DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF VIRGINIA
2020 CALL TO CAUCUS TO ELECT STATE DELEGATES

Issued by Chairwoman Susan Swecker, March 24th 2020
Endorsed by the Democratic Party of Virginia Steering Committee, March 21st, 2020

As a result of the current Covid-19 virus public health emergency, it is not possible for the Democratic Party of Virginia (DPVA) to implement the national convention delegate selection process as set forth in the Virginia Delegate Selection Plan (DSP) and the Call to State Convention. The DPVA is committed to implementing a simple, open, fair, and democratic alternative process for the election of national convention delegates and alternates and doing other necessary party business. ***This Call to Caucus Supersedes any Calls issued by any City or County Democratic Committee.***

The initial step of the Virginia delegate selection process -- the presidential primary – occurred on March 3, 2020, and pursuant to the DSP, those results have been used to allocate state and national convention delegates among the eligible candidates. As set forth below, this Call sets forth a revised process for the city/county caucuses to elect state convention delegates and alternates using virtual caucuses.

DPVA will set forth additional guidance relating to the Congressional District and State Conventions in the near future.

The Democratic Party of Virginia will hold a virtual unassembled caucus (firehouse primary) from **April 18th, 2020 at 12:00PM until April 20th, 2020 at 7:00PM** for the purpose of electing State Delegates and Alternates from each locality who will participate in Congressional District Conventions and the State Convention for the purpose of electing Democratic National Convention Delegates and Alternates.

I. State Delegate and Alternate Candidate Pre-Filing:

All individuals interested in running to be a State Delegate or Alternate, from the locality in which they are registered to vote, must pre-file with the Democratic Party of Virginia by **5:00PM on Thursday, April 9th, 2020.** Individuals interested in filing may fill out the online form at the link below, or, if assistance is needed, call the Democratic Party of Virginia Voter Protection Hotline at 844-4VA-VOTE (804-482-8683). Staff will be available to answer calls between 9:00AM and 5:00PM (Monday-Friday) for any individuals who need assistance. Delegate/Alternate candidates are asked to make $25 voluntary payment to defray the cost of this process.

Candidates for State Delegate or Alternate must declare a preference for a Presidential Candidate when they file. Individuals whose filings indicate a preference for a candidate who is not allocated any Delegates in their locality, will not have their filings accepted, and Staff shall communicate this to persons who pre-file. A link to the Delegate Allocation is below.

Click here for the Pre-filing Form

Click here for the Delegate Allocation

II. Qualification of Candidates for State Convention Delegates/Alternates:

The Declaration of Candidacy form, which the state convention delegate or alternate candidate must sign, will include a written declaration that the candidate:

A. Is a Democrat;
B. Is registered to vote in the city/county and Congressional District they are filing in;
C. Does not intend to support any candidate who is opposed to the Democratic Nominee in the next ensuing election;
D. And, will not participate in the nominating process of any other political party.

III. Notice:

The Democratic Party of Virginia shall provide notice of this caucus by placement of a general notice of the caucus, including noticing the caucus date, time, and location, along with the Call to Caucus, on the Democratic Party of Virginia website. Copies of this Call to Caucus shall be sent to the Chairs of each local Democratic Committee, and they shall provide similar notice to their members and Democrats in their respective localities in accordance with the Affirmative Action provisions of the Party Plan of the DPVA and the Democratic Party of Virginia's Delegate Selection Plan.

IV. Caucus Participant Pre-Filing:

To facilitate the conduct of "virtual caucuses," DPVA will require pre-filing of persons interested in participating in the caucuses. Every Democrat who is a registered voter is urged to participate. To comply with the current emergency situation in Virginia, all participants will need to pre-file with the Democratic Party of Virginia by **5:00PM on Thursday, April 9th, 2020.** Individuals will use a form containing a Democratic Party declaration to participate in their local caucus. Any individual who files to be a State Delegate or Alternate will also be automatically registered as a participant in their local caucus.

Click here for the Pre-Filing Form

Any individual who wishes to participate in a caucus must sign the written declaration on the filing form that the participant:

A. Is a Democrat;
B. Is registered to vote in the city/county and Congressional District they are filing in;
C. Does not intend to support any candidate who is opposed to the Democratic Nominee in the next ensuing election;
D. And, will not participate in the nominating process of any other political party.

V. Caucus Participation

Only those individuals who have properly pre-filed before the filing deadline will be permitted to participate in the caucus. Participants will only be allowed to participate in the caucus to elect State Delegates and Alternates from the City/County and Congressional District in which they are registered to vote.

Caucus Participants are required to declare support for a presidential candidate, and may only participate in the caucus to elect State Delegates and Alternates for that candidate.

VI. Conduct of Caucus

If the number of individuals who filed for a jurisdiction's caucus is the same as or less than the number of Delegate or Alternate positions available for each candidate, the caucus shall be cancelled, and the individual(s) who filed will be declared the winner(s) of the contest. If there are more filings than the maximum slots for one or more presidential candidates, the caucus election will be held for those candidates.

Voting will begin at **12:00PM on Saturday, April 18th, 2020** and will close at **7:00Pm on Monday, April 20th, 2020.**

Democratic Party of Virginia Staff will work with the Chairs of each Local Democratic Committee to facilitate voting electronically. Participants will be sent a unique identification number that they will need to enter for their ballot to be counted. Ballots with an incorrect number entered will not be accepted.

VII. Determination of Contested Caucus Elections:

If more individuals file for the position of State Delegate or Alternate than a locality or candidate is allocated by the deadline, the candidates will be listed alphabetically on the ballot and will be elected by a plurality of the votes of the caucus.

In the event of a tie, the Chairwoman of the Democratic Party, or her designee, shall conduct a drawing to determine the winner.

VIII. Delegate and Alternate Re-alignment:

After the April 9th, 2020 filing deadline, Congressional District Committee Chairs shall have the ability to move consenting individuals in contested elections to fill spaces in their delegations from localities that do not have contested elections. All changes must be communicated to the Democratic Party of Virginia no later than 5:00PM on Saturday, April 11th, 2020.

IX. Slates

Slates are permitted at any Caucus. Individuals who wish to form a slate must pre-file their intention by completing the 2020 Caucus Slate Form and returning it to DPVA Staff by 5:00PM on Thursday, April 9th. The form is available on vademocrats.org/delegateselection and should be emailed to political@vademocrats.org.

X. Accessibility

DPVA shall take all steps necessary to ensure the accessibility to participate for all Virginians and to comply with the adopted Affirmative Action Plan.

Issued: 3/24/2020
Date

Susan Swecker
Chairwoman, Democratic Party of Virginia