

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF PRIMARY YEAR 2020, AS IT APPLIES TO THE BERN. COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Introduction: For many of us who became active in the Democratic party after the 2016 presidential election, the party activity for 2020 may be a bit confusing. A year and a half ago we made our way through the 2018 “pre-primary” process for the first time. But many of us were not involved in the “post-primary” process in 2016, in which New Mexico delegates to the Democratic National Convention were chosen.

In 2020, we will be going through BOTH processes. It is important to understand that they are separate processes. However, they occur close in time, the rules that apply to them use much of the same terminology, and they both have as a point of reference the primary election in New Mexico. As an additional similarity between the two processes, there are specific duties and elections for each process that must be engaged in at the ward level, working its way up to the county/congressional district level, and the state level.

The purpose of this document is briefly to spell out what to expect for each process, and to dispel any possible confusion between the two processes.

1. **Pre-primary:**

A. Overview:

This is the same process we went through in 2018.

Democratic Party primary election day in New Mexico is June 2, 2020, when all registered Democrats in the state will be able to vote on which Democratic candidates will get on the general election ballot for November. The primary is important in contested races--races where one Democrat is running against another Democrat.

On March 7, 2020--nearly 3 months *before* the June primary election--there will be a Democratic party state pre-primary convention. The purpose of the state-wide pre-primary convention is to determine which state-wide Democratic candidates will get on the primary ballot (at least 20% of votes needed), and who will get on the top of the primary ballot for June 2 (the candidate with the

most votes), as voted upon by delegates elected to the pre-primary convention on February 15, 2020 (see section 1B and C, below).

Candidates who will be considered at the NM pre-primary convention in 2020 are non-presidential federal candidates; there are no statewide offices (e.g., governor, Secretary of State) on the ballot in presidential election years. NM Senate and House candidates are not impacted by the pre-primary since they get on the ballot with signatures. Realistically, in Bernalillo County, the action generally will be undramatic. Ben Ray Lujan is unopposed in the Democratic party for the US Senate seat, and Deb Haaland has a weak competitor for the Democratic position for the US House for CD1. However, Wards 29A and 29B are in CD3, where there are a number of contenders for the Democratic position for the US House seat in that district, so there will be much activity for CD3.

Note: At the same time as the state pre-primary convention, there will be a separate meeting of the State Central Committee (SCC). The SCC meeting will be directed towards limited post-primary National Convention activities: election of temporary New Mexico members to the National Standing Committees: Credentials; Platform; Rules. They will also be electing New Mexico's DNC Committeeman and Committeewoman.

B. Ward involvement in the pre-primary process begins on February 15, 2020, with ward meetings to elect voting delegates to the pre-primary convention.

Who gets to become an elected voting delegate for the pre-primary, and who gets to vote for delegates, at the Feb. 15 ward meeting?

Any registered Democrat living in the ward can vote and can run for a voting delegate position. If you want to be a voting delegate, you will need to convince a sufficient number of ward members attending the February 15 ward meeting to vote for you. Individual ward members may reach a decision based upon which candidate(s) you will support at the state pre-primary convention on March 7, 2020.

C. Who are the voting delegates who, at the March 7 pre-primary convention, vote to put candidates on the June 2 primary ballot?

The voting delegates are (1) the delegates elected at the ward meetings to be held Saturday, February 15. The number of delegates each ward elects and gets to send to the pre-primary convention is determined by the number of votes the Democratic candidate for president and governor received in 2016 and 2018 respectively, in the ward. (Bernalillo County will have 287 voted-upon delegates); (2) the ward's SCC members elected in 2019; and (3) ward chairs. NOTE: the ward allotment is not diminished by the SCC members in the ward, but the allotment is diminished by the ward chair UNLESS the chair is an SCC member--if so, then the chair does not diminish the allotment.

For example: ward 10A is allotted 8 voting delegates to the pre-primary convention. Ward 10A has 5 SCC members, and a ward chair who is NOT a member of the SCC. The ward chair will be attending the pre-primary convention as a voting delegate. Ward 10A will be voting for 7 positions on February 15 (8 minus the ward chair. IF the chair was an SCC member then the ward would be voting on all 8 positions. Appendix A voting is used). There will be a total of 13 voting delegates from Ward 10A going to the state pre-primary convention on March 7 (the allotted 8 plus the 5 SCC members).

D. What are the duties of the voting delegates elected at the February 15 ward meeting; and the duties of the ward's SCC members?

To attend and participate in the state pre-primary convention on March 7, 2020, and to vote for the Democratic candidate they support for the contested offices. See Sec. 1 A "Overview" above for candidates and offices affected by the pre-primary.

NOTE: there will be a perfunctory county pre-primary convention on February 22, 2020, that delegates must attend to meet quorum.

E. What happens with these voting delegates who were elected on February 15, after the pre-primary convention?

Their duties are completed. In the example of Ward 10A, we are talking only about the 8 positions (7 elected plus the ward chair). Duties of SCC members continue throughout their term, which ends in 2021.

2. Post-primary:

A. Overview:

The New Mexico post-primary conventions (in each county there will be a county level post-primary convention, followed by a Congressional District level post-primary convention and finally a state level post-primary convention) are all directed towards determining who will be attending, as New Mexico delegates, the Democratic Party National Convention on July 13, 2020, in Milwaukee, WI. The National Convention delegates will first and foremost be selecting the Democratic Party candidate for President for the November general election. They will also be voting on important policy issues such as the national party platform, and national party rules.

There is an array of New Mexicans (such as party and elected officials) who will attend as delegates to the national convention (See NMDP Draft Delegate Selection Plan, pp. 28 - 34, https://nmdemocrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/NM-DSP-2020_Draft_2019.03.18.pdf) This EXPLANATION covers only general information relevant to delegates who are elected to those national delegate positions, within Congressional District 1 (CD1), which encompasses most of the wards within Bernalillo County.

B. Do you, a Congressional District 1 Democrat, want to be a delegate to the National Convention?

As you are making your decision, it is important to understand a few things:

- any Democrat registered and living in CD1 can run for a National delegate position.
- only 7 delegates and one alternate will attend from CD1. Half will be female, half male (it is still a binary gender system). You must earn the votes of the voting delegates from CD1 (discussed below) if you wish to be a national delegate.
- estimation is you will spend \$5,000 - \$6,000 to attend, so you must raise this amount or have it at your disposal.
- there are requirements and deadlines for declaring your candidacy and for declaring which Presidential candidate you support (you can say you are undecided on which Presidential candidate you support but that may damage your chances of getting elected).

-The purpose of this EXPLANATION is not to inform you of how to do this. It is up to you to find out how, and there is much direction out there, including training. (See Draft of NM Delegate Plan on State party website).

C. Ward involvement in the post-primary process begins June 3, 2020, one day after the primary election.

On June 3, 2020, wards across Bernalillo County will elect delegates to the “County Post-Primary Convention,” which will be held on June 6. These delegates to the County Post-Primary Convention will be the voters who will ultimately choose the 7 + 1 National delegates who will represent New Mexico from CD1. (Note: the term “delegate” is used for both the ultimate National Convention delegates, as well as for the voting delegates who elect the National delegates. To avoid confusion, “voting delegates” is used in this EXPLANATION for those who, elected in the wards, elect the New Mexico CD1 National delegates. Also, where the rules refer to “district” that is the Congressional district, and this EXPLANATION will use the term CD1).

At the June 3 Ward meeting election, each ward will be allotted a certain number of voting delegate positions, determined in the same manner as for the pre-primary convention (see 1C, above). That number is still to be determined.

Any registered Democrat residing in the Ward can run for a position as a voting delegate, and vote for a candidate for the position.

If you are running to be a voting delegate, expect that those who you wish to vote for you will ask which presidential primary candidate you support. You are not required to declare a candidate preference but you may lose votes if you do not.

NOTE: SCC members are NOT automatic delegates from within the ward, and ward chairs are NOT automatic delegates. Any SCC member from the ward, and any other ward or precinct official, can run for a voting delegate position, but the ward allotment remains the same.

NOTE: Voting delegates should commit to attending the June 6 County post-primary convention, the June 13 Congressional

District Post-Primary Convention, and the June 20 State Post-Primary Convention.

D. June 6, 2020: County Post-Primary Convention in Bernalillo County

Rules for the Democratic Party of Bernalillo County establish that the voting delegates elected in the wards on June 3, “pass through” and are the ultimate voting delegates who will choose the National delegates for CD1. (Some counties handle this differently).

NOTE: All elected voting delegates must appear at all three Conventions in person and get credentialed. Once credentialed, the elected voting delegate can pass their credentials on to another credentialed delegate registered and residing in CD1 who is present in person at the convention. *If you are elected a voting delegate, you will get more information from the party as to how this operates.*

E. June 13, 2020: Congressional District Convention

This is where it all comes together, with the voting delegates electing, for CD1, the 7 positions and one alternate, who will go to the National Convention.

F. June 20: State Post-Primary Convention

County level delegates elect the Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) and at-large delegates to the National convention. For more on this, see NMDP Draft Delegate Selection Plan, pp. 28 - 34, https://nmdemocrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/NM-DSP-2020_Draft_2019.03.18.pdf). These PLEOs and at-large delegates are NOT the allotted 7 + 1 delegates for CD1.

3. Final Notes on How it All Comes Together (for those who want more detail).

At the June 2 NM Primary election, the Presidential candidates (PC) can be expected to split the vote. The PCs’ share of the vote within the congressional district is what is relevant for the selecting national delegates from that congressional district. So, in the case of CD1, any PC who gets less than 20% of the vote within CD1 will not qualify for any of the 7 + 1 national delegate positions

allotted for CD1. For the PCs who win 20% or more of the votes in CD1 at the June 2 primary election, those 7 + 1 national delegate positions are proportionately assigned according to a formula.

An example to show all this in action:

It can be anticipated that across CD1 more people register to be national delegates than the 7 + 1 positions. In our example, let's say we have 20 want-to-be national delegates.

Now let's say that Bernie Sanders received 40% of the CD1 vote on June 2, Elizabeth Warren received 35%, Joseph Biden received 18%, and Pete Buttigieg received 7%. Biden and Buttigieg are out because they received less than 20%, so neither will receive any CD1 national delegate positions. Any of the 20 want-to-be national delegates who declared for Biden, Buttigieg, or any other PC who did not get 20% or more, are no longer considered for the 7 + 1 CD1 national delegate positions. Only those want-to-bes declaring for Sanders and Warren remain as candidates for the 7 + 1 national delegate positions. In our example, let's say we have 12 of the remaining want-to-be national delegates left, some who have declared for Sanders, some for Warren. Presumably there will be enough Sanders declared want-to-bes and enough Warren declared want-to-bes among the remaining 12 to satisfy the apportioned formula based on the June 2 primary vote. Moreover, presumably there are enough males and females to satisfy the overall gender distribution. The approximately 287 CD1 voting delegates will elect the 7 + 1 from among these 12 want-to-bes.