How to be a Delegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention

An overview of Florida’s 2016 Delegate Selection Process
With the birthplace of American Democracy as a backdrop, the 2016 convention in Philadelphia will highlight our shared Democratic values and help put the Democratic nominee on a path to victory.

- The Democratic National Convention Committee
What is the Democratic National Convention?

• Held every four years.
• Delegates from 57 states and territories.
• Nominate the Party’s candidates for President and Vice President.
• Adopt the Party’s Platform.
• Unify and celebrate the Democratic Party.
What is the Role of a Convention Delegate?

- Attend the National Convention.
- Vote for the Party’s Presidential and Vice Presidential Nominees.
- Approve the 2016 Democratic Platform.
- Vote on rules governing the Convention.
Who Can be a Delegate?

• Any Florida Democratic voter can run for delegate.
• Each delegate candidate must support a presidential candidate.
• Delegates will be evenly divided between men and women.
• A goal of Florida’s selection process is to have our delegation look like Florida’s Democratic electorate.
Delegation Overview

Florida has a total of 246 delegates and 18 alternates

Florida’s 2016 Delegates

- District Level = 140
- Party Leaders & Elected Officials (PLEO) = 28
- At-Large = 46 + 18 Alternates (not shown)
- Unpledged = 32
# Dates to Keep in Mind

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Filing begins for District-Level delegate candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>Filing begins for PLEO and At-Large delegate candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 15</td>
<td><strong>Florida’s Presidential Primary</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>District-Level delegate candidate filing deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Early voting option for CD Caucuses (to be determined)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Congressional District Caucuses elect District-Level delegates</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>PLEO and At-Large delegate candidate filing deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>District-Level delegates elect PLEO &amp; At-Large delegates</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>All delegates elect Standing Committee Members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Florida’s 2016 Democratic Delegate Selection Process

**Pledged Delegates and Alternates**

- Florida Presidential Primary
  - March 15

  - Early Voting CD Caucuses
    - Thursday, May 5

  - Congressional District Caucuses
    - Saturday, May 7

  - District-Level Delegates
    - 140

  - District-Level Delegates
    - Saturday, May 21

- PLEO Delegates
  - 28

- At-Large Delegates
  - 46

- Alternates (18)

**Unpledged Delegates**

- Democratic Members of Congress
  - 10

- Dem. National Committee Members
  - 21

- Distinguished Former Party Leaders
  - 1

**All Delegates**

- Sunday, May 22

- Standing Committee Members
  - 27

**Florida’s National Convention Delegation**

- 2016 DNCC

- Philadelphia
Florida has 27 Congressional Districts that will hold elections for District-Level delegate on May 7.

This is the first set of delegates to be elected and is the largest group (57%) of Florida’s delegates.

The District Level is the best place to run for and get elected as a delegate.
District-Level delegate positions are allocated to each of Florida’s 27 CDs based on Democratic voting strength.

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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>70</strong></td>
<td><strong>70</strong></td>
<td><strong>140</strong></td>
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</table>
Congressional District Caucuses – May 7

Who Can Vote?

• Voting is done by Congressional District (CD). We will use our 2014 CDs (instead of the new court-approved CDs).

• All Democrats registered to vote in the Congressional District may vote at the CD caucus.

• Each voter signs in and indicates his/her presidential preference.

• Each voter receives a ballot of District-Level delegate candidates in the CD who are running as pledged to his/her presidential candidate.

• The voter marks his/her ballot, places it in the ballot box, and leaves. *(This is not like an Iowa style caucus.)*
District-Level Delegate Qualifications

Who Can Run for District-Level Delegate?

- District-Level delegate candidates may only run in the CD in which they are registered to vote.
- Delegate positions are allocated to presidential candidates based on the March 15 Presidential Primary results in each CD, and will be equally divided between men and women, by presidential candidate.
- Candidates must file a statement of candidacy and pledge or support with the state party, the CD Chair or Vice Chair, or their county’s State Committeeman or State Committeeewoman.
- Forms must be filed between February 1 and 5:00 pm on April 7.
CD Caucuses – Special Notes

Caucus Locations

• Each CD Chair will determine the location of the caucus by February 1.

• Depending on the geographical size of the CD, the CD Chair or State Committee members from counties in the CD may request that additional location(s) be designated to maximize participation and minimize travel distance and time for voters to participate.

Early Voting

• The CD Chair may request that the CD be allowed to provide an early voting opportunity on May 5.

• Early voting will be allowed in CDs where, either because of religious consideration or other reasons, a significant number of Democratic voters might be unable to participate in the voting on May 7.

• “Early Ballots” will be secured and not counted until the conclusion of voting on May 7.
PLEO Delegates

• Florida has 28 delegates elected as Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates.
• Only Democratic Party leaders or elected officials are eligible to run for PLEO delegate.
• PLEO delegates are elected by the District-Level delegates on May 21.
• PLEO delegates are allocated to presidential candidates based on the statewide vote for president in the March 15 Presidential Primary.
PLEO Delegate Qualifications

Who Can Run for Party Leader & Elected Official Delegate?

- Only Democratic Party leaders or elected officials may run for PLEO delegate positions.
- The term “PLEO” includes: big city mayors, state legislative leaders, state legislators, and other state, county, and local elected officials and party leaders.
- Individuals qualify to run by filing an application with the State Party between February 17 and noon on May 9.
- Presidential campaigns will play a very large role in determining who will serve as PLEO delegates.
At-Large Delegates & Alternates

- Florida has 46 delegates and 18 alternates to be elected at the At-Large level by the District-Level delegates on May 21.
- Delegates and alternates are allocated to presidential candidates based on the statewide vote for president in the March 15 Presidential Primary.
- The At-Large delegate category is specifically designated to ensure the total number of delegates is equally divided between men and women and that the delegation reflects the overall demographic composition of Florida’s Democratic electorate.
At-Large Delegate & Alternate Qualifications

Who Can Run for At-Large Delegate and/or Alternate?

• Any Florida Democratic voter may run for an At-Large delegate and/or alternate position.

• Individuals qualify to run by filing an application with the State Party between February 17 and noon on May 9.

• The At-Large delegates are elected and then the At-Large alternates are elected.

• Presidential campaigns will play a very large role in determining who will serve as At-Large delegates and alternates.
Equal Division

• The Democratic Party requires equal division between men and women at all levels of the Party.

• Delegates, alternates, and standing committee members are considered separate groups for purposes of equal division.

• District-Level delegates must be equally divided:
  • within each Congressional District,
  • between each presidential candidate, and
  • as a whole (total District-Level delegates).

• At-Large positions are used to ensure the delegates overall and the alternates are equally divided.
Affirmative Action, Outreach & Inclusion

• Democratic Party rules require states to set diversity goals as part of an ongoing effort to specifically include groups historically underrepresented in the Party’s affairs.

• The Florida Democratic Party conducted a study and analysis of our Democratic electorate and established diversity goals for delegates, alternates and standing committee members.

• The FDP Affirmative Action Committee will assist the Party with outreach and education efforts.

• Each presidential campaign will be committed to working closely with the State Party to ensure that Florida’s National Convention delegation looks like Florida’s Democratic electorate.
**Affirmative Action, Outreach & Inclusion Goals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>African Americans</th>
<th>Hispanics</th>
<th>Native Americans</th>
<th>Asian Americans &amp; Pacific Islanders</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% in Democratic Electorate</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>&lt;.5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeric Goal for Delegates</td>
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<td>40</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LGBT Americans</th>
<th>People with Disabilities</th>
<th>Youth (18-34)</th>
<th>Veterans</th>
<th>Small Counties</th>
<th>Labor Union</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%*</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
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</table>

- Many individuals will fall into two or more of the outreach categories.
- Many delegates will represent other Democratic constituencies not listed above.
- Each CD must make every effort to ensure the District-Level delegates it elects represent the composition and diversity of the Democratic Party in that Congressional District.
- **Outreach to ALL Democratic Party constituencies is an important and required part of our party’s delegate selection process.**
General Provisions

• Discrimination on the basis of sex, race, age (if of voting age), color, creed, national origin, religion, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic identity or physical disability is prohibited, to the end that the Democratic Party at all levels be an open party.

• No person will be required, directly or indirectly, to pay a cost or fee as a condition for participating. Voluntary contributions are allowed.

• Any individual or group of Democrats may sponsor or endorse a slate of candidates for convention delegates. No slate may receive a preferential place on the ballot or be publicly identified on the ballot as the “official slate.”
Delegates are allocated to presidential candidates based on the vote for president in the March 15 Presidential Primary.

Delegate candidates sign a “pledge” to support the presidential candidate they wish to represent at the National Convention.

National Party rules allow presidential candidates the right to review the list of individuals running to represent them as their delegates at the National Convention.

Presidential candidates may remove names from the list of delegate candidates. For District-Level delegates, campaigns can strike down to a minimum of 3 names for each delegate position. For the PLEO and At-Large levels, campaigns can strike down to a minimum of 2 names for each position.
General Tips About Running for Delegate

• Review the 2016 Delegate Selection Plan on the FDP website at www.floridadems.org under Our Party / Party Affairs.
• Delegate filing forms will be available online in February.
• Delegate candidates need to work closely with their presidential candidate’s campaign.
• Running for delegate is essentially a mini-campaign.
  • Campaign for your candidate in the March 15 primary. Delegates are awarded based on the vote.
  • Get out the vote and build support for your election at the CD caucus. Get your friends to come to the caucus to vote for you.
Standing Committee Members

• The National Convention has three Standing Committees:
  • Credentials (seating of delegates)
  • Platform (Party’s issue statement)
  • Rules (convention administration)
• Florida has nine members on each committee (27 total) who are nominated by the presidential campaign(s).
• Members are allocated to presidential candidates based statewide vote for president in the March 15 Presidential Primary.
• Standing Committee Members do not need to be delegates and will attend the National Convention.
• Standing Committee members will be elected by the National Convention delegates on May 22.
• Members are equally divided and reflect affirmative action/inclusion goals.
What is the Schedule for Philadelphia?

• The schedule has yet to be announced.

• Typically, the Platform Committee meets the month before to the Convention, and the Credentials and Rules Committees meet the weekend before the convention.

• The National Convention begins Monday and concludes with the presidential nominee's acceptance speech on Thursday.
What are the Convention Costs?

• Delegates and Alternates are responsible for cost of travel and hotel (hotel rooms can be shared).

• Breakfast is provided.

• Ground transportation between the hotel and events is provided.

• Delegates can fundraise to help cover expenses.
Fundraising Ideas

• Send a fundraising letter to your family members and friends.
• Work with your local County Party and/or Democratic Club/Caucus to hold a fundraising event.
• Ask your employer to sponsor you.
• Create a free fundraising website.
• Use social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter.
Get Ready for the 2016 National Convention!

For more information and to download the delegate candidate filing forms (available February 2016), visit the Florida Democratic Party’s website at www.floridadems.org.
For additional information about the 2016 Democratic National Convention:

- www.demconvention.com
- www.phldnc.com
- www.democrats.org

Florida Democratic Party

www.floridadems.org
850-222-3411