

# STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SELECTION PLAN

(Adopted pursuant to Article III, Section 1 (d) of the Bylaws)

## Section 1. Eligibility & Qualification

(a) Any registered Democrat in Palm Beach County may run for a PBCDP Seat on the Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee (“State Executive Committee”).

(b) Each eligible Democrat shall declare their candidacy for a Seat on the State Executive Committee by completing the Nomination Form provided by the PBCDP. Beginning the Friday after the presidential election the Nomination Form shall be made available on the PBCDP website and at the PBCDP’s offices.

(c) The Nomination Form shall contain the Loyalty Oath and the following items: (i) spaces for the Candidate’s name and address, (ii) check boxes to designate their gender of choice and any Emphasized Categories in which the candidate wishes to claim membership, (iii) a single signature line for the Loyalty Oath and to affirm the accuracy of the information provided and any claims made, and (iv) two standard witness acknowledgements to be completed by two witnesses who are registered Democrats in Palm Beach County. Unless items (i), (iii), and (iv) are properly completed, the proposed nomination shall be invalid. No claim in item (ii) is required; if no gender is selected, the Candidate shall be classified as non-gender.

(d) Nomination Forms shall be emailed to [pbcdcebylaws@gmail.com](mailto:pbcdcebylaws@gmail.com). Upon receipt of an incomplete or invalid Nomination Form the existing Chair of the Rules Committee or their designee shall promptly email back to the sender indicating the disqualifying errors or omissions. The candidate may submit a corrected Nomination Form.

(e) All original or corrected Nomination Forms must be received before 00:00:01 U.S. Eastern Time on the Monday before the First Meeting (as defined in Section 2 (b)). Nomination Forms received after that time shall be returned and the proposed nomination shall be disqualified.

## Section 2. Method

(a) The members of the State Executive Committee shall be selected by Instant Runoff Voting (also known as Ranked Choice Voting).

(b) The members shall be elected at two separate meetings of the DEC. The First Meeting, to be held on the first Thursday of December in each presidential election year, shall elect the members from the Emphasized Categories. Separate, simultaneous elections shall be held by paper ballot for each Emphasized Category. If fewer candidates than the number of State Executive Committee Seats allocated to Palm Beach County are elected, the remainder shall be elected at the Second Meeting. If more candidates are elected than the number of Seats allocated to the PBCDP are elected, the Excess Members (as defined in Section 5 (e)) shall be eliminated by lot at the Second Meeting.

(c) The Second Meeting, be held on the second Thursday of December in each presidential election year, shall either conduct an election to determine who else will serve or conduct a drawing to determine who shall not serve. A quorum is not required to conduct the lottery.

### **Section 3. Allocation**

(a) The Emphasized Categories are (i) African American/Black, (ii) Hispanic, (iii) Asian American-Pacific Islander, (iv) Native American, (v) Senior, (vi) Youth, (vii) Labor, (viii) LGBTQ+, (ix) Person with Disabilities, and (x) Veteran.

(b) Except for membership in the Senior, Youth, Labor, and Veteran categories, membership claimed in an Emphasized Category shall be by self-identification which must be accepted and shall not be challenged.

(c) “Labor” means a person who is or was a union member, “Senior” means a person aged 65 years or older, “Veteran” means a person who served in the US Armed Forces, and “Youth” means a person aged 25 years or younger. “Disabilities” means those set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **Section 4. Computation**

The percentage of Palm Beach County State Executive Committee seats (“Seats”) to be held by Members in each Emphasized Category shall be determined as follows:

(a) The percentage of Seats allocated to be held by (i) African American/Black, (ii) Hispanic, (iii) Asian American-Pacific Islander, (iv) Native American, (v) Senior, and (vi) Youth shall reflect their percentage among Registered Democrats in Palm Beach County. The Supervisor of Elections closed roll from the October before the presidential election is held shall provide the data to determine the percentages. The percentage of Registered Democrats in each category shall be calculated using the voter rolls or the VAN system.

(b) The percentage of Seats allocated to be held by the remaining Emphasized Categories shall be as follows:

<u>Emphasized Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Labor	18 %
LGBTQ+	18 %
People with Disabilities	18 %
Veterans	8 %

(c) The number of Seats allocated to each Category shall be determined by multiplying the total number of State Executive Committee Members assigned by the Florida Democratic Party to Palm Beach County for that term by the percentages set by Sections 3 (a) and (b). Partial Seats shall be reduced to the next lowest whole number. In no case may any Category (other than one where the percentage determined in accordance with Section 4 (a) is less than one (1%) percent) have fewer than two members unless fewer than two candidates claim membership in that Category, in which case the number of Seats allocated shall be that number.

### **Section 5. Instant Runoff Voting**

(a) Purpose.

The purpose of this section is to describe the method by which all Palm Beach County State Executive Committee Members will be elected. To ensure they will be elected by majority vote in a fair, efficient process that fosters broad and diverse participation, Instant Runoff Voting shall be required for all State Executive Committee Member elections.

(b) Definitions.

- (i) "Advancing Candidate" means a candidate who has not been eliminated or elected.
- (ii) "Continuing Ballot" means a ballot that is not an Exhausted Ballot.
- (iii) "Eliminated Candidate" means a candidate who received the fewest votes in any round of counting in that Category or who has been elected in that Category.
- (iv) "Exhausted Ballot" means a ballot on which there are no choices marked other than choices for Eliminated Candidates.
- (v) "Highest Ranked" means the candidate with the lowest number placed next to their name.
- (vi) "Instant Runoff Voting" (IRV) means a method of casting and tabulating votes that simulates the ballot counts which would occur if all voters participated in a series of runoff elections.

(c) Election Process for Emphasized Categories.

(i) Candidates shall be considered and may be elected in every Category in which they claim membership. Any person elected in more than one Category shall only hold one State Executive Committee seat. In determining whether the PBCDP met its inclusion goals, that person shall be counted in every Category in which they claimed membership when they filed.

(ii) When fewer or an equal number of candidates are nominated for the number of Seats allocated to any Category, their names shall not appear on the ballot, and they shall be declared elected to serve in the same manner as if elected in the election.

(iii) When more people claim membership in a Category as candidates than Seats are allocated for that Category, the claimants shall have their names placed on that Category's ballot for the First Meeting.

(iv) The initial round of counting in each Category shall be a count of the first choices marked on each valid ballot. Subject to Section 6, each candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast in that Category shall be elected.

(v) If fewer candidates than the number of Seats allocated to a Category have received a majority of first choices, there shall be a second round of counting. All elected candidates and the candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated, and all the Continuing Ballots shall be recounted. Each Continuing Ballot shall be counted as one vote for that ballot's Highest Ranked Advancing Candidate. Subject to Section 6, the candidates who receive a majority of the votes of Continuing Ballots in any round shall be deemed and declared to be elected.

(vi) If after the second round of counting fewer candidates than the number of Seats allocated to a Category have been elected, there shall be additional rounds of counting. In each round all elected candidates and the candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated and all

the Continuing Ballots shall be recounted. Each Continuing Ballot shall be counted as one vote for that ballot's highest ranked Advancing Candidate.

(vii) The process of eliminating the elected candidates and those with the fewest votes and recounting all the Continuing Ballots shall continue until the number of elected candidates equals the number of Seats allocated to that Category.

(viii) When a ballot becomes an Exhausted Ballot, it shall not be counted in that round or any subsequent round.

(d) Election Process for the Second Meeting.

(i) If the number of different people elected at the First Meeting is less than the number of State Executive Committee Seats allocated to Palm Beach County the remaining candidates shall have their names placed on the ballot for election at the Second Meeting. The number of candidates to be elected at the Second Meeting shall equal the difference between the number of State Executive Committee Seats allocated to Palm Beach County and the number of people elected at the First Meeting. This is the Deficit Number.

(ii) The initial round of counting shall be a count of the first choices marked on each ballot. Subject to Section 6, each candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be elected.

(iii) If the Deficit Number of candidates do not receive a majority of first choices, there shall be a second round of counting. The elected candidates and the candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated, and all the Continuing Ballots shall be recounted. Each Continuing Ballot shall be counted as one vote for that ballot's Highest Ranked Advancing Candidate. The candidates who receive a majority of the votes of Continuing Ballots in any round shall be deemed and declared to be elected.

(iv) If after the second round of counting the Deficit Number of candidates have not received a majority of votes of Continuing Ballots at the second round of counting, there shall be additional rounds of counting. Each time, all elected candidates and the candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated and all the Continuing Ballots shall be recounted. Each Continuing Ballot shall be counted as one vote for that ballot's highest ranked Advancing Candidate.

(v) The process of eliminating the elected candidates and those with the fewest votes and recounting all the Continuing Ballots shall continue until the Deficit Number of candidates have been elected.

(vi) When a ballot becomes an Exhausted Ballot, it shall not be counted in that round or any subsequent round.

(e) Lottery Process for the Second Meeting.

(i) If more candidates are elected than the number of Seats allocated to the PBCDP, the Excess Members shall be determined by lot at the Second Meeting. The number of Excess Members is the difference between the number of candidates elected at the First Meeting and the number of State Executive Committee Seats allocated to the PBCDP.

(ii) An opaque container shall be prepared in which shall be placed the number of spheres, identical except for color, equal to the number of candidates elected at the First Meeting. One distinct color shall equal the number of Seats allocated to the PBCDP. The other distinct color (Excess Member Sphere) shall equal the number of Excess Members.

(iii) Each elected candidate shall draw a sphere, one at a time and in any order. If an elected candidate is ABSENT AT the designated drawing time, the existing Chair of the Rules Committee shall draw for them before any other draws are made. As required by Section 6, when a person of one gender draws an Excess Member Sphere, thereafter, only people of the other gender shall draw until one draws an Excess Member Sphere. Thereafter, any elected candidate may draw until another Excess Member Sphere is drawn.

(iv) This process shall continue until all the Excess Member Spheres have been drawn. Those who draw Excess Member Sphere (the “Reserve Members”) shall not serve and all others shall hold Seats on the State Executive Committee for the full term.

(f) General Provisions

(i) Each ballot shall specify in which election it will be counted and state the minimum number of candidates which must be ranked. All voters must vote for at least the number of candidates to be elected in a Category at the First Meeting or the Deficit Number at the Second Meeting. This rule shall be prominently displayed on every ballot at both Meetings. Ballots which do not show a vote for at least the required number of candidates shall be disqualified and not counted.

(ii) Every valid ballot must show the voter’s printed name and manual signature. Ballots which do not show a printed name and a manual signature shall be disqualified and not counted. If the voter certifies the inability to manually sign the ballot and provides a machine signature or other mark, that ballot shall be accepted and counted.

(iii) If a voter skips a ranking, the ballot shall be counted for the highest ranked Advancing Candidate in each round of counting. If a voter assigns an equal rank to two or more candidates, the ballot shall be declared exhausted when the multiple equal rankings are reached.

(iv) In case of a tie between two or more candidates at any stage of the vote count for the fewest number of votes, the candidate to be eliminated first shall be selected by drawing lots or other equally random selection method.

(v) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 5 (f) (iv), if the total number of votes of the two or more candidates credited with the fewest votes is less than the number of votes credited to the candidate with the next highest number of votes, those candidates with the fewest votes shall be eliminated simultaneously.

**Section 6 Gender Parity**

(a) Purpose.

The purpose of this section is to assure that the Palm Beach County State Executive Committee delegation conforms to the State and National Democratic Parties’ requirements with respect to equal representation of men and women.

(b) Gender Designation.

Each candidate for State Executive Committee shall designate their gender as female, male, or non-gender. The designation of a gender by a candidate must be accepted and shall not be challenged.

(c) Rules to assure Gender Parity.

Notwithstanding any provisions of Section 5, the following rules shall control:

(i) The Parity Number in any election when there is an even number of positions to be elected is one-half of the total number of positions to be filled. The Parity Number when there is an odd number of positions to be elected is one-half of the total number of positions to be filled rounded up to the next whole number. Notwithstanding the foregoing, whenever a non-gender person is elected, the Parity Number shall be recalculated based on the number of positions to be elected reduced by the number of non-gender people already elected.

(ii) No candidate of any gender shall be elected after the number of candidates of that gender who have been previously elected equals the Parity Number. Thereafter, no votes shall be counted for any additional candidates of that gender; they shall all be considered Eliminated Candidates.

## **Section 7      Vacancies**

(a) Vacancies among the Elected State Committee Members shall be filled from among the Reserve Members until they have all been chosen to fill a vacancy or have withdrawn from consideration.

(b) The Reserve Member to fill a vacancy shall be elected by a majority vote of the DEC from among those who, on their Nomination Form, designated a Category in which the departed member was elected. If there is only one such person, they shall be deemed and declared to be elected. If there is more than one, voting shall continue until one Reserve Member receives a majority of the votes cast. That person shall then be deemed and declared to be elected.

(c) If no Reserve Member qualifies under Section 7 (b), then the election shall be held among all the Reserve Members. Voting shall continue until one Reserve Member receives a majority of the votes cast. That person shall then be deemed and declared to be elected.

(d) If all Reserve Members have been elected to fill a vacancy or have withdrawn from consideration, then the election shall be held among all the elected or special at large members of the DEC. Voting shall continue until one person receives a majority of the votes cast. That person shall then be deemed and declared to be elected.