

## **Amendment 0805:**

### **Proposal to change the method of voting for LPMNDC**

The present voting system employed across the United States is a plurality system, also known as first past the post. This system, in general, lends itself to tactical voting, reinforcing a two-party or two-candidate system: two candidates are perceived as having a chance of winning, and votes for others are perceived as wasted votes, locking alternate candidates out of effective participation.

This system is also majoritarian: the candidate or party who wins with a small majority can enforce its will over a slightly smaller minority. This is contradictory to the spirit of a representative republic, wherein our elected officials are to represent all the people, not just a small majority of them. This also leads directly to the dangerous polarization we observe across our country today, where two groups of voters consider each other their nemeses instead of their countrymen.

Modifications to this system, such as runoff voting rounds and a "None of the above" option help address these problems to some degree. Still, as a plurality voting system is by nature inconsistent with our aims as a party, it is proposed that the LPMNDC adopt in its place the Schulze Method of ranked preference voting. This method is exactly identical to plurality voting in cases where only two possibilities are presented to the voter. In cases where three or more options are presented, the number of candidates has no effect on each candidate's chance of winning, and a consensus candidate is much more likely to win than a polar extreme.

More information and examples can be found on Wikipedia:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schulze\\_method](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schulze_method)

To implement this change, the following amendments shall be made:

V. C. shall be changed to read: All amendments, proposals, resolutions, recommendations, etc. are voted on by a show of a single hand **in cases where a decision is to be made between two candidates or options; or by ranked preferential ballot in the case of decisions between three or more candidates or options.**

VI. D. shall be changed to read: [ed note this is a re-write of present text]

### **Original Text**

Approval or repeal rests on a majority vote of the Legislature, except where otherwise noted.

### **Re-write Text**

In an election between two candidates, a candidate must receive a fifty-one percent approval from voting members for election. [continued next page]

In an election between three or more candidates, after all ballots are cast, the percentage of voters who prefer each candidate to each other candidate shall be computed, pairwise. A candidate is said to win against a second candidate if the first is preferred to the second by over 50% of the voters. If any candidate wins against all other candidates, that candidate shall be elected. If no such candidate exists, the smallest set of candidates which win against all candidates outside that set shall be determined. The candidate which, in a pairwise comparison within that set, loses by the smallest margin shall be elected.

VI. E. shall be changed to read: [this involves deletion of original text]

### **Original Text With Proposed Deletion Marked**

E. None of the Above (NOTA) shall automatically be a candidate for nomination for all elected offices, and shall be announced by the Chair as such. ~~Should NOTA receive a majority on the first ballot, the Chair shall immediately call for new nominations for that office, and a second vote shall be held. Should NOTA receive a majority on the second ballot, then no candidate shall be nominated for that office. NOTA will only be a candidate in a run-off election if NOTA was among the two candidates receiving the most votes in the first round of voting.~~

### **Proposed Text**

None of the Above (NOTA) shall automatically be a candidate for nomination for all elected offices, and shall be announced by the Chair as such.

Submitted by Stephen Collings September 16, 2008  
Posted September 16, 2008.