

The following resolution was adopted by the Rules and Bylaws Committee at its meeting on October 27, 2025

Submitted by: Jim Roosevelt, Co-Chair (Primary Sponsor)
 Minyon Moore, Co-Chair (Primary Sponsor)

***Resolution on Principles and Procedures for Review of the 2028 Democratic Party
Presidential Nomination Calendar***

WHEREAS, the Democratic National Committee’s (DNC) Rules and Bylaws Committee (RBC) is entrusted with the crucial role of drafting the rules for the Party’s presidential nominating contest, ensuring that the process by which the Party nominates its candidate for President of the United States reflects its most sacred principles and values; and

WHEREAS, as such, the RBC’s goal in every presidential election cycle is to produce the strongest possible Democratic nominee for president by constructing a nominating process that reflects the diversity of the Party, gives candidates the opportunity and incentive to meet voters, and exemplifies our passionate belief in American democracy; and

WHEREAS, each presidential election cycle, the RBC administers the delegate selection process, and oversees implementation of the rules governing Democratic presidential primaries and caucuses for that cycle; and

WHEREAS, the RBC proposes a Call to Convention and Delegate Selection Rules for adoption by the DNC that govern the selection of the delegates to the National Convention, and works with each State Party to develop a written Delegate Selection Plan that fully complies with the Delegate Selection Rules and other Party requirements; and

WHEREAS, the timing and scheduling of presidential primaries and caucuses is a critical component of the Delegate Selection Process; and

WHEREAS since 1980, the DNC’s Delegate Selection Rules have permitted each State Party to determine when to hold its primary or caucus as long as the date of those contests fall within the “window,” which is the period specified in the Rules in which states can hold Democratic presidential primaries or caucuses; and

WHEREAS, under Delegate Selection Rules adopted each cycle by the DNC, the RBC will review the date and manner of each state and territory’s presidential primary or caucus to ensure it complies with the Rules; and

WHEREAS, since the 2012 cycle, the window has opened on the first Tuesday of March of the presidential election year; and

WHEREAS, from 1980 through 2020, the DNC’s Delegate Selection Rules allowed a specified small group of states to hold their presidential nominating contests before the window; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the RBC adopted criteria for approval of Rule 12 waivers and invited all interested State Parties to apply to hold their contests prior to the opening of the window; and

WHEREAS, to effectuate a process of selecting states to hold early nominating contests, the RBC and DNC approved a new version of Rule 12 in the 2024 Delegate Selection Rules that reconfirmed the opening of the window on the first Tuesday of March, while stating that the “DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee may provide waivers to State Parties to hold their first determining stage before the window, within the calendar year” and requiring all such waivers to be ratified by the full DNC; and

WHEREAS, 20 State Parties applied to the RBC for Rule 12 waivers, and the RBC reviewed those applications over the course of several months; and

WHEREAS, the RBC ultimately granted Rule 12 waivers to five State Parties, with each waiver designating a specific date on which the respective nominating contest could be held and outlined other criteria for the waiver to be considered valid; and

WHEREAS, the RBC voted unanimously in favor of a motion to receive State Party applications for Rule 12 waivers in advance of the 2028 nominating contest;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rules and Bylaws Committee (RBC) of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) will conduct a fair and transparent process to set the order of Democratic presidential nominating contests occurring prior to the opening of the window on March 7, 2028; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RBC will approve a schedule of early (pre-window) nominating contests that meets the following three criteria:

1. **Rigorousness:** the lineup of early states must be a comprehensive test of candidates with diverse groups of voters that are key to winning the general election; and
2. **Fairness:** the lineup of early states must be affordable and practicable for candidates and not exhaust their resources unreasonably, precluding them from effectively participating in future contests; and
3. **Efficiency:** the practical ability to schedule and run a fair, transparent and inclusive primary or caucus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RBC will conduct this process by allowing State Parties to apply for exemptions to Rule 12, thus permitting them to hold their presidential primaries or caucuses prior to the opening of the window; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that following the RBC's adoption of this resolution, the RBC will open a public comment period in which Party stakeholders are given the opportunity to voice their views on the primary process through a designated portal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RBC will approve Rule 12 waivers for no fewer than four (4) and no more than five (5) states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RBC must issue at least one Rule 12 waiver for each of the DNC's four geographical regions (East, Midwest, South and West); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rule 12 waivers issued as part of this process will comply with the following rules and procedures:

1. Each waiver issued by the RBC will be considered conditional and pending until the completion of requirements outlined in each waiver, and each State Party receiving a waiver will have 30 days from its issuance to complete such requirements and return a signed affirmation attesting as much to the RBC.
2. Each waiver issued by the RBC will specify a date on which the state's early nominating contest must be held, and will require the State Party chair to attest that the contest will be held on that date.
3. In addition to specifying a date for the contest, waivers issued by the RBC may include additional requirements for the respective State Party to meet for the waiver to be considered valid.

4. In the event that a State Party fails to comply with the requirements of a waiver within 30 days of its issuance, that waiver will be considered expired and invalid.
5. In the event that a waiver issued by the RBC expires and becomes invalid, the RBC may by majority vote provide additional time for a State Party to comply with the waiver, approve a replacement waiver for a different State Party, or take no further action.
6. All waivers approved by the RBC must be subsequently approved by the full DNC, as part of the approval of the Call to Convention and Delegate Selection Rules.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RBC will execute this process consistent with the following rules, guidelines, and principles:

1. The RBC will execute this process in the most transparent, open and fair manner feasible and commits to providing adequate, clear and timely notice of major milestones and requirements.
2. After this resolution is adopted, the RBC will send a notification to State Parties stating that Rule 12 waiver applications must be received by 5PM EST on January 16, 2026.
3. Following receipt of the applications, the RBC may request additional information from individual states prior to the issuance of an invitation to the presentation stage.
4. The RBC will then invite a subset of State Parties that applied for Rule 12 waivers to publicly present their case to the RBC and answer questions.
5. Following State Party presentations, the RBC will continue to meet to discuss applications and will vote to approve states for inclusion in the pre-window period and the order of such state contests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RBC will have continuing jurisdiction under the rules governing the 2028 presidential nominating process to maximize its ability to enforce the decisions it makes in this review of the 2028 nominating calendar; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RBC will apply severe penalties for State Parties that hold early nominating contests without a waiver to do so, and for candidates who actively campaign for votes in such unauthorized contests.