers	35
Tax Collectors	42
Supervisors of Elections	39
Public Defenders	13
State Attorneys	9
County Commissioners	174
Superintendents of Schools	32
School Board Members	190
Democratic Municipal Officers	1,093
4. Florida Democratic Party Caucus Leadership	1
President, Florida Young Democrats	1
President, Florida College Democrats	1
President, Democratic Women's Club of Florida	1
President, Florida Black Caucus	1
President, Florida Hispanic Caucus	1
President, Florida Caribbean Caucus	1
President, Florida Disability Caucus	1
President, Florida GLBT Caucus	1
President, Democratic County Chairs' Association President, FDP Small County Coalition	1
TOTAL ESTIMATED AUTOMATIC DELEGATES	2069

B. APPOINTED DELEGATES (Estimated totals)

Florida Democratic Party Leadership and Elected Officials are allotted the following number of appointments:

State Party Chair	100
FDP 1st Vice Chair	50
FDP Vice Chair	10
FDP Secretary	6
FDP Treasurer	6
DNC Members (10 each)	140
Congressional District Chairs (1 each)	25
County Chairs (10 each)	670
Vice Chairs (10 each)	670
State Committeewomen/men (10 each)	1340
U.S. Senator (10 each)	10
Members of Congress (10 each)	90
Senate Leader and House Leader (10 each)	20
Legislators (5 each)	265

Florida Democratic Party Caucuses Leaders are allotted the following number of appointments:

President, Florida Young Democrats	10
President, Florida College Democrats	10
President, Democratic Women’s Club of Florida	10
President, Florida Black Caucus	10
President, Florida Hispanic Caucus	10
President, Florida Caribbean Caucus	10
President, Disability Caucus	10
President, GLBT Caucus	10
President, Democratic County Chairs Association	10
President, Small County Coalition	10

TOTAL ESTIMATED APPOINTED DELEGATES 3492

C. ALLOCATION OF ELECTED DELEGATES

County Allocations

Alachua	27
Baker	4
Bay	13
Bradford	6
Brevard	39
Broward	133
Calhoun	5
Charlotte	19
Citrus	16
Clay	13
Collier	21
Columbia	8
DeSoto	8
Dixie	5
Duval	57
Escambia	22
Flagler	14
Franklin	6
Gadsden	11
Gilchrist	6
Glades	6
Gulf	6
Hamilton	6
Hardee	5
Hendry	6
Hernando	19
Highlands	12
Hillsborough	70
Holmes	4
Indian River	16
Jackson	8
Jefferson	8
Lafayette	4
Lake	23
Lee	34
Leon	33
Levy	6
Liberty	5
Madison	6
Manatee	26
Marion	24
Martin	19
Miami-Dade	115
Monroe	15
Nassau	10

Okaloosa	12
Okeechobee	7
Orange	59
Osceola	19
Palm Beach	94
Pasco	23
Pinellas	68
Polk	35
Putnam	9
St. Johns	17
St. Lucie	23
Santa Rosa	11
Sarasota	34
Seminole	30
Sumter	9
Suwannee	5
Taylor	5
Union	4
Volusia	41
Wakulla	7
Walton	7
Washington	5
TOTAL ELECTED DELEGATES	1443

Seventy-five percent (75%), and any fraction thereof, of the Delegates elected from each County shall be members of the County DEC and the remainder shall be non-members.

In the event a sufficient number of Delegates do not get elected from either the DEC member/non-DEC member category, then those candidates with the highest number of votes in the other relevant category shall be deemed elected. The same rule shall apply to gender. If a sufficient number of male or female Delegates do not get elected to achieve gender balance, then those candidates with the highest number of votes in the other relevant category shall be deemed elected.

The leadership of each County DEC is encouraged to ensure that a sufficient number of non-DEC members qualify for election. If an insufficient number of members of a County DEC and an insufficient number of non-DEC Delegate candidates have applied, then the unfilled Delegate positions would revert to appointments by the State Party Chair. The State Party Chair will make a diligent effort to appoint persons from that County to any unfilled Delegate positions in that County.

D. TOTAL ESTIMATED DELEGATES

TOTAL ESTIMATED APPOINTED DELEGATES	3492
TOTAL ESTIMATED AUTOMATIC DELEGATES	2069
TOTAL ELECTED DELEGATES	1443
TOTAL ESTIMATED CONVENTION DELEGATES	7004

SECTION II: QUALIFICATION

All Delegates must be registered Democrats in the State of Florida. Any registered Democrat may run for a Delegate position in the County where registered. **All interested candidates are required to file with their County Chair, Vice Chair, State Committeeman, or State Committeewoman between April 16 and June 18, 2007.** It is the responsibility of each County's Party officers to make qualification forms available to any Democrat seeking them during the above-mentioned dates. At the time of qualifying, candidates for Delegate to the State Convention shall execute in writing the loyalty oath in the form included in the bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party before qualifying as a candidate for Delegate to the Convention. The exception to this will be DEC members who have already executed the loyalty oath and representatives of organizations that are not able to endorse candidates of a particular political party.

After the close of qualification, each County Chair is responsible for certifying that all candidates possess the necessary qualifications. A list of certified candidates, including names, addresses and telephone numbers must be sent to the Party Headquarters by midnight on June 25, 2007. Should extraordinary circumstances arise, a County Chair has the right to petition the State Party Chair to waive the qualification period.

SECTION III: METHOD OF SELECTION/ELECTED DELEGATES

County Democratic Executive Committees are mandated to hold meetings for the purpose of electing Delegates between the dates of July 10 and August 1, 2007. The elections may take place at regularly scheduled DEC meetings during these dates or at specially called meetings. **County Chairs are required to notify Party Headquarters of the date of their election at least two (2) weeks prior to that date, but no later than July 10.** The election shall be conducted pursuant to the Charter and Bylaws of the FDP.

It will be the decision of the County Chair whether or not candidates will be allowed to speak on behalf of their candidacy. If so, each candidate will be allowed one (1) minute to speak. There will be no speaking on behalf of other Delegates or on behalf of a slate of Delegates.

Only members of that County Democratic Executive Committee, or their proxy, may vote.

The County Chair will be responsible for printing ballots to be used for the election of Delegates and ensuring all segments of the County Democratic populace are appropriately represented at the 2007 State Democratic Convention.

Ballots will list all DEC members and non-DEC candidates separately and alphabetically by name only. The number of Delegates to be elected in each category will be stated on the ballot. The State Party shall furnish a sample ballot form to be used by each County. In order for a ballot to be valid, the number of candidates voted for in each category must equal the number of positions allocated to the County. All ballots must be signed. In counties electing more than fifty (50) Delegates, DEC electors may vote for between 90% and 100% of the total number of Delegates to be elected in each category.

The County Chair, Vice Chair, State Committeeman and State Committeewoman will be responsible for tallying the votes immediately following the election. Delegates will be elected by pluralities. In the event of tie votes, lots will be drawn to determine the winner.

No alternates will be elected.

If not enough candidates qualify for election; nominations may be made from the floor. Nominees from the floor must be present to accept or deny the nominations and must complete the registration requirements.

It shall be the responsibility of the County Chair to retain all ballots from elections until September 7, 2007.

At the time of election, each Delegate elected shall immediately complete the appropriate registration form and accompany the form with a nonrefundable \$35.00 registration fee made payable to the local DEC. County Chairs must collect the forms and total fees and send them by mail to the Party Headquarters no later than August 13, 2007.

Each County DEC shall be responsible for its own expenses incurred in holding the elections. County DECs may vote to add a \$15.00 surcharge to the registration fee to defray local expenses related to the Convention. The County DEC will keep the surcharge and send the registration fees to the State Party.

SECTION IV: AUTOMATIC/APPOINTED DELEGATES

The appointments of the State Party Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer will be for the purpose of ensuring that all segments of the Party are represented at the State Convention. Each DEC is encouraged to make written recommendations for such appointments from their County to Party Headquarters by August 24, 2007.

The State Party Chair will notify all automatic Delegates of their appointments by May 15. Automatic Delegates must return their registration forms and fees to Party Headquarters by August 24, 2007.

All Delegate appointments, except those made by the State Party Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer, must be made by August 14, 2007. A listing of appointments including names, addresses and telephone numbers, must be received at the Party Headquarters by August 24, 2007. Appointed Delegates must return their registration forms and fees to the Party Headquarters by August 24, 2007.

All Delegate appointments made by the State Party Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer must be made by August 24, 2007.

SECTION V: VACANCIES

Should a vacancy occur in an elected or appointed Delegate position and the deadline for holding Delegate elections and appointments have passed, the State Party Chair may fill such vacancy by appointment, in any manner she deems proper.

**RULES OF THE
FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
2007 STATE CONVENTION**

SECTION I: ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF RULES

- A. The Florida Democratic Party 2007 State Convention shall be conducted pursuant to these rules. These rules shall be deemed finally adopted upon approval by majority vote of the FDP Central Committee.
- B. The State Party Chair has the right to waive or extend any dates, deadlines, or qualifications contained in said Rules.
- C. Delegates shall be given a copy of the Rules immediately following receipt of their registration fee and form.
- D. Except as provided for in the Rules, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all proceedings.

SECTION II: OFFICERS

The State Party Chair or her designee shall serve as Chair of the Convention. The Chair may, at her discretion, designate an individual to serve temporarily as the Chair. Other officers are to be appointed by the Chair and may include, but are not limited to, Chair, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms and Timekeeper.

SECTION III: AGENDA

The Chair, consistent with these Rules, shall determine the Convention agenda.

SECTION IV: COMMITTEES

Committees and Committee Chairs shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the State Party Chair. All Convention Committees are established as Convention Committees upon approval of these Rules. Unless otherwise specified herein, forty percent (40%) of the Committee membership present in person or by written proxy shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of business by Convention Committees and action shall be taken by majority vote.

A. Rules Committee

The FDP Rules Committee shall be responsible for proposing to the Central Committee a set of Rules by which the Convention shall be governed and shall make recommendations to the Central Committee regarding any proposed amendments to the Rules. The Rules Committee shall also be responsible for proposing any Rules for the election of Convention Delegates to the Central Committee and shall make recommendations to the Central Committee regarding any proposed amendments to the Delegate Selection Rules.

The Rules Committee shall meet prior to or during the Convention at the request of the Chair to resolve any questions regarding the construction or interpretation of the Rules. The decision of the Rules Committee regarding construction or interpretation of the Rules shall be final.

B. Compliance Review and Credentials Committee

The members of the Democratic National Committee from Florida shall serve as the Compliance Review and Credentials Committee for the Convention. They shall be responsible for hearing and ruling on all formal written complaints regarding the implementation of the Delegate selection process. Formal written complaints must be sent to the State Party Chair at the Florida Democratic Party, 214 S. Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32301, postmarked by midnight, September 7, 2007, by certified mail.

The Compliance Review and Credentials Committee shall be responsible for hearing and ruling on formal written complaints regarding any challenge to an individual Delegate's credentials. All challenges to an individual Delegate's credentials must be sent to the State Party Chair at the Florida Democratic Party, 214 S. Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32301, postmarked on or before midnight, September 7, 2007, by certified mail.

All decisions by the Compliance Review and Credentials Committee shall be made on or before midnight, September 13, 2007, and shall be final.

No challenged Delegate may be seated on the floor until the Compliance Review and Credentials Committee have adjudicated the challenge.

SECTION V: VOTING ON ISSUES BY FULL CONVENTION

A. The State Party Chair may present to the Convention for adoption such resolutions, as she/he in her/his discretion may deem proper. No resolutions or other matter shall be presented to the Convention except as expressly provided in this section and these Rules. No amendment to either a majority or minority resolution may be offered from the Convention floor.

B. It shall be the responsibility of the Chair to determine the presence of a quorum. Forty percent (40%) of the number of Delegates present at the outset of the Convention shall constitute a quorum. At any point, any one hundred (100) Delegates can, by written petition, call for a quorum count.

C. Sufficient security shall be established to ensure that only Delegates are allowed in the areas where voting takes place.

D. Adoption of resolutions by the Convention shall be by a majority vote. There shall be no voting by proxy. In the event the vote by rising is not clear, the Chair shall call for a polling of each County Delegation. The vote shall be tallied and reported to the podium by the respective County Chairs or their designees.

SECTION VI: DELEGATE SEATING AND ORGANIZATION

A. Seating of Delegates shall be by County. Separate seating sections may be provided for guests, members of the public and the press at the Chair's discretion.

B. County Democratic Executive Committee Chairs or their designees shall chair their respective County Delegations and be responsible for their conduct during the Convention.

SECTION VII: ADDRESSES TO THE CONVENTION

Addresses to the Convention by Democratic elected officials, Democratic candidates, special guests, and others shall be at the discretion of the Chair.

SECTION VIII: CONVENTIONEERING

In the interest of keeping order and maintaining the physical condition of the premises, there shall be no distribution of literature, no displaying of signs or banners, or picketing or demonstrating, and no booths of any kind in the Convention Hall or other public Convention rooms or areas, except as and when designated by the State Party Chair.

SECTION IX: STRAW BALLOT

A straw ballot may be held if approved at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Central Committee held before the Convention. The Central Committee may designate the members of the Democratic National Committee from Florida to sit as a body and decide whether a straw ballot will be conducted during the Convention between the last meeting of the Central Committee and the beginning of the Convention.

2007 STATE CONVENTION TIMETABLE

April 16-June 18	Delegate qualifying period. Qualification forms available from County Chairs, Vice Chairs, State Committeemen and State Committeewomen.
May 15	All automatic Delegates will be notified of their appointments by this date.
June 11-June 22	County Chairs certify candidates. County Chairs have ballots printed.
June 25	Deadline for County Chairs to send list of candidates to Party Headquarters by certified mail, postmarked by midnight.
June 25-July 10	County Chairs submit Delegate election dates to Party Headquarters via email.
July 10-August 1	County Chairs hold Delegate elections. All votes will be tallied, registration forms completed and collected at the time of the election.
August 13	Registration forms and fees must be sent to Party Headquarters and be postmarked by midnight on this date.
August 14	Deadline for all appointments to Delegate positions, except appointments by the State Party Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer to fill vacancies.
August 24	Deadline for postmarking registration forms and fees from automatic and appointed Delegates to be sent to Party Headquarters.
August 24	Challenges to Delegates (except those appointed by the State Party Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer) must be received by the State Party Chair by midnight.
August 24	All appointments made by the State Party Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer will be made by this date.
September 7	Challenges to Delegates appointed the State Party Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer by must be received by the State Party Chair by midnight.
October 26-28	FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE CONVENTION, Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resort, Lake Buena Vista