

Let us outline exactly what is wrong with this plan here. According to the 2016 plan for the Nevada Democratic State Convention that was approved last week:

### A. CONVENTION ORGANIZATION

I. b. “Any preference group that received delegates at the county convention shall be entitled to no more than half of that number of alternates for each county.”

c. “All delegates and alternates must have been elected at their respective county convention.”

PROBLEM: The purpose of a caucus is to be a barometer of the longevity of support one candidate or another retains throughout the election process. Not only that, but important votes will take place on the floor and limiting the attendance of this convention from the general public is not in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order, which has been sourced to excuse certain rule changes, but not others. If people show up and there are alternate spots open on either side, they should be able to take them and re-align in the first re-alignment.

Also, April 18th many members that were not on the lists for delegate or alternate received emails inviting them to register for the convention. This has created a massive amount of confusion.

SOLUTION: Open up the convention to any democrat who wishes to join and allow any elected or unelected alternates the option to participate in their democracy.

I. d. “The Nevada State Democratic Party may solicit a suggested voluntary contribution from attendees to the State Convention on Saturday, May 14, 2016 and Sunday, May 15, 2016, but under no circumstances shall a contribution be mandatory for participation.”

PROBLEM: According to the Nevada State Delegate Plan for 2016, and the Nevada State Law, the party should not be

“directly or indirectly” soliciting donations in turn for participating in our democracy. The county convention was \$25, the state \$35 for a total of \$60 to vote (\$120 in a household of two democrats). Their specific organization on Eventbrite and making poor people go through the process of asking the state for *permission* for a waiver of these fees is not only demeaning and against “democratic” principles, but it’s against their own delegate plan, as released February of 2015.

SOLUTION: Allow attendants to CHOOSE which amount they wish to donate to the party, without having to secure a waiver on the registration site itself. And allow for those who feel they were tricked into paying this the ability to recoup their money.

II. b. “In-person registration for the State Convention shall begin no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 13, 2016. Registration shall open no later than 7 a.m. and shall close at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 14, 2016. Every delegate and alternate in line at 10 a.m. shall be registered.”

PROBLEM: This plan does not tell us where the registration Friday night will take place (which was a problem for the Clark County pre-check in) and also does not set a time for Friday night cut off, which needs to be advertised now. Also, the Nevada State Delegate Plan calls for registration to be until noon on Saturday. Having a 10am cut off may confuse and discourage voters.

SOLUTION: Announce where Friday night check in will be in the convention plan upon re-approval of these rules with these changes. Allow people to check in Friday night as long as there are people in line, with a cut off of midnight. And keep registration open Saturday till noon, like the two previous parts of this process.

II. g. “The Credentials Committee shall create a list of alternates and shall take into consideration the order of the alternate’s sign-in and the alternate’s presidential preference.”

PROBLEM: Unless the Credentials Committee is made up of arbitrators approved by both campaigns (see below at section VIII on how they are currently appointed), this is not a fair process.

SOLUTION: Make all appointments to these committees subject to the approval of each campaign.

III. b. “The Chair of the Nevada State Democratic Party may appoint other permanent officers for the convention. Such officers shall be Honorary Chair(s), a Parliamentarian, and Sergeant(s) at Arms. The officers appointed by the Chair of the Nevada State Democratic Party shall be ratified by the convention body as a whole. Additionally, the Chair of the Nevada State Democratic Party may appoint additional officers to assist these permanent officers with their duties at her discretion.”

PROBLEM: The current chair has shown a lack of ethical judgment and has a presidential bias.

SOLUTION: These positions, if we are seeking fairness, should be approved by the respective campaigns or a campaign approved Bernie supporter should serve as the Co-Chair for transparency and fairness.

III. e. “The Parliamentarian shall be the arbiter of any parliamentary questions or interpretations. “

and

f. “The Sergeant(s) at Arms shall ensure order and decorum on the convention floor.”

PROBLEMS: These are appointed by the Chair.

SOLUTION: These positions, if we are seeking fairness, should be approved by the respective campaigns.

V. a. “Any intentional disruption of any convention activities may result in immediate ejection from the convention, including the forfeiture of any fees paid for the convention or other convention activities.”

c. “Guests invited to speak to the convention shall not have their remarks or presentations interrupted or interfered with in any manner, including auditory or visual distractions from the floor. Violation of this rule may result in immediate ejection from the convention, including the forfeiture of any fees paid for the convention or other convention activities.”

d. “Noisemakers of any kind are prohibited at the convention.”

e. “Conversation on the floor should be kept to a minimum out of respect for guests, delegates and speakers. Those delegates, alternates, and guests wishing to converse should exit the floor.”

f. “The Sergeant(s) at Arms shall have the authority to enforce these rules with the approval of the Convention Chair.”

PROBLEM: These rules are stifling free speech, they are discriminatory to excited and passionate voters, and they have the effect of keeping voters (who are, by definition, dissenting voices), from participating in the state convention. These rules, as written, are a SMACK IN THE FACE to democracy and are discouraging people from participating in the democratic process. Section e is especially egregious, encouraging convention attendees to not even converse with one another. If they wish to halt conversations on the convention floor, what is the purpose of having a convention? WHAT COUNTRY ARE WE LIVING IN?

SOLUTION: Section V should be completely removed from this plan.

VII. a. “The State Convention shall be called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 14, 2016.”

PROBLEM: The rules also provide that anyone in line by 10:00am shall be registered. Thus, this precludes anyone still in line at that time from being able to vote on important matters.

SOLUTION: Set the commencement of the State Convention to when all guests have been registered, or not conduct party business (such as votes) until after this is completed.

VII. d. “Any motion to amend the Convention Agenda, the Temporary Convention Rules, or the Convention Rules shall require either a privileged resolution from the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Nevada State Democratic Party or a petition signed by twenty percent (20%) of all convention delegates.”

PROBLEM: This does not allow motions from the floor to be considered, even if 50% + 1 want it to be considered.

SOLUTION: Conduct the meeting in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order and allow motions from the floor to be considered.

VIII. a. “The Credentials Committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Nevada State Democratic Party prior to the Convention.”

PROBLEM: The Chair, who is biased, should not be responsible for picking who will represent each campaign. The Chair wanted to appoint her own husband as a Bernie representative for the Credentials Committee at the Clark County convention at the last moment, further bringing her ethical judgment into question.

SOLUTION: Allow the chair to appoint these people, only at approval of the respective campaigns.

VIII. g. “Forty percent (40%) of the registered delegates shall constitute a quorum for the

Convention. Once a quorum has been certified, the business of the convention shall not be subject to the suggestion of a lack of quorum.”

PROBLEM: Party business should not be conducted until all delegates and alternates are registered Saturday morning. It is also not customary to take away convention attenuates rights to challenge a lack of quorum.

SOLUTION: Do not call the convention to order until all people have been registered and allow for the ability to question quorum at any point it is suspected to not be sufficient for a fair vote on party matters. Additionally, change the minimum number required to reach a quorum to a simple majority (or 50%+1)

XI. b. “The platform, as proposed by the Platform committee, shall be made available in electronic format, and to the extent practicable, made available in written form for review by the Convention delegates prior to any vote.”

PROBLEM: No date is suggested as when this will be made available to the delegates.

SOLUTION: Make it so that delegates have this plan at least 7 days before the convention, and it is emailed to every delegate and alternate.

XII. “Delegates to the state convention shall be considered to have aligned with a presidential preference group when they are registered for the convention. A delegate shall be required to designate his or her presidential preference group at the time of his or her registration. A delegate who refuses to designate a preference group shall be registered by the Credentials Committee as uncommitted.”

PROBLEM: If the E-Board does not open participation in the state convention to all democrats as requested above, then this is not a problem.

If the E-Board does not open participation, this section is internally inconsistent with I. c. of this plan stating all delegates and alternates should have been elected at their county conventions. Thus, there should not be anyone registering that has not already

indicated their presidential preference and the Credential Committee should not have the power to register anyone into any group without their knowledge or consent.

SOLUTION: Delegates should be bound as representatives for their preference they were elected for until re-alignment, or the participation should be open to all democrats, regardless of their voting status.

## B. ELECTIONS

II. a. “The Tellers Committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Nevada State Democratic Party prior to the convention.”

PROBLEM: The chair is biased.

SOLUTION: Allow this position to be appointed by the chair and approved by the respective campaigns, ESPECIALLY considering these are the people counting the ballots.

IX. Election of Members to the State Central Committee

B. - All current members of the State Central Committee shall be given an opportunity to serve another term as a committee member.

PROBLEM: Under the Bylaws, State Central Committee Members are intended to be in their position for two years, and then up for re-election. The way the current rules have been rewritten, current members in the State Central Committee are now given preference to their own seats, which allows for potential life time appointments.

SOLUTION: All seats should be up for election every two years at the State Convention, as called for in the Bylaws.

## C. MISCELLANEOUS

III. a. “There shall be no amendments to the Charter and Bylaws of the Nevada State Democratic Party at the State Convention.”

PROBLEM: This is a direct violation of the Rules and Bylaws.

SOLUTION: This should be stricken completely. The Convention is the highest authority of the NSDP and nothing should undermine this authority.

II. a, ii. "The Convention may not be adjourned with intent to reconvene at another place or time for any reason other than ] ... [a vote of Eighty (80) percent of the credentialed delegates to the convention."

PROBLEM: This figure should be 50% + 1, per Robert's Rules of Order.

III. b. "These rules shall only be suspended in the instance where an unforeseen circumstance in these rules has prohibited the convention from conducting its required business."

PROBLEM: Unforeseen by whom?

SOLUTION: This paragraph needs to be more detailed. Rules of the convention need to be passed by majority vote, AFTER every person has been registered that was in line by 12pm.

ADDED problem:

State Central Committee Members are intended to be in their position for two years. The way the current rules have been rewritten, current members in the State Central Committee are now given preference to their own seats, which allows for potential life time appointments.

SOLUTION: All seats should be up for election every two years at the State Convention.