



If You Want To Be A Delegate to the 2016 Convention...

Below is a summary of the rules you must follow to run successfully to be a SC Delegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention, which will be July 25-28 in Philadelphia, PA.

If you plan to run for a delegate position, **you should read the entire SC Delegate Selection Plan**, because all requirements are not included in this summary. It is available at www.scdp.org or by calling 803-799-7798.

First step in delegate election process: Voting in the **Presidential Primary on Sat. Feb. 27, 2016.**

Second step: you must attend your PRECINCT meeting on **March 12, 2016** and **get elected as a delegate or alternate to your county convention.**

Third Step: Attend your **COUNTY CONVENTION** in March, on whatever date (between March 19 and March 28, 2016) your county Chairman has set. You must choose one candidate to support for president and **get elected as a delegate or alternate for that candidate to the SCDP State Convention.** A list of the dates and times for each county convention will be listed on the SCDP website at www.scdp.org or you can call your county party chairman (also listed at www.scdp.org for details.

Fourth Step: After getting elected at your County Convention as a delegate or alternate to the State Convention **file your notice of candidate form with SCDP by 5:00 pm on April 4, 2016.** (The form will be available at www.scdp.org on March 14, 2016 or at your county convention.

Finally, delegates to the Democratic National Convention will be elected by the delegates to the State Democratic Party Convention, held on April 30, 2016. To vote for national delegates, state convention delegates must sign a pledge of support for one presidential candidate and vote for delegates for that candidate.

So, you must attend your precinct meeting and be elected as a delegate or alternate to your county convention and then get elected as delegate or alternate at your county convention and you must be elected as a delegate or alternate to the state convention **before** you are eligible to run for delegate to the National Convention.

There will be a total of **59 delegates** from South Carolina, in several categories, plus **4 At-Large Alternates:**

6 Unpledged Party Leader Delegates are automatically selected because of their positions:

- SC's Democratic Congressman and the Democratic National Committee members.

7 Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates

- Must be county or state party officers above the precinct level officer or elected officials.
- These delegates are elected by **all** of the state convention delegates, by presidential preference.

11 At-Large Delegates and 4 At-Large Alternates

- Elected by all the state convention delegates (after Congressional District and PLEO Delegates).
- Apportioned to reach the equal division rule for **ALL** delegates between men and women.
- Divided among presidential candidates based on his/her percentage of the statewide Primary vote.
- Affirmative Action goals are taken into account, particularly in choosing at-large delegates.

35 Congressional District Delegates

The apportionment of delegates and alternates for the 7 Congressional District was determined using a formula giving equal weight to the 2012 presidential primary results and the 2014 results in the governor's race. The breakdown for each Congressional District is in the Plan.

- No more than half of the Congressional District delegates may be from one county.
- All district level delegates (combined) must be equally divided between men and women, with a variance of one in Congressional Districts that elect an odd number of delegates.
- Total number of delegates to be elected in each Congressional District caucus:
1st CD: Five 2nd CD: Four 3rd CD: Three 4th CD: Four 5th CD: Five 6th CD: Seven 7th CD: Five

You also should know:

- The overall delegation (all categories of delegates and alternates) must be equally divided between men and women (with a variation of one for 63 delegates and alternates, determined by coin toss).
- The delegate selection process is open to all Democrats who are registered voters. The Democratic Party encourages participation by underrepresented groups in party affairs, including African Americans, Hispanics, persons of ethnic identities, youth, those over 65, lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons, persons with physical disabilities, and persons of low and moderate income, rural residents.
- Our goal is to elect at least 34 African American delegates, at least 3 LGBTI delegates, at least 4 who are under 30, at least 1 who is Hispanic and at least 1 who has a physical disability. The election of at-large delegates may be used to reach these goals.
- To run for delegate, **you *must* file a notice with the State Party by April 4, 2016 by 5:00 pm.** (Filing forms will be available from the Party or on the web at www.scdp.org no later than March 14, 2016.)
- **Presidential candidates have the right to approve every candidate** for his/her delegate slots. This helps insure that a candidate's strongest supporters are elected.
- **National Delegates and alternates are responsible for their own expenses to attend the Convention.**
- The Delegation will meet on **May 14, 2016** in Columbia.
- **A few counties require delegate candidates to file** with the county in order to run for delegate or alternate to the state convention. Check with your county chair to see if your county has this requirement.

Again, this is only a summary of the rules you must follow to become a SC Delegate to the National Convention. Some important information is not covered. If you plan to run for a delegate position, you should read the entire SC Delegate Selection Plan, which is available at www.scdp.org or by calling 803-799-7798.

Revised July 13, 2015