

**DELEGATE SELECTION RULES**  
**FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
**2009 STATE CONFERENCE**

**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 2009 State Conference. Therefore, Delegates to the State Conference shall execute by written oath or affirmation the loyalty oath before qualifying as a Delegate to the Conference. 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 2009 State Conference shall be selected based on the following formula:

**A. AUTOMATIC DELEGATES (Estimated totals)**

<b>1. County Chairs, Vice Chairs, State Committeemen and Committeewomen</b>	<b>268</b>
<b>2. Membership of Standing Committees (not otherwise entitled to an automatic appointment)</b>	
Affirmative Action	10
Budget and Finance	2
Campaign	10
Clubs, Organizations and Caucuses	1
Legislative Liaison	18
Rules	4
<b>3. Elected Officials</b>	
Democratic U.S. Senators and Members of Congress	11
State Democratic Legislators	58
Cabinet Members	1
Clerks of the Court	36
Sheriffs	22
Property Appraisers	33
Tax Collectors	43
Supervisors of Elections	32
Public Defenders	13
State Attorneys	9
County Commissioners	165
Superintendents of Schools	32
School Board Members	118
Democratic Municipal Officers	988
<b>4. Florida Democratic Party Caucus Leadership</b>	
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	1
FDP Small County Coalition	1
President, Florida Veterans Caucus	1
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED AUTOMATIC DELEGATES</b>	<b>1885</b>

**B. APPOINTED DELEGATES (Estimated totals)**

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

<b>State Party Chair</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>FDP 1st Vice Chair</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>FDP Vice Chair (10 each)</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>FDP Secretary</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>FDP Treasurer</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>DNC Members (10 each)</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Congressional District Chairs (1 each)</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>County Chairs (10 each)</b>	<b>670</b>
<b>Vice Chairs (10 each)</b>	<b>670</b>
<b>State Committeewomen/men (10 each)</b>	<b>1340</b>
<b>U.S. Senator (10 each)</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Members of Congress (10 each)</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Senate Leader and House Leader (10 each)</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Legislators (5 each)</b>	<b>290</b>

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

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

**TOTAL ESTIMATED APPOINTED DELEGATES 3545**

**C. ALLOCATION OF ELECTED DELEGATES**

County Allocations

<b>Alachua</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Clay</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Baker</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Collier</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Bay</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Columbia</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Bradford</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>DeSoto</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Brevard</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>Dixie</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Broward</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>Duval</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Calhoun</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Escambia</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Charlotte</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Flagler</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Citrus</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Franklin</b>	<b>6</b>
		<b>Gadsden</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>Gilchrist</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Okaloosa</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Glades</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Gulf</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Orange</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Osceola</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Palm Beach</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Hendry</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Pasco</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Hernando</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Pinellas</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Highlands</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Polk</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Hillsborough</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>Putnam</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Holmes</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>St. Johns</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Indian River</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>St. Lucie</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Jackson</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Santa Rosa</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Jefferson</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Sarasota</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Seminole</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Lake</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Sumter</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Lee</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>Suwannee</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Leon</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Taylor</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Levy</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Union</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Liberty</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Volusia</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Madison</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Wakulla</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Manatee</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Walton</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Marion</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Washington</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Martin</b>	<b>19</b>		
<b>Miami-Dade</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>TOTAL ELECTED</b>	
<b>Monroe</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>DELEGATES</b>	<b>1473</b>
<b>Nassau</b>	<b>11</b>		

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**

<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED APPOINTED DELEGATES</b>	<b>3545</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED AUTOMATIC DELEGATES</b>	<b>1885</b>
<b>TOTAL ELECTED DELEGATES</b>	<b>1473</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED CONFERENCE DELEGATES</b>	<b>6903</b>

## 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 6 and May 11, 2009.** 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 Conference 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 Conference. 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 May 25, 2009.** 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 June 1 and July 3, 2009.** 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 May 25, 2009.** 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 Party are appropriately represented at the 2009 State Democratic Conference.**

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 August 28, 2009.

**At the time of election, each Delegate elected shall immediately complete the appropriate registration form and accompany the form with a nonrefundable \$35.00 regular registration fee or a \$20.00 student 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 July 20, 2009.**

**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 Conference. 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 Conference. Each DEC is encouraged to make written recommendations for such appointments from their County to Party Headquarters by August 14, 2009.**

**The State Party Chair will notify all automatic Delegates of their appointments by May 1. Automatic Delegates must return their registration forms and fees to Party Headquarters by August 14, 2009.**

All Delegate appointments, except those made by the State Party Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer, must be made by August 6, 2009. A listing of appointments including names, addresses and telephone numbers, must be received at the Party Headquarters by August 14, 2009. Appointed Delegates must return their registration forms and fees to the Party Headquarters by August 14, 2009.

All Delegate appointments made by the State Party Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer must be made by August 14, 2009.

#### **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  
2009 STATE CONFERENCE**

**SECTION I: ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF RULES**

- A. The Florida Democratic Party 2009 State Conference 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 Conference. 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 Conference agenda.

**SECTION IV: COMMITTEES**

Committees and Committee Chairs shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the State Party Chair. All Conference Committees are established as Conference 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 Conference 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 Conference 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 Conference 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 Conference 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 Conference. 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, August 28, 2009, 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, August 28, 2009, by certified mail.

All decisions by the Compliance Review and Credentials Committee shall be made on or before midnight, September 3, 2009, 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 CONFERENCE**

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

**SECTION VII: ADDRESSES TO THE CONFERENCE**

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

**SECTION VIII: CONFERENCEERING**

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 Conference Hall or other public Conference 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 Conference. 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 Conference between the last meeting of the Central Committee and the beginning of the Conference.

## **2009 STATE CONFERENCE TIMETABLE**

April 6-May 11	Delegate qualifying period. Qualification forms available from County Chairs, Vice Chairs, State Committeemen and State Committeewomen.
May 1	All automatic Delegates will be notified of their appointments by this date.
May 11-May 18	County Chairs certify candidates. County Chairs have ballots printed.
May 25	Deadline for County Chairs to send list of candidates to Party Headquarters by certified mail, postmarked by midnight.
May 25	County Chairs submit Delegate election dates to Party Headquarters via email.
June 1-July 3	County Chairs hold Delegate elections. All votes will be tallied, registration forms completed and collected at the time of the election.
July 20	Registration forms and fees must be sent to Party Headquarters and be postmarked by midnight on this date.
August 6	Deadline for all appointments to Delegate positions, except appointments by the State Party Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer to fill vacancies.
August 14	Deadline for postmarking registration forms and fees from automatic and appointed Delegates to be sent to Party Headquarters.
August 14	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 14	All appointments made by the State Party Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer will be made by this date.
August 28	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 9-11	FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE CONFERENCE, Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resort, Lake Buena Vista