

# Nevada Democratic Party

## Caucus to Convention Committee

### Report of Recommendations

#### June 22, 2018

The Caucus to Convention Committee was formed in 2017 with a focus on and objective of increasing the participation of Nevada residents who are registered Democrats in the presidential nominating Caucus to Convention process.

Since formation, the committee has held five public meetings across the state. Each meeting had a theme accompanied by presentations from subject matter experts and local stakeholders. The committee meetings also included over two hours for public comment. The themes of the meetings were the following: the DNC Unity Reform Commission Recommendations; Precinct Caucuses; County Conventions; and the State Convention.

As the Committee was in the process of conducting its work, members were closely watching and reviewing the Democratic National Committee Unity Reform Commission Report. Additionally, we also took note of the Democratic National Committee Rules and By-Laws Committee's work in executing the Unity Reform Commission recommendations.

These recommendations include ideas around the preparation and execution of our Presidential Caucus, County Conventions and State Convention.

The Committee recommends that the Nevada State Democratic Party take appropriate steps to ensure that Nevada residents who are registered Democrats have a right to participate in the caucus process. These steps could include any required rule changes and the proper education and outreach to ensure accessibility, including specifically for people with disabilities and for people with limited English proficiency in accordance with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act and that the right to caucus is enshrined in our process at every level.

#### **Precinct Caucus - The Committee recommends that the Nevada State Democratic Party enacts the following recommendations:**

1. Shall continue to allow for same-day voter registration for all wanting to participate in the precinct caucus and where possible explore the use of online voter registration
2. Should explore the possibility of implementing a "firehouse" style caucus
3. Should make the caucus as accessible as possible including through the use of early voting and/or absentee voting
4. Should extend the hours for caucus goers to select and submit their presidential preference
5. Should consider the use of electronic or other means of balloting for the timely and accurate calculation of caucus results

6. Should ensure that there is a standard and a procedure by which a presidential candidate may request a recount or recanvass that is paid for by the candidate and carried out in a timely manner
7. Should ensure that the allocation of all national delegates be locked in at the final expression of preference of the precinct caucus
8. Should report publicly the first expression of presidential preference for the statewide, district level, and precinct results as well as the final delegate allocations
9. Should ensure all precinct, county, and state convention sites are ADA accessible, and have wifi access to the extent possible
10. Should ensure all caucus site locations and individual room assignments have appropriate space to accommodate caucus turnout
11. Should provide trainings for caucus attendees that include: caucus registration, voter registration rules, role of volunteers, caucus process, delegate selection rules and decorum
12. Should provide comprehensive trainings for site leads and temporary chairs that include: caucus registration, voter registration rules, role of volunteers, management of volunteers, recruitment of volunteers, role of candidate campaign representatives, ADA, caucus process, delegate selection rules and decorum
13. Should provide site leads the proper materials and, where possible, access to technology to manage the caucus location
14. Should consider implementing a stipend program for volunteer site leads
15. Should ensure that the Party has the financial and technical ability to successfully run the caucus to convention process.

**County Convention - The Committee recommends that the Nevada State Democratic Party enacts the following recommendations:**

1. Should work with county parties to establish a standardized statewide process for delegate and alternate eligibility at the county convention to ensure a transparent and well run county convention
2. Should ensure that only elected delegates and alternates from the precinct caucus process are allowed to be seated as delegates at the county convention
3. Should work with county chairs to ensure county conventions are held on a separate day which falls after the day of the precinct caucuses in presidential nominating years

4. Should work with county parties in hosting information sessions and trainings for delegates on the process, rules and decorum for county conventions
5. Should adjust the delegate allocation formulas for eligible delegates to the county convention, including considering state legislative action, to ensure county conventions contain a manageable number of attendees reflective of Nevada's current population.

**State Convention - The Committee recommends that the Nevada State Democratic Party enacts the following recommendations:**

1. Should ensure the state convention rules are complete and approved a minimum of 30 days prior to first day of state convention registration
2. Should examine the process to elect State Central Committee members during the State Convention
3. Should consider hosting information sessions and trainings for delegates, executive board and national delegate candidates on the process, rules and decorum for the state convention
4. Should ensure that the registration process is reviewed and adjusted to accommodate the number of delegates expected to attend the State Convention
5. Should ensure the members appointed to the Credentials Committee are provided with relevant training, and ensure that those members are representative of the diverse Democratic populace of the state of Nevada
6. Should adjust the delegate allocation formulas for eligible delegates to the state convention, including considering state legislative action, to ensure the state convention contains a manageable number of attendees reflective of Nevada's current population.

**Conclusion:**

The Caucus to Convention Committee recommends that the Nevada State Democratic Party work through these recommendations as the 2020 Presidential Nominating process develops in conjunction with a 2020 Caucus to Convention Working Group to be appointed by the Chair. This working group would consist of members of the Caucus to Convention Committee, individuals recommended by the Caucus to Convention Committee members, or other qualified individuals as determined by the Chair.

The Caucus to Convention Committee recognizes that some of these recommendations may affect the cost of implementing the delegate selection plan. The Committee recommends that the State Party consider providing updates to the Caucus to Convention Working Committee and the Nevada State Democratic Party Executive Board on the impact of the costs of implementation of the Committee's recommendations.