RULES FOR VOTING AND ELECTIONS IN THE MICHIGAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

1.0   PURPOSE

1.1 These rules provide procedures to be used for all voting and elections at the various levels of the Michigan Democratic Party: State Convention, Congressional District caucuses, conventions, and meetings, County conventions and meetings, and meetings of constituency caucuses or clubs which are chartered by the MDP or one of its units. No other voting procedures are approved for use within the MDP.

2.0   DEFINITIONS

2.1 *multiple-position office*: an office for which more than one person is to be elected. Examples are County or District Executive Committee members, delegates or alternates to the State Central Committee, delegates or alternates to the Democratic National Convention, and Democratic National Committee members.

2.2 *proportional representation:* using an approved election method for multiple-position offices such that a substantial minority within the assembly has an opportunity to elect a proportionate share of the delegates or members. For example, 20% of an assembly would have the opportunity to elect one out of five delegate positions.

2.3 *SADV*: State Allocation of Delegate Vote – the numerical weight or voting strength given to a county's delegates at a convention, caucus, or meeting, based on the Democratic voting strength of that county relative to the state as a whole at the last General Election.

2.4 *single-position office*: an office filled by only one person. Examples are Chair, Treasurer, etc., but also could be for a delegate or alternate if only one of a given gender is allocated.

2.5 *slate voting*: a voting method for electing multiple-position offices in which delegates vote for a group of candidates appearing on one slate (list) out of several, where the order of the candidates on the slate is pre-determined.

2.6 *weighted voting:* using the State Allocation of Delegate Vote (SADV) process, whereby each county's (or portion thereof) delegates within a multi-county Congressional District Convention, caucus, or meeting, or at the State Convention, have a voting strength proportional to the number of Democratic voters from that county (or portion) at the last General Election relative to the total number of Democratic voters in the District or the state, regardless of how many delegates are present at the convention, caucus, or meeting.

3.0   GENERAL PRINCIPLES

3.1 Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any meeting of the Democratic Party in Michigan at any level. All votes in methods described below may be cast by show of hands or a rising vote at the Chair's discretion.

3.2. No rule shall be adopted by any MDP unit that would require any person to cast a vote or be recorded as voting contrary to that person's judgment. The Unit Rule (the practice of a unit reporting a unanimous vote when the vote within that unit was not unanimous) shall be prohibited in all units.

3.3 In any election, lots shall be drawn to break any ties.

3.4 Article 2 of the MDP Rules contains other provisions bearing on voting and elections, which are included here by reference.

3.5 There are two separate concepts fundamental to elections in the Michigan Democratic Party which must not be confused:

3.5.1 How do we make sure that the voting strength of delegates from each county (at a district caucus or the state convention) reflects the relative number of Democratic voters from that county at the last General Election? This is *weighted voting*, as defined above, using the State Allocation of Delegate Vote (SADV) process.

3.5.2 How do we make sure that a substantial minority within the assembly has the opportunity to elect their choice for a proportionate share of the positions being elected? This is *proportional representation*, as defined above, using an approved voting method for electing multiple-position offices (such as for State Central delegates and alternates, county or Congressional District Executive Committee members, Democratic National Committee members, or delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention).

4.0   WEIGHTED VOTING

4.1 Weighted voting must be used in elections and other votes held at the MDP Convention, and in Congressional District Conventions, caucuses, or meetings where the Congressional District is made up of more than one county (currently, Districts 1-12 and 14). The purpose of weighted voting is to make the voting strength of each county's (or portion thereof within a Congressional District) delegation at the assembly reflect the Democratic voting strength of that county (or portion), regardless of how many delegates are present from each county. Following each General Election, the MDP will determine each county's (or portion thereof) State Allocation of Delegate Vote (SADV), based on the proportion of each county's (or portion thereof) vote for President or Secretary of State relative to the state as a whole.

4.2 The basic formula for weighted voting is:

(number of delegates from county Y voting for candidate or slate A)/(total number of delegates from county Y voting on this question))x(county Y SADV) = (weighted votes from county Y for candidate or slate A)

For example, if county Y has an SADV of 60, and 15 out of 20 delegates voting on this question from county Y vote for A, there are: (15/20)x60 = 45 weighted votes for A.

4.3 Following each General Election and prior to any county, district, or statewide convention, the MDP will provide to Districts an election tabulator in the form of an Excel file or similar with updated SADV numbers, and instructions to use it. Use of the tabulator will facilitate quick and accurate execution of weighted voting and slate voting processes, and ensure uniform application statewide.

5.0   SINGLE-POSITION OFFICES

5.1 Single-position offices, such as Party Chair, Treasurer, etc. must be elected by a majority vote.

5.2 In a County election or in a District within one county, this is a simple majority vote. If no candidate receives a majority (over 50.0%) of the votes, the candidate with the lowest vote total, or candidates tied for the lowest vote total is (are) removed, and the election repeated, until a majority for one candidate is achieved.

5.3 At the MDP Convention or in a District made up of more than one county, each county caucuses separately, tallies their votes for each candidate, and reports the raw numbers of votes to the convention or caucus secretary, who calculates the weighted vote using the SADV process described above. If no candidate receives a majority (over 50.0%) of the weighted votes, the candidate with the lowest vote total, or candidates tied for the lowest vote total is (are) removed, and the election repeated, until a majority for one candidate is achieved. (see Example: A1)

5.4 The rules adopted for a given Convention or meeting must specify either that the single-position offices (i.e., officers) to be elected at the Convention or meeting must be elected separately, or alternatively must be elected as a group, with each slate contesting the election including candidates for one or more of the offices to be elected. However, in the latter case the election will not be resolved according to proportional representation rules, but as winner-take-all, with the slate achieving a majority electing all its candidates to office. The election of a slate of officers will proceed as specified in 5.2 and 5.3. If the slate achieving a majority does not include candidates for all offices to be elected, then all candidates on that slate are declared elected, and the election for unfilled offices proceeds as specified in 5.2 and 5.3.

6.0   MULTIPLE-POSITION OFFICES

6.1 Multiple-position offices, such as County or District Executive Committee members, delegates or alternates to the State Central Committee, delegates or alternates to the Democratic National Convention, or members of the Democratic National Committee, must be elected by one of the methods approved for implementing proportional representation, detailed below in 6.4 and 6.5.

6.2 The rules adopted for a given convention or meeting must specify either that the different categories of multiple-position offices (e.g. male state central delegates, female state central alternates, Executive Committee members) to be elected at the convention or meeting must be elected separately, or alternatively that several or all of these categories must be elected as a result of a single vote. In the latter case, each slate must have separate lists of male and female candidates for delegates and alternates, to ensure that the specified number of men and women are elected. The proportions derived from the vote are separately applied to each category.

6.3 When slate voting is used, the rules should describe a nominating process that groups the positions to be filled by title and gender. It is permissible for such groupings to create single member offices so long as equal division of gender is maintained. Also, in no case may the election of single-position offices and multiple-position offices be combined into one election.

6.4 SLATE VOTING

6.4.1 A list or slate may be submitted by any delegate or group of delegates. The number of names on a slate may be as few as one person or any number up to the number to be elected. Candidates must agree to appear on a slate. Candidates on each slate are announced in the order in which they appear on the submitted list. Each delegate has one vote, which is cast for a particular slate.

6.4.2 A slate election at the county level or in a District within one county does not involve weighted voting (the SADV process). The number of votes for each slate are counted by the convention or caucus secretary. The votes for each slate is divided by the total number of votes for all slates to form a proportion (decimal fraction), e.g. 0.2410 rather than 24.1%. The proportion of the total vote received by each slate is multiplied by the number of positions to be elected, and the whole number portion of each result is the number of persons elected from that slate. If there are any unfilled positions, the slate having the largest fractional portion of the above results shall receive the first unfilled position, the slate having the second largest fractional portion shall receive the second unfilled position, and so on.

6.4.3 In a slate election at the MDP Convention or in a Congressional District made up of more than one county, each county caucuses separately, tallies their votes for each slate, and reports the raw numbers of votes for each slate from that county to the convention or caucus secretary, who calculates the weighted vote using the SADV method described above (4.0). The weighted votes for each slate is divided by the total weighted vote (SADV) to form a proportion (decimal fraction), e.g. 0.2410 rather than 24.1%. The proportion of the total vote received by each slate is multiplied by the number of positions to be elected, and the whole number portion of each result is the number of persons elected from that slate. If there are any unfilled

positions, the slate having the largest fractional portion of the above results shall receive the first unfilled position, the slate having the second largest fractional portion shall receive the second unfilled position, and so on.

6.4.4 The candidates elected are determined by the order in which their names are listed on the slate beginning with the top and moving down until the total number of positions to which the slate is entitled has been filled. (See example: A2)

6.5 GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

6.5.1 A system of geographical distribution may be adopted. Under this system, the positions to be elected are allocated to pre-existing political or election subdivisions (e.g. Counties within a Congressional District). This must be done on a weighted basis; that is, according to the SADV of each area:

Positions allocated to a subdivision = (SADV of the subdivision / total SADV) * total number of positions to be allocated.

This may be adjusted as provided in District Bylaws or by agreement.

6.5.2 The whole number portion of the above results are the number of positions allocated to that subdivision. If there are any unfilled positions, the largest fractional portion of the above results shall receive the first unfilled position, the second largest fractional portion shall receive the second position, and so on. (see example: A3)

6.5.3 If a geographic system is adopted, the election for delegates in each category (male or female, delegate or alternate) allocated to each county could be carried out at the district level, or each county could elect its own delegates, as specified in the district rules for that convention, caucus or meeting. Slate voting (6.4) would be used for each county allocation in each category, unless any of the allocations were for a single winner, in which case majority voting (5.0) would be used.

6.5.4 A similar plan may be adopted at the county level, with a number of members of the County Executive Committee allocated to the municipalities making up the county according to Democratic voting strength in each municipality.

APPENDIX – EXAMPLES

A1: Example of Majority Election with Run-off

Candidates Alice, Barb, and Charlie are running for District Chair in a District made up of three counties, Williams County having an SADV of 60, Swainson County having an SADV of 48, and Murphy County having an SADV of 12.

STEP 1: The candidates' names are read aloud, and each county caucuses separately, tallies their votes for each candidate, and reports the raw numbers of votes to the convention or caucus secretary.

Here are the raw votes:

	Alice	Barb	Charlie	Total delegates
Williams	15	15	0	30
Swainson	28	12	56	96
Murphy	7	9	12	28

STEP 2: The Secretary calculates the number of weighted votes received by each candidate, according to the SADV process (4.0), by dividing the raw number of votes for a candidate within a county by the number of voting delegates from that county, then multiplying by that county's SADV. Weighted votes for each candidate from all counties are then added, and the sums divided by the total District SADV to give the percentage of District SADV achieved by each candidate:

	Alice	Barb	Charlie	Total delegates	SADV
Williams	(15/30)*60 = 30	(15/30)*60 = 30	(0/30)*60 = 0	30	60
Swainson	(28/96)*48 = 14	(12/96)*48 = 6	(56/96)*48 = 29.5	96	48
Murphy	(7/28)*12 = 3	(9/28)*12 = 3.857	(12/28)*12 = 5.143	28	12
Weighted votes:	47	39.857	34.643		120
% of total SADV:	39.167%	33.214%	28.869%		

Since no candidate received over 50.0% of the weighted vote, Charlie would be dropped, and the election repeated.

A2: Example of Slate Voting

Five women and four men are allocated as State Central delegates from a Congressional District, made up of three counties, Williams County having an SADV of 60, Swainson County having an SADV of 48, and Murphy County having an SADV of 12. To ensure the correct number of each gender is elected, the election is divided into one for men and one for women delegates.

STEP 1: Caucus delegates submit the following slates for women delegates to the Chair, making sure that each candidate has given permission to appear on that slate:

Slate A:	Slate B:	Slate C:
Irene	Jill	Carol
Doris	Roberta	Gulnar
Cheryl	Alice	Karen
Brianna	Elizabeth	
Leonora		

STEP 2: The slates are read aloud, and each county caucuses separately, tallies their votes for each slate, and reports the raw numbers of votes to the convention or caucus secretary.

Here are the raw votes:

	Slate A	Slate B	Slate C	Total delegates	SADV
Williams	15	15	0	30	60
Swainson	28	12	56	96	48
Murphy	7	9	12	28	12

STEP 3: The secretary calculates the number of weighted votes received by each slate, according to the SADV process (4.0), by dividing the raw number of votes for a slate within a county by the number of voting delegates from that county, then multiplying by that county's SADV, then calculates the proportion of the total District SADV this represents by dividing by the total SADV of the District.

	Slate A	Slate B	Slate C	Total delegates	SADV
Williams	(15/30)*60 = 30	(15/30)*60 = 30	(0/30)*60 = 0	30	60
Swainson	(28/96)*48 = 14	(12/96)*48 = 6	(56/96)*48 = 29.5	96	48
Murphy	(7/28)*12 = 3	(9/28)*12 = 3.857	(12/28)*12 = 5.143	28	12
Weighted votes:	47	39.857	34.643		120
Proportion of total SADV:	0.39167	0.33214	0.28869		

(NOTE: Up to this point, the math is identical to that of the Majority Election example above)

STEP 4: The proportion each slate received (step 3) is multiplied by the number of positions to be elected (five). The whole number portion of each result is the number of persons elected from that slate. If there are any unfilled positions, the largest fractional portion of the above results shall receive the first unfilled position, the second largest fractional portion shall receive the second position, and so on.

	Slate A	Slate B	Slate C
Proportion of total SADV:	0.39167	0.33214	0.28869
Positions:	5	5	5
SADV fraction * positions:	1.95835	1.6607	1.44345
whole number:	1	1	1
top fractional part:	1	1	

Five delegates are to be elected, the whole number parts elect one from slate A, one from slate B, and one from slate C. Two remain to be elected. The largest fractional portion is 0.958, belonging to slate A, and the second largest fractional portion is 0.6607, belong to slate B. Slates A and B receive one additional delegate each, for a total of two delegates for A, two for B, one for C.

STEP 6: The persons elected are determined by the order in which their names are listed on the slate beginning with the top and moving down until the total number of positions which the slate is entitled to has been filled.

Slate A:	Slate B:	Slate C:
Irene	Jill	Carol
Doris	Roberta	

A3: Example of Geographical Distribution System

In the example used above, if the nine (five women, four men) State Central delegates were allocated among the counties of the district, the allocation would be:

	SADV	Positions	Final Positions
Williams	60	(60/120)*9 = 4.5	4
Swainson	48	(48/120)*9 = 3.6	4
Murphy	12	(12/120)*9 = 0.9	1
TOTAL	120	9	9

From the whole-number parts, four allocated to Williams County, three to Swainson County, and none to Murphy County; two are left unallocated; first goes to largest unused fractional part 0.9 (Murphy County), second goes to next largest unused fractional part 0.6 (Swainson County). Total delegates are four from Williams, four from Swainson, one from Murphy. Men and women delegates would then be allocated to the counties as evenly as possible while staying within the total district gender allocation – two men and two women from Williams, two men and two women from Swainson, one woman from Murphy.