

LOUISIANA DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN

FOR THE 2008 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

ISSUED BY THE LOUISIANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

APRIL 15 2007

DRAFT

THE LOUISIANA DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN
FOR THE 2008 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

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SECTION I

INTRODUCTION & DESCRIPTION OF DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Louisiana has a total of 68 delegates and 9 alternates. (Call, I. & Appendix B.)
2. The delegate selection process is governed by the *Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States*, the *Delegate Selection Rules for the 2008 Democratic National Convention* (“Rules”), the *Call for the 2008 Democratic National Convention* (“Call”), the *Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2008 Democratic National Convention* (“Regs.”), the rules of the Democratic Party of Louisiana, the Louisiana election code, and this Delegate Selection Plan. (Call, II.A.)
3. Following the adoption of this Delegate Selection Plan by the State Party Committee, it shall be submitted for review and approval by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee (“RBC”). The State Party Chair shall be empowered to make any technical revisions to this document as required by the RBC to correct any omissions and/or deficiencies as found by the RBC to ensure its full compliance with Party Rules. Such corrections shall be made by the State Party Chair and the Plan resubmitted to the RBC within 30 days of receipt of notice of the RBC’s findings. (Regs. 2.5, 2.6 & 2.7)
4. Once this Plan has been found in Compliance by the RBC, any amendment to the Plan by the State Party will be submitted to and approved by the RBC before it becomes effective. (Reg. 2.9)

B. DESCRIPTION OF DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS

1. Louisiana will use a proportional representation system based on the results of the Party-Run Primary for apportioning delegates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention.
2. The “first determining step” of Louisiana’s delegate selection process will occur on February 9th 2008, with a Party-Run Primary
3. Voter Participation in Process
 - a. Participation in Louisiana’s delegate selection process is open to all voters who wish to participate as Democrats.
 - 1) Louisiana’s Voter registration deadline for the Presidential Primary Election is January 9, 2008.
 - b. At no stage of Louisiana’s delegate selection process shall any person be required, directly or indirectly, to pay a cost or fee as a condition for participating. Voluntary contributions to the Party may be made, but under no circumstances shall a contribution be mandatory for participation. Louisiana will request a contribution of \$100 dollars to help defray the cost for participating. (Rule 2.D. & Reg. 4.4.)
 - c. No persons shall participate or vote in the nominating process for the Democratic presidential candidate who also participates in the nominating process of any other party for the corresponding elections. (Rule 2.E.)

- d. No person shall vote in more than one meeting which is the first meeting in the delegate selection process. (Rule 3.E. & Reg. 4.6.)

SECTION II

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

A. BALLOT ACCESS

A presidential candidate gains access to the Louisiana presidential preference primary ballot, or is eligible to participate in the Louisiana's first-tier caucuses, by .

A presidential candidate gains access to the Louisiana ballot by filing the following materials with the Louisiana Secretary of State's office any time from 8:00 a.m. on December 12, 2007 through 5:00 p.m. on December 14, 2007:

Notice of Candidacy -- for use by candidates for Presidential Nominee in the Presidential Preference Primary Election
\$750 qualifying fee and an additional fee of \$375 imposed by the state central committee of a political party

OR

Nominating Petition -- containing signatures of at least 1,000 registered voters affiliated with the Party from each of the 7 congressional districts

- B. Each presidential candidate shall certify in writing to the State Democratic Chair, the name(s) of his or her authorized representative(s) by December 14, 2007. (Rule 12.D.(1))
- C. Each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) shall use his or her best efforts to ensure that his or her respective delegation within the state delegation achieves the affirmative action goals established by this Plan and is equally divided between men and women. (Rule 6.I.)

SECTION III

SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

A. DISTRICT-LEVEL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

1. Louisiana is allocated 37 district-level delegates and 7 district-level alternates. (Rule 8.C., Call, I.B. & I.I.)
2. District-Level delegates and alternates shall be elected in post-primary Congressional District Caucuses on March 1, 2008.

Caucuses - An election will be held in each Congressional District on Saturday, March 1, 2008. Only voters registered as a Democrat may participate in the election held in the Congressional District in which they reside. Voters shall only vote for delegate candidates qualified in the Congressional District within which they reside. No person shall be allowed to vote who has participated in the delegate selection process of another political party in 2008.

Ballots - The State Central Committee shall prepare pre-numbered ballots for the Congressional District Elections. A separate ballot shall be prepared for each presidential candidate or the uncommitted bracket who qualifies for delegate positions. Upon each ballot will appear the name of the presidential candidate or the uncommitted bracket along with the name of each delegate candidate in each Congressional District pledged to that preference, in alphabetical order with one listing for males and one listing for females. Also contained on the ballot shall be the number of each Congressional District and instructions:

- (I) In the case in which a presidential preference has been awarded one or two delegate positions in the Congressional District, you may vote for one man and one woman.
- (II) In the case in which a presidential preference has been awarded three or four delegate positions in the Congressional District, you may vote for two men and two women.
- (III) In the case in which a presidential preference has been awarded five or six delegate positions, you may vote for three men and three women.

Ballots shall be printed by the Democratic State Central Committee in numbers sufficient for each polling place. Unauthorized duplication of ballots shall not be allowed.

The State Chairman will appoint a Congressional District Chair for each of Louisiana's Congressional Districts. The Congressional District Chair shall not be a candidate for delegate or alternate. Ballots will be prepared and delivered to the Democratic State Central Committee office no later than 4 p.m. Friday, February 28, 2008. At that time, the State Chairman and the Congressional District Chairs will inspect the ballots, after which the Congressional District Chair shall sign an affidavit setting forth the numbers of the ballots in their possession. If a Congressional District Chair cannot be present in person to receive the ballots, another member of the Democratic State Central Committee may be designated to represent that Congressional District.

Conduct of Congressional District Caucus – The Congressional District Chairs shall conduct the Congressional District Elections in their respective Congressional District. The Congressional District Chair shall select the Caucus location with the State Chairman having final approval. When choosing the Caucus location he or she must ensure that the location is accessible to all, and will be most likely to encourage participation of all Democrats. Congressional District Chairs may appoint poll commissioners in a number sufficient to assist in the conduct of the Caucus election. If a Congressional District Chair cannot be present to conduct the election, the State Chair shall appoint a replacement.

Whenever possible, copies of the most recent poll lists containing the names and addresses of all registered Democrats in each Congressional District shall be secured.

The Congressional District Chairs and commissioners must convene the Caucus no later than 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 1, 2008. If no commissioners are present within a reasonable time frame, those Democrats present may be drafted to fill the posts of the Commissioners and those appointed Commissioners must comply with the Louisiana Election Law, as set forth in the Louisiana Election Code. At least two (2) commissioners shall be present at all times.

The election shall begin promptly at 8:00 a.m., at which time the commissioners shall open the ballot box to assure it is empty. This shall be shown to all present. Voting shall continue until 5:00 p.m. The

Congressional District Chair will permit one representative of each presidential candidate to be present at the polling place. However, no persons shall interfere with or impede the casting of the ballots.

Voting - No person shall vote absentee or by proxy at these caucuses unless meeting the requirements as listed in the following section V. (L). Each voter shall give his or her name to the commissioner and will then sign the list for his or her presidential candidate. In a polling place where the voter registration roll is available, the commissioner shall place a check next to the voter's name. The voter shall also legibly print his or her name, address, and phone number, ward and precinct. The voter shall then be given a ballot containing the names of all delegate candidates pledged to that preference. In a polling location where the poll list is not available, and if the commissioners are not satisfied that the voter is a qualified voter in that district, they may require that the voter present his or her voter registration card or some other form of identification. Should another participant challenge a voter's qualifications, the commissioners present shall decide the challenge. If the commissioners decide that the challenge is well-founded, the person shall not be permitted to vote.

Tabulating Results - Ballots shall not be counted at the polling place. After the close of voting, the ballots will be sealed in a ballot box and delivered to the Congressional District Chair. At no time during or after the voting will the seal on the ballot box be broken. The sign-in sheets will be sealed in an envelope and shall accompany the ballot box. On Monday, March 3, 2008, all ballots will be delivered to the Democratic party office by NOON. Ballot boxes shall not be opened but shall be delivered with their original seal unbroken. At 1:00 p.m., the ballots will be tabulated, in Baton Rouge at the State Party headquarters. One authorized representative from each presidential campaign may observe the tabulations.

1. Apportionment of District-Level Delegates and Alternates

- a. Louisiana's district-level delegates and alternates are apportioned among the districts based on a formula giving equal weight to the vote for the Democratic candidates in the 2004 presidential election and the most recent gubernatorial elections. Following the November 17, 2007 gubernatorial election, the State Party will convey to the Rules and Bylaws Committee on November 27, 2007 the apportionment of male and female district-level delegates and alternates (Rule 8A.; Reg. 4.11., 4:1.12 @Appendix A)
- b. Provisions for achieving equal division at the district level will be as follows: The Louisiana delegation shall be equally divided between delegate men and delegate women and alternate men and alternate women. Such goals apply to the Louisiana delegation as a whole. Delegates and alternates shall be considered separate groups for purposes of achieving equal division. (Rule 6.C.(1) & Reg. 4.8.)
- c. The district-level delegates and alternates are apportioned to districts as indicated in the following chart

District	Delegates			Alternates		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total

District	Delegates			Alternates		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
#1						
#2						
#3						
#4						
#5						
#6						
#7						
Total						

****UNABLE TO COMPLETE UNTIL AFTER THE FALL 2007 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION. THE STATE PARTY WILL CONVEY TO THE RULES AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE THE PROPER APPORTIONMENT BY DECEMBER 12.**

2. District-Level Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements

- a. A district-level delegate and alternate candidate may run for election only within the district in which he or she is registered to vote. (Rule 12.H.)
- b. An individual can qualify as a candidate for district-level delegate or alternate to the 2008 Democratic National Convention by filing a statement of candidacy designating his or her presidential (or uncommitted) preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidate (including uncommitted status), together with a nominating petition containing the signatures of at least 200 registered Democrats residing in the same congressional district as that of the individual, to the office of the State Party Chair, located at 701 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, not before 9:00 a.m. on February 4, 2008 and no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 1, 2008. In lieu of filing a nomination petition, delegate candidates may voluntarily make a \$100.00 contribution to the State Party. Petition forms will be available at the State Party office beginning on January 2, 2008. (Rules 12.B. & 14.F.)
- c. All candidates considered for district-level alternate positions must meet the same requirements as candidates for district-level delegate positions [except that the state may allow candidates who were not chosen at the delegate level to be considered at the alternate level]. (Rule 12.C.)

1. Presidential Candidate Right of Review for District-Level Delegates and Alternates

- a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than 5:00p.m. on February 5, 2008 a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. (Rules 12.D. & 12.F.)

- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the State Democratic Chair by 5:00p.m. on February 9, 2008 a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, provided that approval be given to at least three (3) times the number of candidates for delegate men and three (3) times the number of candidates for delegate women, and three (3) times the number of candidates for alternate men and three (3) times the number of alternate women to be selected. (Rule 12.E.(1), Reg. 4.23.)
 - c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate and alternate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate, or the authorized representative(s), signifies otherwise in writing to the State Democratic Chair not later than 5:00p.m. on February 9, 2008.
 - d. National convention delegate and alternate candidates removed from the list of bona fide supporters by a presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), may not be elected as a delegate or alternate at that level pledged to that presidential candidate (including uncommitted status). (Rule 12.E. & Reg. 4.23.)
 - e. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective district-level delegate candidates and district-level alternate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved district-level delegate candidates and district-level alternate candidates as indicated in section III.A.5.b of this Plan.
2. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference
 - a. Presidential Primary - Proportional Representation Plan (Rules 13.A., 13.B. & 13.D.)

The (Louisiana) presidential primary election is a "binding" primary. Accordingly, delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated so as to fairly reflect the expressed presidential (or uncommitted) preference of the primary voters in each district. The National Convention delegates and alternates selected at the district level shall be allocated in proportion to the percentage of the primary vote won in that district by each preference, except that preferences falling below a 15% threshold shall not be awarded any delegates or alternates.
 - b. Within a district, if no presidential preference reaches a 15% threshold, the threshold shall be the percentage of the vote received in that district by the front-runner minus 10%. (Rule 13.F.)
3. Equal Division of District-Level Delegates and Alternates
 - a. In order to ensure the district-level delegates are equally divided between men and women, delegate positions within each district will be designated by presidential preference beginning with the highest vote-getting presidential preference. This assignment of delegate positions, alternating by sex as mathematically practicable, will continue with the next highest vote-getting preferences in descending order until the gender of each position has been assigned. (Rule 6.C.(1) & Reg. 4.8.)

The following guideline shall be followed to achieve equal division at the district level:

(1) The delegate selection slots will be awarded in the order of their election in the post-primary caucuses, equally between men and women as set forth below:

(2) If a presidential preference is awarded an even number of delegate slots, the respective delegates and alternates will be allocated equally between males and females. If a presidential candidate is awarded an odd number of slots, that candidate's representative(s) shall select the gender of the first slot to be awarded in the district. This choice will establish a male/female pattern on which the remaining slots are to be filled (see note below for exception). For example, if Candidate A wins three slots and Candidate B wins two slots, Candidate A establishes the pattern. If he or she chooses a male as the first choice, then the alternating pattern of male, female, male is established. Candidate A would be awarded 2 men and 1 woman, and Candidate B would be awarded 1 man and 1 woman. The presidential candidate representative(s) shall make the selection between male and female delegates following the Presidential Preference Primary and the post primary caucus.

NOTE: In the event the presidential candidate who receives the top number of votes in a district is allotted an even number of delegates and the remaining presidential candidates are allotted odd number of delegates, the presidential candidate who receives the second highest number of votes will establish the male/female pattern for the remaining slots. For example, if Candidate A wins 2 slots, Candidate B (who receives the second highest number of votes) wins 1 slot, and Candidate C and D win 1 slot each, Candidate B will set the male/female pattern. Thus if Candidate B chooses a woman, Candidate C must select a man and Candidate D must select a woman.

(3) In districts with two alternates, the slots will be awarded to the man and the woman with the highest votes. The First Congressional District alternate slot will go to the highest ranking male and Fourth Congressional alternate slot will go to the highest ranking female.

- b. After the delegates are selected, the alternates will be awarded, using the same process described above.
4. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) the election of the state's district-level delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within three (3) days after their election. (Rule 8.C. & Call, IV.A.)

B. UNPLEDGED DELEGATES

1. Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials
 - a. The following categories (if applicable) shall constitute the Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official delegate positions:
 - (1) Members of the Democratic National Committee who legally reside in the state; (Rule 9.A.(1), Call, I.F., J., K., & Reg. 4.13.)

- (2) All of Louisiana's Democratic Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; (Rule 9.A.(3), Call I.G. & K.)
 - (3) The Democratic Governor (if applicable); (Rule 9.A.(4), Call I.G. & K.)
 - b. The certification process for the Unpledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates is as follows:
 - (1) Not later than March 1, 2008, the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee shall officially confirm to the State Democratic Chair the names of the unpledged delegates who legally reside in Louisiana. (Rule 9.A.)
 - (2) Official confirmation by the Secretary shall constitute verification of the unpledged delegates from the categories indicated above. (Call, IV.B.1.)
2. Unpledged Add-On Delegates
- a. Louisiana will select 1 unpledged add-on delegates. (Rule 9.B., Call, I.I. & Reg. 5.1.)
 - b. The procedures to be used in selecting the 1 unpledged add-on delegates will be as follows:
 - (1) Selection of the unpledged add-on delegates will occur at noon on 5/3/08 at TBA, which is after the election of district delegates and alternates and prior to the selection of the pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates. ***[Provide details about the meeting, including the election procedures.]*** (Rule 9.B.(1))
 - (2) These delegates will be selected by State Central Committee which is the same selecting body used to select the At-Large delegates and alternates. (Rule 9.B.(1))
 - (3) The equal division and affirmative action provisions of Rule 10.A. apply to the selection of these unpledged add-on delegates. (Rule 9.B.(2))
 - (4) Individuals are nominated for these positions by unless otherwise specified, the list of persons nominated for consideration as unpledged add-on delegates may be submitted by the State Chair. (Reg. 4.14.)
 - (5) The list from which the selecting body chooses the unpledged add-on delegates shall contain at least two (2) names for every unpledged add-on position to be filled. (Rule 9.B.(3))
 - (6) Unpledged add-on delegate candidates may be selected whether or not they previously filed a statement of candidacy for a delegate position or submitted a pledge of support for a presidential candidate. (Rule 9.B.(5) & Reg. 4.14.)
 - c. Unpledged add-on delegates, selected pursuant to Rule 9.B., shall be certified in writing by the State Democratic Chair to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the selection. (Call, IV.B.2.)

C. PLEDGED PARTY LEADER AND ELECTED OFFICIAL (PLEO) DELEGATES

1. Louisiana is allotted 7 pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates. (Call, I.D. & E.)

2. Pledged PLEO Delegate Filing Requirements
 - a. Individuals shall be eligible for the pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegate positions according to the following priority: big city mayors and state-wide elected officials (to be given equal consideration); state legislative leaders, state legislators, and other state, county and local elected officials and party leaders. (Rule 9.C.(1) & Reg. 4.15.)
 - b. An individual can qualify as a candidate for a position as a pledged PLEO delegate by filing a declaration of candidacy and a pledge of support, together with a nominating petition containing the signatures of 200 registered Democrats residing in Louisiana, with the State Chair, at 701 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, no later than March 31, 2008. In lieu of filing a nomination petition, such individuals may make a voluntary contribution of \$100 to the state party. Delegate candidates must be identified as to presidential or uncommitted preference at the pledged party and elected official level. If persons eligible for these positions have not made known their presidential preference, they will be allowed to sign a pledge of support immediately preceding the selection and shall be subject to candidate right of approval at that time. (Rules 9.C.(3), & 14.G., Reg. 4.16.)
3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
 - a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than 5:00p.m. on April 3, 2008 a list of all persons who have filed for a party and elected official delegate pledged to that presidential candidate. (Rules 9.C.(3) & 12.D.)
 - b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must file with the State Democratic Chair, by April 14, 2008, a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, as long as approval is given to at least two (2) names for every position to which the presidential candidate is entitled. Each presidential candidature or authorized representative(s) must also return a list of approved at-large candidates following the selection of PLEOs. (Rule 12.E.(2) & Reg. 4.23.)
 - c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate or the authorized representative(s) signifies otherwise in writing to the State Democratic Chair not later than 5:00p.m. on April 14, 2008.
 - d. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective pledged PLEO delegate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved pledged PLEO candidates as indicated in section III.C.3.b of this Plan.
4. Selection of Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates
 - a. The pledged PLEO slots shall be allocated among presidential preferences on the same basis as the at-large delegates. (Rule 9.C.(2), 10.C., 13.E. & F.)

- b. Selection of the pledged PLEO delegates will occur at 1:00p.m. on 5/3/08 at TBA, which is after the election of district-level delegates and alternates and the unpledged add-on delegates and prior to the selection of at-large delegates and alternates. The meeting will be open to the public. The first order of business shall be the certification of unpledged delegates, who shall have been identified pursuant to the section above.

The Chair shall then proceed to announce the number of pledged Party Leader and Elected Official positions allocated to each presidential preference. The Chair shall then read the names of all candidates for delegate for each preference. Each delegate candidate will be given an opportunity to introduce himself or herself to the Committee. Members of the Committee will vote for the appropriate number of delegate candidates for each preference period. (Rule 9.C.)

- c. These delegates will be selected by: [*Choose one:*] (Rule 9.D.)
- (1) the state convention.
 - (2) a committee consisting of a quorum of the district-level delegates.
 - (3) the State Party Committee, provided that:
 - (a) Membership on the State Party Committee is apportioned on the basis of population and/or some measure of Democratic strength. (Rule 9.D.(1))
 - (b) Members of the State Party Committee have been elected through open processes in conformity with the basic procedural guarantees utilized for delegate selection. (Rule 9.D.(2))
 - (c) Such delegates are elected at a public meeting subsequent to the election of district-level delegates. (Rule 9.D.(3))
 - (d) Members of the State Party Committee shall have been elected on February 9, 2008. (Rule 9.D.(4))
 - (e) Membership of the State Party Committee complies with the equal division requirements of Article 9, Section 16 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States. (Rule 9.D.(5))
 - (4) Alternates are not selected at the pledged Party Leader and Elected Official level. These alternates are combined with the at-large alternates and selected as one unit. (Reg. 4.30.)
5. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates to the Democratic National Convention within three (3) days after their election. (Rule 8.D. & Call, IV.A.)

D. AT-LARGE DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

1. The state of Louisiana is allotted 12 at-large delegates and 2 at-large alternates. (Rule 8.C., Call, I.B. & 1.)
2. At-Large Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements

- a. Persons desiring to seek at-large delegate or alternate positions may file a statement of candidacy designating their presidential or uncommitted preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) with the State Party by 5:00p.m. on May 3, 2008 (Rules 12.B. & 14.G.; Regs. 4.22. & 4.27.)
 - b. The statement of candidacy for at-large delegates and for at-large alternates will be the same. After the at-large delegates are elected by Democratic State Central Committee, those persons not chosen will then be considered candidates for at-large alternate positions unless they specify otherwise when filing. (Rule 18.A.)
3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
- a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than 5:00p.m. on May 5, 2008 a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. (Rule 12.D.)
 - b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the State Democratic Chair, by 5:00p.m. on May 3, 2008 a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, provided that, at a minimum, two (2) names remains for every national convention delegate or alternate position to which the presidential candidate is entitled. (Rule 12.E.(2) & Reg. 4.23.)
 - c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate or the authorized representative(s) signifies otherwise in writing to the State Democratic Chair not later than 5:00p.m. on May 3, 2008.
 - d. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective at-large delegate candidates and at-large alternate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved at-large delegate candidates and at-large alternate candidates as indicated in section III.D.3.b of this Plan.
4. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference
- (a) At-large delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated among presidential preferences according to the state-wide primary vote. (Rule 10.C.) .
 - b. Preferences which have not attained a 15% threshold on a state-wide basis shall not be entitled to any at-large delegates. (Rule 13.E.)
 - c. If no presidential preference reaches a 15% threshold, the threshold shall be the percentage of the statewide vote received by the front-runner, minus 10%. (Rule 13.F.)
 - d. If a presidential candidate is no longer a candidate at the time of selection of the at-large delegates, then those at-large slots that would have been allocated to the candidate will be proportionally divided among the remaining preferences entitled to an allocation. (Rule 10.C.)

- e. If a given presidential preference is entitled to one or more delegate positions but would not otherwise be entitled to an alternate position, that preference shall be allotted one at-large alternate position. (Rule 18.B., Call, I.J. & Reg. 4.30. & 4.33.)

5. Selection of At-Large Delegates and Alternates

- a. The selection will occur at 1 p.m. on May 3, 2008, at the TBA, after the selection of pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates. The Chair shall announce the number of delegate and alternate positions allocated to each presidential preference and the target goals to be met as set in the Affirmative Action Plan. After each delegate candidate has had the opportunity to introduce himself or herself to the Committee, the Chair will then distribute printed ballots to the Committee, arranged by gender, according to the presidential preference. The members of the Committee will then proceed to elect the delegates for that preference, and will repeat the process for each preference, all in accordance with selections below. (Rule 8.D. & Call, III.)
- b. These delegates and alternates will be selected by the Democratic State Central Committee of Louisiana which shall be elected on May 3, 2008. Each office for membership on the Central Committee shall constitute a separate and distinct office. For the purpose of nomination and election to office, the offices within a district shall be designated alphabetically as Office "A" and Office "B". Office "A" shall be the designated seat for all female candidates for that district. Office "B" shall be the designated seat for all male candidates for that district. Each office within a district shall be arranged separately on the ballot and shall be designated as Office "A" and Office "B". The electors of the district who are qualified to vote for members of the particular State Central Committee shall elect one member to the State Central Committee. The numerical designation for each district of the DSCC shall correspond with those of the Louisiana House of Representatives and shall be further designated as Office A and B. The Louisiana House of Representatives is apportioned in compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court Decision relating to one man, one vote and is in compliance with the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as amended. The State Central Committee elections are in compliance with Rule 8C of the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2008 Democratic National Convention as: 1) The members are selected proportionately by State House Districts; 2) The members are elected through an open process in these districts; 3) The members are elected at district level elections and 4) The members were elected no earlier than the date of the 2000 presidential election (Rules 10.B. & 8.D.)
 - (a) Membership on the State Party Committee is apportioned on the basis of population and/or some measure of Democratic strength. (Rule 9.D.(1))
 - (b) Members of the State Party Committee have been elected through open processes in conformity with the basic procedural guarantees utilized for delegate selection. (Rule 9.D.(2))
 - (c) Such delegates are elected at a public meeting subsequent to the election of district-level delegates. (Rule 9.D.(3))
 - (d) Members of the State Party Committee shall have been elected no earlier than the date of the previous presidential election. (Rule 9.D.(4))

- (e) Membership of the State Party Committee complies with the equal division requirements of Article 9, Section 16 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States. (Rule 9.D.(5))

c. Priority of Consideration

- (1) In the selection of the at-large delegation priority of consideration shall be given to African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans and women. (Rule 6.A.)
 - (2) In order to continue the Democratic Party's ongoing efforts to include groups historically under-represented in the Democratic Party's affairs and to assist in the achievement of full participation by these groups, priority of consideration shall be given other groups by virtue of race/ethnicity, age, sexual orientation or disability. (Rules 5.C., 6.A.(3), & Reg. 4.7.)
 - (3) The election of at-large delegates and alternates shall be used, if necessary, to achieve the equal division of positions between men and women, and may be used to achieve the representation goals established in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan. (Rule 6.A.)
 - (4) Delegates and alternates are to be considered separate groups for this purpose. (Rules 6.A.(3), 10.A. & Regs. 4.8 & 4.19.)
6. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's at-large delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within three (3) days after their election. (Rule 8.C. & Call, IV.A.)

E. REPLACEMENT OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

1. A pledged delegate or alternate may be replaced according to the following guidelines:
- a. Permanent Replacement of a Delegate: (Rule 18.D.(2))
 - (1) A permanent replacement occurs when a delegate resigns or dies prior to or during the national convention and the alternate replaces the delegate for the remainder of the National Convention.
 - (2) Any alternate permanently replacing a delegate shall be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) and sex of the delegate he/she replaces, and to the extent possible shall be from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.
 - (a) In the case where the presidential candidate has only one alternate, that alternate shall become the certified delegate.
 - (b) If a presidential candidate has only one alternate, and that alternate permanently replaces a delegate of the opposite sex, thereby causing the delegation to no longer be equally divided, the delegation shall not be considered in violation of Rule 6.C. In such a case, notwithstanding Rule 18.D.(2), the State Party Committee shall, at the time of a subsequent permanent replacement, replace a delegate with a person of the opposite sex, in order to return the delegation to equal division of men and women. (Reg. 4.32.)

- b. Temporary Replacement of a Delegate: (Rule 18.D.(3))
 - (1) A temporary replacement occurs when a delegate is to be absent for a limited period of time during the convention and an alternate temporarily acts in the delegate's place.
 - (2) Any alternate who temporarily replaces a delegate must be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) as the delegate he/she replaces, and to the extent possible shall be of the same sex and from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.
 - c. The following system will be used to select permanent and temporary replacements of delegates: (Rule 18.D.(1))
 - (1) The delegate chooses the alternate.
 - (2) If the delegate is unable to name his or her replacement, the delegation will do so.
 - d. Certification of Replacements
 - (1) Any alternate who permanently replaces a delegate shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the DNC by the State Democratic Chair. (Rule 18.D.2.)
 - (2) Permanent replacement of a delegate (as specified above) by an alternate and replacement of a vacant alternate position shall be certified in writing by the Louisiana's Democratic Chair to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the replacement is selected. (Call, IV.C.1.)
 - (3) Certification of permanent replacements will be accepted by the Secretary up to 48 hours before the first official session of the Convention is scheduled to convene. (Call, IV.C.1. & Reg. 4.32.)
 - (4) In the case where a pledged delegate is permanently replaced after 48 hours before the time the first session is scheduled to convene or, in the case where a pledged delegate is not on the floor of the Convention Hall at the time a roll call vote is taken, an alternate may be designated (as specified above) to cast the delegate's vote. In such case, the Delegation Chair shall indicate the name of the alternate casting the respective delegate's vote on the delegation tally sheet (Call, VIII.F.3.d., VIII.F.3.b. & Reg. 5.4.)
 - e. A vacant alternate position shall be filled by the delegation. The replacement shall be of the same presidential preference (or uncommitted status), of the same sex and, to the extent possible, from the same political subdivision as the alternate being replaced. (Rule 18.F.)
2. Unpledged delegates shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except under the following circumstances: (Rule 18.E. & Reg. 4.33.)
- a. Members of Congress and the Democratic Governor shall not be entitled to name a replacement. In the event of changes or vacancies in the state's Congressional Delegation, following the official confirmation and prior to the commencement of the National Convention, the DNC Secretary shall recognize only such changes as have been officially recognized by the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives or the Democratic Conference of the U.S. Senate. In the event of a change or vacancy in the

state's office of Governor, the DNC shall recognize only such changes as have been officially recognized by the Democratic Governors' Association. (Call, IV.C.2.a.)

- b. Members of the Democratic National Committee and unpledged add-on delegates shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except in the case of death of such delegates. In the case where the state's DNC membership changes following the DNC Secretary's official confirmation, but prior to the commencement of the 2008 Democratic National Convention, acknowledgment by the Secretary of the new DNC member certification shall constitute verification of the corresponding change of unpledged delegates. (Call, IV.C.2.b.)
- c. In no case may an alternate cast a vote for an unpledged delegate. (Call, VIII.F.3.d.)

SECTION IV

CONVENTION STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Louisiana has been allocated (2) member(s) on each of the three standing committees for the 2008 Democratic National Convention (Credentials, Platform and Rules), for a total of (6) members. (Call, VII.A. & Appendix D.)
2. Members of the Convention Standing Committees need not be delegates or alternates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention. (Call, VII.A.3.)
3. These members will be selected in accordance with the procedures indicated below. (Rule 1.G.)

B. TEMPORARY STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Temporary members for the Convention Standing Committees will be selected by the Democratic State Central Committee at a meeting on May 3, 2008. The meeting shall be open to the public and well publicized in accordance with the Affirmative Action program in this Plan. Members of Democratic State Central Committee shall receive timely notice of the meeting, in accordance with State Party rules. (Call VII.G.(2) and Reg. 5.8.)
2. Any Democrat may apply for a position as a temporary member of the standing committees. Persons wishing to be considered must submit an application with, including the committee or committees for which they wish to be considered, no later than May 1, 2008.
3. A separate election shall be conducted for membership on each of the standing committees. The membership of the standing committees shall be as equally divided as possible under the state allocation; if the number is even, the membership shall be equally divided between men and women; if the number is odd, the variance between men and women may not exceed one (1), and the advantaged gender must not remain constant for the three standing committees (Call VII.E.(1))
4. Temporary members serve only in the event that the respective standing committee is called to meet prior to completion of the state's delegate selection process (and subsequent selection of permanent standing committee members), and no temporary member may continue to serve after the selection of the permanent standing committee members unless he or she is elected as a permanent member. (Call VII.G.(3))

5. The State Chair shall certify the temporary standing committee members in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after their election. Substitutions in a state's list of temporary members may only be made up to ten (10) days prior to the time the standing committee meets. Substitute temporary standing committee members will be selected at a meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee in accordance with the provisions outlined above. (Call VII.B.(3) and G.(3))

C. PERMANENT STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Selection Meeting

- a. The members of the standing committees shall be elected by a quorum of Louisiana's National Convention delegates, at a meeting to be held on May 3, 2008(Call, VII.B.1.)
- b. All members of the delegation shall receive adequate notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the standing committee members. (Call, VII.B.1.)

2. Allocation of Members

- a. The members of the standing committees allocated to Louisiana shall proportionately represent the presidential preference of all candidates (including uncommitted status) receiving the threshold percentage used in the state's delegation to calculate the at-large apportionment pursuant to Rule 13.E. of the Delegate Selection Rules. (Call, VII.C.1. & Reg. 5.7.)
- b. The presidential preference of each candidate receiving the applicable percentage or more within the delegation shall be multiplied by the total number of standing committee positions allocated to Louisiana. If the result of such multiplication does not equal 0.455 or above, the presidential preference in question is not entitled to representation on the standing committee. If the result of such multiplication is 0.455 but less than 1.455, the presidential preference is entitled to one (1) position. Those preferences securing more than 1.455 but less than 2.455 are entitled to two (2) positions, etc. (Call, VII.C.2.)
- c. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation exceeding the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is farthest from its eventual rounded-off total shall be denied that one (1) additional position. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation falling short of the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is closest to the next rounding level shall be allotted an additional committee position. (Call, VII.C.3.)
- d. Standing committee positions allocated to a presidential candidate shall be proportionately allocated, to the extent practicable, to each of the three standing committees. When such allocation results in an unequal distribution of standing committee positions by candidate preference, a drawing shall be conducted to distribute the additional positions. (Call, VII.C.4.)

3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review

- a. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), shall be given adequate notice of the date, time and location of the meeting of the state's delegation authorized to elect standing committee members. (Call, VII.D.1.)

THE DELEGATION

- A. LOUISIANA will select one (1) person to serve as Delegation Chair and 2 to serve as Convention Pages. (Call, IV.D., E.1. & Appendix C.)
- B. DELEGATION CHAIR
1. Selection Meeting
 - a. The Delegation Chair shall be selected by a quorum of the state's National Convention Delegates, at a meeting to be held on May 3, 2008 (Call, IV.D.)
 - b. All members of the delegation shall receive timely notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the Delegation Chair. (Rule 3.C.)
 2. The State Democratic Chair shall certify the Delegation Chair in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after his or her selection. (Call, IV.D.)
- C. CONVENTION PAGES
1. 2 individuals will be selected to serve as Louisiana's Convention Pages by the State Democratic Chair in consultation with the members of the Democratic National Committee from the state. This selection will take place May 3, 2008. (Call, IV.E.3. & Reg. 5.5.)
 2. The Convention Pages shall be as evenly divided between men and women as possible under the state allocation and shall reflect as much as possible, the Affirmative Action guidelines in the Affirmative Action Plan. (Reg. 5.5.A.)
 3. The State Democratic Chair shall certify the individuals to serve as Louisiana's Convention Pages in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the selection. (Call, IV.E.3. & Reg. 5.5.B.)

SECTION VI

GENERAL PROVISIONS AND PROCEDURAL GUARANTEES

- A. The LOUISIANA Democratic Party reaffirms its commitment to an open party by incorporating the 'six basic elements' as listed below. These provisions demonstrate the intention of the Democratic Party to ensure a full opportunity for all minority group members to participate in the delegate selection process. (Rules 4.A. & C.)
1. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party in Louisiana should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status or physical disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as "status"). (Rule 4.B.(1))
 2. No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to the Democratic Party in Louisiana should be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination based on "status." (Rule 4.B.(2))

3. The time and place for all public meetings of the Democratic Party in Louisiana on all levels should be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons. (Rule 4.B.(3))
 4. The Democratic Party in Louisiana, on all levels, should support the broadest possible registration without discrimination based on "status." (Rule 4.B.(4))
 5. The Democratic Party in Louisiana should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures should be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of each State Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Democratic Party organization. (Rule 4.B.(5))
 6. The Democratic Party in Louisiana should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties, a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications of all positions as officers and representatives of the State Democratic Party. Such publication should be done in timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within each State Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office. (Rule 4.B.(6))
- B. Discrimination on the basis of 'status' in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited. (Rule 5.B.)
- C. LOUISIANA's delegation shall be equally divided between delegate men and delegate women, and alternate men and alternate women. Such goal applies to the entire delegation, which includes all pledged delegates and alternates and all unpledged delegates. Delegates and alternates shall be considered separate groups for purposes of achieving equal division. (Rule 6.C.)
- D. All delegate and alternate candidates must be identified as to presidential preference or uncommitted status at all levels which determine presidential preference. (Rule 12.A.)
- E. No delegate at any level of the delegate selection process shall be mandated by law or Party rules to vote contrary to that person's presidential choice as expressed at the time the delegate is elected. (Rule 12.I.)
- F. Delegates elected to the national convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them. (Rule 12.J.)
- G. All delegates, alternates and standing committee members must be bona fide Democrats who have the interests, welfare and success of the Democratic Party of the United States at heart, who subscribe to the substance, intent and principles of the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States, and who will participate in the Convention in good faith. (Rule 12.H. & Reg. 4.23.)
- H. No less than 50% of the members of any Party body above the first level of the delegate selection process shall constitute a quorum for any business pertaining to the selection of National Convention delegates, alternates, standing committee members, and other official Convention participants. (Rule 15)
- I. An accredited participant in a caucus, convention or committee meeting, after having appeared at such meeting and having established credentials, may register a non-transferable proxy with another duly accredited participant at that meeting (except where an accredited alternate is present and eligible to serve as a replacement), provided that no individual may hold more than three (3) proxies at one time. (Rule 16 & Reg. 4.28.)

- J. The unit rule, or any rule or practice whereby all members of a Party unit or delegation may be required to cast their votes in accordance with the will of a majority of the body, shall not be used at any stage of the delegate selection process. (Rule 17.A.)
- K. Any individual or group of Democrats may sponsor or endorse a slate of candidates for convention delegates. But no slate may, by virtue of such endorsement, receive a preferential place on a delegate selection ballot or be publicly identified on the ballot as the official Democratic Party organization slate, and all slates must meet identical qualifying requirements for appearing on a ballot at all levels of the delegate selection process. (Rule 17.B.)
- L. All steps in the delegate selection process, including the filing of presidential candidates, must take place within the calendar year of the Democratic National Convention, except with respect to the implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan. (Rules 1.F. & 11.B.)
- M. In electing and certifying delegates and alternates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention, LOUISIANA thereby undertakes to assure all Democratic voters in the state full, timely and equal opportunity to participate in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs and to implement affirmative action programs toward that end, and that the delegates and alternates to the Convention shall be selected in accordance with the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2008 Democratic National Convention, and that the voters in the state will have the opportunity to cast their election ballots for the Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees selected by said Convention, and for electors pledged formally and in good conscience to the election of these Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees, under the label and designation of the Democratic Party of the United States, and that the delegates certified will not publicly support or campaign for any candidate for President or Vice President other than the nominees for the Democratic National Convention. (Call, II.B.)

SECTION VII

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, OUTREACH AND INCLUSION PLAN

A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

1. Purpose and Objectives

- a. In order that the Democratic Party at all levels be an open Party which includes rather than excludes people from participation, a program of effective affirmative action is hereby adopted by Louisiana. (Rule 5.A.)
- b. Discrimination on the basis of “status” in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited. (Rule 5.B.)
- c. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party in Louisiana should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status or physical disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as “status”). (Rule 4.B.(1))

- d. Consistent with the Democratic Party's commitment to including historically under-represented in the Democratic Party's affairs, by virtue of race/ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, or disability, Louisiana has developed Party outreach programs. Such programs include recruitment, education and training, in order to achieve full participation by such groups and diversity in the delegate selection process and at all levels of Party affairs for 2008. (Rule 5.C & Reg. 4.7.)
 - I. As part of these programs, outreach will be directed at all Democratic constituencies, including groups such as ethnics, youth, persons over 65 years of age, lesbians and gay men, workers, persons with a high school education or less, persons with physical disabilities, and persons of low and moderate income.
- e. In order to encourage full participation by all Democrats in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs, the Louisiana Democratic Party has adopted and will implement programs with specific goals and timetables for African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans and women. (Rule 6.A.)
 - (1) The goal of the programs shall be to encourage participation in the delegate selection process and in Party organizations at all levels by the aforementioned groups as indicated by their presence in the Democratic electorate. (Rule 6.A.(1))
 - (2) This goal shall not be accomplished either directly or indirectly by the Party's imposition of mandatory quotas at any level of the delegate selection process or in any other Party affairs. (Rule 6.A.(2))
- f. In order to achieve full participation of other groups that may be under-represented in Party affairs, including members of the LGBT community and people with disabilities, the Louisiana Democratic Party has adopted and will implement Inclusion Programs. (Rule 7)

2. Organizational Structure

- a. An Affirmative Action Committee shall be appointed by the State Democratic Chair on March 1, 2007. (Rule 6.F.)
- b. The Committee shall consist of members from each delegate district representing the Democratic constituency groups set forth in the Introduction to the Affirmative Action Plan.
- c. The Affirmative Action Committee shall be responsible for:
 - (1) Reviewing the proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans and making recommendations to the State Democratic Chair.
 - (2) Reviewing the proposed Inclusion Programs and making recommendations to the State Democratic Chair.
 - (3) Directing the implementation of all requirements of the Affirmative Action section of this Plan.
 - (4) Implementing a financial assistance program for delegates and alternates. (Rule 6.G.)
 - (5) Ensuring, on behalf of the State Party Committee, that district lines used in the delegate selection process are not gerrymandered to discriminate against African

Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans and women.
(Rule 6.E.)

- d. Financial and staff support for the Affirmative Action Committee shall be provided by the State Party Committee to the greatest extent feasible, including, but not limited to, making available on a priority basis, the State Party staff and volunteers and covering all reasonable costs incurred in carrying out this Plan.
3. Implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan shall begin on September 16, 2007, with the distribution of the press kits, and will continue through the end of the delegate selection process. (Rule 1.F.)

B. EFFORTS TO EDUCATE ON THE DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS

1. Well publicized educational workshops will be conducted in each of the delegate districts beginning in September 2007. These workshops will be designed to encourage participation in the delegate selection process, including apprising potential delegate candidates of the availability of financial assistance. These workshops will be held in places which are easily accessible to persons with physical disabilities. The times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of all education workshops, meetings and other events involved in the delegate selection process shall be effectively publicized by the party organization and include mailings to various organizations representative of the Democratic voting populace. (Rules 3.A. & 3.C.)
2. A speakers bureau of volunteers from the Affirmative Action Committee comprised of individuals who are fully familiar with the process, will be organized to appear before groups as needed, to provide information concerning the process.
3. The State Party's education efforts will include outreach to community leaders within the Democratic Party's constituencies and making sure that information about the delegate selection process is available to Democratic clubs and Party caucuses representing specific constituencies.
4. The State Party will publish and make available at no cost: a clear and concise explanation of how Democratic voters can participate in the delegate selection process; an explanation of how, where and when persons can register to vote; and delegate district maps. As well, the State Party shall also make available copies of the State Party Rules, the Delegate Selection Plan (and its attachments), the Affirmative Action Plan, and relevant state statutes at no cost. Copies of documents related to the state's delegate selection process will be prepared and the Affirmative Action Committee will distribute them in the various delegate districts not later than December 15, 2007 (Rule 1.H.)
5. The State Party shall take all feasible steps to encourage persons to register and to vote as Democrats and will seek to ensure simple and easy registration procedures. (Rule 2.C.)

C. EFFORTS TO PUBLICIZE THE DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS

1. Special attention shall be directed at publicizing the delegate selection process in the state. Such publicity shall include information on eligibility to vote and how to become a candidate for delegate, the time and location of each stage of the delegate selection process and where to get additional information. The foregoing information will also be published in the State Party newspaper. The Party organization, official, candidate, or member calling a meeting or

- scheduling an event, shall effectively publicize the role that such meeting or event plays in the selection of delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention. (Rules 3.C. and 3.D.)
2. Newspapers, radio and television will be utilized to inform the general public how, when and where to participate in the delegate selection process. Specifically, this information should provide details as to how to qualify to run as a delegate candidate. Special effort shall be directed to the major daily newspapers, radio and television stations by the State Democratic Chair, Affirmative Action Committee members and staff. Regular releases during the delegate selection process to all other media sources, weekly newspapers, and wire services should complete timely coverage. (Rules 4.B.(3) & 6.D.)
 3. A priority effort shall be directed at publicity among the Democratic Party's constituencies.
 - a. Information about the delegate selection process will be provided to minority newspapers and radio stations, ethnic press, Native American, Asian/Pacific American, Spanish-speaking and other non-English press, radio stations and publications, and women's organizations, student newspapers, gay and lesbian press, disability press, and any other speciality media in the state that is likely to reach the Democratic constituency groups set forth in the Introduction of this Affirmative Action Plan.
 - b. The State Party shall be responsible for the implementation of this publicity effort. For purposes of providing adequate notice of the delegate selection process, the times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of shall be effectively publicized, bilingually where necessary, to encourage the participation of minority groups. (Rule 6.D.)
 4. Not later than September 16, 2007 a press kit shall be made and provided to each daily and weekly newspaper as well as to the electronic media. The press kit will include:
 - a. a summary of all pertinent rules related to the state's delegate selection process;
 - b. a map of delegate districts and how many delegates will be elected within each district;
 - c. a summary explaining the operation and importance of the 2008 Convention; and
 - d. materials designed to encourage participation by prospective delegate candidates.

D. REPRESENTATION GOALS

1. The State Party has determined the demographic composition of African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asian/Pacific Americans in the state's Democratic electorate. These constituency percentages shall be established as goals for representation in the state's convention delegation. (Rule 6.A.)
2. The State Party has determined the demographic composition of members of the LGBT community, people with disabilities, and youth in the state's Democratic electorate and furthermore, the State Party has chosen to establish these percentages as goals for representation in the state's convention delegation.

	African Americans	Hispanics	Native Americans	Asian/Pacific Americans	LGBT Americans	People with Disabilities	Youth
% in Democratic Electorate	44%	(<1%)	(<1%)	(<1%)	(6%)	(<1%)	(<1%)

	African Americans	Hispanics	Native Americans	Asian/Pacific Americans	LGBT Americans	People with Disabilities	Youth
Numeric Goals for Delegation	34	*	*	*	5	*	*

*2 Delegates from the groups

3. When selecting the at-large portion of the delegation, the demographic composition of the other delegates (district-level, pledged PLEO, and unpledged) shall be compared with the State Party's goals in order to achieve an at-large selection process which helps to bring about a representative balance.
4. Use of the at-large delegation to achieve the affirmative action goals established by this Plan does not obviate the need for the State Party to conduct outreach activities such as recruitment, education and training. (Rule 6.A.(3))

E. OBLIGATIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO MAXIMIZE PARTICIPATION

1. Presidential candidates shall assist the Louisiana Democratic Party in meeting the demographic representation goals reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan. (Rule 6.H.)
2. Each presidential candidate must submit a written statement to the State Democratic Chair by *(date)* which indicates the specific steps he or she will take to encourage full participation in Louisiana's delegate selection process, including, but not limited to, procedures by which persons may file as candidates for delegate or alternate. (Rule 6.H.(1))
3. Each presidential candidate must submit demographic information with respect to all candidates for delegate and alternate pledged to them. Such information shall be submitted in conjunction with the list of names approved for consideration as delegate and alternate candidates pledged to the presidential candidate. (Rule 6.H.(2))
4. Presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) shall use their best effort to ensure that their respective delegations within the state's delegate, alternate and standing committee delegations shall achieve the affirmative action goals reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan and that the respective delegations of each presidential candidate shall be equally divided between men and women. Furthermore, presidential candidates shall use their best efforts at the district level to approve delegate and alternate candidates who meet applicable equal division and affirmative action considerations in order to achieve the affirmative action goals and equal division for their respective delegations. (Rule 6.I. & Reg. 4.9.)

F. INCLUSION PROGRAMS [OPTIONAL]

[NOTE: This section is included for informational purposes for a State Party that DOES NOT establish goals and timetables for members of the LGBT community and people with disabilities as provided in Rule 7. This Rule requires State Parties to develop a plan intended to secure the full participation in the delegate selection process of LGBT Americans, people with disabilities, and other groups the State Party may choose, commensurate with each group's participation in the state's Democratic electorate. In lieu of this separate Inclusion Program section, a State Party may determine constituency percentages and goals for LGBT Americans and people with disabilities as indicated in Section D – Representation Goals – above.]

1. In order to achieve full participation of other groups that may be under-represented in Party affairs, including members of the LGBT community and people with disabilities, the Louisiana Democratic Party has adopted and will implement Inclusion Programs.

2. The State Party has taken reasonable steps to determine the composition of members of the LGBT community, people with disabilities, and youth in the state's Democratic electorate. *[Section should further indicate the "reasonable steps" the State Party took.]*
3. In securing this level of full participation, the State Party will conduct the education and publicity outreach efforts outlined in Sections B and C of this Section respectively.
4. The State Party will make accommodations to facilitate greater participation by people with disabilities. *[Section should specify what those accommodations would consist of.]*

SECTION VIII

CHALLENGES

A. JURISDICTION & STANDING

1. Challenges related to the delegate selection process are governed by the *Regulations of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2008 Democratic National Convention* (Regs., Sec. 3.), and the "Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2008 Democratic National Convention." (Call, Appendix A.)
2. Under Rule 20.B. of the *2008 Delegate Selection Rules*, the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction over challenges pertaining to the submission, non-implementation and violation of state Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans. (Rule 20.B.)
3. The Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction to hear and decide any challenge provided it is initiated before the 56th day preceding the date of the commencement of the 2008 Democratic National Convention. (Call, Appendix A. & Reg., 3.1.)
4. Challenges to the credentials of delegates and alternates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention initiated on or after the 56th day preceding the date of commencement of the Democratic National Convention shall be processed in accordance with the "Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2008 Democratic National Convention." (Call, Appendix A)
5. Any challenge to the credentials of a standing committee member shall be considered and resolved by the affected standing committee in accordance with Appendix A of the *Call for the 2008 Democratic National Convention*. The Rules and Bylaws Committee shall have jurisdiction over challenges brought before the 56th day preceding the date of the commencement of the Democratic National Convention. (Call, VII.B.5.)
6. Copies of the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee and/or the Call for the 2008 Democratic National Convention, including the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee (Appendix A), shall be made available by the State Party upon reasonable request.
7. Any group of fifteen Democrats with standing to challenge as defined in Reg. 3.2 or the Call (Appendix A, Sec. 2.A.), may bring a challenge to this Plan or to the implementation of this Plan, including its Affirmative Action provisions.

B. CHALLENGES TO THE STATUS OF THE STATE PARTY AND CHALLENGES TO THE PLAN

1. A challenge to the status of the State Party Committee as the body entitled to sponsor a delegation from that state shall be filed with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the initiation of the state's delegate selection process. (Rule 20.A. & Reg. 3.4.A.)
2. A challenge to the state's Delegate Selection Plan shall be filed with the Chair of the Louisiana Democratic Party and the Co-Chairs of the Rules and Bylaws Committee within fifteen (15) calendar days after the adoption of the Plan by the State Party. (Reg. 3.4.B.)
3. A challenge to a Plan must be brought in conformity with the Rules and the Regs., which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

C. CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION

1. A challenge may be brought alleging that a specific requirement of an approved Plan has not been properly implemented. Jurisdiction over all challenges initiated in a timely fashion shall reside with either the Rules and Bylaws Committee or the Credentials Committee of the National Convention (See Section VII.A. above). However, the Rules and Bylaws Committee may provide advice, assistance or interpretations of the Delegate Selection Rules at any stage of the delegate selection process. (Reg. 3.1.C.)
2. An implementation challenge brought before the Rules and Bylaws Committee is initiated by filing a written challenge with the State Party Committee and with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than fifteen (15) days after the alleged violation occurred. The State Party has twenty-one (21) days to render a decision. Within ten (10) days of the decision, any party to the challenge may appeal it to the Rules and Bylaws Committee. If in fact, the State Party renders no decision, any party to the challenge may request the Rules and Bylaws Committee to process it. The request must be made within ten (10) days after expiration of the above twenty-one (21) day period. (Regs. 3.4.C., E., & H.)
3. Performance under an approved Affirmative Action Plan and composition of the convention delegation shall be considered relevant evidence in the challenge to any state delegation. If a State Party has adopted and implemented an approved affirmative action program, the State Party shall not be subject to challenge based solely on delegation composition or primary results. (Rule 6.B.) The procedures are the same for challenges alleging failure to properly implement the Affirmative Action section of a Plan, except that such challenges must be filed not later than thirty (30) days prior to the initiation of the state's delegate selection process. (Reg. 3.4.C.)
4. Depending on the appropriate jurisdiction (see Section VIII.A. above), implementation challenges must be brought in conformity with the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee or the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee, which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

SECTION IX

SUMMARY OF PLAN

A. SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Louisiana will use a proportional representation system based on the results of the Party-Run Primary apportioning its delegates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

The “first determining step” of Louisiana’s delegate selection process will occur on February 9, 2008, with a Party-Run Primary.

Delegates and alternates will be selected as summarized on the following chart:

Type	Delegates	Alternates	Date of Selection	Selecting Body
				Filing Requirements and Deadlines
District-Level Delegates District-Level Alternates	37	7	3/1/08 3/1/08	<i>Post Primary Congressional District Caucus</i> <i>200 Signatures or \$100 contribution Deadline 2/4/2008.</i>
Unpledged Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates*	11	n/a	n/a	Automatic by virtue of respective public or Party office as provided in Rule 8.A. of the 2008 Delegate Selection Rules.
Unpledged Add-on Delegates**	1	n/a	5/3/08	Democratic State Central Committee of Louisiana <i>200 Signatures or \$100 contribution Deadline 3/31/2008.</i>
Pledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials (PLEOs)	7	***	5/3/08	Democratic State Central Committee of Louisiana <i>200 Signatures or \$100 contribution Deadline 3/31/2008.</i>
At-Large Delegates At-Large Alternates	12	2	5/3/08 5/3/08	Democratic State Central Committee of Louisiana <i>200 Signatures or \$100 contribution Deadline 3/31/2008.</i>
TOTAL Delegates and Alternates	68	9		

* Unpledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates includes the following categories, if applicable, who legally reside in the state: the Democratic National Committee Members, the Democratic President, the Democratic Vice President, all Democratic Members of Congress, the Democratic Governor, and any other Distinguished Party Leader as specified in Rule 9.A. of the *2008 Delegate Selection Rules*. The exact number of Unpledged PLEO Delegates is subject to change due to possible deaths, resignations, elections or special elections.

** Unpledged Add-on delegates refers to those delegates chosen according to Rule 9.B. of the *2008 Delegate Selection Rules*.

*** Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) alternates are selected with the At-Large alternates.

B. SELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (FOR THE CREDENTIALS, PLATFORM AND RULES COMMITTEES)

Standing committee members will be selected by the state’s National Convention delegates as summarized below:

Members Per Committee	Total Members	Selection Date	Filing Requirements and Deadlines
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Members Per Committee	Total Members	Selection Date	Filing Requirements and Deadlines
2	6	5/3/08	Nominated by presidential or representative. Deadline: 5/3/08

C. SELECTION OF DELEGATION CHAIR AND CONVENTION PAGES

The Delegation Chair will be selected by the National Convention Delegates on May 3, 2008.

2 Convention Pages will be selected by the State Democratic Chair on May 3, 2008.

D. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE

[Specify the deadline, if any, by which presidential candidates must file in order to participate in the primary or caucus, and with whom the candidate must file. Note: Filing deadline must be within the calendar year of the convention.] (Rule 10.B.)

Presidential candidates must certify the name of their authorized representative(s) to the State Democratic Chair by *(date)*.

E. TIMETABLE (REG. 2.2.B.)

Date	Activity
2007	
February 1	Delegate Selection Affirmative Action Committee members are appointed by the State Chair. <i>[Note: This appointment is required to be made by March 1, 2007.]</i>
February 13	Affirmative Action Committee meets to draft proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans.
February 27	Proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans are tentatively approved for public comment by State Party Committee.
March 1	Public comments are solicited on the proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans. Press releases are mailed announcing the public comment period.
April 2	Period for public comment on state Plan is concluded. Responses are compiled for review by the State Party Committee.
April 28	State Party Committee reviews public comments and adopts revised Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans for submission to DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee. Press releases are mailed announcing the approval of the Plan.
May 28	Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans are forwarded to the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee.
September 16	State Party begins implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan. Press kits, as described in the Affirmative Action Plan, are sent to all state media. <i>[Note: This is the deadline by which implementation of the affirmative action program must begin.]</i>
October 1	Deadline for each announced presidential candidate to submit a statement specifying steps the candidate will take to encourage full participation in the delegate selection process. (Individuals who announce their candidacy after this date must provide this full participation statement to the State Party not later than 30 days after their announcement.)
December 3	Presidential candidate petition forms are available from the State Party Committee Headquarters.

Date	Activity
December 7	Presidential candidate deadline for certifying the name(s) of their authorized representative(s) to the State Party.
December 14	Presidential candidate deadline for filing the petition of candidacy with the Secretary of State and a copy to the State Party.
2008	
January 1	Delegate and alternate candidates may obtain the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms and filing instructions from State Party Committee Headquarters, in person, by mail, or from State Party's web site at [www.democrats.org].
February 4	District-level delegate and alternate deadline for filing the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms with State Party.
February 5	State Party provides list of district-level delegate and alternate candidates to the respective Presidential candidates.
February 9	Presidential preference primary.
February 14	Presidential candidates provide list of approved district-level delegate and alternate candidates to State Party.
February 15	Secretary of State certifies results of primary; pre-slated district-level delegates and alternates are allocated according to presidential preference.
March 1	Primary congressional district caucuses slate district-level delegate and alternate candidates.
March 4	State Party certifies elected district-level delegates and alternates to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee.
March 31	Pledged PLEO and at-large delegate or alternate candidate deadline for filing the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms with State Party.
April 3	State Party provides list of PLEO and at-large delegate and alternate candidates to the respective Presidential candidates.
April 14	Presidential candidates provide approved list of pledged PLEO delegate candidates to State Party.
May 3	State Convention convenes. Unpledged add-on and pledged PLEO delegates selected. Following selection of PLEO delegates, presidential candidates provide approved list of at-large delegate and alternate candidates to State Party. State Convention selects at-large delegates and alternates. Presidential candidates submit lists of candidates for standing committee members to State Party.
May 3	National Convention delegation meeting. Delegate select National Convention standing committee members and delegation chair. State Chair names convention pages.
May 3	State Party certifies remainder of elected delegates and alternates (Unpledged add-on, PLEOs, and at-large), along with standing committee members, delegation chair, and convention pages.

EXHIBITS TO THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN**A. MEMBERS OF THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE**

[List each member of the Affirmative Action Committee and indicate relevant demographic data about each member (i.e. African American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian/Pacific American or White, Female or Male, and any other applicable Democratic constituency group as set forth in the Introduction to the Affirmative Action Plan).]

B. MEDIA OUTLETS TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS**1. Major Daily Newspapers, Radio and Television Stations**

[List the other non-minority media sources, weekly newspapers, and wire services that will receive regular releases during the delegate selection process as part of the State Party's outreach efforts.]

2. Other "Non-Minority" Media Outlets

[List the other non-minority media sources, weekly newspapers, and wire services that will receive regular releases during the delegate selection process as part of the State Party's outreach efforts.]

3. Constituency and Speciality Media Outlets and Targeted Groups

[List minority newspapers and radio stations, ethnic press, Native American, Asian/Pacific American, Spanish-speaking and other non-English press, radio stations and publications, women's organizations, student newspapers, gay and lesbian press, disability press, and any other speciality media and community organizations in the state that is likely to reach the Democratic constituencies set forth in the Introduction to the Affirmative Action Plan. This list should also specify the constituencies these media outlets will target as a priority effort to effectively publicize (bilingually where necessary) information about the delegate selection process.]

ATTACHMENTS TO THE DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN

[As specified in Reg. 2.2, the following documentation must accompany the state's Delegate Selection Plan at the time it is formally submitted to the Rules and Bylaws Committee.]

1. **A summary** of the process for selecting delegates, alternates, standing committee members, the delegation chair and convention pages, along with related deadlines. *[It is recommended that this information be incorporated as part of the state's Delegate Selection Plan - see Section IX. of the Model Plan.]* (Reg. 2.2.A.)
2. **A timetable** reflecting all significant dates in the state's delegate selection process. *[It is recommended that this information be incorporated as part of the state's Delegate Selection Plan - see Section I. of the Model Plan.]* (Reg. 2.2.B.)
3. **A statement from the State Democratic Chair certifying the Plan** as submitted to the RBC was approved by the State Party Committee. (Reg. 2.2.C.)
4. **A copy of the press release** distributed by the State Party Committee announcing its adoption of the Plan and summarizing the major components of the Plan. (Reg. 2.2.D.)
5. **A statement from the State Democratic Chair certifying compliance with Rule 1.C.** which requires a 30 day public comment period prior to the adoption of the Plan by the State Party. (Reg. 2.2.E.)
6. **Copies of all written public comments on the Plan** *[Include information identifying each person and/or organization making the comment and where appropriate, a description of the person or group so represented, if such information has been provided or is available to the State Party.]* (Reg. 2.2.F.)
7. **A blank copy of forms to be filed with the state or the State Party by delegate candidates.** (Reg. 2.2.G.)
8. **A statement from the Chair of the Affirmative Action Committee certifying compliance with Rule 6.F.,** which requires that the Affirmative Action Committee has reviewed the proposed Affirmative Action outreach plan (Reg. 2.2.H.)
9. **Copies of all state statutes reasonably related to the Delegate Selection Process** *[For example, include any and all state statutory requirements related to: ballot access for presidential candidates; filing requirements for delegate and alternate candidates; timing of the presidential primary, caucuses, and/or the state convention; participation in the state's presidential primary or caucuses, including Party registration or enrollment provisions; and any other stipulations made by the state regarding the selection process or the role of National Convention delegates.]* (Reg. 2.2.I.)
10. **A copy of all qualifying forms to be filed with the state or the State Party by presidential candidates.** (Reg. 2.2.J.)