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115th Congress
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RCP 115-37

COMPILATION

OF SELECTED RULES

OF THE

REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

AND

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

As compiled by the Office of the Parliamentarian

Note: This publication is a compilation of the Rules of the House Democratic Caucus and House Republican Conference for the 100th, 105th, 110th, and 115th Congresses as compiled by the Office of the Parliamentarian. Conforming changes have been made to each set of rules to provide consistency in style and formatting, but they are otherwise presented in their original form. It is intended that these selections will provide researchers with a broad overview of the evolution of Caucus and Conference Rules since the 100th Congress.

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE
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THE RULES OF THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE 100TH CONGRESS

June 29, 1988

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RULE 1 CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

INCLUSION.—All Republican Members of the House of Representatives, and other members as determined by the Conference, shall be members of the House Republican Conference.

EXPULSION.—A 2/3 vote shall be necessary to expel a member of the Republican Conference from the Conference.

Expulsion proceeding shall be consistent with rules, practices, and precedents of the House of Representatives.

RULE 2 REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP GROUP

PARTY LEADER.—The Conference shall nominate a candidate for Speaker, and shall elect the Republican Leader and the Republican Whip.

CONFERENCE OFFICER.—The Conference shall elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary of the Conference.

COMMITTEE OFFICERS.—The Conference shall elect a Chairman for the Committee on Policy, for the Committee on Research, and the Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

ELECTED LEADERSHIP.—The elected Republican Leadership of the House of Representatives shall consist of the following:

1. Republican Leader
2. Republican Whip
3. Chairman of the Republican Conference
4. Chairman of the Committee on Policy
5. Chairman of the Committee on Research
6. Vice Chairman of the Republican Conference
7. Secretary of the Republican Conference
8. Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee

DESIGNATED LEADERSHIP.—The designated Republican Leadership in the House of Representatives shall consist of the following:

1. Ranking Republican Member of the House Committee on Rules
2. Ranking Republican Member of the House Committee on Ways & Means
3. Ranking Republican Member of the House Committee on Appropriations
4. Ranking Republican Member of the House Committee on Budget

LEADERSHIP ISSUES.—The Republican Leader may designate certain issues as “Leadership Issues.” Those issues will require early and ongoing cooperation between the relevant committees and the Leadership as the issue evolves.

A Member of the elected and designated Republican Leadership has an obligation, to the best of his ability, to support positions adopted by the Conference, and resources of the Leadership shall be utilized to support that position.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE LIMITATION.—The Republican Leader and Whip and the Chairman of the Republican Conference, Committee on Policy, Committee on Research, and the National Republican Congressional Committee shall not serve on more than one standing committee of the House of Representatives and in no case shall any of these individuals serve as Ranking Minority member of a standing committee of the House of Representatives.

If a member shall, at any time, cease to serve in any of the Leadership positions named above, he or she may resume his or her position on the standing committee on which he or she previously served.

RULE 3 ORGANIZING CONFERENCE

ORGANIZING CONFERENCE.—The organizational meeting of the Republican Conference shall be called by the Republican Leader in accordance with 2 U.S.C. section 29(A)(1). The meeting shall be held on or after the first day of December but not later than the twentieth day of December in accordance with 2 U.S.C. section 29(A)(1).

The Leader, in consultation with the elected Leadership of the preceding Congress, shall designate the temporary presiding officer to serve until such time as the election of a Conference Chairman is concluded.

ORDER OF ELECTIONS.—At the organizational meeting of the Republican Conference the order of elections shall be:

1. Speaker
2. Leader
3. Chairman of the Republican Conference
4. Republican Whip
5. Chairman of the Committee on Policy
6. Chairman of the Committee on Research
7. Vice Chairman of the Republican Conference
8. Secretary of the Republican Conference
9. Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee

RULE 4 ELECTIONS

VOTES BY SECRET BALLOT.—All elections, where contested, shall be decided by secret ballot, and no proxy voting shall be allowed.

NOMINATIONS.—The order of nomination of candidates for the various offices shall be determined alphabetically based on the surname of the nominees for each office.

For each Leadership nomination there shall be one nominating speech (not to exceed three minutes in length), and there may be two seconding speeches (each not to exceed one minute in length).

BALLOTING PROCEDURES.—When there are more than two candidates for any office and none receives a majority of the votes on the first ballot, the candidate with the lowest number of votes will be dropped from the ballot on each succeeding vote until one candidate receives a majority of the votes, a quorum being present.

RULE 5 CALLING AND SCHEDULING OF CONFERENCE MEETINGS

CALL FOR MEETING.—Meetings of the Republican Conference may be called by the Chairman of the Conference after consultation with the Republican Leader at any time. A meeting shall be called upon written request of 50 Members addressed and delivered to the Chairman. Such meeting shall be called as soon as practicable. Whenever possible, 24 hours' notice regarding a meeting shall be given to Members of the Conference.

LEADER'S ANNUAL MEETING.—The Republican Leader shall hold an annual meeting at the beginning of each session of congress at which the Republican Leadership reports to the membership on their plans for the upcoming year.

RULE 6 AGENDA OF MEETINGS

ADDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS.—The Republican Leader, or his designee, may present any resolution to the Republican Conference for its immediate consideration.

The Republican Conference Chairman, or his designee, shall present to the Republican Conference for its immediate consideration any resolution submitted to the Conference Chairman on the petition of 50 or more Members in accordance with the rules of the Republican Conference; provided that any such resolution shall be circulated to the entire Republican Conference at least 48 hours prior to the Conference meeting.

All resolutions brought before the Republican Conference shall be referred by the Chairman to the appropriate committee of the Conference for consideration, except as provided above.

RULE 7 ADMITTANCE TO MEETINGS

The Chairman of the Conference has the discretion to decide whether meetings of the Conference shall be open or closed. The Conference may determine by vote to overrule the decision of the Chair.

The Chairman shall have the discretion to designate Leadership staff or other eligible persons to attend Conference meetings. Those individuals shall be excused at the discretion of the Conference Chairman.

Upon timely notice from the Chairman of the Conference, an executive session of the Conference may be called. This meeting shall be closed to all persons except Members of the Conference.

RULE 8 CONFERENCE JOURNAL

The Secretary of the Conference shall keep a journal of the Conference proceedings. Journal entries shall be signed by the Conference Secretary and the Conference Chairman.

The journal shall be open for inspection at the request of any member of the Conference.

RULE 9 CONFERENCE PROCEDURE

SUSPENSION PROCEDURE.—Two-thirds of those Members present, a quorum being present, may suspend the Conference rules.

All motions to suspend the rules shall be seconded by a majority, if demanded.

Suspensions, to the extent practicable, shall be consistent with the rules, practices and precedents of the House.

RULES OF THE HOUSE.—The rules of the House of Representatives, insofar as they are applicable, shall govern the proceedings of the Republican Conference.

RULE 10 QUORUM

A majority of the members of the Conference shall constitute a quorum consistent with the rules of the House.

RULE 11 RECORDED VOTES & VOTING PROCEDURES

SECRET BALLOT.—On demand of one person and the support of five others the vote on any matter properly pending before the Conference shall be taken by secret ballot.

RECONSIDERATION.—When a motion has been made and carried or lost, it shall be in order for any member of the majority, in the same or succeeding Conference, to move for the reconsideration thereof. The procedures for reconsideration shall be consistent with the Rules of the House.

RULE 12 STANDING COMMITTEES—MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS *

* This rule is under the jurisdiction of the Lagomarsino Task Force.

RULE 13 CLASSIFICATION OF COMMITTEES *

* This rule is under the jurisdiction of the Lagomarsino Task Force.

RULE 14 RESTRICTIONS ON COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS *

* This rule is under the jurisdiction of the Lagomarsino Task Force.

RULE 15 PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Committee on Committees shall recommend to the Republican Conference the Republican Members of the standing committees of the House of Representatives.

VACANCY.—The Committee on Committees shall recommend directly to the House of Representatives the Republican Members to fill vacancies on standing committees which occur following the organization of a congress. Whenever possible, a vacancy shall be filled within thirty days while Congress is in session.

RULE 16 PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING RULES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NOMINATION.—The Republican Leader shall nominate the Republican members of the Rules Committee.

The Republican Leader shall nominate the Ranking Republican member of the Rules Committee.

These nominees shall be submitted to the Conference along with the other nominees from the Committee on Committees.

REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATION.—If the Republican Conference rejects the nominee for Ranking Member to the Rules Committee, the Republican Leader shall again submit a nomination to the Republican Conference.

RETENTION OF SENIORITY RIGHTS.—A member newly assigned to the Rules Committee shall have the option of being “on leave with seniority” from one standing committee on which he or she serves. At such time as service on Rules Committee shall cease, such member shall have the right to return to active membership on that standing committee with the relative seating and seniority accumulated during his or her tenure on the Rules Committee.

RULE 17 PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER.—The Republican Committee on Committees shall nominate the Member to serve as the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

Existing House rules regarding limitation of service pertain to the Ranking Minority Member of the Budget Committee. The term of service for the Ranking Minority Member shall be consistent with the rules of the House pertaining to the Chairman of the Committee.

LEADERSHIP MEMBER.—The Republican Leader shall choose one Member to serve in the designated Leadership position on the Committee.

The person designated by the Republican Leader will serve as the second highest ranking Republican on the Committee.

NOMINATION OF OTHER MEMBER.—Two members of the Appropriations Committee and two members of the Committee on Ways & Means shall also serve on the Budget Committee.

RULE 18 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

No Member shall serve on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for more than three consecutive terms. [NOTE: It was agreed that this provision would begin with the 101st Congress. The Committee on Committees would be responsible for the implementation of this provision.]

RULE 19 NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COMMITTEE RANKING MINORITY MEMBERS

NOMINATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES.—The Committee on Committees shall nominate the Republican Members who shall serve as Ranking Minority members. The Member nominated by the Republican Committee on Committees for this position need not be the member with the longest consecutive service on the committee, and such nominations shall be out of order except as recommended in the report of the committee.

VOTING PROCEDURE.—The Conference shall vote by secret ballot on each recommendation of the House Republican Committee on Committees for the position of Ranking Minority member. The Call of the Conference at which such balloting will take place shall name and list the individuals recommended by the committee.

REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATIONS.—If the Republican Conference fails to approve a recommendation of the House Republican Committee on Committees, the matter shall be automatically recommitted without instructions to that committee.

OBLIGATION OF RANKING MINORITY MEMBER.—The Ranking Minority Member on each committee has an obligation to ensure that the managerial responsibilities on the Floor of the House of Representatives for each measure on which the Republican Conference has taken a position are managed in accordance with such position.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT.—The Ranking Minority Member on each committee should consult with the Republican Leader regarding any proposed motion to recommit to be considered on the Floor of the House of Representatives in order that, to the extent possible, such motion to recommit would reflect the majority view of the Republican Conference.

RULE 20 FILLING VACANCY IN RANKING COMMITTEE POSITION

A vacancy which occurs during a session of Congress for the position of Ranking Minority Member shall be filled in accordance with Conference Rule 19.

Whenever possible a vacancy shall be filled within thirty days while Congress is in session.

RULE 21 LIMITATIONS ON NUMBER OF RANKING COMMITTEE POSITIONS

No individual shall serve as Ranking Minority Member of more than one standing, select, joint, or ad hoc committee.

RULE 22 APPOINTMENTS TO JOINT AND SELECT COMMITTEES

The Republican Leader shall recommend to the Speaker all Republican nominees to joint and select committees as shall be ordered by the House from time to time.

RULE 23 COMMITTEE ORGANIZING CAUCUS

Each committee shall have an organizing caucus of the Republican members before the organizing meeting of the full Committee. The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall call the meeting, giving at least three days' notice to all Republican members of the Committee.

RULE 24 PERIODIC COMMITTEE CAUCUSES

Meetings of the committee caucuses may be called by a majority of the Republican Members of the Committee or at the call of the Ranking Minority Member. A majority of the members may request the meeting provided such request is in writing and states the subject matter to be discussed at the meeting. The meeting must be called within ten days after receipt of the petition, and after notification to the Ranking Member and all Committee members.

RULE 25 ELECTION OF RANKING SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

The selection of Ranking Minority Members of the committee's subcommittees shall be at the discretion of the Ranking Minority member of the full Committee.

The Ranking Minority Member shall publish the procedures to be followed in selecting subcommittee Ranking Minority members and individual subcommittee assignments.

RULE 26 RANKING SUBCOMMITTEE VACANCIES

Vacancies of subcommittee Ranking Minority Members shall be filled according to the procedures established and published by the various committees in accordance with Rule 25.

RULE 27 RESTRICTIONS ON RANKING SUBCOMMITTEE POSITIONS

A. No individual shall serve as Ranking Minority Member of more than one standing, select, or ad hoc committee and of more than one subcommittee of any standing, select, or ad hoc committee except that upon recommendation of the committee on committees and approval of the Conference this provision may be waived for those Members for whom the provision was waived in the preceding Congress. All Members shall be in compliance with this rule when the membership of the standing committees are constituted in the 102nd Congress.

B. No individual shall serve as Ranking Minority Member of more than two subcommittees of the standing, select, and ad hoc committees upon which such Member serves and in no event shall the two be subcommittees of the same committee except that upon the recommendation of the Committee on Committees and approval of the Conference this provision may be waived for those Members for whom the provision was waived in the preceding Congress. All Members shall be in compliance with this rule when the membership of the standing committees are constituted in the 102nd Congress.

RULE 28 COMMITTEE ON POLICY

The Committee on Policy shall be an advisory committee to the membership of the House Republican Conference. The Committee on Policy shall meet at the call of the Chairman of the Committee on Policy or the Republican Leader, and shall discuss legislative proposals with Republican Members of the appropriate standing and special committees and with such other Republican Members as the Chairman may invite to the meetings. The Committee on Policy shall report its suggestions for Republican action and policy to the Republican Members of the House. The Chairman of the Committee on Policy may appoint, in consultation with the Republican Leader, such subcommittees from the Republican Members of the House for such purposes as may be deemed appropriate.

COMPOSITION.—The Committee on Policy shall be composed of:

1. One Member from each of eight regions apportioned by the Conference as equally as possible. The Republican Members of Congress from the states of each region shall meet in caucus and shall select from their number, by secret ballot, the member of the Committee on Policy and shall report their selection to the chairman of said Committee.
2. Two members of the Freshman class and two members from the Sophomore class.
3. The House Republican Leadership, as elected and designated by the House Republican Conference.
4. A maximum of seven members-at-large appointed by the Republican Leader.

SENIORITY.—The traditions and privileges of seniority shall not apply to membership of the Committee on Policy and the Committee may, at its direction, make such rules as are necessary for conduct of its business.

RULE 29 COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

The Committee on Research shall be an advisory committee to the Members of the House Republican Conference.

Its functions shall be to perform and supervise research for Republican Members of the House, and to assist in preparing research and information for their use.

COMPOSITION.—The Committee shall have a maximum of 22 Members including the Members of the House Republican Leadership.

The Chairman of the Committee shall be elected by Members of the House Republican Conference. The remaining Members shall be selected by the House Republican Leadership, which selection shall be subject to confirmation by the House Republican Conference. The Republican Leadership shall, include two Member representatives of the Freshman class in their selection of Members for the Committee.

TASK FORCES.—Subject to the approval of the House Republican Leadership, which shall consult with the ranking Members of various standing committees, the Committee on Research may appoint task forces comprised of any Republican Members of the House and may make such rules as are necessary for the conduct of the Committee on its Task Forces.

RULE 30 THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

COMPOSITION.—The National Republican Congressional Committee shall be composed of Members selected by the Republican delegations from the several States.

The voting strength of each Member shall be equal to the number of Republican Members of the House of Representatives elected to a Congress from his or her State.

The elected Republican Leadership shall serve as ex-officio Members of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Two Members elected by the Freshman Class and one member elected by the Sophomore Class shall be included as Members in the Organization of the National Republican Congressional committee.

The Reading Clerk shall call the Roll by states, and each state shall report its Member of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

DUTIES.—The duties of the National Republican Congressional Committee shall be to:

Act as counsel and advisor to the Members of the House Republican Conference, furnish support services to the extent consistent with the House Rules, and have oversight in election campaigns in all general and special elections for membership in the House of Representatives.

PREAMBLE AND RULES
OF THE
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

100th Congress

Richard A. Gephardt, Chairman
Mary Rose Oakar, Vice Chairman

Revised February 19, 1987

PREAMBLE

In adopting the following rules for the Democratic Caucus, we affirm and declare that the following cardinal principles should control Democratic action:

a. In essentials of Democratic principles and doctrine, unity.

b. In nonessentials, and in all things not involving fidelity to party principles, entire individual independence.

c. Party alignment only upon matters of party faith or party policy.

d. Friendly conference and, whenever reasonably possible, party cooperation.

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RULES

Membership, Officers and Elections

Rule 1. Membership

Inclusion

A. All Democratic Members of the House of Representatives, the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, and the Delegates from American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands who are Members of the Democratic Party shall be prima facie Members of the Democratic Caucus of the House of Representatives (hereafter "Caucus").

B. The following procedures shall govern when a Democratic Member chooses to leave the Democratic Party:

Actions Constituting Change of Party

1. Whenever a Member of the Caucus resigns from or acts affirmatively to change political parties, he shall automatically cease to be a Member of the Democratic Caucus. Such acts shall be limited to changing party registration in his home state, filing for office as a candidate for nomination of another political party, or accepting the nomination of another political party. This section shall not apply to anyone who files for or accepts the nomination of another party *in addition* to accepting the nomination of the Democratic Party.

Notification Procedure

2. The Caucus Chairman shall notify the affected Member in writing when he ceases to be a Member of the Democratic Caucus in accordance with section B(1) and that Member shall have the opportunity to seek reinstatement by majority vote, by secret ballot, at a meeting of the Caucus called within 10 days of his request, provided that at least 5 Members support, in writing, the Member's request. If the Member is not reinstated within 30 days of receiving notification, the Caucus Chairman shall then notify the Speaker of the House that the affected Member is no longer a Member of the Democratic Caucus.

Expulsion

C. The Caucus may expel by two-thirds vote any Member failing to abide by rules governing such Caucus.

Campaign Activity

D. In order to maintain membership in good standing in the Caucus, Members of the Caucus shall not participate in campaign activities for any candidate in a partisan federal election who is not a Member of the Democratic Party.

Rule 2. Party Leaders and Caucus Officers

Party Leaders

A. The Caucus shall nominate a candidate for Speaker and shall elect the Majority Leader and the Majority Whip.

Caucus Offices

B. The Caucus shall elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman.

Term of Office

C. No Member shall be elected to serve as Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Caucus for more than two consecutive terms.

Temporary Chairman

D. The Chairman shall have the right to name any Member to perform the duties of the Chair during the temporary absence of the Chairman.

Rule 3. Elections

A. Except as otherwise provided by Caucus rule, the following provisions shall apply to all elections in the Caucus or in entities of the Caucus:

Votes by Secret Ballot

1. All votes shall be by secret ballot;

Quorum

2. A quorum shall be required to proceed;

Nominations

3. The name of each candidate shall be placed in nomination. (Votes cast for a person whose name was not placed in nomination shall not be counted or considered except to determine the number of votes necessary for election.) Nominations shall be limited to not more than one 5-minute nominating speech and three 2-minute seconding speeches on behalf of each candidate so nominated;

Balloting

4. After nominating and seconding speeches, balloting shall proceed without interruption or recess from ballot to ballot until one candidate shall have received the votes of a majority of those present and voting, and such candidate shall be declared elected;

Elimination

5. If there are more than two candidates, the nominated candidate receiving the fewest votes on the first and each succeeding ballot shall be eliminated; and votes for such candidate shall not be tallied or considered except for the purpose of determining the number of Members present. If two or more candidates tie for fewest votes on the first ballot or on subsequent ballots, neither shall be eliminated; should such occur for a second time, however, both shall be eliminated. Following any ballot a candidate wishing to withdraw shall be entitled to recognition for one minute for the purpose of so advising the Caucus.

Binding Votes on House Leadership

B. With respect to voting in the House for Speaker and other officers of the House, for each committee chairman, and for membership of committees, a majority vote of those present and voting at a Democratic Caucus shall bind all Members of the Caucus.

Caucus Meetings

Rule 4. Calling and Scheduling Meetings

Call for Meetings

A. Meetings of the Caucus shall be called by the Chairman upon his own motion, at the request of the Party Leader, or upon written request of 50 Members of the Caucus.

Regular Meetings

B. While the House is in session, the Caucus shall meet regularly on the third Wednesday of each month except January in odd-numbered years. If the House is not in session on the third Wednesday, the monthly Caucus shall be held on the next succeeding Wednesday on which the House is in session. The Chairman may cancel any monthly Caucus, but not two consecutive monthly Caucuses, provided Members are given reasonable notice of such cancellation.

Committee Schedules

C. Members of the Caucus shall not schedule committee meetings or hearings at times when the Caucus is to be in session.

Rule 5. Notice and Agenda of Meetings

Notice

A. The Chairman shall set the time and place of each meeting of the Caucus and shall provide Members with an agenda listing all matters to be considered at each Caucus meeting. Said agenda shall be distributed to Members on the fifth day preceding the day on which the Caucus meeting is convened; however, when the purpose of such Caucus meeting is to consider a veto override or legislation that has been reported to the House, the Chairman may waive the 5-day-notice requirement provided Members are given reasonable notice of such meeting.

Regular Agenda

B. The agenda for each meeting shall include any matter requested in writing by 5 or more Members and delivered to the office of the Caucus Chairman by noon on the fifth day preceding the day on which the Caucus meeting is convened, plus any matter which the Caucus Chairman or Party Leader wishes to place before the Caucus.

Additions and Modifications

C. Following issuance of the agenda, additional items may be placed thereon only by the Caucus Chairman or upon petition by 50 Members delivered to the office of the Chairman by noon on the second day preceding the day on which the Caucus meeting is convened. The Caucus Chairman shall provide Members with written notification of any addition to the agenda not later than 5 p.m. the same day.

Exceptions to Notice

D. Any matter not noticed in accord with the preceding provisions shall not be in order. The only exception to this provision is when copies of the matter to be considered have been available to Members for at least two hours of the normal work day, and the Caucus agrees by a two-thirds vote, to make the matter in order.

Recess Authority

E. A meeting of the Caucus may, at the call of the Chairman or upon motion, be recessed and later reconvened for continuation of properly noticed business, at a time and place designated; except during election balloting as provided in Caucus Rule 3(A)(4).

Amendment that Instructs Requires Notice

F. Also, it shall not be in order to offer an amendment to a resolution being considered in Caucus if said amendment adds language directing or instructing the Democratic Members of a committee on any matter, unless the intent to instruct said Members was noticed in accord with the provisions of this rule.

Rule 6. Admittance to Meetings

Closed Meetings

No persons, except Members of the Caucus, a Caucus Journal Clerk, and other necessary employees, shall be admitted to the meeting of the Caucus without the express permission of the Chairman.

Rule 7. Quorum

Regular

A. A quorum of the Caucus shall consist of a majority of the Members of the Caucus. If the absence of a quorum is established, the Chairman may continue the meeting for purposes of discussion only, but no motion of any kind, except a motion to adjourn, shall be in order at such continued meetings.

Procedure for Quorum Call

B. Subject to the provisions of Caucus Rules 3 and 10, a quorum call or roll call may be taken by electronic or other means, provided Members shall have not less than 15 minutes in which to have their vote or presence recorded.

Rule 8. Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary Law

5-Minute Rule

No Proxy Voting

General parliamentary law, with such special rules as may be adopted, shall govern the meetings of the Caucus. The 5-minute rule that governs the House of Representatives shall govern debate in the Caucus, unless suspended by a vote of the Caucus. Proxy voting is not allowed in the Democratic Caucus, nor in subunits under the Caucus, including Democratic caucuses of House Committees and subcommittees.

Rule 9. Caucus Journal

Inspection of Journal Upon Request

The Caucus shall keep a journal of its proceedings, which shall be published after each meeting, and which shall be available for inspection by any Member of the Caucus upon request.

Rule 10. Recorded Votes and Voting Procedure

Recorded Votes

Secret Ballot Requires Majority

The yeas and nays on any question before the Caucus shall, at the desire of one fifth of those present, be entered on the Journal, and a copy of each record vote shall be distributed to each Member of the Caucus. Provided, however, that a question shall be decided by secret ballot or other non-record vote if a majority so demands.

Rule 11. Committee Ratios

Committee Ratio 3-2

Committee ratios should be established to create firm working majorities on each committee. In determining the ratio on the respective standing committees, the Speaker should provide for a minimum of three Democrats for each two Republicans.

Rule 12. Standing Committees—Membership Nominations

Steering and Policy Committee Nominates

A. The Steering and Policy Committee shall recommend to the Caucus nominees for membership to committees, one committee at a time, other than the Committee on Rules for which the Democratic nominee for Speaker, (or Speaker, as the case may be) shall have exclusive nominating authority.

Nomination by State Delegations

B. Upon a letter from a Member, signed by 50 percent or more of said Member's State Democratic Delegation, including said Member, said Member shall automatically be considered for nomination by the Steering and Policy Committee for the committee membership position to which said Member aspires. The Chairman of the Steering and Policy Committee shall see that such Member's name is placed in nomination. This provision shall not apply to nominations for the Committee on Rules.

Seniority Not Mandatory

C. Recommendations for committee posts need not necessarily follow seniority.

Non-Discrimination

D. In making nominations for committee assignments, the Steering and Policy Committee shall not discriminate on the basis of prior occupation or profession.

Rule 13. Procedure for Electing Committee Members

Voting

A. Once recommendations are received from the Steering and Policy Committee, the Caucus shall vote, one committee at a time, on memberships, except as provided in the following section B.

Debate

B. Upon a demand supported by 10 or more Members, a separate vote, by secret ballot, shall be had on any member of a committee. If any such vote prevails, the Committee list of that particular committee shall be considered recommitted to the Steering and Policy Committee for the sole purpose of implementing the direction of the Caucus. Such demand, if made and properly supported, shall be debated for no more than 30 minutes with the time equally divided between proponents and opponents. If the Caucus and the Steering and Policy Committee are in disagreement after completion of the procedure herein provided, the Caucus may make final and complete disposition of the matter.

Timing

C. The Caucus shall take no action with respect to any committee nominations made by the Steering and Policy Committee at the start of a Congress until after the House has elected the Speaker and approved House Rules for such Congress.

Rule 14. Procedure for Electing Rules Committee Members

The Democratic nominee for Speaker (or Speaker, as the case may be) shall recommend to the Caucus nominees for membership to the Committee on Rules. Debate and balloting on any such nomination shall be subject to the same provisions as apply to the nominations of Members of other committees, as set forth in Caucus Rule 13. If a majority of those present and voting reject any nominee for membership to the Committee on Rules, the Democratic nominee for Speaker (or Speaker, as the case may be) shall be entitled to submit new nominations until any such positions are filled.

Rule 15. Procedure for Electing Budget Committee Members

The Caucus shall elect the Democratic Members of the Budget Committee, after election of the Budget Chairman (who by virtue of election as chairman is a Member of the committee), in accordance with the following provisions:

Party Ratio

A. The party ratio on the Budget Committee shall be determined by the Caucus at the start of each Congress; Provided, however, that the ratio shall not be less than three Democrats for each two Republicans.

Leadership Member

B. The Speaker shall appoint the leadership Member of the committee.

Nomination of Other Members

C. The Steering and Policy Committee shall nominate three Members of the Appropriations Committee, three Members of the Ways and Means Committee, at least one from the Rules Committee, and the requisite number of Members of other committees to fill all remaining Democratic seats. A list of said nominees shall be distributed to all Members of the Caucus at least 4 days prior to the election meeting. Members shall then have at least 2 days to nominate additional candidates by written notice signed by five Members other than the nominee. Written nominations must be delivered to the offices of the Caucus Chairman and the Caucus Vice Chairman not later than noon on the second day immediately preceding the election meeting, and the Caucus Chairman or Vice Chairman shall mail a list of all nominees to Members of the Caucus that same day.

Election Procedure

D. Following election of the chairman, the other Democratic Members shall be elected. Election shall be by ballot which lists all candidates by category (Appropriations, Ways and Means, Rules and other committees) in the order they were nominated provided that the Member selected as chairman shall be counted as having filled one position in the appropriate category. A majority of those present and voting for a nominated candidate shall be required to elect; provided however, that any ballot which contains votes for more or fewer candidates than there are vacancies to be filled in each category shall not be counted.

Special Limitation

E. Members of the Budget Committee shall be subject to the following limitations:

1. No more than two-thirds of the Democratic Members nominated to the Budget Committee by the Steering and Policy Committee in any Congress shall be persons who served as Members of the Budget Committee during the preceding Congress.

2. No Member, other than the leadership Member, shall serve as a Member of the Committee on the Budget during more than three Congresses in any period of five successive Congresses (disregarding for this purpose any service performed as a Member of such committee for less than a full session in any Congress). All selections of Members to serve on the committee shall be made without regard to seniority. Provided that an incumbent chairman, having served during three Congresses on the committee and not more than one Congress as chairman and who is reelected for one additional Congress as chairman, shall not be subject to the limitations of this provision.

Rule 16. Procedure for Electing Appropriations and Ways and Means Committee Members

The Caucus shall elect Democratic Members to fill vacancies on the Ways and Means Committee and the Appropriations Committee in accordance with the following procedures:

Nominations

A. The Steering and Policy Committee shall nominate one Member for each Democratic vacancy to be filled on the Ways and Means Committee and the Appropriations Committee and shall distribute the name(s) of such nominee(s) to all Members of the Democratic Caucus at least 4 days prior to the election meeting. Members shall then have 2 days to nominate additional candidates by written notice signed by 5 Democratic Members other than the nominee. Written nominations must be delivered to the offices of the Caucus Chairman and the Caucus Vice Chairman not later than noon on the second day immediately preceding the election meeting, and the Caucus Chairman or Vice Chairman shall mail a list of all nominees to Members of the Caucus that same day.

Election Procedure

B. Election shall be by ballot which lists all candidates in the order they were nominated, and a majority shall be required to elect; provided however, that any ballot which contains votes for more or fewer candidates than there are vacancies to be filled shall not be counted.

Previous Members

C. The nomination of any Member who served on the committee in the preceding Congress shall be reported by the Steering and Policy Committee for action by the Caucus in the same manner as is provided for nomination of Members to other standing committees.

Rule 17. Classification of Committees

For the purposes of Caucus Rules the following committee designations shall apply:

Exclusive

A. Appropriations; Ways and Means; and Rules shall be "exclusive" committees.

Major

B. Agriculture; Armed Services; Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs; Education and Labor; Foreign Affairs; Energy and Commerce; the Judiciary; and Public Works and Transportation shall be considered "major" committees.

Non-major

C. Budget; District of Columbia; Government Operations; House Administration; Interior and Insular Affairs; Merchant Marine and Fisheries; Post Office and Civil Service; Science and Technology; Small Business; and Veterans' Affairs shall be considered "non-major" committees.

Rule 18. Restrictions on Committee Memberships

A. Except with respect to service on the Committee on the Budget, no Democratic Member of an exclusive committee shall also serve on another exclusive, major, or non-major committee.

B. Each Democratic Member shall be entitled to serve on one but only one exclusive or one major committee.

C. No Democratic Member shall serve on more than one major and one non-major committee or two non-major committees.

D. Members who served as Members of the Select Committee on Small Business or the Small Business Subcommittee of the Committee on Banking and Currency on October 8, 1974, shall not be deemed to be in violation of the provisions of paragraph (A) above by reason of membership on the Small Business Committee.

E. Any Member of the Budget Committee shall be entitled to take a leave of absence from service on any committee or subcommittee during the period he or she serves on the Budget Committee and seniority rights of such Member on such committee and on each subcommittee to which such Member was assigned at the time shall be fully protected as if such Member had continued to so serve during the period of the leave of absence. Any Member on such leave of absence shall not be deemed to be in violation of the provisions of this clause by reason of his or her membership on the committee from which he or she is on leave of absence.

F. No Member shall serve on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for more than three consecutive terms.

G. No Member shall be a member of more than two committees with legislative jurisdiction. The following committees shall be exempt from this provision: District of Columbia; House Administration; Standards of Official Conduct; House Recording; and Joint Committees.

H. Democratic Members may be elected to serve on the Committee on the District of Columbia without regard to their other committee assignments.

I. Democratic Members who served on the Committee on the Judiciary between the 96th and 99th Congress without regard to their other committee assignments, shall be eligible to serve thereon without regard to their other committee assignments and shall retain their seniority.

Rule 19. Appointments to Joint and Select Committees, Boards and Commissions

In those instances where the Speaker has the power to appoint Members to joint and select committees, boards and commissions, due consideration should be given to sharing the workload and responsibility among qualified Members of the House who have indicated an interest in the subject matter of the committee, board, or commission and have expressed a willingness to actively participate in its deliberations and operations. All Members serving on joint and select committees, boards and commissions by virtue of appointment by the Speaker shall be considered to have completed their tenure and their positions deemed to be vacant until filled by appointment or reappointment by the Speaker at the start of a new Congress.

Committee Chairmanships

Rule 20. Nomination and Election of Committee Chairmen

Nominations by Steering and Policy Committee

A. The Steering and Policy Committee shall nominate one Member of each standing committee, other than the Committee on Rules and the Budget Committee, for the position of chairman and such nominations need not necessarily follow seniority.

Additional Nominations

B. If the Member nominated by the Steering and Policy Committee is other than the immediately preceding chairman, or the ranking majority member, additional nominations shall be in order from the floor of the Caucus and election shall be in accord with the provisions of Caucus Rule 3(A)(3). If a nominee was chairman of the Committee in question at the close of the preceding Congress, no other nominations shall be allowed and the Caucus shall vote by secret ballot to approve or disapprove that nominee alone. No debate shall be allowed unless requested by the nominee or a Member who wishes to speak in opposition to a nomination provided that the request to speak in opposition is supported by three or more Members. Debate on any nomination shall be limited to 30 minutes equally divided between proponents and opponents of that nominee, such time to be further extended only by a majority vote of the Caucus.

Rejection and New Nominations

C. If a majority of those present and voting reject its nominee for chairman, the Steering and Policy Committee shall make a new nomination within 5 days. Five to ten days after the Steering and Policy Committee reports such new nominations, the Caucus shall meet to consider the new nominee of the Steering and Policy Committee and any additional nominations offered from the floor. With the exception of the Budget Committee, only Members who have been recommended for membership on the committee shall be eligible for nomination as chairman. Should additional nominations be made from the floor, the election shall be conducted in accord with Caucus Rule 3.

Rule 21. Nomination and Election of Rules Committee Chairman

Nomination

A. The Democratic nominee for Speaker (or Speaker, as the case may be) shall recommend to the Caucus a nominee for chairman of the Committee on Rules. Debate and balloting on any such nomination shall be subject to the same provisions as apply to the nominations of chairmen of other committees.

Additional Nominations

B. If a majority of those present and voting reject any nominee for chairman of the Committee on Rules, the Democratic nominee for Speaker (or Speaker, as the case may be) shall be entitled to submit a new nomination until that position is filled.

Rule 22. Nomination and Election of Budget Committee Chairman

Chairman Elected First

A. The Caucus shall elect one Member to serve as chairman of the Budget Committee, from nominations made pursuant to Caucus Rule 15. Election of the chairman must precede election of other Members. Election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Caucus Rule 3.

Limitation

B. The Chairman of the Budget Committee shall not serve simultaneously as chairman of any other standing committee.

Rule 23. Filling Vacancy in Committee Chairmanship

A vacancy in a committee chairmanship shall be filled within 30 calendar days from the date on which the vacancy occurs in accord with the steps for selecting committee chairmen outlined in Caucus Rules 20, 21 and 22. The nominee of the Caucus for the vacancy will be submitted to the House of Representatives at the earliest practicable date thereafter.

Rule 24. Limitations on Number of Committee Chairmanships

A. No chairman of an exclusive or major committee may serve on another exclusive, major, or non-major committee.

B. The chairman of a full committee shall not serve simultaneously as the chairman of any other full, select, permanent select, special, *ad hoc*, or joint committee unless the Caucus grants an exemption in the case of an *ad hoc* committee; Provided, however, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee may also serve as chairman of the Joint Committee on Taxation and the chairman of the Committee on House Administration may also serve as chairman of the Joint Printing Committee and the Joint Library Committee.

C. No chairman of an exclusive, major or non-major committee shall serve as a Member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Committee Caucuses

Rule 25. Committee Organizing Caucus

There shall be a caucus of each standing committee and any other committee with legislative jurisdiction consisting of all Democratic Members of the committee hereafter referred to as "committee caucus". At the start of each Congress, the chairman of each standing committee or other committee with legislative jurisdiction shall call a meeting of the committee caucus, giving at least 3 days notice to all Democratic Members of the committee. Said meeting shall be called subsequent to the House Democratic Caucus approval of the committee lists but prior to any organizational meeting of the full committee. Such committee caucuses shall fill the positions of subcommittee chairmen and subcommittee Members in accordance with procedures described in Caucus Rules 27 through 30. Such committee caucus shall approve and secure adoption of committee rules incorporating the principles set forth in Caucus Rule 33.

Rule 26. Periodic Committee Caucuses

Meetings of the committee caucus may be called by the chairman or a majority of the Members of the committee caucuses with due notice to all Members of such caucuses. A quorum of the committee caucus on each committee shall consist of a majority of the Democratic Members assigned thereto. All actions by the caucuses of said committees shall require a majority of those voting, a quorum being present. Upon written request of 10 Democratic Members of any committee or upon written request of a majority of the Democratic Members, whichever is less, addressed to the chairman thereof to hold a committee caucus, said chairman shall call such caucus within 10 days of such a request. Said request shall contain the subject matter for discussion at such caucus.

Subcommittee Chairmanships

Rule 27. Election of Subcommittee Chairmen

Bidding Procedure

A. Except for the Appropriations Committee, the Democratic Members of any standing committee shall have the right, at the committee caucus described in Caucus Rule 25, to bid, in order of full committee seniority, for subcommittee chairmanships on that committee. The committee caucus of the Appropriations Committee, in its discretion, may use seniority on the subcommittee concerned, as determined by the order in which Members elect to go on the subcommittee, as the criterion for determining subcommittee chairmanships. Any request for a subcommittee chairmanship shall be subject to approval by a majority of those present and voting by secret ballot in the committee caucus. If the committee caucus rejects a subcommittee chairmanship bid, the next senior Democratic Member may bid for the position as in the first instance. However, bidding for all remaining subcommittee chairmanships would revert back to the most senior Member of the full committee without a subcommittee, even if that most senior Member has previously had his bid for another subcommittee rejected.

Appropriations Committee

B. The full Democratic Caucus shall vote on each Member nominated to serve as chairman of an Appropriations subcommittee following the same procedure set forth in Caucus Rule 20 for the election of standing committee chairmen. If a majority of those present and voting reject any nominee for chairman of an Appropriations subcommittee, the committee caucus of the Appropriations Committee shall submit new nominations until such position is filled.

Convicted or Censured Members

C. The full Democratic Caucus shall vote on each Member selected by the committee caucus to serve as chairman of any subcommittee who, within the two years of the preceding Congress, has been convicted of a felony or has been censured by the House. The debate and vote of the full Democratic Caucus shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Caucus Rules for the election of standing committee chairmen. If the full Democratic Caucus disapproves of the selection of such Member as subcommittee chairman, a new subcommittee chairman shall be selected in accordance with procedures established in this Rule.

Rule 28. Subcommittee Chairmanship Vacancies

Bidding

A. The bidding procedure for subcommittee chairmanships described in Caucus Rule 27 shall apply to chairmanship vacancies and to chairmanships on special subcommittees or subunits, exclusive to the committee and with legislative jurisdiction, that may be created during a Congress.

Appropriations Subcommittees

B. A vacancy in a subcommittee chairmanship on the Committee on Appropriations shall be filled within 30 calendar days from the date on which the vacancy occurs in accord with the steps for selecting the subcommittee chairmen on the Committee on Appropriations outlined in Caucus Rule 27.

Rule 29. Restrictions on Subcommittee Chairmanships

A. No Member shall be chairman of more than one subcommittee of a full committee or select committee with legislative jurisdiction. Provided, however, that the following committees shall be exempt from this provision: House Administration; Standards of Official Conduct; House Recording; and Joint Committees.

Budget Committee

B. Members of the Budget Committee shall be eligible for subcommittee chairmanships on such committee without regard to Section A above.

C. The chairman of a full committee or select committee with legislative jurisdiction shall not be the chairman of a subcommittee of any other such full committee.

D. The following committees shall be exempt from paragraph (C) of this rule: District of Columbia; House Administration; Standards of Official Conduct; House Recording; and Joint Committees.

E. The provisions of paragraphs (A) and (C) shall not apply to the subcommittee chairmanships of the Committee on the District of Columbia in the 100th Congress.

Subcommittee Membership

Rule 30. Election of Subcommittee Members

Bidding Procedure

With the exception of subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee, no Member elected as a subcommittee chairman shall choose a second subcommittee position before Members who served in the preceding Congress and newly elected Members, in order of their rank on the full committee, have selected one subcommittee assignment. This provision in no way precludes a subcommittee chairman from bidding for an additional subcommittee position during each subsequent round of bidding. All Democratic subcommittee positions on House standing committees shall be filled at the Committee Caucus pursuant to Caucus Rule 25 according to these four steps:

1. Step One—Members who served on that committee in the preceding Congress who are not subcommittee chairmen shall have the option during the first round of bidding, in order of their rank on the full committee, either to retain one subcommittee assignment held on that committee in the preceding Congress (or in the case where the Democratic Caucus of the committee has determined to split a subcommittee into two subcommittees, to select assignments on both of said subcommittees) or to pass and forego their right to retain any committee position held in the preceding Congress. Members of the Appropriations Committee who served on that committee in the preceding Congress shall be entitled to retain not more than two subcommittee assignments held on that committee in the preceding Congress.

2. Step Two—Members who passed in Step One shall be entitled, in order of their rank on the full committee, to select a new subcommittee assignment to the extent that subcommittee size permits. Appropriations Committee Members who retain no subcommittee assignments and new committee Members shall be entitled, in order of their rank on the full committee, to select one subcommittee position each.

3. Step Three—New committee Members shall be entitled to choose anyone subcommittee assignment to the extent that subcommittee size permits. Members of the Appropriations Committee who have only one subcommittee assignment shall be entitled, in order of their rank on the full committee, to select a second subcommittee assignment, to the extent that subcommittee size permits.

4. Step Four—Members shall be entitled to select additional subcommittee assignments during further rounds of selection in order of Members' rank on the full committee until remaining subcommittee vacancies are filled.

Rule 31. Limitations on Subcommittee Membership

No Member shall serve on more than five subcommittees. For purposes of this paragraph, subcommittees of standing committees only shall count towards the five subcommittee assignment limitation. (See Caucus Rule 33 for definition of subcommittee.)

Rule 32. Subcommittee Vacancies

The steps for selecting committee membership in Caucus Rule 30 shall apply to membership vacancies on subcommittees and to membership on special subcommittees or subunits, exclusive to the committee and with legislative jurisdiction, that may be created during a Congress.

Committee and Subcommittee Procedure

Rule 33. Structure and Rules

A. The committee caucuses as described in Caucus Rule 25 shall approve and secure adoption of committee rules incorporating the following principles:

B. Prior to the start of the bidding process for subcommittee chairmanships and assignments, the caucus of each committee shall establish the number of subcommittees, shall fix the jurisdiction of each subcommittee, and shall determine the size of each subcommittee, provided, however, that if the Caucus determines to change the size of any subcommittee after the start of the bidding process, it may do so, but in that event, all previous action on the bidding process shall be expunged and the bidding process shall start anew, provided, further, that a standing committee shall have no more than eight subcommittees or the number of subcommittees it had on January 1, 1981, whichever is fewer, except:

Jurisdiction, Number and Size of Subcommittees

1. the Committee on Appropriations is limited to no more than the number of subcommittees it had on January 1, 1981;
2. exclusive committees with fewer than six subcommittees may increase the number of subcommittees they have up to six;
3. committees with more than thirty-five members (including delegates) which have fewer than six subcommittees may increase the number of subcommittees they have to six; and, upon granting of a waiver of this limitation by the Steering and Policy Committee, such committees having thirty-five or more Members (including delegates) and six or fewer subcommittees may increase the number of subcommittees they have to seven. Waivers of this rule by the Steering and Policy Committee shall not be granted under any other circumstances.

   The term "subcommittee" in this paragraph and elsewhere in these Rules shall include any panel, task force, special subcommittee, or any other subunit of a standing Committee (except such term shall not apply to a task force of the Budget Committee), which is established for a period of longer than six months.

C. Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the committee on all matters referred to it. Subcommittee chairmen shall set meeting dates after consultation with the chairman and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of committee and subcommittee meetings of hearings wherever possible.

D. All legislation and other matters referred to a committee shall be referred to all subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction within 2 weeks unless, by majority vote of the Democratic Members of the full committee, consideration is to be by the full committee.

Party Ratios and Subcommittees

E. The committee caucuses shall determine an appropriate ratio of Democratic to minority party members for each subcommittee and shall authorize a Member or Members to negotiate that ratio with the minority party. Provided, however, that party representation on each subcommittee, including ex-officio members, shall be no less favorable to the Democratic Party than the ratio for the full committee.

Rule 34. Subcommittee Staff and Organization

Staffing

A. A subcommittee chairman shall be entitled to select and designate at least one staff member for said subcommittee, subject to the approval of a majority of the Democratic Members of said full committee. Said staff member shall be compensated at a salary commensurate with the responsibilities prescribed by said subcommittee chairman. The staff members' compensation shall be provided out of appropriated amounts, if any, rather than statutory amounts allowed each committee.

Budget

B. Subject to overall control of a majority of the Democratic Caucus on the committee, each subcommittee shall have an adequate budget to discharge its responsibilities for legislation and oversight.

Floor and Conference Procedure

Rule 35. Closed Rule Limitation

Notice

A. It shall be the policy of the Caucus that no committee chairman or designee shall seek, and the Democratic Members of the Rules Committee shall not support, any rule or order prohibiting any germane amendment to any bill reported from committee until four (4) legislative days have elapsed following notice in the Congressional Record of an intention to do so.

Amendments

B. If, within the four (4) legislative days following said notice in the Congressional Record, 50 or more Democratic Members give written notice to the chairman of the committee seeking the rule and to the Chairman of the Rules Committee that they wish to offer a particular germane amendment, the chairman or designee shall not seek and the Democratic Members of the Rules Committee shall not support, any rule or order relating to the bill or resolution involved until the Caucus has met and decided whether the proposed amendment should be allowed to be considered in the House.

Caucus Meeting

C. If 50 or more Democratic Members give notice as provided in subsection B above, then notwithstanding the provisions of Caucus Rule 5, the Caucus shall meet for such purpose within three (3) legislative days following a request for such a Caucus to the Speaker and the Chairman of the Caucus by said committee chairman or designee.

Notification to Leadership

D. Provided, further, that notices referred to above also shall be submitted to the Speaker, the Majority Leader, and the Chairman of the Caucus.

Rule 36. Notice of Appropriations Violations

It shall be the policy of the Caucus that when the Committee on Appropriations orders reported any general appropriation bill which includes any provision in violation of clauses 2 or 6 of House Rule XXI and within the jurisdiction of a standing committee, it shall give notice immediately to the chairman of the standing committee which has jurisdiction over such provision of the specific provisions in violation of clauses 2 or 6 of House Rule XXI.

Rule 37. Economic Legislation

It shall be the policy of the Caucus that the leadership use the Rules of the House of Representatives in every way possible to expedite the enactment of economic recovery legislation. The Speaker may designate any bill or resolution as necessary for the economic revival of agriculture or industry. In making any such designation, he shall be guided by the level of the parity ratio as determined by the Department of Agriculture and the percentage of the labor force unemployed as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Rule 38. Guidelines on Suspensions of House Rules

When scheduling the consideration of bills or resolutions under the suspension of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Speaker of the House shall observe the following guidelines:

Request for Scheduling

A. Any Committee chairman requesting that a bill or resolution be brought up under the suspension of the Rules of the House must make this request in writing and include any cost estimate provided to the committee by any of the following:

1. the committee considering said bill or resolution;
2. the Congressional Budget Office;
3. the relevant executive department, agency, or instrumentality having jurisdiction in the matter; or
4. any other department, agency, or instrumentality of the government; in every case where such an estimate indicates that the bill or resolution in question may make or authorize appropriations in excess of $100,000,000 for any fiscal year.

Scheduling

B. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall not schedule any bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House of Representatives in any case where a request made under clause A of this Rule contains a cost estimate in excess of $100,000,000 in any fiscal year.

Exception

C. In any case where the Speaker of the House requests the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee of the Democratic Caucus to review a request to schedule for consideration under suspension of the Rules of the House an individual bill or resolution which may make or authorize appropriations in excess of $100,000,000 (as established under clause A of this Rule) in any fiscal year, and the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee authorizes the Speaker to schedule said bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House, clause B of this Rule shall not apply to such bill or resolution.

Scheduling of Exceptions

D. In any case in which the Steering and Policy Committee of the Democratic Caucus authorizes the Speaker of the House to schedule a bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House as provided in clause C of this Rule, such bill or resolution shall not be scheduled under the suspension of the Rules before the fourth calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) following the day on which the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee authorized such action.

Advance Notice of Suspensions

E. In scheduling any bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House, the Speaker of the House shall provide notice to all Members of the House of Representatives by at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, but including the day on which such bill or resolution is considered under the suspension of the Rules of the House) that said bill or resolution has been scheduled for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House.

Analyses of Suspensions

F. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall provide sufficient time for Members of the House to receive copies of the Whip Advisory regarding any bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House, or a comparable analysis of such bill or resolution. In no case shall such time be less than two calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, but including the day on which such bill or resolution is considered under suspension).

Emergency Provision

G. Clauses (A) through (F) of this Rule shall not apply to—

1. any measure for the declaration of war, or extreme emergency; or
2. any measure directly related to any executive decision, determination, or action which would become or continue to be, effective unless disapproved or otherwise invalidated by one or both Houses of Congress.

End of Session

H. Clauses (A) through (F) of this Rule shall not apply in any session after the adoption by the House of Representatives near the end of that session of a resolution waiving certain Rules of the House for the consideration of legislation for the remainder of that session.

Rule 39. Role of Subcommittee Chairman on House Floor

The chairmen of full committees shall, insofar as practicable, permit subcommittee chairmen to handle on the floor legislation from their respective subcommittees.

Rule 40. Democratic Representation on Conference Committees

The Democratic Party representation on conference committees also shall be no less favorable to the Democratic Party than the ratio for the full House committee.

Party Committees

Rule 41. Democratic Steering and Policy Committee

There shall be a House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee constituted as follows:

Membership

A. The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall consist of the Democratic Leadership (The Speaker, Majority Leader, Caucus Chairman, Caucus Vice Chairman, Whip, Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and Chief Deputy Whip), 12 Members who shall be elected from 12 equal regions as set forth below, not to exceed 8 Members who shall be appointed by the Speaker, the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget, the Chairman of the Committee on Rules, and the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Organization and Procedure

B. The Speaker shall serve as Chairman of the Committee, the Majority Leader as Vice Chairman, and the Caucus Chairman as Second Vice Chairman. The Committee shall adopt its own rules which shall be in writing; shall keep a journal of its proceedings; and shall meet at least once each month while the House is in session and upon the call of the Chairman or whenever requested in writing by four of its Members. In addition, the committee may authorize the Chairman to appoint *ad hoc* committees from among the entire membership of the Caucus to conduct special studies or investigations whenever necessary.

Functions

C. The Committee is vested with authority to report its nominations for committee memberships and chairmen and resolutions regarding party policy, legislative priorities, scheduling of matters for House or Caucus action, and other matters as appropriate to further Democratic programs and policies.

Regions

D. The 50 States (and other areas represented in the House) shall be divided into 12 compact and contiguous regions, each containing approximately one-twelfth of the Members of the Caucus. Following each election, the Chairman of the Steering and Policy Committee shall review the number of Members in each region, and if necessary, shall submit to the Caucus for its approval changes necessary to maintain, as near as practicable, an equal number of Members in each region. The proposed changes and a list of Members in each region indicating the total years of service for each as of the start of the new Congress shall be made available to Members of the Caucus at least 7 days before a Caucus which shall meet to approve or amend the regions.

Regional Elections

E. Each region shall meet to elect its representatives to the committee at a time determined by the Chairman of the Steering and Policy Committee and announced by written notice at least 7 days in advance. The Chairman shall also designate a Member from each region to call that region's election meeting to order and to preside until a permanent presiding officer is elected, which shall be the first order of business. If at such meeting, the election of a Member to the Steering and Policy Committee does not take place due to lack of a quorum, the Chairman shall reschedule the meeting as soon as practicable, provided Members are given at least 48 hours notice in writing of when and where the rescheduled meeting will be held. Nominations may be made from the floor or in advance of the election meeting by written notice signed by two Members from the region other than the nominee. Written nominations must be delivered to the Steering and Policy Committee office not later than 5 p.m. on the second day immediately preceding the day of the election meeting and mailed to all Members of the Caucus in that region not later than midnight of the second day immediately preceding the day of the election meeting. Following the close of advance nominations, a ballot shall be prepared for each region containing the names of candidates nominated in advance for election from the region. Candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order and all ballots shall contain space to write in the names of Members nominated from the floor. One-half of the Members of a region shall constitute a quorum for an election and a majority of those present and voting for a nominated candidate shall be required to elect. If more than one ballot be required, the candidate receiving the fewest votes on each ballot shall be eliminated from all succeeding votes until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

Seniority Limitation

F. If a region's representative in the preceding Congress had completed 12 or more years service at the start of said Congress, he or she shall be succeeded by a Member who has less than 12 years service. This provision shall not apply to the reelection of an incumbent Member of the committee who is entitled to seek another term.

Terms of Service

G. Terms of service for Members of the Steering and Policy Committee shall expire when a successor is elected or appointed. In the event of a regional vacancy the region shall elect a successor to fill the unexpired term. No Member shall be elected to more than two consecutive full terms, and no regionally elected Member shall serve concurrently as a regional whip. Appointed Members shall not be eligible for reappointment in the next Congress.

Rule 42. Regional Whips

Election Procedure

Regional Whips shall be elected by secret ballot in accordance with the provisions of Caucus Rule 4(1)(E) which governs the election of regional representatives to the Steering and Policy Committee. In the event of a vacancy, the region shall elect a successor to fill the unexpired term. No Member shall be elected to more than two consecutive full terms as a regional Whip.

Rule 43. Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee

Membership

A. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall consist of the Speaker and one Member from each State which has Democratic representation in the House, the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, and the Delegates from American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands who are Members of the Democratic Party, and eight additional Members who shall be appointed by the Speaker. The state delegations shall choose their committee Members and inform the Speaker of their choice, and the Speaker shall make his appointments, no later than January 31 of the first session of a new Congress. Members of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall serve for the duration of that Congress.

Notice

B. No later than February 1 of the first session of a new Congress, the Speaker shall send to all Members of the Caucus a listing of the Membership of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee for that Congress.

Election of Chairman

C. No later than February 15 of the first session of a new Congress, the Speaker shall convene a meeting of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee at which time the committee shall nominate a chairman. Such nomination shall be submitted to the Caucus. The Caucus shall vote on that nomination, and other nominations which may be made from the floor on petition of five Members of the Caucus, at a meeting of the Caucus no later than March 1 of the first session of a new Congress. Candidates for chairman shall not necessarily already be a Member of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Term of the Chairman

D. The chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall serve while a Member of the House and until a new chairman is elected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (C).

Vacancies

E. (1) If a vacancy occurs in the office of chairman prior to the end of a Congress, the Speaker shall appoint a temporary chairman immediately and convene a meeting of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee within 45 days of the vacancy to nominate a new chairman. The Caucus shall act upon that nomination and additional nominations made from the floor on petition of five Members of the Caucus within 75 days of the vacancy.

(2) If a vacancy in the office of chairman occurs at the beginning of a Congress, a temporary chairman shall be appointed by the Speaker to serve until a new chairman is elected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (C).

(3) Should a state Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Member or an appointee of the Speaker be unable to serve a full term, the state delegation or the Speaker, as the case may be, shall fill such vacancy within 15 days.

Officers

F. The Chairman shall nominate, and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall elect, as many as eight officers to assist the chairman with his duties. Candidates for these positions shall be Members of the Caucus. Any officer who is not, at the time of his election, a Member of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, shall become a Member by virtue of his election as an officer.

Amendment and Review of Caucus Rules

Rule 44. Procedure for Amending Caucus Rules

A. The Chairman of the Caucus shall be responsible for codifying and technically revising the Caucus Rules, and for recommending modification where advisable.

B. When a Member offers an amendment to the Democratic Caucus Rules the Member must provide twenty (20) copies of such amendment at the time the amendment is offered.

Rule 45. Committee on Organization, Study and Review

The Caucus Chairman shall appoint a Committee on Organization, Study and Review for the purpose of review of the Caucus Rules as circumstances may indicate, with no powers other than those recommending action to the Caucus.

Rule 46. Exemptions, Exceptions and Waivers

A. Any recommendation by the Committee on Organization, Study and Review relating to an exemption or exception from, or waiver of, any rule of the Democratic Caucus with respect to any Member or group of Members shall be accompanied by a written report setting forth the reasons or arguments in support of the committee's recommendation and the arguments made in opposition to such action. Said recommendation and report shall be distributed to all Members of the Caucus before said matter is considered by the Caucus.

B. Any vote relating to a request or recommendation that a specific Member or group of Members be exempted or excepted from any rule of the Democratic Caucus, or that any such rule be waived with respect to any Member or group of Members, shall be by secret ballot.

Disciplinary Procedures

Rule 47. Temporary Step Aside of a Chairman Who is Indicted

A. The chairman of a standing, select, special or joint committee of the Congress, or subcommittee thereof, who is indicted for a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may be imposed, shall cease to exercise the powers of chairman and shall step aside in favor of the next ranking Member of the committee or subcommittee concerned who shall serve as acting chairman for the remainder of that Congress unless the chairman resumes the chair in accord with paragraph (B) or (C).

B. If a chairman steps aside and subsequently during that Congress the charges are dismissed or reduced to less than a felony as described in paragraph (A), or if the Member is found not guilty of said charges, the chairman shall automatically resume the powers and duties of the office of chairman unless the Caucus within 10 legislative days decides otherwise.

C. The Caucus may waive the provisions of this rule at any time by majority vote.

D. If at the start of the next Congress a Member referred to in paragraph (A) is still under indictment, the Caucus may, if circumstances warrant, continue to fill the position of chairman, which said Member held in the preceding Congress, on an interim basis with the next ranking Member as acting chairman. If said chairmanship is filled in this manner, and if during that Congress the charges against said Member are dismissed, or if the Member is found not guilty of said charges, or if circumstances no longer warrant holding said chairmanship in an interim status, the chairmanship shall be determined in accord with Caucus Rules 20, 21, 22 or 27, the same as at the start of a Congress.

E. The phrase "next ranking Member" in paragraphs (A) and (D) shall not include the chairman of a standing, select, special or joint committee or an Appropriations subcommittee.

Rule 48. Automatic Replacement of a Chairman Who Is Censured Or Convicted

A. The chairman of a standing, select, special or joint committee of the Congress, or subcommittee thereof, who is censured by a vote of the House or who is convicted of a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may be imposed, shall cease to exercise the powers of chairman, shall be replaced in such position in accord with Caucus Rules 20, 21, 22, or 27, and shall not serve as chairman of any committee or subcommittee for the remainder of that Congress.

B. Immediately upon censure or conviction of any chairman referred to in paragraph (A), the next ranking Member of the committee or subcommittee concerned other than the chairman of a standing, select, special or joint committee or an Appropriations subcommittee, shall assume the powers of chairman and shall serve as acting chairman until a new chairman is selected or until the Caucus acts in accord with paragraph (C).

C. If circumstances so warrant, the Caucus may order that the chairman step aside rather than be replaced and that the acting chairman continue in such status for the remainder of that Congress only, or may waive the provisions of paragraph (A) entirely. Provided, however, that the request for action by the Caucus under this paragraph shall be made by the chairman involved within 15 calendar days of the censure or conviction.

D. If a Member is replaced as chairman of a committee or subcommittee in accord with Caucus Rules 20, 21, 22, or 27 and if subsequently during that Congress the conviction of said Member is reversed and all appeals are exhausted, the Member shall be presumed to have been the chairman of that committee or subcommittee for the entire Congress for purposes of selecting committee and subcommittee chairmen at the start of the next Congress. Provided, however, that if said Member was ordered to step aside rather than be replaced as chairman, the Member shall automatically resume the powers and duties of the office of chairman unless within 10 legislative days of such reversal the Caucus decides otherwise.

THE RULES OF THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE 105TH CONGRESS

January 8, 1998

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RULE 1 CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

INCLUSION.—All Republican Members of the House of Representatives, and other Members of the House as determined by the Republican Conference of the House of Representatives ("the Conference"), shall be Members of the Conference.

EXPULSION.—A 2/3 vote of the entire membership shall be necessary to expel a Member of the Conference.

Proceedings for expulsion shall follow the rules of the House of Representatives, as nearly as practicable.

RULE 2 REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

ELECTED LEADERSHIP.—The Elected Republican Leaders of the House of Representatives are:

1. Speaker
2. Republican Leader
3. Republican Whip
4. Chair of the Republican Conference
5. Chair of the Committee on Policy
6. Vice Chair of the Republican Conference
7. Secretary of the Republican Conference
8. Two members of the Sophomore class elected by the Sophomore class
9. One member of the Freshman class elected by the Freshman class

DESIGNATED LEADERSHIP.—The designated Republican Leaders of the House of Representatives are:

1. Chairman of the House Committee on Rules
2. Chairman of the House Committee on Ways & Means
3. Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations
4. Chairman of the House Committee on Budget
5. Chairman of the House Committee on Commerce

APPOINTED LEADERSHIP.—The Speaker shall appoint the chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee effective in the 105th Congress. The Chairman can serve only two consecutive two-year terms.

LEADERSHIP ISSUES.—The Speaker may designate certain issues as "Leadership Issues." Those issues will require early and ongoing cooperation between the relevant committees and the Leadership as the issue evolves.

A Member of the elected or designated Republican Leadership has an obligation, to the best of his/her ability, to support positions adopted by the Conference, and the resources of the Leadership shall be

utilized to support that position.

RULE 2 REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP (CONTINUED)

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE LIMITATION.—The Speaker, Republican Leader and Whip and the Chairs of the Republican Conference, the Committee on Policy, and the National Republican Congressional Committee shall not serve on more than one standing committee or subcommittee of the House of Representatives and in no case shall any of these individuals serve as Chairman of a standing committee of the House of Representatives. Upon the recommendation of the Steering Committee and the approval of the Conference this provision may be waived.

If a Member shall, at any time, cease to serve in any of the Leadership positions named above, he or she may resume his or her position on the standing committee on which he or she previously served.

RULE 3 ORGANIZING CONFERENCE

ORGANIZING CONFERENCE.—The organizational meeting of the Conference shall be called by the Speaker, except as otherwise provided by law. The meeting shall be held on or after the first day, but not later than the twentieth day of December during each even-numbered year.

The Speaker, in consultation with the elected Leadership of the preceding Congress, shall designate an officer to preside until such time as the election of a Conference Chair is concluded.

ORDER OF ELECTIONS.—At the organizational meeting of the Republican Conference, the Conference shall elect (or nominate) in the following order:

The Speaker

The Leader Title Republican Whip

The Chair of the Republican Conference

The Chair of the Committee on Policy

The Vice Chair of the Republican Conference

The Secretary of the Republican Conference

RULE 4 CONFERENCE ELECTION PROCEDURES

VOTES BY SECRET BALLOT.—All contested elections shall be decided by secret ballot, and no proxy voting shall be allowed.

NOMINATIONS.—Candidates for office shall be nominated in alphabetical surname order.

For each Leadership nomination there shall be one nominating speech (not to exceed three minutes in length), and there may be two seconding speeches (each not to exceed one minute in length).

BALLOTING PROCEDURES.—When there are more than two candidates for any office and none receives a

majority of the votes on the first ballot, a quorum being present, the candidate with the lowest number of votes on that and each succeeding ballot will be dropped from the ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes, a quorum being present.

RULE 5 CONFERENCE MEETINGS

CALL AND NOTICE.—Meetings of the Republican Conference may be called at any time the Chair of the Conference, after consultation with the Speaker. A meeting shall be called upon written request of 50 Members addressed and delivered to the Chair. Such meeting shall be called as soon as practicable. Whenever possible, 24 hours' notice of the time, place, and agenda of a meeting shall be given to Members of the Conference.

SPEAKER'S ANNUAL MEETING.—The Speaker shall hold an annual meeting at the beginning of each session of Congress at which the Republican Leadership shall report to the membership on their plans for the upcoming session.

RULE 6 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: RULES OF PROCEDURE

RULES OF THE HOUSE.—The rules of the House of Representatives, insofar as they are applicable, shall govern the proceedings of the Republican Conference.

SUSPENSION PROCEDURE.—Two-thirds of the Members voting, a quorum being present, may suspend the Conference rules.

All motions to suspend the rules shall be seconded by a majority, if demanded.

The consideration of a motion to suspend the rules, to the extent practicable, shall follow the rules of the House.

RECONSIDERATION.—When a motion has been made and carried or lost, it shall be in order for any member of the majority, in the same or succeeding Conference, to move for the reconsideration thereof. The procedures for reconsideration shall be consistent with the rules of the House.

RULE 7 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: ORDER OF BUSINESS

ADDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS.—The Speaker, or a designee, may present any resolution to the Republican Conference for its immediate consideration.

All resolutions brought before the Republican Conference shall be referred by the Chair to the appropriate committee of the Conference for consideration. A resolution which has 25 or more signatures of Members shall be considered by the appropriate Conference committee as soon as practicable and reported back to the Conference. If the resolution is not acted on by the committee to which it was referred in a timely manner, a petition of 50 or more Members will discharge the resolution for consideration before the Conference.

RULE 8 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: QUORUM

A majority of the Members of the Conference shall constitute a quorum.

RULE 9 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: SECRET BALLOT

On demand of one Member, with the support of five others, the vote on any matter properly pending before the Conference shall be taken by s
ecret ballot.

RULE 10 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: ADMITTANCE

The Chair of the Conference may decide whether meetings of the Conference shall be open or closed to the public, subject to an appeal by any Member.

The Chair may designate Leadership staff or other eligible persons to attend Conference meetings which are closed to the public. Those individuals shall be excused at the discretion of the Conference Chair.

Upon timely notice from the Chair of the Conference, an executive session of the Conference may be called. This meeting shall be closed to all persons except Members of the Conference.

RULE 11 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: JOURNAL

The Secretary of the Conference shall keep a journal of the Conference proceedings. Journal entries shall be signed by the Conference Secretary and the Conference Chair.

The journal shall be open for inspection at the request of any Member of the Conference.

RULE 12 STANDING COMMITTEES: ELECTION PROCEDURES

A. GENERALLY.—The Republican Steering Committee shall recommend to the Republican Conference the Republican Members of the standing committees of the House of Representatives, except as otherwise provided in this rule.

   VACANCY.—In those cases where the Steering Committee nominated Members for membership on standing committees, the Steering Committee shall recommend directly to the House of Representatives the Republican Members to fill vacancies on standing committees which occur following the organization of a Congress. Whenever possible, a vacancy shall be filled within thirty days while Congress is in session.

B. ELECTION OF RULES COMMITTEE MEMBERS.—

   NOMINATION.—The Speaker shall nominate the Republican Members of the Rules Committee.

   The Speaker shall nominate the Chairman of title Rules Committee.

These nominations shall be submitted to the Conference along with the other nominees from the Steering Committee.

REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATION.—If the Republican Conference rejects the nominee for Chairman to the Rules Committee, the Speaker shall again submit a nomination to the Republican Conference.

RETENTION OF SENIORITY RIGHTS.—A Member newly assigned to the Rules Committee shall have the option of being "on leave with seniority" from one standing committee on which he or she serves. At such time as service on the Rules Committee shall cease, such member shall have the right to return to active membership on that standing committee with the relative seating and seniority accumulated during his or her tenure on the Rules Committee.

C. ELECTION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS.—

CHAIRMAN.—The Republican Steering Committee shall nominate the Member to serve as the Chairman of the Budget Committee.

Limits on the term of service for the Chairman shall be determined by the rules of the House.

LEADERSHIP MEMBER.—The Speaker shall appoint one Member to serve on the committee. The Member appointed by the Speaker will serve as the second highest ranking Republican on the Committee.

NOMINATION OF OTHER MEMBERS.—Three Members of the Appropriations Committee and three Members of the Committee on Ways & Means shall also serve on the Budget Committee.

RULE 12 STANDING COMMITTEES: ELECTION PROCEDURES (CONTINUED)

D. ELECTION OF HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS.—

NOMINATION.—The Speaker shall nominate the Republican Members of the House Oversight Committee.

The Speaker shall nominate the Chairman of the House Oversight Committee.

These nominations shall be submitted to the Conference along with the other nominees from the Steering Committee.

REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATION.—If the Republican Conference rejects the nominee for Chairman to the House Oversight Committee, the Speaker shall again submit a nomination to the Republican Conference.

RULE 13 APPOINTMENTS TO JOINT AND SELECT COMMITTEES

The Speaker shall recommend to the House all Republican Members of such joint, select, and ad hoc committees as shall be created by the House, in accordance with law.

RULE 14 NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

NOMINATIONS BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE.—The Republican Steering Committee shall nominate the Republican Members who shall serve as Chairmen, except as provided in Rules 12 and 13. The Member nominated by the Steering Committee for this position need not be the Member with the longest consecutive service on the Committee, and such nominations shall be out of order except as recommended in the report of the Steering Committee.

The Republican Steering Committee may also designate the Republican Members who shall serve as Vice Chairmen. The Member designated by the Steering Committee for this position need not be the Member with the longest consecutive service on the Committee.

VOTING PROCEDURE.—The Conference shall vote by secret ballot on each recommendation of the House Republican Steering Committee for the position of Chairman. The call of the Conference at which such balloting will take place shall name and list the individuals recommended by the Committee.

REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATIONS.—If the Republican Conference fails to approve a recommendation of the Steering Committee with respect to a nomination for the position of Chairman, the matter shall be automatically recommitted without instructions to that committee.

OBLIGATION OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.—The Chairman on each committee has an obligation to ensure that each measure on which the Republican Conference has taken a position is managed in accordance with such position on the Floor of the House of Representatives.

TERM LIMITATION.—No individual shall serve more than three consecutive terms as Chairman or Ranking Member of a standing, select, joint, or ad hoc committee or subcommittee beginning with the 104th Congress.

RULE 15 LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

No individual shall serve as chairman of more than one standing committee or subcommittee except for the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct; or the Committee on House Oversight; or any joint, select, or ad hoc committee; or any subcommittee thereof. Provided, however, that upon recommendation of the Steering Committee and approval of the Conference this provision shall be waived.

RULE 16 VACANCIES IN COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN POSITIONS

A vacancy which occurs during a session of Congress for the position of Chairman shall be filled in accordance with Conference Rule 14.

Whenever possible a vacancy shall be filled within thirty days while Congress is in session.

RULE 17 COMMITTEE ORGANIZING CAUCUSES

Each Committee shall have an organizing caucus of the Republican Members before the organizing meeting of the full Committee. The Committee Chairman shall call the meeting, giving at least three days written notice to all Republican Members of the Committee.

In preparing the rules of procedure for the Committee, they shall seek to the maximum extent possible to avoid overlapping scheduling of subcommittee meetings in order to assure maximum Member participation.

RULE 18 PERIODIC COMMITTEE CAUCUSES

Meetings of a committee caucus shall be called if requested by a majority of the Republican Members of the Committee or at any time by the Chairman. A majority of the Members may request a meeting provided the request to the Chairman is in writing and states the subject matter to be discussed at the meeting. A meeting so requested must be called by the Chairman within ten days after receipt of the written request, and after notice to all committee caucus Members.

RULE 19 ELECTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

In accordance with Rule 15, the method for the selection of Chairmen of the Committee's Subcommittees shall be at the discretion of the full Committee Chairman, unless a majority of the Republican Members of the full Committee disapprove the action of the Chairman.

The Chairman shall formalize in writing for the other Republican Members of the Committee the procedures to be followed in selecting Subcommittee Chairman and individual subcommittee assignments and shall do so in advance of the Committee's organization. The procedures may be modified by a majority vote of the Republican Members of the full Committee.

RULE 20 VACANCIES IN SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN POSITIONS

Vacancies in the position of Subcommittee Chairman shall be filled according to the procedures established by the various committees in accordance with Rule 19.

RULE 21 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

No Member shall serve on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for more than three consecutive terms.

RULE 22 COMMITTEE ON POLICY

The Committee on Policy shall be an advisory Committee to the Membership of the House Republican Conference. The Committee on Policy shall meet at the call of the Chair of the Committee on Policy or the Speaker, and shall discuss legislative proposals with Republican Members of the appropriate standing and special committees and with such other Republican Members as the Chair may invite to meetings.

The Committee on Policy shall report its suggestions for Republican action and policy to the Republican Members of the House. The Chair of the Committee on Policy may appoint, in consultation with the Speaker, such subcommittees from the Republican Members of the House for such purposes as may be deemed appropriate.

COMPOSITION.—The Committee on Policy shall be composed of:

1. One Member from each of the nine Regions apportioned under the Steering Committee structure. The Republican Members of Congress from the states of each region shall meet in caucus and shall select from their number, by secret ballot, the Member of the Committee on Policy and shall report their selection to the Chair of said committee.
2. One Member of the Freshman class and two Members from the Sophomore class.
3. The House Republican Leadership, as elected and designated by the House Republican Conference.
4. A maximum of ten members-at-large appointed by the Speaker.

SENIORITY.—The traditions and privileges of seniority shall not apply to membership of the Committee on Policy and the Committee may, at its direction, make such rules as are necessary for conduct of its business.

RULE 23 THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

COMPOSITION.—The National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) shall be composed of an executive committee which will have 38 members.

The Executive Committee's membership shall be composed of the following members; the Speaker, the Majority Leader, the Republican Whip, Conference Chairman, the Conference Vice Chairman, the Conference Secretary, the Policy Chairman and the Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

The National Republican Congressional Committee chairman shall appoint 30 Members to serve on the executive committee. These appointments will be reported to the Conference for its approval. The Conference shall vote by secret ballot on each recommendation of the NRCC Chairman.

If the Republican Conference fails to approve a recommendation of the NRCC Chairman with respect to a nomination, the matter shall be automatically recommitted to the Chairman without instructions.

DUTIES.—The duties of the National Republican Congressional Committee shall be to:

Act as counsel and advisor to the Members of the House Republican Conference, furnish support services to the extent consistent with the House Rules, and have oversight in election campaigns in all general and special elections for membership in the House of Representatives.

RULE 24 REPUBLICAN PERSONNEL

The House Republican Conference hereby vests in the Speaker supervisory authority over all Republican employees of the House of Representatives, and direct authority over the Republican Floor Assistants, and Republican Conference.

The Speaker is hereby empowered to offer recommendations and advise the Republican Conference as to the location and use of all personnel and funds, appropriated or otherwise, of the Republican Conference or any committee or officer thereof including but not limited to the Republican Leader, Republican Whip, the Republican Committee on Policy and the National Republican Congressional Committee, to avoid duplication and improve coordination and best utilization of said assets.

The funds appropriated for the offices of the Republican Leader, Republican Whip and the Republican Conference may be allocated and utilized by the Republican Leader, Republican Whip and the Chair of the Republican Conference, respectively, only after a budget, prepared in consultation with the Speaker, detailing proposed use of such funds has been prepared.

The Speaker shall provide general personnel referral services to Republican Members and such other services as be deems necessary.

The staff employed by the elected Republican Leadership as defined under Rule 2, or under the direct authority of the Speaker, will be considered a unified staff, although directly responsible to the employing office, will work for all others of the Leadership as directed by the Speaker in consultation with the employing office.

RULE 25 TEMPORARY STEP ASIDE OF A CHAIRMAN WHO IS INDICTED

The Chairman of a standing, select, joint or ad hoc committee, or any subcommittee thereof, who is indicted for a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may be imposed, shall step aside in favor of the next ranking Republican Member of the committee or subcommittee concerned who shall serve as acting Chairman for the remainder of that Congress, unless the Steering Committee nominates a Member consistent with Rule 14, or unless the Chairman resumes his position in accord with paragraphs 2 or 3 of this section.

If a Chairman steps aside and subsequently during that Congress the charges are dismissed or reduced to less than a felony as described in paragraph 1 or this section, or if the Member is found not guilty of said charges, the Chairman shall automatically resume the powers and duties of the position of the Chairman unless the Conference within 10 legislative days decides otherwise.

The Conference may waive the provisions of this rule at any time by majority vote.

RULE 26 TEMPORARY STEP ASIDE OF A MEMBER OF LEADERSHIP WHO IS INDICTED

A Member of the leadership shall step aside if indicted for a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may be imposed.

If a Member of the Republican leadership is indicted, the Republican Conference shall meet and elect a Member to temporarily serve in that position.

RULE 27 AUTOMATIC REPLACEMENT OF A CHAIRMAN WHO IS CENSURED OR CONVICTED

The Chairman of a standing, select, joint or ad hoc committee of the Congress, or subcommittee thereof, who is censured by a vote of the House or who is convicted of a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may be imposed, shall cease to exercise the powers of the Chairman and shall not serve as Chairman of any committee or subcommittee for the remainder of that Congress. The position would be vacant under the rules of the Conference.

This rule is in effect for any indictments or convictions handed down subsequent to the adoption of the rule.

RULE 28 GUIDELINES ON SUSPENSIONS OF HOUSE RULES

When scheduling the consideration of bills or resolutions under the suspension of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Speaker of the House shall observe the following guidelines:

Any Committee chairman requesting that a bill or resolution be brought up under the suspension of the Rules must make this request in writing and include any cost estimate provided to the committee by any of the following: (1) the committee considering said bill or resolution; (2) the Congressional Budget Office; (3) the relevant executive department, agency, or instrumentality having jurisdiction in the matter; or (4) any other department, agency, or instrumentality of the government. The request should also state that the bill or resolution has been cleared by the ranking minority member and was not opposed by more than one-third of the committee members reporting the bill.

The Speaker shall not schedule any bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules which fails to include a cost estimate, has not been cleared by the minority, was opposed by more than one-third the committee members reported the bill, and exceeds $100,000,000 in authorized, appropriated, or direct or indirect loan commitments or guarantees.

A waiver of this rule can be granted by the majority of the elected leadership defined under Rule 2.

PREAMBLE AND RULES
OF THE
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
105th Congress

Vic Fazio, Chairman
Barbara B. Kennelly, Vice Chair

Adopted November 19, 1996

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RULES

Membership, Officers and Elections

Rule 1. Membership

INCLUSION

A. All Democratic Members of the House of Representatives, the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, and the Delegates from American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands who are Members of the Democratic Party shall be prima facie Members of the Democratic Caucus of the House of Representatives (hereafter "Caucus").

B. The following procedures shall govern when a Democratic Member chooses to leave the Democratic Party:

ACTIONS CONSTITUTING CHANGE OF PARTY

1. Whenever a Member of the Caucus resigns from or acts affirmatively to change political parties, he or she shall automatically cease to be a Member of the Democratic Caucus. Such acts shall be limited to changing party registration in his or her home state, filing for office as a candidate for nomination of another political party or accepting the nomination of another political party. This section shall not apply to anyone who files for or accepts the nomination of another party in addition to accepting the nomination of the Democratic Party.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

2. The Caucus Chairman shall notify the affected Member in writing when he or she ceases to be a Member of the Democratic Caucus in accordance with paragraph (B)(1) that Member shall have the opportunity to seek reinstatement by majority vote, by secret ballot, at a meeting of the Caucus called within 10 days of his or her request provided that at least five Members support, in writing, the Member's request. If the Member is not reinstated within 30 days of receiving notification, the Caucus Chairman shall then notify the Speaker of the House that the affected Member is no longer a Member of the Democratic Caucus.

EXPULSION

C. The Caucus may expel any Member by a two-thirds vote.

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY

D. In order to maintain membership in good standing in the Caucus, Members of the Caucus shall not participate in campaign activities for any candidate in a partisan federal election who is not a Member of the Democratic Party.

Rule 2. Party Leaders and Caucus Officers

PARTY LEADERS

A. The Caucus shall nominate a candidate for Speaker and shall elect the Democratic Leader and the Democratic Whip.

CAUCUS OFFICES

B. The Caucus shall elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman.

TERM OF OFFICE

C. No Member shall be elected to serve as Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Caucus for more than two consecutive full terms.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN

D. The Vice Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chair during the temporary absence of the Chairman. The Chairman or Vice Chairman shall have the right to name any Member to perform the duties of the Chair during a temporary absence.

SPEAKER'S AUTHORITY WHEN IN THE MINORITY

E. During any time that the Democratic Party is not the majority party of the House of Representatives, any reference to, and any authority vested in, the Speaker under these rules shall be considered references to and authority vested in the Democratic Leader.

Rule 3. House Officers

The Democratic nominee for Speaker or Speaker, as the case may be, shall recommend to the Caucus nominees for Officers of the House. The Caucus shall vote on the nominations. Upon a demand supported by 10 or more Members, a separate vote, by secret ballot, shall be had on any nomination. Such demand, if made and properly supported, shall be debated for no more than 30 minutes with the time equally divided between proponents and opponents. If a majority of those present and voting reject any such nominee, the Democratic nominee for Speaker or Speaker, as the case may be, shall be entitled to submit new nominations until any such positions are filled.

Rule 4. Elections

A. Except as otherwise provided by Caucus rule, the following provisions shall apply to all elections in the Caucus or in entities of the Caucus:

VOTES BY SECRET BALLOT

1. All votes shall be by secret ballot, except on committee lists where no secret ballot is demanded under Rule 14;

QUORUM

2. A quorum shall be required to proceed;

NOMINATIONS

3. The name of each candidate shall be placed in nomination. Nominations shall be limited to not more than one 5-minute nominating speech and three 2-minute seconding speeches on behalf of each candidate so nominated;

BALLOTING

4. After nominating and seconding speeches, balloting shall proceed without interruption or recess from ballot to ballot until one candidate shall have received the votes of a majority of those present and voting and such candidate shall be declared elected. Votes cast for a person whose name was not placed in nomination shall not be counted or considered except to determine the proper majority necessary for election;

ELIMINATION

5. If there are more than two candidates, the nominated candidate receiving the fewest votes on the first and each succeeding ballot shall be eliminated; and votes for such candidate shall not be tallied or considered except for the purpose of determining the number of Members present. If two or more candidates tie for fewest votes on the first ballot or on subsequent ballots, neither shall be eliminated; should such occur for a second time however, both shall be eliminated. Following any ballot a candidate wishing to withdraw shall be entitled to recognition for one minute for the purpose of so advising the Caucus.

BINDING VOTES ON HOUSE LEADERSHIP

B. With respect to voting in the House for Speaker and other officers of the House, for each committee chairman or ranking minority member, and for membership of committees, a majority vote of those present and voting at a Democratic Caucus shall bind all Members of the Caucus.

Caucus Meetings

Rule 5. Calling and Scheduling Meetings

CALL FOR MEETINGS

A. Meetings of the Caucus shall be called by the Chairman upon his own motion, at the request of the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, or upon written request of 50 Members of the Caucus.

REGULAR MEETINGS

B. While the House is in session, the Caucus shall meet regularly on the third Wednesday of each month except January in odd-numbered years. If the House is not in session on the third Wednesday the monthly Caucus shall be held on the next succeeding Wednesday on which the House is in session. The Chairman may cancel any monthly Caucus, but not two consecutive monthly Caucuses, provided Members are given reasonable notice of such cancellation.

COMMITTEE SCHEDULES

C. Members of the Caucus shall not schedule committee meetings or hearings at times when the Caucus is to be in session.

Rule 6. Notice and Agenda of Meetings

NOTICE AND AGENDA

A. The Chairman shall set the time and place of each meeting of the Caucus and shall provide Members with an agenda listing all matters to be considered. The agenda shall be distributed to Members by noon on the fifth day preceding the day on which the Caucus meeting is convened: however, when the purpose of such Caucus meeting is to consider a veto override or legislation that has been reported to the House or scheduled for House consideration, the Chairman may waive the five-day notice requirement with reasonable notice to Members. Any addition to the agenda other than under paragraphs (B) and (C) shall not be in order except by a two-thirds vote of the Caucus, and where the additional matter has been available for at least two hours.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA ON THE DAY OF ISSUANCE

B. The agenda for each meeting called with five days notice shall include any matter requested in writing by five or more Members and delivered to the office of the Caucus Chairman on the same day a notice and agenda were issued under paragraph (A). The Caucus Chairman shall provide Members with written notification of any addition to the agenda under this paragraph not later than 5 p.m. the following day. This paragraph shall not apply to any meeting for which the five-day notice requirement has been waived by the Caucus Chairman.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA AFTER THE DAY OF ISSUANCE

C. Following issuance of the agenda, additional items may be placed thereon only by the Caucus Chairman or by the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, or upon petition by 50 Members delivered to the office of the Chairman by noon on the second day preceding the day on which the Caucus meeting is convened. The Caucus Chairman shall provide Members with written notification of any addition to the agenda under this paragraph not later than 5 p.m. the same day.

RECESS AUTHORITY

D. A meeting of the Caucus may, at the call of the Chairman or upon motion, be recessed and later reconvened for continuation of properly noticed business, at a time and place designated, except during election balloting as provided in Caucus Rule 4(A)(4).

AMENDMENT THAT INSTRUCTS REQUIRES NOTICE

E. It shall not be in order to offer an amendment to a resolution being considered in Caucus if said amendment adds language directing or instructing the Democratic Members of a committee on any matter, unless the intent to instruct said Members was noticed in accord with the provisions of this rule.

Rule 7. Admittance to Meetings

CLOSED MEETINGS

No persons, except Members of the Caucus, a Caucus Journal Clerk and other necessary employees shall be admitted to the meeting of the Caucus without the express permission of the Chairman.

Rule 8. Quorum

REGULAR

A. A quorum of the Caucus shall consist of a majority of the Members of the Caucus. If the absence of a quorum is established, the Chairman may continue the meeting for purposes of discussion only, but no motion of any kind except a motion to recess or adjourn, shall be in order at such continued meetings.

PROCEDURE FOR QUORUM CALL

B. Subject to the provisions of Caucus Rules 4 and 11 regarding secret ballots, a quorum call or roll call may be taken by electronic or other means, provided Members shall have not less than 15 minutes in which to have their vote or presence recorded.

Rule 9. Parliamentary Procedure

PARLIAMENTARY LAW; 5-MINUTE RULE

A. The procedures, motions, and five-minute rule which apply when the House of Representatives is operating in the House as in the Committee of the Whole, with such special rules as may be adopted, shall govern the meetings of the Caucus.

MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

B. Two-thirds of the Members voting may suspend the Caucus rules. Consideration of a motion to suspend the rules, including the discretion of the Caucus Chairman whether or not to entertain such a motion, shall follow the rules of the House.

PROXY VOTING PROHIBITED

C. Proxy voting is not allowed in the Democratic Caucus, nor in subunits under the Caucus, including Democratic caucuses of House committees and subcommittees.

Rule 10. Caucus Journal

INSPECTION OF JOURNAL UPON REQUEST

The Caucus shall keep a journal of its proceedings, which shall be published after each meeting, and which shall be available for inspection by any Member of the Caucus upon request.

Rule 11. Recorded Votes and Voting Procedure

RECORDED VOTES-SECRET BALLOT REQUIRES MAJORITY

The yeas and nays on any question (except elections under Rule 4) before the Caucus shall, at the desire of one fifth of those present, be entered on the Journal, and a copy of each record vote shall be distributed to each Member of the Caucus. Any question shall be decided by secret ballot or other non-record vote if a majority so demands, before the yeas and nays are ordered.

Committee Membership

Rule 12. Committee Ratios

The Democratic Leadership shall work to ensure that committee ratios are at least as representative of the number of Democrats in the House and that each panel include the greatest number of Democrats possible.

Rule 13. Standing Committees Membership Nominations

STEERING COMMITTEE NOMINATES

A. The Steering Committee shall recommend to the Caucus nominees for membership to committees, one committee at a time. Members of the same class nominated by Steering for membership to a committee at the same time shall be ranked for seniority purposes in the order in which they were chosen by the Steering Committee. This paragraph shall not apply to the Committees on Rules and House Oversight as provided by Rule 15, and is subject to the special procedures provided in Rule 16 for selection of Members of the Committee on the Budget.

NOMINATION BY STATE DELEGATIONS

B. Upon a letter from a Member, signed by 50 percent or more of said Member's State Democratic Delegation, including said Member, said Member shall automatically be considered for nomination by the Steering Committee for the committee membership position to which said Member aspires. The Chairman of the Steering Committee shall see that such Member's name is placed in nomination. This provision shall not apply to nominations for the Committees on Rules or House Oversight.

SENIORITY NOT MANDATORY

C. Recommendations for committee posts need not necessarily follow seniority.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

D. In making nominations for committee assignments, the Steering Committee shall not discriminate on the basis of prior occupation or profession.

Rule 14. Procedure for Electing Committee Members

VOTING

A. Once recommendations are received from the Steering Committee, the Caucus shall vote, one committee at a time, on memberships, except as provided in paragraph (B).

DEBATE

B. Upon a demand supported by 10 or more Members, a separate vote, by secret ballot, shall be had on any member of a committee. Such demand, if made and properly supported, shall be debated for not more than 30 minutes with the time equally divided between proponents and opponents. If the noes prevail on any such vote, the committee list of the committee in question shall be recommitted to the Steering Committee for the sole purpose of implementing the direction of the

Caucus.

Rule 15. Procedure for Electing Rules and House Oversight Committee Members

The Democratic nominee for Speaker or Speaker, as the case may be, shall recommend to the Caucus nominees for membership to the Committee on Rules and the Committee on House Oversight. Debate and balloting on any such nomination shall be subject to the same provisions as apply to the nomination of Members of other committees, as set forth in Caucus Rules 13 and 14. If any nominee is rejected for membership to the Committee on Rules or the Committee on House Oversight, the Democratic nominee for Speaker or Speaker, as the case may be, shall be entitled to submit new nominations until any such positions are filled.

Rule 16. Procedure for Electing Budget Committee Members

The Caucus shall elect the Democratic Members of the Budget Committee, after election of the Budget Chairman or Ranking Minority Member (who by virtue of election as chairman or ranking minority member is a Member of the committee), in accordance with the following provisions:

LEADERSHIP MEMBER

A. The Democratic nominee for Speaker or Speaker, as the case may be, shall appoint the leadership Member of the committee.

NOMINATION OF OTHER MEMBERS

B. When the Democratic Party is the majority party of the House of Representatives, the Steering Committee shall nominate three Members of the Appropriations Committee, three Members of the Ways and Means Committee, at least one from the Rules Committee, and the requisite number of Members of other Committees to fill all remaining Democratic seats. During any time that the Democratic Party is not the majority party of the House of Representatives, the Steering Committee shall nominate two Members of the Appropriations Committee, two Members of the Ways and Means Committee, and the requisite number of Members of other committees to fill all remaining Democratic seats. A list of said nominees shall be distributed to all Members of the Caucus prior to the election meeting. Members may nominate additional candidates by written notice signed by five Members other than the nominee.

Written nominations must be delivered to the offices of the Caucus Chairman and the Caucus Vice Chairman by the close of business on the day immediately preceding the election meeting, and the Caucus Chairman or Vice Chairman shall mail a list of all nominees to Members of the Caucus before the election.

ELECTION PROCEDURE

C. Following election of the chairman or ranking minority member, the other Democratic Members shall be elected. Election shall be by ballot which lists all candidates by category (Appropriations, Ways and Means, Rules Committees if the Democratic Party is the majority party, and other committees) in the order they were nominated provided that the Member selected as chairman or ranking minority member shall be counted as having filled one position in the appropriate category. A majority of those present and voting for a nominated candidate shall be required to elect; provided however, that any ballot which contains votes for more or fewer candidates than there are vacancies to be filled in each category shall not be counted.

SPECIAL LIMITATION

D. Members of the Budget Committee shall be subject to the following limitations:

1. Effective with the 105th Congress, no more than two-thirds of the Democratic Members nominated to the Budget Committee by the Steering Committee in any Congress shall be persons who served as Members of the Budget Committee during the preceding Congress;

2. No Member, other than the leadership Member, shall serve as a Member of the Committee on the Budget during more than three Congresses in any period of five successive Congresses (disregarding for this purpose any service performed as a Member of such committee for less than a full session in any Congress). However, an incumbent chairman or ranking minority member, having served on the Committee for three Congresses and having served as chairman or ranking minority member for not more than one Congress shall be eligible for reelection to the Committee as chairman or ranking minority member for one additional Congress. All selections of Members to serve on the Committee shall be made without regard to seniority.

Rule 17. Procedure for Electing Appropriations and Ways and Means Committee Members

The Caucus shall elect Democratic Members to fill vacancies on the Ways and Means Committee and the Appropriations Committee in accordance with the following procedures:

NOMINATIONS

A. The Steering Committee shall nominate one Member for each Democratic vacancy to be filled on the Ways and Means Committee and the Appropriations Committee and shall distribute the name(s) of such nominee(s) to all Members of the Democratic Caucus at least 24 hours prior to the election meeting. Members may nominate additional candidates by written notice signed by five Democratic Members other than the nominee. Written nominations must be delivered to the offices of the Caucus Chairman and the Caucus Vice Chairman by close of business on the day immediately preceding the election meeting, and the Caucus Chairman or Vice Chairman shall distribute a list of all nominees to Members of the Caucus before the election.

ELECTION PROCEDURE

B. Election shall be by ballot which lists all candidates in the order they were nominated, and a majority shall be required to elect; provided however, that any ballot which contains votes for more or fewer candidates than there are vacancies to be filled shall not be counted.

PREVIOUS MEMBERS

C. The nomination of any Member who served on the committee in the preceding Congress shall be reported by the Steering Committee for action by the Caucus in the same manner as is provided for nomination of Members to other standing committees under Rules 13 and 14.

Rule 18. Classification of Committees

For the purposes of Caucus Rules the following committee designations shall apply:

EXCLUSIVE

A. Appropriations; Ways and Means; Rules; shall be “exclusive” committees. The Commerce Committee shall be an “exclusive” committee for all Members first serving on the committee in the 104th and subsequent Congresses.

NON-EXCLUSIVE

C. Agriculture; Banking and Financial Services; Budget; Education and the Workforce; Government Reform and Oversight; House Oversight; International Relations; Judiciary; National Security; Resources; Science; Small Business; Transportation and Infrastructure; and Veterans' Affairs shall be considered "non-exclusive" committees. The Commerce Committee shall be a "non-exclusive" committee for Members who served on the committee before the 104th Congress.

Rule 19. Restrictions on Committee Memberships

A. Except with respect to service on the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on House Oversight, no Democratic Member of an exclusive committee shall also serve on another exclusive or non-exclusive committee.

B. No Member shall serve on more than two committees with legislative jurisdiction. The Committees on House Oversight and Standards of Official Conduct shall be exempt from this provision.

C. Any Member of the Committee on the Budget shall be entitled to take a leave of absence from service on any committee or subcommittee during the period he or she serves on the Budget Committee and seniority rights of such Member on such committee and on each subcommittee to which such Member was assigned at the time shall be fully protected as if such Member had continued to so serve during the period of the leave of absence.

D. No Member shall serve as a member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct during more than 3 Congresses in any period of 5 successive Congresses (disregarding for this purpose any service performed as a member of such committee for less than a full session in any Congress).

E. No Democratic Member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence may serve on more than one standing committee during that Member's term of service on the select committee. Members shall be entitled to take leaves of absence from service on any committee (or subcommittee thereof) during the period they serve on the select committee and seniority rights on such committee (and on each subcommittee) to which they were assigned at the time shall be fully protected as if they had continued to serve during the period of leave of absence.

Rule 20. Appointments to Joint and Select Committees, Boards and Commissions

In those instances where the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, has the power to appoint Members to joint and select committees, boards and commissions, due consideration should be given to sharing the workload and responsibility among qualified Members of the House who have indicated an interest in the subject matter of the committee, board, or commission and have expressed a willingness to actively participate in its deliberations and operations. All Members serving on joint and select committees, boards and commissions by virtue of appointment by the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall be considered to have completed their tenure and their positions deemed to be vacant until filled by appointment or re-appointment by the Speaker or Democratic Leader at the start of a new Congress.

Rule 21. Nomination and Election of Committee Chairmen; Ranking Minority Members

NOMINATIONS BY STEERING COMMITTEE

A. The Steering Committee shall nominate one Member of each standing committee, other than the Committee on Rules, the Budget Committee, and the Committee on House Oversight for the position of chairman or ranking minority member and such nominations need not necessarily follow seniority. With the exception of the Budget Committee, only Members who have been recommended for membership on the committee shall be eligible for nomination as chairman or ranking minority member. The Committee shall conduct secret ballots for the chairmanships or ranking minority memberships of the standing committees and shall count all such ballots for a chairmanship or ranking membership for which there is more than one nomination. In making each such nomination the Steering Committee shall consider all relevant factors including merit, length of service on the committee and degree of commitment to the Democratic agenda of the nominee, and the diversity of the Caucus.

NO FLOOR NOMINATIONS WHERE SENIOR RETURNING COMMITTEE DEMOCRAT NOMINATED

B. If the nominee of the Steering Committee for chairman or ranking minority member of a committee was the most senior Democratic Member of the committee in the previous Congress who was re-elected and who is eligible for the position, no other nominations shall be allowed and the Caucus shall vote by secret ballot to approve or disapprove that nominee alone. No debate shall be allowed unless requested by the nominee or a Member who wishes to speak in opposition to a nomination provided that the request to speak in opposition is supported by three or more Members.

ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS

C. If paragraph (B) does not apply, additional nominations shall be in order from the floor of the Caucus in accord with the provisions of Rule 4(A)(3). Notwithstanding paragraph (B), if 14 or more Members of the Steering Committee vote for candidates other than the Member nominated for chairman or ranking minority member of a standing committee, then additional nominations shall be in order from the floor of the Caucus and election shall be in accord with the provisions of Caucus Rule 4(A)(3) or if at least 50 Members request, in writing, that nominations be considered in addition to the nominee of the Steering Committee for the chairmanship or ranking minority membership of any standing committee, then such additional nominations shall be in order from the floor of the Caucus and elections shall be in accord with the provisions of Caucus Rule 4(A)(3).

DEBATE

D. Debate on any nomination shall be limited to 60 minutes equally divided between proponents and opponents of that nominee, such time to be further extended only by a majority vote of the Caucus.

REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATIONS

E. If a majority of those present and voting reject its nominee for chairman or ranking minority member, the Steering Committee shall make a new nomination within five days. Five to ten days after the Steering Committee reports such new nominations, the Caucus shall meet to consider the new nominee of the Steering Committee and any additional nominations offered from the floor. Should additional nominations be made from the floor, the election shall be conducted in accord

with Caucus Rule 4, subject to the debate provided under paragraph (D) of this rule.

Rule 22. Nomination and Election of Rules and House Oversight Committee Chairmen or Ranking Minority Members

NOMINATION

A. The Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall recommend to the Caucus a nominee for chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules and the Committee on House Oversight. Debate and balloting on any such nomination shall be subject to the same provisions as apply to the nominations of chairmen or ranking minority members of other committees under Rules 4 and 21.

ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS

B. If a majority of those present and voting reject any nominee for chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules or the Committee on House Oversight the Speaker or Democratic Leader as the case may be, shall be entitled to submit a new nomination until that position is filled.

Rule 23. Nomination and Election of Budget Committee Chairman or Ranking Minority Member

The Caucus shall elect one Member to serve as chairman or ranking minority member of the Budget Committee, from nominations made pursuant to Caucus Rule 16. Election of the chairman or ranking minority member must precede election of other Members. Election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Rules 4 and 21.

Rule 24. Filling Vacancy in Committee Chairmanship or Ranking Minority Membership

A vacancy in a committee chairmanship or ranking minority membership due to the death, retirement or resignation of a chairman or ranking minority member shall be filled within 30 calendar days from the date on which the vacancy occurs in accord with the steps for selecting committee chairmen or ranking minority members outlined in Caucus Rules 21, 22 and 23. The nominee of the Caucus for the vacancy will be submitted to the House of Representatives at the earliest practicable date thereafter.

Rule 25. Limitations on Committee and Subcommittee Chairmanships and Ranking Minority Memberships

A. No chairman or ranking minority member of an exclusive or major committee may serve on another exclusive, major, or non-major committee.

B. The chairman or ranking minority member of a full committee shall not serve simultaneously as the chairman or ranking minority member of any other full, select, permanent select, special, ad hoc, or joint committee unless the Caucus grants an exemption in the case of an ad hoc committee; provided, however, the chairman or ranking minority member of the Ways and Means Committee

may also serve as chairman or ranking minority member of the Joint Committee on Taxation and the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on House Oversight may also serve as chairman or ranking minority member of the Joint Printing Committee and the Joint Library Committee.

C. No chairman or ranking minority member of an exclusive, major, or non-major committee or select committee with legislative jurisdiction shall serve as a Member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

D. No Member shall be chairman or ranking minority member of more than one subcommittee of a full committee or select committee with legislative jurisdiction. Provided, however, that the following committees shall be exempt from this provision: House Oversight; Standards of Official Conduct; and Joint Committees. Members of the Budget Committee shall be eligible for subcommittee chairmanships or ranking minority memberships on that Committee without regard to this paragraph.

E. The chairman or ranking minority member of a full committee or select committee with legislative jurisdiction shall not be the chairman or ranking minority member of a subcommittee of that committee or any other such full committee. Provided, however, that the following committees shall be exempt from this provision: Appropriations; House Oversight; Standards of Official Conduct; and Joint Committees.

Committee Caucuses

Rule 26. Committee Organizing Caucus

A. There shall be a caucus of each standing committee and any other committee with legislative jurisdiction consisting of all Democratic Members of the committee hereafter referred to as "committee caucus". At the start of each Congress, the chairman or ranking minority member of each standing committee (except the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct) or other committee with legislative jurisdiction shall call a meeting of the committee caucus, giving at least three days notice to all Democratic Members of the committee. Said meeting shall be called subsequent to the House Democratic Caucus approval of the committee lists but prior to any organizational meeting of the full committee. Such committee caucuses shall fill the positions of subcommittee chairmen or ranking minority members and subcommittee Members in accordance with procedures described in Caucus Rules 28 through 31.

B. If, within 10 days after the organization or subsequent reorganization of any committee, a Member of the relevant committee raises a point of order against the organization or reorganization of that committee with the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, on the grounds that the Caucus rules have been violated, the Caucus Chairman shall communicate with the chairman or ranking minority member of that committee informing him or her of the point of order. If the point of order is sustained by the Caucus Chairman and if the committee has not brought itself into compliance within five legislative days of receipt of the communication of the Caucus Chair, the matter will be referred to the Committee on Steering for disposition.

C. When the Democratic party is the majority party of the House of Representatives, the committee caucuses as described in paragraph (A) shall approve and secure adoption of committee rules incorporating the following principles:

ESTABLISHING SUBCOMMITTEES

Prior to the start of the bidding process for subcommittee chairmanships and assignments, the caucus of each committee shall establish the number of subcommittees, shall fix the jurisdiction of each subcommittee, and shall determine the size of each subcommittee. The Resident Commissioner and Delegates shall not be counted in determining committee and subcommittee sizes for purposes of this rule. Subcommittee size shall be limited to no more than 60 percent of the size of the full committee. However, if the caucus determines to change the size of any subcommittee after the start of the bidding process, it may do so, but in that event, all previous action on the bidding process shall start anew.

No panel, task force, special subcommittee, or any other subunit of a standing committee may be created without the knowledge of the full committee chairman and concurrence of the caucus of that committee. The committee chairman shall notify the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus within seven days of the creation of any panel, task force, special subcommittee of any other subunit of a standing committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE POWERS

Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the committee on all matters referred to it. Subcommittee chairmen shall set meeting dates after consultation with the chairman and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings wherever possible.

SUBCOMMITTEE REFERRALS

All legislation and other matters referred to a committee shall be referred to all subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction within two weeks unless, by majority vote of the Democratic Members of the full committee, consideration is to be by the full committee.

PARTY RATIOS ON SUBCOMMITTEES

The committee caucuses shall determine an appropriate ratio of Democratic to minority party members for each subcommittee and shall authorize a Member or Members to negotiate that ratio with the minority party. Provided, however, that party representation on each subcommittee, including ex-officio members, shall be no less favorable to the Democratic Party than the ratio for the full committee. The Resident Commissioner or Delegates shall not be counted for purposes of this rule.

D. The Democratic Leader should negotiate full committee ratios so that when all Democratic Members have committee assignments, Rule 19(C) is being complied with.

If additional committee positions remain available after all Democratic Members receive assignments, the Committee on Steering shall, when possible, leave those additional positions vacant to ensure flexibility if more Democratic Members are elected during a Congress.

However, if the Committee on Steering decides it is in the best interest of the Democratic Caucus to fill any vacant committee position, the Committee on Steering shall fill those positions with temporary assignments such that any Member receiving a temporary assignment:

1. Does not obtain seniority on that committee;

2. May not participate in the bidding process for any subcommittee position but may fill any temporary subcommittee position remaining after all other Democratic Members of that committee have completed the bidding process;

3. Can be removed at any time if a Democratic Member is selected to serve as a permanent Member of that committee;

4. Is removed from the committee at the end of the Congress for which the temporary assignment was made.

Rule 27. Periodic Committee Caucuses

Meetings of the committee caucus may be called by the chairman or ranking minority member or a majority of the Members of the committee caucuses with due notice to all Members of such caucuses. A quorum of the committee caucus on each committee shall consist of a majority of the Democratic Members assigned thereto. All actions by the caucuses of said committees shall require a majority of those voting, a quorum being present. Upon written request of ten Democratic Members of any committee or upon written request of a majority of the Democratic Members, whichever is less, addressed to the chairman or ranking minority member thereof to hold a committee caucus, said chairman or ranking minority member shall call such caucus within ten days of such a request. Said request shall contain the subject matter for discussion at such caucus.

Subcommittee Chairmanships or Ranking Memberships

Rule 28. Election of Subcommittee Chairmen or Ranking Minority Members

BIDDING PROCEDURE

A. Except for the Appropriations Committee, the Democratic Members of any standing committee shall have the right, at the committee caucus described in Caucus Rule 26, to bid, in order of full committee seniority, for subcommittee chairmanships or ranking minority memberships on that committee. The committee caucus of the Appropriations Committee, in its discretion, may use seniority on the subcommittee concerned, as determined by the order in which Members elect to go on the subcommittee, as the criterion for determining subcommittee chairmanships or ranking minority memberships. Any request for a subcommittee chairmanship or ranking minority membership shall be subject to approval by a majority of those present and voting by secret ballot in the committee caucus. If the committee caucus rejects a Member's bid for a subcommittee chairmanship or ranking minority membership, that Member may bid for any remaining chairmanship or ranking minority membership. If that Member is not elected to any subcommittee chairmanship or ranking minority membership, the next senior Democratic Member may bid for any remaining chairmanship or ranking minority membership as in the first instance.

APPROPRIATIONS AND WAYS AND MEANS COMMITIEES

B. The full Democratic Caucus shall vote on each Member nominated to serve as chairman or ranking minority member of an Appropriations subcommittee or Ways and Means subcommittee following the same procedure set forth in Caucus Rule 21 for the election of standing committee chairmen or ranking minority members. If a majority of those present and voting reject any nominee for chairman or ranking minority member of an Appropriations subcommittee or a Ways and Means subcommittee, the committee caucus of the Appropriations Committee or the Ways and Means Committee shall submit new nominations until such position is filled.

CAUCUS VOTES ON SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBERS

C. The Chairman or ranking minority member of each standing committee (except the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct) shall report to the Democratic Steering Committee and the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus the names of Members selected by the committee caucus to serve as subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member. The Chairman of the Democratic Caucus shall distribute the list to the Members of the Caucus. Except as provided in paragraph

(B), the Democratic Caucus shall vote on any Member so selected if a vote is recommended by the Steering Committee, or is requested in writing by 50 or more Members of the Caucus to the Caucus Chairman within three legislative days. The Caucus will convene within seven legislative days to hold the election. The subcommittee chair or ranking minority member shall not exercise his or her duties until the issue is resolved by the Caucus. The debate and vote of the Democratic Caucus shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Caucus Rule 21(D) If the full Democratic Caucus disapproves of the selection of any Member as subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member a new subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member shall be selected by the appropriate committee's caucus in accordance with procedures established in paragraph (A) of this rule.

CONVICTED OR CENSURED MEMBERS

D. The full Democratic Caucus shall vote on each Member selected by a committee caucus to serve as chairman or ranking minority member of any subcommittee who, within the two years of the preceding Congress, has been convicted of a felony or has been censured by the House. The debate and vote of the full Democratic Caucus shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Caucus Rule 21 for the election of standing committee chairmen or ranking minority members. If the full Democratic Caucus disapproves of the selection of such Member as subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member, a new subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member shall be selected in accordance with procedures established in this Rule.

Rule 29. Subcommittee Chairmanship or Ranking Membership Vacancies

BIDDING

A. The bidding procedure for subcommittee chairmanships or ranking memberships described in Caucus Rule 28 shall begin anew as at the beginning of a Congress when any vacancy occurs in a subcommittee chairmanship or ranking minority membership. Under Rule 31, all subsequent subcommittee positions shall then be filled. Provided, however, the Democratic caucus of the committee in question may by unanimous consent provide for a different procedure.

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES

B. A vacancy in a subcommittee chairmanship or ranking membership on the Committee on Appropriations shall be filled within 30 calendar days from the date on which the vacancy occurs in accord with the steps for electing the subcommittee chairmen or ranking minority members on the Committee on Appropriations outlined in Caucus Rule 28.

VACANCIES AFTER MARCH 1 OF A SECOND SESSION

C. Any vacancy occurring after March 1 of the second session of a Congress may be filled for the remainder of that Congress by the next ranking Democrat on that subcommittee notwithstanding the provisions of Caucus Rule 28.

Subcommittee Membership

Rule 30. Waiver of Committee and Subcommittee Chairmanship Restrictions

After March 1 of a second session of a Congress, Members who are elected as chairman or ranking

minority member of a full committee or of a subcommittee or appointed as chairman or ranking minority member of a permanent select committee with legislative jurisdiction, shall be exempt for the remainder of that Congress from the provisions of Caucus Rule 25(A) (prohibiting service on another committee), Caucus Rule 25(D) (prohibiting two subcommittee chairmanships or ranking minority memberships), and Caucus Rule 25(E) (prohibiting full committee and subcommittee chairmanships and ranking minority memberships).

Rule 31. Election of Subcommittee Members

BIDDING PROCEDURE

A. With the exception of subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee, no Member elected as a subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member shall choose a second subcommittee position before Members who served in the preceding Congress and newly elected Members, in order of their rank on the full committee, have selected one subcommittee assignment. This provision in no way precludes a subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member from bidding for an additional subcommittee position during each subsequent round of bidding.

B. The Resident Commissioner and Delegates shall bid for subcommittee chairmanships or ranking minority memberships and memberships pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (A).

C. All Democratic subcommittee positions on House standing committees shall be filled at the committee caucus pursuant to Caucus Rule 26 according to these five steps:

1. Step One - Members who served on that committee in the preceding Congress who are not subcommittee chairmen or ranking minority members shall have the option during the first round of bidding, in order of their rank on the full committee, either to retain one subcommittee assignment held on that committee in the preceding Congress (or in the case where the Democratic caucus of the committee has determined to split a subcommittee into two subcommittees, to select assignments on both of said subcommittees) or to pass and forego their right to retain any committee position held in the preceding Congress. Members of the Appropriations Committee who served on that committee in the preceding Congress shall be entitled to retain not more than two subcommittee assignments held on that committee in the preceding Congress;

2. Step Two - Members who passed in Step One shall be entitled, in order of their rank on the full committee, to select a new subcommittee assignment to the extent that subcommittee size permits. Appropriations Committee Members who retain no subcommittee assignments and new committee Members shall be entitled, in order of their rank on the full committee, to select one subcommittee position each;

3. Step Three - New committee Members shall be entitled to choose any one subcommittee assignment to the extent that subcommittee size permits. Members of the Appropriations Committee who have only one subcommittee assignment shall be entitled, in order of their rank on the full committee, to select a second subcommittee assignment, to the extent that subcommittee size permits;

4. Step Four - Members shall be entitled to select additional subcommittee assignments during further rounds of selection in order of Members' rank on the full committee until remaining subcommittee vacancies are filled;

5. Step Five - Members who are assigned to standing committees on a temporary basis shall be entitled to select subcommittee assignments, only after steps one through four have

been completed, during further rounds of selection in the order of such temporary Members' ranks on such full committee until remaining subcommittee vacancies are filled.

D. For the purposes of these rules, the term "subcommittee" refers to any panel, task force, special subcommittee, or any other subunit of a standing committee which is established for a period of longer than six months. However, such term shall not apply to a task force of the Budget Committee, except for purposes of Caucus Rule 32(A), or an investigative or adjudicatory subcommittee of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Rule 32. Limitation on Subcommittee Membership

A. No Member shall serve on more than four of the following entities:

1. Subcommittees as defined in Rule 31(D);

2. Subcommittees of a non-legislative select committee, excepting one such subcommittee.

B. As soon as is practicable following the organization of a Congress the Caucus shall conduct a survey to determine if any Member of the Caucus is in violation of this rule. The Caucus shall provide those Members with written notification of any such violation and shall grant those Members 30 calendar days to bring themselves into compliance with paragraph (A). If, at the end of 30 calendar days following written notification, a Member is still not in compliance, the matter will be referred to the Committee on Steering for disposition.

Rule 33. Subcommittee Vacancies

The steps for selecting subcommittee membership in Caucus Rule 31 shall apply to membership vacancies on subcommittees and to membership on special subcommittees or subunits, exclusive to the committee and with legislative jurisdiction, that may be created during a Congress. Subject to the provisions of Rule 29 on vacancies in subcommittee chairmanships and ranking minority memberships, new members of a committee shall be entitled to choose subcommittee assignments under Step Three of Rule 31 and all subsequent subcommittee positions shall then be chosen anew as at the beginning of a new Congress. Provided, however, the Democratic caucus of the committee in question may by unanimous consent provide for a different procedure.

Rule 34. Subcommittee Staff and Organization

The Democratic chairman or ranking minority member, as the case may be, of each full committee, after appropriate consultation with the subcommittee Democratic chairmen or ranking minority members of the committee, shall control the committee budget designated for the Democratic majority or minority, as the case may be, including the responsibility to select and designate staff members, subject to the approval of a majority of the Democratic Members of said full committee. Such staff shall serve all the Democratic Members of the full committee. All committee staff appointments are subject to the approval of the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be.

Rule 35. Closed Rule Limitation

NOTICE

A. It shall be the policy of the Caucus that a Democratic committee chairman or Democratic ranking minority member or his or her designee shall not seek, and the Democratic Members of the Rules Committee shall not support any rule or order prohibiting any germane amendment to any bill reported from committee until four legislative days have elapsed following notice in the Congressional Record of an intention to do so.

AMENDMENTS

B. If, within the four legislative days following said notice in the Congressional Record, 50 or more Democratic Members give written notice to the Democratic chairman or Democratic ranking minority member of the committee seeking the rule and to the Democratic chairman or Democratic ranking minority member of the Rules Committee that they wish to offer a particular germane amendment, the Democratic chairman or Democratic ranking minority member or his or her designee shall not seek and the Democratic Members of the Rules Committee shall not support any rule or order relating to the bill or resolution involved until the Caucus has met and decided whether the proposed amendment should be allowed to be considered in the House.

CAUCUS MEETING

C. If 50 or more Democratic Members give notice as provided in paragraph (B) above, then notwithstanding the provisions of Caucus Rule 6, the Caucus shall meet for such purpose within three legislative days following a request for such a Caucus to the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, and to the Chairman of the Caucus by said committee chairman, ranking minority member or designee.

NOTIFICATION TO LEADERSHIP

D. Provided, further, that notices referred to above also shall be submitted to the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, and the Chairman of the Caucus.

Rule 36. Notice of Appropriations Violations

A. It shall be the policy of the Caucus that when the Committee on Appropriations orders reported any general appropriation bill which includes any provision in violation of clauses 2 or 6 of House Rule XXI and within the jurisdiction of a standing committee, it shall give notice immediately to the chairman and ranking minority member of the standing committee which has jurisdiction over such provision of the specific provisions in violation of clauses 2 or 6 of House Rule XXI; provided further, that when any other committee of the House orders reported any bill, resolution or amendment thereto carrying an appropriation from a committee not having jurisdiction to report appropriations in violation of clause 5 of House Rule XXI, such committee shall give notice immediately to the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

B. It shall be the policy to the Caucus that it is the responsibility of the Committee on Appropriations to deliver copies of House-passed appropriation bills with numbered Senate amendments to the chairman and ranking minority member of the appropriate authorizing committees at least 24

hours prior to requesting appointment of conferees thereon unless the Speaker determines otherwise.

It shall be the policy of the Caucus that it is the responsibility of the Committee on Appropriations upon filing of a conference report on an appropriations measure to deliver copies of the conference report and joint statement of the managers to the chairman and ranking minority member of the appropriate authorizing committees at least 24 hours prior to floor action thereon unless the Speaker determines otherwise.

Rule 37. Committee Review of Legislation Developed by Certain Ad Hoc Task Forces

It shall be the policy of the Democratic Caucus that the standing committee or committees of jurisdiction of the House of Representatives shall have the right, for a period not less than five legislative days, to consider, review, and report on any legislative measure developed by any ad hoc Task Force appointed or designated by the Speaker.

Rule 38. Guidelines on Suspensions of House Rules

A. When being consulted on the consideration of bills or resolutions under the suspension of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Democratic Leadership shall not consent to such consideration of any measure that:

1. Has not been cleared with the Democratic Leader and the ranking Democrat(s) on the committee(s) of jurisdiction;

2. Will be amended by an amendment that was not authorized by the committee(s) of jurisdiction, is not agreed to by the ranking Democrat(s) on the committee(s) of jurisdiction, and is not available at least three calendar days in advance of consideration (including the day of consideration);

3. Is considered a “major piece of legislation”;

4. Was opposed by more than one-third of any committee reporting it;

5. Is added to the suspension list less than one day in advance of consideration (except in case of a legitimate emergency); or

6. Does not meet the requirements of Paragraphs (B)–(E) of this rule.

B. Any Committee ranking minority member supporting a request that a bill or resolution be brought up under the suspension of the Rules of the House must provide to the Democratic Leader in writing any cost estimate provided to the committee by any of the following:

1. The committee considering said bill or resolution;

2. The Congressional Budget Office;

3. The relevant executive department, agency, or instrumentality having jurisdiction in the matter; or

4. Any other department, agency, or instrumentality of the government; in every case where such an estimate indicates that the bill or resolution in question may make or authorize

appropriations in excess of $100,000,000 for any fiscal year.

C. The Democratic Leader shall not consent to consideration of any bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House or Representatives in any case where a request made under paragraph (B) of this Rule contains a cost estimate in excess of $100,000,000 in any fiscal year.

D. In any case where the Democratic Leader requests the Steering Committee of the Democratic Caucus to review a request to schedule for consideration under suspension of the Rules of the House an individual bill or resolution which may make or authorize appropriations in excess of $100,000,000 (as established under paragraph (A) of this Rule) in any fiscal year, and the Democratic Steering Committee authorizes the Democratic Leader to consent to scheduling said bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House, paragraph (C) of this Rule shall not apply to such bill or resolution.

E. In any case in which the Steering Committee of the Democratic Caucus authorizes the Democratic Leader to consent to scheduling a bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House as provided in paragraph (C) of the is Rule, the Democratic Leader shall not consent to such bill or resolution being scheduled under the suspension of the Rules before the fourth calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) following the day on which the Democratic Steering Committee authorized such action.

EMERGENCY PROVISION

F. Paragraph (A) of this Rule shall not apply to:

1. Any measure for the declaration of war, or extreme emergency; or

2. Any measure directly related to any executive decision, determination, or action which would become or continue to be, effective unless disapproved or otherwise invalidated by one or both Houses of Congress.

END OF SESSION

G. Paragraph (A) of this Rule shall not apply in any session after the adoption by the House of Representatives near the end of that session of a resolution waiving certain Rules of the House for the consideration of legislation for the remainder of that session.

Rule 39. Motions to Recommit and Motions to Instruct Conferees

A. All motions on the floor of the House for which Democratic Members, when in the minority part of the House of Representatives, are granted priority in recognition, including motions to recommit and motions to instruct conferees, shall be used, to the extent possible, to support the positions of the Democratic Caucus and the leadership.

B. When more than one Democratic Member proposes to offer such a motion, the Democratic Leader (or if not present and in the absence of a stated leadership position, the most senior elected Member of the leadership available) shall determine the course of action that best reflects the position of the Democratic Caucus and the Leadership. Any Democratic Member having priority in recognition to offer such a motion shall act in accordance with that determination, including, if

necessary yielding one's rights to offer such a motion to another Democratic Member.

Rule 40. Role of Subcommittee Chairman or Ranking Minority Member on House Floor

The Chairmen or ranking minority members of full committees shall, insofar as practicable, permit subcommittee chairmen or ranking members to handle on the floor legislation from their respective subcommittees.

Rule 41. Democratic Representation on Conference Committees

The Democratic Party representation on conference committees shall be no less favorable to the Democratic Party than the ratio for the full House committee when the Democratic Party is the majority party of the House of Representatives. When the Democratic Party is not the majority party of the House, the Democratic Leader shall make recommendations to the Speaker on all Democratic Members who shall serve as conferees.

Party Committees

Rule 42. Democratic Steering Committee

There shall be a House Democratic Steering Committee constituted as follows:

MEMBERSHIP

A. The Democratic Steering Committee shall consist of the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, the Majority Leader if the Democratic Party is in the majority, Caucus Chairman, Caucus Vice Chairman, Whip, Chairman of the Committee on Organization, Study and Review, Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, one Co-Chairman and two Vice Chairmen, four Chief Deputy Whips, a Member of the freshman class, 12 Members who shall be elected from 12 equal regions as set forth below, not to exceed ten Members who shall be appointed by the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Appropriations, the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on the Budget, the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Rules, the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Commerce, and the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE

B. The Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall serve as Chairman of the Committee, a Member appointed by him or her shall serve as Co-Chair, and two Members appointed by him or her shall serve as Vice Chairs. The Committee shall adopt its own rules which shall be in writing; shall keep a journal of its proceedings; and shall meet upon the call of the Chairman or whenever requested in writing by four of its Members. In addition, the committee may authorize the Chairman to appoint ad hoc committees from among the entire membership of the Caucus to conduct special studies or investigations whenever necessary.

FUNCTIONS

C. The Committee is vested with authority to report its nominations for committee memberships and chairmen or ranking minority members.

D. The Steering Committee may, by majority vote, recommend a committee chairman or ranking minority member position or a subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member position be declared vacant, or may recommend the removal of a Member's committee assignment. Such a recommendation shall be circulated to the Democratic Caucus by the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

The Democratic Caucus shall meet to consider such a recommendation within five to ten legislative days after the Steering Committee reports its recommendation. Debate on any such recommendation shall be limited to 60 minutes, equally divided between proponents and opponents of the recommendation of the Steering Committee.

If the recommendation by the Steering Committee is approved, the vacancy shall be filled pursuant to Caucus Rules 13, 21, and 28.

REGIONS

E. The 50 States (and other areas represented in the House) shall be divided into 12 compact and contiguous regions, each containing approximately one twelfth of the Members of the Caucus. Following each election, the Chairman of the Steering Committee shall review the number of Members in each region, and if necessary, shall submit to the Caucus for its approval changes necessary to maintain, as near as practicable, an equal number of Members in each region. The proposed changes and a list of Members in each region indicating the total years of service for each as of the start of the new Congress shall be made available to Members of the Caucus at least seven days before a Caucus which shall meet to approve or amend the regions.

REGIONAL ELECTIONS

F. Each region shall meet to elect its representatives to the committee at a time determined by the Chairman of the Steering Committee and announced by written notice at least seven days in advance. The Chairman shall also designate a Member from each region to call the region's election meeting to order and to preside until a permanent presiding officer is elected, which shall be the first order of business. If at such meeting, the election of a Member to the Steering Committee does not take place due to lack of quorum, the Chairman shall reschedule the meeting as soon as practicable, provided Members are given at least 48 hours notice in writing of when and where the rescheduled meeting will be held. Nominations may be made from the floor or in advance of the election meeting by written notice signed by two Members from the region other than the nominee. Written nominations must be delivered to the Steering Committee office not later than 5 p.m. on the second day immediately preceding the day of the election meeting and mailed to all Members of the Caucus in that region not later than midnight of the second day immediately preceding the election meeting. Following the close of advance nominations, a ballot shall be prepared for each region containing the names of candidates nominated in advance for election from the region. Candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order and all ballots shall contain space to write in the names of Members nominated from the floor. One-half of the Members of a region shall constitute a quorum for an election and a majority of those present and voting for a nominated candidate shall be required to elect. If more than one ballot be required, the candidate receiving the fewest votes on each ballot shall be eliminated from all succeeding votes until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

SENIORITY LIMITATION

G. If a region's representative in the preceding Congress had completed 12 or more years service at

the start of his or her continuous service on the committee, he or she shall be succeeded by a member who has less than 12 years service unless that member seeks election in a newly constituted region. This provision shall not apply to the reelection of an incumbent Member of the committee who is entitled to seek another term.

TERMS OF SERVICE

H. Terms of service for Members of the Steering Committee shall expire when a successor is elected or appointed. In the event of a regional vacancy the region shall elect a successor to fill the unexpired term. No Member shall be appointed or elected to more than two consecutive full terms. No regionally elected Member shall serve concurrently as a regional whip.

Rule 43. Democratic Policy Committee

There shall be a House Democratic Policy Committee constituted as follows:

MEMBERSHIP

A. The Democratic Policy Committee shall consist of the Democratic Majority or Minority Leader, Whip, Caucus Chairman, Caucus Vice Chairman, Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, four Chief Deputy Whips, 6 Policy Committee Vice Chairs who shall be appointed by the Democratic Leader, the Steering Committee Co-Chair, and not more than 20 Members who shall be appointed by the Democratic Leader.

ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE

B. The Democratic Leader shall serve as chairman of the committee. There will be there adjunct committees within the Committee on Policy: Research Committee, Communications Committee and Committee on Legislation. The Democratic Leader shall appoint two of the six Vice Chairs of the Policy committee to each of the three adjunct committees. The Committee shall meet at the discretion for the Chairman.

FUNCTION

C. The Committee shall assist the Leadership and the full Democratic Caucus in the establishment and implementation of a Democratic policy agenda and legislative priorities. The Policy Committee shall coordinate policy development and implementation and message coordination efforts between the Democratic Leadership, Party Committees, the whip organization, and Democratic Members of standing committees. The Policy Committee shall supplement ongoing policy development by the chairman or ranking minority members, as the case may be, in each of the standing Committees. When practicable, the Policy Committee shall recommend party policy to the Democratic Caucus for approval.

The Research Committee shall be vested with the task of recommending policy proposals to the Policy Committee. The Committee on Legislation shall be vested with the task of developing comprehensive strategies to implement Democratic policies through the legislative process. The Communications Committee shall develop strategies for delivery of the party message. The Policy Committee may determine that special working groups may be formed to supplement the work of the Committee as appropriate. The Committee shall coordinate special working groups with the Democratic Caucus and the Democratic Whip organization.

The Policy Committee shall ensure coordination of Caucus communications including weekly notification of floor schedule, analysis of legislation, and recommendations on Democratic positions. The Committee shall ensure that every Democratic Member receives such information

on a timely basis.

Rule 44. Regional Whips

ELECTION PROCEDURE

Regional Whips shall be elected by secret ballot in accordance with the provisions of Caucus Rule 42(F) which governs the election of regional representatives to the Steering Committee. In the event of a vacancy, the region shall elect a successor to fill the unexpired term. No Member shall be elected to more than two consecutive full terms as a regional Whip.

Rule 45. Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee

MEMBERSHIP

A. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall consist of the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, and one Member from each State which has Democratic representation in the House, the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, and the Delegates from American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam and the Virgin Islands who are Members of the Democratic Party, and eight additional Members who shall be appointed by the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be. The state delegations shall choose their committee Members and inform the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, of their choice, and the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall make his or her appointments no later than January 31 of the first session of a new Congress. Members of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall serve for the duration of that Congress.

NOTICE

B. No later than February 1 of the first session of a new Congress, the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall send to all Members of the Caucus a listing of the Membership of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee for that Congress.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

C. No later than February 15 of the first session of a new Congress, the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall convene a meeting of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee at which time the committee shall nominate a chairman. Such nomination shall be submitted to the Caucus. The Caucus shall vote on that nomination, and other nominations which may be made from the floor on petition of five Members of the Caucus, at a meeting of the Caucus no later than March 1 of the first session of a new Congress. Candidates for chairman shall not necessarily already be a Member of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

TERM OF THE CHAIRMAN

D. The chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall serve while a Member of the House and until a new chairman is elected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (C).

E. (1) If a vacancy occurs in the office of chairman prior to the end of a Congress, the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall appoint a temporary chairman immediately and convene a meeting of the Democratic Congressional Campaign committee within 45 days of the vacancy to nominate a new chairman. The Caucus shall

act upon that nomination and additional nominations made from the floor on petition of five Members of the Caucus within 75 days of vacancy.

(2) If a vacancy in the office of chairman occurs at the beginning of a Congress, a temporary chairman shall be appointed by the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, to serve until a new chairman is elected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (C).

(3) Should a state Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Member or an appointee of the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, be unable to serve a full term, the state delegation or the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall fill such vacancy within 15 days.

OFFICERS

F. The Chairman shall nominate, and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall elect, as many as eight officers to assist the chairman with his or her duties. Candidates for these positions shall be Members of the Caucus. Any officer who is not, at the time of his or her election, a Member of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, shall become a Member by virtue of his or her election as an officer.

Rule 46. Democratic Study Group

PURPOSE

A. The Democratic Study Group shall be a Democratic Caucus organization whose functions shall be to study legislative policy and institutional matters and to prepare materials on those subjects for the use of all Members of the Caucus. Any Member of the Caucus may participate in Democratic Study Group activities.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

B. The Democratic Study Group shall be directed by the Chairman and Executive Committee, composed as provided in its by-laws. The election of officers shall be in accordance with Rule 4(A) except that there shall be no nominating or seconding speeches.

Amendment and Review of Caucus Rules

Rule 47. Procedure for Amending Caucus Rules

A. The Chairman of the Caucus shall be responsible for codifying and technically revising the Caucus Rules, and for recommending modification where advisable.

B. When a Member offers an amendment to the Democratic Caucus Rules, the Member must provide twenty (20) copies of such amendment at the time the amendment is offered.

Rule 48. Committee on Organization, Study and Review

The Caucus Chairman shall appoint a Committee on Organization, Study and Review for the purpose of review of the Caucus Rules as circumstances may indicate, with no powers other than those recommending action to the Caucus.

Rule 49. Exemptions, Exceptions and Waivers

A. Any recommendation by the Committee on Organization, Study and Review relating to an exemption or exception from, or waiver of, any rule of the Democratic Caucus with respect to any Member or group of Members shall be accompanied by a written report setting forth the reasons or arguments in support of the committee's recommendation and the arguments made in opposition to such action. Said recommendation and report shall be distributed to all Members of the Caucus before said matter is considered by the Caucus.

B. Any vote relating to a request or recommendation that a specific Member or group of Members be exempted or excepted from any rule of the Democratic Caucus, or that any such rule be waived with respect to any Member or group of Members, shall be by secret ballot.

Disciplinary Procedures

Rule 50. Temporary Step Aside of a Chairman or Ranking Minority Member Who is Indicted

A. The chairman or ranking minority member of a standing, select, special or joint committee of the Congress, or subcommittee thereof, who is indicted for a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may be imposed, shall cease to exercise the powers of chairman or ranking minority member and shall step aside in favor of the next senior Democratic Member of the committee or subcommittee concerned who shall serve as acting chairman or ranking minority member for the remainder of that Congress unless the chairman or ranking minority member resumes the chair or ranking minority membership in accord with paragraph (B) or (C).

B. If a chairman or ranking minority member steps aside and subsequently during that Congress the charges are dismissed or reduced to less than a felony as described in paragraph (A); or if the Member is found not guilty of said charges, the chairman or ranking minority member shall automatically resume the powers and duties of the office of chairman or ranking minority member unless the Caucus within 10 legislative days decides otherwise.

C. The Caucus may waive the provisions of this rule at any time by majority vote.

D. If at the start of the next Congress a Member referred to in paragraph (A) is still under indictment, the Caucus shall fill the position of chairman or ranking minority member, for which that Member shall not be eligible, on an interim basis with a Member selected in accord with Caucus Rules 21, 22, 23 or 28 as acting chairman or ranking minority member. If said chairmanship or ranking minority membership is filled in this manner, and if during that Congress the charges against said Member are dismissed, or if the Member is found not guilty of said charges, or if circumstances no longer warrant holding said chairmanship or ranking minority membership in an interim status, the chairmanship or ranking minority membership shall be determined in accord with Caucus Rules 21, 22, 23 or 28, the same as at the start of a Congress.

E. The phrase "next senior Democratic Member" in paragraph (A) shall not include the chairman or ranking minority member of a standing, select, special or joint committee or an Appropriations subcommittee.

F. The member chosen as acting committee chairman or ranking minority member in accordance with paragraph (D) shall not serve simultaneously as the chairman or ranking minority member of any other full or permanent select committee. Service as an acting committee or subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member in accordance with paragraph (D) shall not be subject to the restrictions in Caucus Rule 25(C). If an indictment against a member referred to in paragraph (A) is quashed or otherwise vitiated and that Member returns to his or her former position of chairman or ranking minority member, then the next senior Democratic Member who took the place of that indicted member shall return without prejudice to his or her former subcommittee chairmanship or ranking minority membership status.

Rule 51. Automatic Replacement of a Chairman or Ranking Minority Member Who is Censured or Convicted

A. The chairman or ranking minority member of a standing, select, special or joint committee of the Congress, or subcommittee thereof, who is censured by a vote of the House or who is convicted of a felony for which a sentence of two or more years of imprisonment may be imposed, shall cease to exercise the powers of chairman or ranking minority member, shall be replaced in such position in accord with Caucus Rules 21, 22, 23, or 28, and shall not serve as chairman or ranking minority member of any committee or subcommittee for the remainder of that Congress.

B. Immediately upon censure or conviction of any chairman or ranking minority member referred to in paragraph (A) the next senior Democratic Member of the committee or subcommittee concerned other than the chairman or ranking minority member of a standing, select, special or joint committee or an Appropriations subcommittee, shall assume the powers of chairman or ranking minority member and shall serve as acting chairman or ranking minority member until a new chairman or ranking minority member is selected or until the Caucus acts in accord with paragraph (C).

C. If circumstances so warrant, the Caucus may order that the chairman or ranking minority member step aside rather than be replaced and that the acting chairman or ranking minority member continue in such status for the remainder of that Congress only, or may waive the provisions of paragraph (A) entirely. Provided, however, that the request for action by the Caucus under this paragraph shall be made by the chairman or ranking minority member involved within 15 calendar days of the censure or conviction.

D. If a Member is replaced as chairmen or ranking minority member of a committee or subcommittee in accord with Caucus Rules 21, 22, 23, or 28 and if subsequently during that Congress the conviction of said Member is reversed and all appeals are exhausted, the Member shall be presumed to have been the chairman or ranking minority member of that committee or subcommittee for the entire Congress for purposes of selecting committee and subcommittee chairmen or ranking minority members at the start of the next Congress. Provided, however, that if said Member was ordered to step aside rather than be replaced as chairman or ranking minority member, the Member shall automatically resume the powers and duties of the office of the chairman or ranking minority member unless within 10 legislative days of such reversal the Caucus decides otherwise.

THE RULES OF THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE 110TH CONGRESS

December 5, 2006

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RULE 1 CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

(a) INCLUSION.—All Republican Members of the House of Representatives (including Delegates and the Resident Commissioner) and other Members of the House as determined by the Republican Conference of the House of Representatives ("the Conference") shall be Members of the Conference.

(b) EXPULSION.—A 2/3 vote of the entire membership shall be necessary to expel a Member of the Conference. Proceedings for expulsion shall follow the rules of the House of Representatives, as nearly as practicable.

RULE 2 REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

(a) ELECTED LEADERSHIP.—The Elected Republican Leaders of the House of Representatives are—

(1) the Speaker;

(2) the Republican Leader;

(3) the Republican Whip;

(4) the Chair of the Republican Conference;

(5) the Chair of the Committee on Policy;

(6) the Vice-Chair of the Republican Conference;

(7) the Secretary of the Republican Conference; and,

(8) the Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

(b) DESIGNATED LEADERSHIP.—The designated Republican Leaders of the House of Representatives are—

(1) the Chairman of the House Committee on Rules;

(2) the Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means;

(3) the Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations;

(4) the Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget;

(5) the Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce;

(6) the Chief Deputy Whip;

(7) One member of the sophomore class elected by the sophomore class; and,

(8) One member of the freshman class elected by the freshman class.

(c) LEADERSHIP ISSUES.—The Leader may designate certain issues as "Leadership Issues." Those issues will require early and ongoing cooperation between the relevant committees and the Leadership as those issues evolve. A Member of the elected or designated Republican Leadership has an obligation, to the best of his or her ability, to support positions adopted by the Conference, and the resources of the Leadership shall be utilized to support that position.

RULE 2 REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP (CONTINUED)

(d) LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE LIMITATION.—

(1) The Speaker, Republican Leader, Whip, and the Chairs of the Republican Conference, the Committee on Policy, and the National Republican Congressional Committee shall not serve on more than one standing committee or subcommittee of the House of Representatives and in no case shall any of these individuals serve as Chairman of a standing committee of the House of Representatives. Upon the recommendation of the Steering Committee and the approval of the Conference this provision may be waived.

(2) If a Member shall, at any time, cease to serve in any of the Leadership positions named above, he or she may resume his or her position on the standing committee on which he or she previously served.

(e) AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE MINORITY.—

(1) THE SPEAKER AND REPUBLICAN LEADER.—During any time that the Republican Party is not the majority party of the House of Representatives, the office of Speaker shall be considered as vacant, and any reference to, or authority vested in, the Speaker under these rules shall be considered references to and authority vested in the Republican Leader.

(2) COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBERS.—During any time that the Republican Party is not the majority party of the House of Representatives, any reference to, responsibility of, or authority vested in, the chairman of a committee of the House in these rules shall be considered a reference to, responsibility of, or authority vested in the Ranking Republican Member of such committee.

RULE 3 ORGANIZING CONFERENCE

(a) ORGANIZING CONFERENCE.—The organizational meeting of the Conference shall be called by the Speaker, except as otherwise provided by law. The meeting shall be held not later than the 20th day of December.

(b) ORDER OF ELECTIONS.—At the organizational meeting of the Republican Conference, the Conference shall nominate and elect the Elected Leadership for that Congress in the following order—

(1) the Speaker;

(2) the Republican Leader;

(3) the Republican Whip;

(4) the Chair of the Republican Conference;

(5) the Chair of the Committee on Policy;

(6) the Vice-Chair of the Republican Conference;

(7) the Secretary of the Republican Conference; and,

(8) the Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee; except that during any time that the Republican Party is not the majority party of the House of Representatives, there shall be no election held for the office of Speaker.

RULE 4 CONFERENCE ELECTION PROCEDURES

(a) VOTES BY SECRET BALLOT.—All contested elections shall be decided by secret ballot, and no proxy voting shall be allowed.

(b) NOMINATIONS.—

(1) Candidates for office shall be nominated in alphabetical surname order.

(2) For each Leadership nomination there shall be one nominating speech (not to exceed three minutes in length), and there may be two seconding speeches (each not to exceed one minute in length).

(c) BALLOTING PROCEDURES.—When there are more than two candidates for any office and none receives a majority of the votes on the first ballot, a quorum being present, the candidate with the lowest number of votes on that and each succeeding ballot will be dropped from the ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes, a quorum being present.

RULE 5 CONFERENCE MEETINGS

(a) CALL AND NOTICE.—

(1) Meetings of the Republican Conference may be called at any time by the chair of the Conference, after consultation with the Speaker.

(2) A meeting shall be called upon written request of 50 members addressed and delivered to the chair. Such meeting shall be called as soon as practicable.

(b) SPEAKER'S ANNUAL MEETING.—The Speaker shall hold an annual meeting at the beginning of each session of Congress at which the Republican Leadership shall report to the membership on their plans for the upcoming session.

(c) With respect to a meeting called under this rule, whenever possible, at least 24 hours' notice of the time, place, and agenda of a meeting shall be given to Members of the Conference.

RULE 6 RULES OF PROCEDURE

(a) RULES OF THE HOUSE.—The rules of the House Representatives, insofar as they are applicable, shall govern the proceedings of the Republican Conference.

(b) SUSPENSION PROCEDURE.—Two-thirds of the Members voting, a quorum being present, may suspend the Conference rules. All motions to suspend the rules shall be seconded by a majority, if demanded. The consideration of a motion to suspend the rules, to the extent practicable, shall follow the rules of the House.

(c) RECONSIDERATION.—When a motion has been made and carried or lost, it shall be in order for any member of the prevailing side, in the same or succeeding Conference, to move for the reconsideration thereof. The procedures for reconsideration shall be consistent with the rules of the House.

RULE 7 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: ORDER OF BUSINESS

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), all resolutions brought before the Republican Conference shall be referred by the Chair to the appropriate committee of the Conference for consideration. A resolution which has 25 or more signatures of Members shall be considered by the appropriate Conference committee as soon as practicable and reported back to the Conference. If the resolution is not acted on by the committee to which it was referred in a timely manner, a petition of 50 or more Members will discharge the resolution for consideration before the Conference.

(b) The Speaker, or a designee, may present any resolution to the Conference for its immediate consideration.

RULE 8 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: QUORUM

A majority of the Members of the Conference shall constitute a quorum.

RULE 9 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: SECRET BALLOT

On demand of one Member, with the support of five others, the vote on any matter properly pending before the Conference shall be taken by secret ballot.

RULE 10 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: ADMITTANCE

(a) The Chair may decide whether meetings of the Conference shall be open or closed to the public, subject to an appeal by any Member.

(b) The Chair may designate Leadership staff or other eligible persons to attend Conference meetings which are closed to the public. Those individuals shall be excused at the discretion of the Chair.

(c) Upon timely notice from the Chair, an executive session of the Conference may be called. This meeting shall be closed to all persons except Members of the Conference.

(d) On the demand of one Member, with the support of twenty-five others, a Conference meeting shall be taken into executive session.

RULE 11 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: JOURNAL

The Secretary of the Conference shall keep a journal of the Conference proceedings and each journal entry shall be signed by the Conference Secretary and the Conference Chair. The journal shall be open for inspection at the request of any Member of the Conference.

RULE 12 ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR STANDING COMMITTEES

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) The Republican Steering Committee shall recommend to the Republican Conference the Republican Members of the standing committees of the House of Representatives, except as otherwise provided in this rule.

(2) In those cases where the Steering Committee nominated Members for membership on standing committees, the Steering Committee shall recommend directly to the House of Representatives the Republican Members to fill vacancies on standing committees which occur following the organization of a Congress. Whenever possible, a vacancy shall be filled within thirty days while Congress is in session.

(b) ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES.—

(1) NOMINATION.—The Speaker shall nominate the Republican Members of the Committee on Rules, including the Chairman. These nominations shall be submitted to the Conference along with the other nominees from the Steering Committee.

(2) REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATION.—If the Republican Conference rejects the nominee for Chairman to the Committee on Rules, the Speaker shall again submit a nomination to the Conference.

(3) RETENTION OF SENIORITY RIGHTS.—A Member newly assigned to the Rules Committee shall have the option of being "on leave with seniority" from one standing committee on which he or she served previously. At such time as service on the Rules Committee shall cease, such member shall have the right to return to active membership on that standing committee with the relative seating and seniority accumulated during his or her tenure on the Rules Committee.

(c) ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—

(1) CHAIRMAN.—The Republican Steering Committee shall nominate the Member to serve as the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget. Limits on the term of service for the Chairman shall be determined by the Rules of the House.

(2) LEADERSHIP MEMBER.—The Speaker shall appoint one member to serve on the committee. That member will serve as the second highest-ranking Republican on the committee.

(3) NOMINATION OF OTHER MEMBERS.—The Steering Committee shall recommend members from the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Ways & Means, and the Committee on Rules for service on the Committee on the Budget in such numbers as may be consistent with the Rules of the House. Chairmen and Leadership Members are considered towards these requirements if that member also happens to serve on the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Ways & Means, or the Committee on Rules.

(d) ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) NOMINATION.—The Speaker shall nominate the Republican Members of the Committee on House Administration, including the Chairman. These nominations shall be submitted to the Conference along with the other nominees from the Steering Committee.

(2) REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATION.—If the Republican Conference rejects the nominee for Chairman to the Committee on House Administration, the Speaker shall again submit a nomination to the Conference.

(3)

RULE 13 APPOINTMENTS TO JOINT AND SELECT COMMITTEES

The Speaker shall recommend to the House all Republican Members of such joint, select, and ad hoc committees as shall be created by the House, in accordance with law.

RULE 14 NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

(a) NOMINATIONS BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE.—

(1) The Republican Steering Committee shall nominate the Republican Members who shall serve as Chairmen, except as provided in Rules 12 and 13. The Member nominated by the Steering Committee for this position need not be the Member with the longest consecutive service on the Committee, and such nominations shall be out of order except as recommended in the report of the Steering Committee.

(2) The Republican Steering Committee may also designate the Republican Members who shall serve as Vice Chairman. The Member designated by the Steering Committee for this position need not be the Member with the longest consecutive service on the Committee.

(b) VOTING PROCEDURE.—The Conference shall vote by secret ballot on each recommendation of the House Republican Steering Committee for the position of Chairman. The call of the Conference at which such balloting will take place shall name and list the individuals recommended by the Committee.

(c) REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATIONS.—If the Republican Conference fails to approve a recommendation of the Steering Committee with respect to a nomination for the position of Chairman, the matter shall be automatically recommitted without instructions to that Committee.

(d) OBLIGATION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.—The Republican Chairman of each committee has an obligation to ensure that each measure on which the Republican Conference has taken a position is managed in accordance with such position on the Floor of the House of Representatives.

(e) TERM LIMITATION.—No individual shall serve more than three consecutive terms as Chairman or Ranking Member of a standing, select, joint, or ad hoc committee or subcommittee beginning with the 104th Congress.

RULE 15 LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

No individual shall serve as Chairman of more than one standing committee or subcommittee except for the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct; or the Committee on House Administration; or any joint, select, or ad hoc committee; or any subcommittee thereof. Provided, however, that upon recommendation of the Steering Committee and approval of the Conference this provision shall be waived.

RULE 16 VACANCIES IN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN POSITIONS

A vacancy which occurs during a session of Congress for the position of Chairman shall be filled in accordance with Rule 14. Whenever possible, a vacancy shall be filled within thirty days while Congress is in session.

RULE 17 COMMITTEE ORGANIZING CAUCUSES

(a) Each committee shall have an organizing caucus of the Republican Members before the organizing meeting of the full Committee. The committee Chairman shall call the meeting, giving at least three days written notice to all Republican Members of the committee.

(b) During any time in which the Republican Party is the majority party in the House of Representatives, the Chairman of a committee shall seek to the maximum extent possible to avoid overlapping scheduling of subcommittee meetings in order to assure maximum Member participation.

RULE 18 PERIODIC COMMITTEE CAUCUSES

Meetings of a committee caucus shall be called if requested by a majority of the Republican Members of the Committee or at any time by the Chairman. A majority of the Members may request a meeting provided the request to the Chairman is in writing and states the subject matter to be discussed at the meeting. A meeting so requested must be called by the Chairman within ten days after receipt of the written request, and after notice to all committee caucus Members.

RULE 19 ELECTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) In accordance with Rule 15, the method for the selection of Chairmen of the Committee's subcommittees shall be at the discretion of the full Committee Chairman, unless a majority of the Republican Members of the full Committee disapprove the action of the Chairman.

(2) The Chairman shall formalize in writing for the other Republican Members of the Committee the procedures to be followed in selecting Subcommittee Chairmen and individual subcommittee assignments and shall do so in advance of the Committee's organization. The procedures may be modified by a majority vote of the Republican Members of the full Committee.

(b) APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.—The Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations shall bring his nominations for the subcommittee Chairmen to the Republican Steering Committee for approval. If any nomination is rejected by the Steering Committee, the Chairman shall submit the new nomination(s) in a timely fashion.

RULE 20 VACANCIES IN THE POSITION OF SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Vacancies in the position of Subcommittee Chairman shall be filled according to the procedures established by the various committees in accordance with Rule 19.

RULE 21 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

No Member shall serve on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for more than three consecutive terms.

RULE 22 COMMITTEE ON POLICY

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) The Committee on Policy shall be an advisory Committee to the membership of the House Republican Conference. The Committee on Policy shall meet at the call of the Chair of the Committee on Policy or the Speaker, and shall discuss legislative proposals with Republican Members of the appropriate standing and special committees and with such other Republican Members as the Chair may invite to meetings.

(2) The Committee on Policy shall report its suggestions for Republican action and policy to the Republican Members of the House. The Chair of the Committee on Policy may appoint, in consultation with the Speaker, such subcommittees from the Republican Members of the House for such purposes as may be deemed appropriate.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Committee on Policy shall be composed of—

(1) One Member elected from each region, State, or group of States under the Steering Committee structure;

(2) Two Members elected by the sophomore class and one Member elected by the freshman class;

(3) The House Republican Leadership, as designated by Rule 2;

(4) One Member from each standing committee of the House appointed by the Speaker; and,

(5) Such Members-at-large as may be appointed by the Speaker.

(c) SENIORITY.—The traditions and privileges of seniority shall not apply to membership of the Committee on Policy and the Committee may, at its direction, make such rules as are necessary for conduct of its business.

RULE 23 THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

(a) COMPOSITION.—The National Republican Congressional Committee ("NRCC") shall be composed of an executive committee of 38 members, to be composed of—

(1) the Speaker;

(2) the Republican Leader;

(3) the Republican Whip;

(4) the Chair of the Republican Conference;

(5) the Chair of the Committee on Policy;

(6) the Vice Chair of the Republican Conference;

(7) the Secretary of the Republican Conference;

(8) the Chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee; and,

(9) Thirty members appointed to serve on the executive committee by the Chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

(A) Appointments pursuant to this subparagraph shall be reported to the Conference for its approval.

(B) The Conference shall vote by secret ballot on each such recommendation.

(C) If the Republican Conference fails to approve a recommendation of the Chair of the NRCC with respect to a nomination, the matter shall be automatically recommitted to the Chair of the NRCC without instructions.

(b) DUTIES.—The duties of the National Republican Congressional Committee shall be to—

(1) act as counsel and advisor to the Members of the House Republican Conference;

(2) furnish support services to the extent consistent with the Rules of the House; and,

(3) have oversight in election campaigns in all general and special elections for membership in the House of Representatives.

RULE 24 REPUBLICAN PERSONNEL

(a) The House Republican Conference hereby vests in the Speaker supervisory authority over all Republican employees of the House of Representatives, and direct authority over the Republican Floor Assistants and Republican Conference.

(b) The Speaker is hereby empowered to offer recommendations and advise the Republican Conference as to the location and use of all personnel and funds, appropriated or otherwise, of the Republican Conference or any committee or officer thereof including but not limited to: the Republican Whip, the Republican Committee on Policy and the National Republican Congressional Committee, to avoid duplication and improve coordination and best utilization of those assets.

(c) The funds appropriated for the offices of the Republican Leader, the Republican Whip, and the Republican Conference may be allocated and utilized by the Republican Leader, the Republican Whip and the Chair of the Republican Conference, respectively, only after a budget, prepared in consultation with the Speaker, detailing the proposed use of such funds has been established.

(d) The Speaker shall provide general personnel referral services to Republican Members and such other services as he or she deems necessary.

(e) The staff employed by the elected Republican Leadership as defined under Rule 2, or under the direct authority of the Speaker, will be considered a unified staff, although directly responsible to the employing office, will work for all others of the Leadership as directed by the Speaker in consultation with the employing office.

RULE 25 TEMPORARY STEP ASIDE OF A CHAIRMAN WHO IS INDICTED

(a) The Chairman of a standing, select, joint, or ad hoc committee, or any subcommittee thereof, who is indicted for a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may be imposed, shall step aside in favor of the next ranking Republican Member of the committee or subcommittee concerned who shall serve as acting Chairman for the remainder of the Congress, unless the Steering Committee nominates a Member consistent with Rule 14, or unless the Chairman resumes his position in accord with paragraphs (b) or (c) of this rule.

(b) If a Chairman steps aside and subsequently during that Congress the charges are dismissed or reduced to less than a felony as described in paragraph 1 of this section, or if the Member is found not guilty of said charges, the Chairman shall automatically resume the powers and duties of the position of the Chairman unless the Conference within 10 legislative days decides otherwise.

(c) The conference may waive the provisions of this rule at any time by majority vote.

RULE 26 TEMPORARY STEP ASIDE OF A MEMBER OF LEADERSHIP WHO IS INDICTED

(a) A Member of the leadership shall step aside if indicted for a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may be imposed.

(b) If a Member of the Republican leadership is indicted, the Republican Conference shall meet and elect a Member to temporarily serve in that position.

RULE 27 AUTOMATIC REPLACEMENT OF A CHAIRMAN WHO IS CENSURED OR CONVICTED

(a) The Chairman of a standing, select, joint or ad hoc committee of the Congress, or subcommittee thereof, who is censured by a vote of the House or who is convicted of a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may by imposed, shall cease to exercise the powers of the Chairman and shall not serve as Chairman of a Committee or Subcommittee for the remainder of the Congress. The position will be considered vacant under the rules of the Conference.

(b) The rule is in effect for any indictments or convictions handed down subsequent to the adoption of the rule.

RULE 28 GUIDELINES ON SUSPENSION OF HOUSE RULES

(a) The Republican Leader shall not schedule, or request to have scheduled, any bill or resolution for consideration under suspension of the rules which—

(1) fails to include a cost estimate;

(2) has not been cleared by the minority;

(3) was opposed by more than one-third of the committee members reporting the bill;

(4) creates a new program;

(5) extends an authorization whose originating statute contained a sunset provision; or,

(6) authorizes more than a 10 percent increase in authorizations, appropriations, or direct spending in any given year.

(b) A waiver of this rule can be granted by the majority of the Elected Leadership as defined under Rule 2.

RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

110th Congress

Rahm Emanuel, Chairman
John B. Larson, Vice Chairman

Adopted November 16, 2006

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RULES

Membership, Officers and Elections

Rule 1. Membership

INCLUSION

A. All Democratic Members of the House of Representatives, the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, and the Delegates from American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands who are Members of the Democratic Party shall be prima facie Members of the Democratic Caucus of the House of Representatives (hereafter "Caucus").

B. The following procedures shall govern when a Democratic Member chooses to leave the Democratic Party:

ACTIONS CONSTITUTING CHANGE OF PARTY

1. Whenever a Member of the Caucus resigns from or acts affirmatively to change political parties, he or she shall automatically cease to be a Member of the Democratic Caucus. Such acts shall be limited to changing party registration in his or her home state, filing for office as a candidate for nomination of another political party or accepting the nomination of another political party. This section shall not apply to anyone who files for or accepts the nomination of another party in addition to accepting the nomination of the Democratic Party.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

2. The Caucus Chairman shall notify the affected Member in writing when he or she ceases to be a Member of the Democratic Caucus in accordance with paragraph (B)(1). That Member shall have the opportunity to seek reinstatement by majority vote, by secret ballot, at a meeting of the Caucus called within 10 days of his or her request provided that at least five Members support, in writing, the Member's request. If the Member is not reinstated within 30 days of receiving notification, the Caucus Chairman shall then notify the Speaker of the House that the affected Member is no longer a Member of the Democratic Caucus.

EXPULSION

C. The Caucus may expel any Member by a two-thirds vote.

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY

D. In order to maintain membership in good standing in the Caucus, Members of the Caucus shall not participate in campaign activities for any candidate in a partisan federal election who is not a Member of the Democratic Party.

Rule 2. Party Leaders and Caucus Officers

PARTY LEADERS

A. The Caucus shall nominate a candidate for Speaker and shall elect the Democratic Leader and the Democratic Whip.

CAUCUS OFFICES

B. The Caucus shall elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman.

TERM OF OFFICE

C. No Member shall be elected to serve as Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Caucus for more than two consecutive full terms.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN

D. The Vice Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chair during the temporary absence of the Chairman. The Chairman or Vice Chairman shall have the right to name any Member to perform the duties of the Chair during a temporary absence.

SPEAKER'S AUTHORITY WHEN IN THE MINORITY

E. During any time that the Democratic Party is not the majority party of the House of Representatives, any reference to, and any authority vested in, the Speaker under these rules shall be considered references to and authority vested in the Democratic Leader.

ASSISTANT TO THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

F. The Caucus shall elect an Assistant to the Speaker or the Democratic Leader, as the case may be. The Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall nominate a candidate for the position. Members may nominate additional candidates by written notice signed by five Democratic Members other than the nominee.

Rule 3. House Officers

The Democratic nominee for Speaker or Speaker, as the case may be, shall recommend to the Caucus nominees for Officers of the House. The Caucus shall vote on the nominations. Upon a demand supported by 10 or more Members, a separate vote, by secret ballot, shall be had on any nomination. Such demand, if made and properly supported, shall be debated for no more than 30 minutes with the time equally divided between proponents and opponents. If a majority of those present and voting reject any such nominee, the Democratic nominee for Speaker or Speaker, as the case may be, shall be entitled to submit new nominations until any such positions are filled.

Rule 4. Elections

A. Except as otherwise provided by Caucus rule, the following provisions shall apply to all elections in the Caucus or in entities of the Caucus:

VOTES BY SECRET BALLOT

1. All votes shall be by secret ballot, except on committee lists where no secret ballot is demanded under Rule 14.

QUORUM

2. A quorum shall be required to proceed.

NOMINATIONS

3. The name of each candidate shall be placed in nomination. Nominations shall be limited to not more than one 5-minute nominating speech and three 2-minute seconding speeches on behalf of each candidate so nominated.

BALLOTING

4. After nominating and seconding speeches, balloting shall proceed without interruption or recess from ballot to ballot until one candidate shall have received the votes of a majority of those present and voting and such candidate shall be declared elected. Votes cast for a person whose name was not placed in nomination shall not be counted or considered except to determine the proper majority necessary for election.

ELIMINATION

5. If there are more than two candidates, the nominated candidate receiving the fewest votes on the first and each succeeding ballot shall be eliminated; and votes for such candidate shall not be tallied or considered except for the purpose of determining the number of Members present. If two or more candidates tie for fewest votes on the first ballot or on subsequent ballots, neither shall be eliminated; should such occur for a second time however, both shall be eliminated. Following any ballot a candidate wishing to withdraw shall be entitled to recognition for one minute for the purpose of so advising the Caucus.

BINDING VOTES ON HOUSE LEADERSHIP

B. With respect to voting in the House for Speaker and other officers of the House, for each committee chairman or ranking minority member, and for membership of committees, a majority vote of those present and voting at a Democratic Caucus shall bind all Members of the Caucus.

Caucus Meetings

Rule 5. Calling and Scheduling Meetings

CALL FOR MEETINGS

A. Meetings of the Caucus shall be called by the Chairman upon his own motion, at the request of the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, or upon written request of 50 Members of the Caucus.

REGULAR MEETINGS

B. While the House is in session, the Caucus shall meet regularly on the third Wednesday of each month except January in odd-numbered years. If the House is not in session on the third Wednesday the monthly Caucus shall be held on the next succeeding Wednesday on which the House is in session. The Chairman may cancel any monthly Caucus, but not two consecutive monthly Caucuses, provided Members are given reasonable notice of such cancellation.

COMMITTEE SCHEDULES

C. Members of the Caucus shall not schedule committee meetings or hearings at times when the Caucus is to be in session.

Rule 6. Notice and Agenda of Meetings

NOTICE AND AGENDA

A. The Chairman shall set the time and place of each meeting of the Caucus and shall provide Members with an agenda listing all matters to be considered. The agenda shall be distributed to Members by noon on the fifth day preceding the day on which the Caucus meeting is convened: however, when the purpose of such Caucus meeting is to consider a veto override or legislation that has been reported to the House or scheduled for House consideration, the Chairman may waive the five-day notice requirement with reasonable notice to Members. Any addition to the agenda other than under paragraphs (B) and (C) shall not be in order except by a two-thirds vote of the Caucus, and where the additional matter has been available for at least two hours.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA ON THE DAY OF ISSUANCE

B. The agenda for each meeting called with five days notice shall include any matter requested in writing by five or more Members and delivered to the office of the Caucus Chairman on the same day a notice and agenda were issued under paragraph (A). The Caucus Chairman shall provide Members with written notification of any addition to the agenda under this paragraph not later than 5 p.m. the following day. This paragraph shall not apply to any meeting for which the same day notice requirement has been waived by the Caucus Chairman.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA AFTER THE DAY OF ISSUANCE

C. Following issuance of the agenda, additional items may be placed thereon only by the Caucus Chairman or by the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, or upon petition by 50 Members delivered to the office of the Chairman by noon on the second day preceding the day on which the Caucus meeting is convened. The Caucus Chairman shall provide Members with written notification of any addition to the agenda under this paragraph not later than 5 p.m. the same day.

RECESS AUTHORITY

D. A meeting of the Caucus may, at the call of the Chairman or upon motion, be recessed and later reconvened for continuation of properly noticed business, at a time and place designated, except during election balloting as provided in Caucus Rule 4(A)(4).

AMENDMENT THAT INSTRUCTS REQUIRES NOTICE

E. It shall not be in order to offer an amendment to a resolution being considered in Caucus if said amendment adds language directing or instructing the Democratic Members of a committee on any matter, unless the intent to instruct said Members was noticed in accord with the provisions of this rule.

Rule 7. Admittance to Meetings

CLOSED MEETINGS

No persons, except Members of the Caucus, a Caucus Journal Clerk and other necessary employees shall be admitted to the meeting of the Caucus without the express permission of the Chairman.

Rule 8. Quorum

REGULAR

A. A quorum of the Caucus shall consist of a majority of the Members of the Caucus. If the absence of a quorum is established, the Chairman may continue the meeting for purposes of discussion only, but no motion of any kind except a motion to recess or adjourn, shall be in order at such continued meetings.

PROCEDURE FOR QUORUM CALL

B. Subject to the provisions of Caucus Rules 4 and II regarding secret ballots, a quorum call or roll call may be taken by electronic or other means, provided Members shall have not less than 15 minutes in which to have their vote or presence recorded.

Rule 9. Parliamentary Procedure

PARLIAMENTARY LAW; 5-MINUTE RULE

A. The procedures, motions, and five-minute rule which apply when the House of Representatives is operating in the House as in the Committee of the Whole, with such special rules as may be adopted, shall govern the meetings of the Caucus.

MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

B. Two-thirds of the Members voting may suspend the Caucus rules. Consideration of a motion to suspend the rules, including the discretion of the Caucus Chairman whether or not to entertain such a motion, shall follow the rules of the House.

PROXY VOTING PROHIBITED

C. Proxy voting is not allowed in the Democratic Caucus, nor in subunits under the Caucus, including Democratic caucuses of House committees and subcommittees.

Rule 10. Caucus Journal

INSPECTION OF JOURNAL UPON REQUEST

The Caucus shall keep a journal of its proceedings, which shall be published after each meeting, and which shall be available for inspection by any Member of the Caucus upon request.

Rule 11. Recorded Votes and Voting Procedure

RECORDED VOTES; SECRET BALLOT REQUIRES MAJORITY

The yeas and nays on any question (except elections under Rule 4) before the Caucus shall, at the desire of one fifth of those present, be entered on the Journal, and a copy of each record vote shall be distributed to each Member of the Caucus. Any question shall be decided by secret ballot or other non-record vote if a majority so demands, before the yeas and nays are ordered.

Committee Membership

Rule 12. Committee Ratios

The Democratic Leadership shall work to ensure that committee ratios are at least as representative of the number of Democrats in the House and that each panel include the greatest number of Democrats possible.

Rule 13. Standing Committees Membership Nominations

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE NOMINATES

A. The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall recommend to the Caucus nominees for membership to committees, one committee at a time. Members of the same class nominated by Steering and Policy for membership to a committee at the same time shall be ranked for seniority purposes in the order in which they were chosen by the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. This paragraph shall not apply to the Committees on Rules and House Administration as provided by Rule 15, and is subject to the special procedures provided in Rule 16 for selection of Members of the Committee on the Budget.

NOMINATION BY STATE DELEGATIONS

B. Upon a letter from a Member, signed by 50 percent or more of said Member's State Democratic Delegation, including said Member, said Member shall automatically be considered for nomination by the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee for the committee membership position to which said Member aspires. The Chairman of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall see that such Member's name is placed in nomination. This provision shall not apply to nominations for the Committees on Rules or House Administration.

SENIORITY NOT MANDATORY

C. Recommendations for committee posts need not necessarily follow seniority.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

D. In making nominations for committee assignments, the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall not discriminate on the basis of prior occupation or profession.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

E. In making such nominations, the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall consider all relevant factors, including merit, length of service on the committee and degree of commitment to the Democratic agenda, and the diversity of the Caucus.

Rule 14. Procedure for Electing Committee Members

VOTING

A. Once recommendations are received from the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, the Caucus shall vote, one committee at a time, on memberships, except as provided in paragraph (B).

DEBATE

B. Upon a demand supported by 10 or more Members, a separate vote, by secret ballot, shall be had on any member of a committee. Such demand, if made and properly supported, shall be debated for not more than 30 minutes with the time equally divided between proponents and opponents. If the noes prevail on any such vote, the committee list of the committee in question shall be recommitted to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee for the sale purpose of implementing the direction of the Caucus.

Rule 15. Procedure for Electing Rules and House Administration Committee Members

The Democratic nominee for Speaker or Speaker as the case may be, shall recommend to the Caucus nominees for membership to the Committee on Rules and the Committee on House Administration. Debate and balloting on any such nomination shall be subject to the same provisions as apply to the nomination of Members of other committees, as set forth in Caucus Rules 13 and 14. If any nominee is rejected for membership to the Committee on Rules or the Committee on House Administration, the Democratic nominee for Speaker or Speaker, as the case may be, shall be entitled to submit new nominations until any such positions are filled.

Rule 16. Procedure for Electing Budget Committee Members

The Caucus shall elect the Democratic Members of the Budget Committee, after election of the Budget Chairman or Ranking Minority Member (who by virtue of election as chairman or ranking minority member is a Member of the committee), in accordance with the following provisions:

LEADERSHIP MEMBER

A. The Democratic nominee for Speaker or Speaker, as the case may be, shall appoint the leadership Member of the committee.

NOMINATION OF OTHER MEMBERS

B. When the Democratic Party is the majority party of the House of Representatives, the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall nominate three Members of the Appropriations Committee, three Members of the Ways and Means Committee, at least one from the Rules Committee, and the requisite number of Members of other Committees to fill all remaining Democratic seats. During any time that the Democratic Party is not the majority party of the House of Representatives, the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall nominate two Members of the Appropriations Committee, two Members of the Ways and Means Committee, and the requisite number of Members of other committees to fill all remaining Democratic seats. A list of said nominees shall be distributed to all Members of the Caucus prior to the election meeting. Members may nominate additional candidates by written notice signed by five Members other than the nominee.

Written nominations must be delivered to the offices of the Caucus Chairman and the Caucus Vice Chairman by the close of business on the day immediately preceding the election meeting, and the Caucus Chairman or Vice Chairman shall mail a list of all nominees 10 Members of the Caucus before the election.

ELECTION PROCEDURE

C. Following election of the chairman or ranking minority member, the other Democratic Members shall be elected. Election shall be by ballot which lists all candidates by category (Appropriations, Ways and Means, other committees, and if the Democratic Party is the majority party, Rules) in the order they were nominated provided that the Member selected as chairman or ranking minority member shall be counted as having filled one position in the appropriate category. A majority of those present and voting for a nominated candidate shall be required to elect; provided however, that any ballot which contains votes for more or fewer candidates than there are vacancies to be filled in each category shall not be counted.

SPECIAL LIMITATION

D. Members of the Budget Committee shall be subject to the following limitations:

No Member, other than the leadership Member, shall serve as a Member of the Committee on the Budget during more than three Congresses in any period of five successive Congresses (disregarding for this purpose any service performed as a Member of such committee for less than a full session in any Congress). However, an incumbent chairman or ranking minority member, having served on the Committee for three Congresses and having served as chairman or ranking minority member for not more than one Congress shall be eligible for reelection to the Committee as chairman or ranking minority member for one additional Congress. All selections of Members to serve on the Committee shall be made without regard to seniority.

Rule 17. Procedure for Electing Appropriations and Ways and Means Committee Members

The Caucus shall elect Democratic Members to fill vacancies on the Ways and Means Committee and the Appropriations Committee in accordance with the following procedures:

NOMINATIONS

A. The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall nominate one Member for each Democratic vacancy to be filled on the Ways and Means Committee and the Appropriations Committee and shall distribute the name(s) of such nominee(s) to all Members of the Democratic Caucus at least 24 hours prior to the election meeting. Members may nominate additional candidates by written notice signed by five Democratic Members other than the nominee. Written nominations must be delivered to the offices of the Caucus Chairman and the Caucus Vice Chairman by close of business on the day immediately preceding the election meeting, and the Caucus Chairman or Vice Chairman shall distribute a list of all nominees to Members of the Caucus before the election.

ELECTION PROCEDURE

B. Election shall be by ballot which lists all candidates in the order they were nominated, and a majority shall be required to elect; provided however, that any ballot which contains votes for more or fewer candidates than there are vacancies to be filled shall not be counted.

PREVIOUS MEMBERS

C. The nomination of any Member who served on the committee in the preceding Congress shall be reported by the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee for action by the Caucus in the same manner as is provided for nomination of Members to other standing committees under Rules 13 and 14.

Rule 18. Classification of Committees

For the purposes of Caucus Rules the following committee designations shall apply:

EXCLUSIVE

A. Appropriations; Ways and Means; Rules; shall be "exclusive" committees. The Energy and Commerce Committee shall be an "exclusive" committee for all Members first serving on the committee in the 104th and subsequent Congresses. The Financial Services Committee shall be an "exclusive" committee for all Members first serving on the committee in the 109th and subsequent Congresses.

NON-EXCLUSIVE

B. Agriculture; Armed Services; Budget; Education and the Workforce; Government Reform; Homeland Security; House Administration; International Relations; Judiciary; Resources; Science; Small Business; Transportation and Infrastructure; and Veterans' Affairs shall be considered "nonexclusive" committees. The Energy and Commerce Committee shall be considered a "nonexclusive" committee for Members who served on the committee before the 104th Congress. The Financial Services Committee shall be a "non-exclusive" committee for all Members first serving on the committee before the 109th Congress.

Rule 19. Restrictions on Committee Memberships

A. Except with respect to service on the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on House Administration, no Democratic Member of an exclusive committee shall also serve on another exclusive or non-exclusive committee. The preceding sentence shall not preclude membership during the 109th and 110th Congresses on the Committee on Homeland Security to any Member who served on the Select Committee on Homeland Security during the 108th Congress.

B. No Member shall serve on more than two committees with legislative jurisdiction. The Committees on House Administration and Standards of Official Conduct shall be exempt from this provision.

C. Any Member of the Committee on the Budget shall be entitled to take a leave of absence from service on any committee or subcommittee during the period he or she serves on the Budget Committee and seniority rights of such Member on such committee and on each subcommittee to which such Member was assigned at the time shall be fully protected as if such Member had continued to so serve during the period of the leave of absence.

D. No Member shall serve as a member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct during more than 3 Congresses in any period of 5 successive Congresses (disregarding for this purpose any service performed as a member of such committee for less than a full session in any Congress).

E. No Democratic Member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence may serve on more than one standing committee during that Member's term of service on the select committee. Members shall be entitled to take leaves of absence from service on any committee (or subcommittee thereof) during the period they serve on the select committee and seniority rights on such committee (and on each subcommittee) to which they were assigned at the time shall be fully protected as if they had continued to serve during the period of leave of absence.

Rule 20. Appointments to Joint and Select Committees, Boards and Commissions

In those in stances where the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, has the power to appoint Members to joint and select committees, boards and commissions, due consideration should be given to sharing the work load and responsibility among qualified Members of the House who have indicated an interest in the subject matter of the committee, board, or commission and have expressed a willingness to actively participate in its deliberations and operations. All Members serving on joint and select committees, boards and commissions by virtue of appointment by the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case maybe, shall be considered to have completed their tenure and their positions deemed to be vacant until filled by appointment or re-appointment by the Speaker or Democratic Leader at the start of a new Congress.

Committee Chairmanships

Rule 21. Nomination and Election of Committee Chairmen; Ranking Minority Members

NOMTNATIONS BY DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

A. The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall nominate one Member of each standing committee, other than the Committee on Rules, the Budget Committee, and the Committee on House Administration for the position of chairman or ranking minority member and such nominations need not necessarily follow seniority. With the exception of the Budget Committee, only Members who have been recommended for membership on the committee shall be eligible for nomination as chairman or ranking minority member. The Committee shall conduct secret ballots for the chairmanships or ranking minority memberships of the standing committees and shall count all such ballots for a chairmanship or ranking membership for which there is more than one nomination. In making each such nomination the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall consider all relevant factors including merit, length of service on the committee and degree of commitment to the Democratic agenda, and the diversity of the Caucus.

NO FLOOR NOMINATIONS WHERE SENIOR RETURNING COMMITTEE DEMOCRAT NOMINATED

B. If the nominee of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee for chairman or ranking minority member of a committee was the most senior Democratic Member of the committee in the previous Congress who was re-elected and who is eligible for the position, no other nominations shall be allowed and the Caucus shall vote by secret ballot to approve or disapprove that nominee alone. No debate shall be allowed unless requested by the nominee or a Member who wishes to speak in opposition to a nomination provided that the request to speak in opposition is supported by three or more Members.

ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS

C. If paragraph (B) does not apply, additional nominations shall be in order from the floor of the Caucus in accord with the provisions of Rule 4(A)(3). Notwithstanding paragraph (B), if 14 or more Members of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee vote for candidates other than the Member nominated for chairman or ranking minority member of a standing committee, then additional nominations shall be in order from the floor of the Caucus and election shall be in accord with the provisions of Caucus Rule 4(A)(3) or if at least 50 Members request, in writing, that nominations be considered in addition to the nominee of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee for the chairmanship or ranking minority membership of any standing committee, then such additional nominations shall be in order from the floor of the Caucus and elections shall be in accord with the provisions of Caucus Rule 4(A)(3).

DEBATE

D. Debate on any nomination shall be limited to 60 minutes equally divided between proponents and opponents of that nominee, such time to be further extended only by a majority vote of the Caucus.

REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATIONS

E. If a majority of those present and voting reject its nominee for chairman or ranking minority member, the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall make a new nomination within five days. Five to ten days after the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee reports such new nominations, the Caucus shall meet to consider the new nominee or the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee and any additional nominations offered from the floor. Should additional nominations be made from the floor, the election shall be conducted in accord with Caucus Rule 4, subject to the debate provided under paragraph (D) of this rule.

Rule 22. Nomination and Election of Rules and House Administration Committee Chairmen or Ranking Minority Members

NOMINATION

A. The Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall recommend to the Caucus a nominee for chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules and the Committee on House Administration. Debate and balloting on any such nomination shall be subject to the same provisions as apply to the nominations of chairmen or ranking minority members of other committees under Rules 4 and 21.

ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS

B. If a majority of those present and voting reject any nominee for chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules or the Committee on House Administration the Speaker or Democratic Leader as the case may be, shall be entitled to submit a new nomination until that position is filled.

Rule 23. Nomination and Election of Budget Committee Chairman or Ranking Minority Member

The Caucus shall elect one Member to serve as chairman or ranking minority member of the Budget Committee, from nominations made pursuant to Caucus Rule 16. Election of the chairman or ranking minority member must precede election of other Members. Election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Rules 4 and 21.

Rule 24. Filling Vacancy in Committee Chairmanship or Ranking Minority Membership

A vacancy in a committee chairmanship or ranking minority membership due to the death, retirement or resignation of a chairman or ranking minority member shall be filled within 30 calendar days from the date on which the vacancy occurs in accord with the steps for selecting committee chairmen or ranking minority members outlined in Caucus Rules 21, 22 and 23. The nominee of the Caucus for the vacancy will be submitted to the House of Representatives at the earliest practicable date thereafter.

Rule 25. Limitations on Committee and Subcommittee Chairmanships and Ranking Minority Memberships

A. No chairman or ranking minority member of an exclusive or non-exclusive committee may serve on another exclusive or non-exclusive committee. Except that this limitation shall not apply to the chairman or ranking member of the Committees on the Budget, Government Reform, House Administration, International Relations, Resources, Science, Small Business, and Veterans' Affairs.

B. The chairman or ranking minority member of a full committee shall not serve simultaneously as the chairman or ranking minority member of any other full, select, permanent select, special, ad hoc, or joint committee unless the Caucus grants an exemption in the case of an ad hoc committee; provided, however, the chairman or ranking minority member of the Ways and Means Committee may also serve as chairman or ranking minority member of the Joint Committee on Taxation and the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration may also serve as chairman or ranking minority member of the Joint Committee on Printing and the Joint Committee on the Library.

C. No chairman or ranking minority member of an exclusive or non-exclusive committee or select committee with legislative jurisdiction shall serve as a Member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

D. No Member shall be chairman or ranking minority member of more than one subcommittee of a full committee or select committee with legislative jurisdiction. Provided, however, that the following committees shall be exempt from this provision: House Administration; Standards of Official Conduct; and Joint Committees.

E. The chairman or ranking minority member of a full committee or select committee with legislative jurisdiction shall not be the chairman or ranking minority member of a subcommittee of that committee or any other such full committee. Provided, however, that the following committees shall be exempt from this provision: Appropriations; House Administration; Standards of Official Conduct; and Joint Committees.

Committee Caucuses

Rule 26. Committee Organizing Caucus

A. There shall be a caucus of each standing committee and any other committee with legislative jurisdiction consisting of all Democratic Members of the committee hereafter referred to as "committee caucus". At the start of each Congress the chairman or ranking minority member of each standing committee (except the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct) or other committee with legislative jurisdiction shall call a meeting of the committee caucus, giving at least three days notice to all Democratic Members of the committee. Said meeting shall be called subsequent to the House Democratic Caucus approval of the committee lists but prior to any organizational meeting of the full committee. Such committee caucuses shall fill the positions of subcommittee chairmen or ranking minority members and subcommittee Members in accordance with procedures described in Caucus Rules 28 through 31.

B. If within 10 days after the organization or subsequent reorganization of any committee, a Member of the relevant committee raises a point of order against the organization or reorganization of that committee with the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, on the grounds that the Caucus rules have been violated, the Caucus Chairman shall communicate with the chairman or ranking minority member of that committee informing him or her of the point of order. If the point of order is sustained by the Caucus Chairman and if the committee has not brought itself into compliance within five legislative days of receipt of the communication of the Caucus Chair, the matter will be referred to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee for disposition.

C. When the Democratic party is the majority party of the House of Representatives, the committee caucuses as described in paragraph (A), shall approve and secure adoption of committee rules incorporating the following principles:

ESTABLISHING SUBCOMMITTEES

Prior to the start of the bidding process for subcommittee chairmanships and assignments, the caucus of each committee shall establish the number of subcommittees, shall fix the jurisdiction of each subcommittee, and shall determine the size of each subcommittee, The Resident Commissioner and Delegates shall not be counted in determining committee and subcommittee sizes for purposes of this rule. Subcommittee size shall be limited to no more than 60 percent of the size of the full committee. However, if the caucus determines to change the size of any subcommittee after the start of the bidding process, it may do so, but in that event, all previous action on the bidding process shall start anew. No panel, task force, special subcommittee, or any other subunit of a standing committee may be created without the knowledge of the full committee chairman and concurrence of the caucus of that committee. The

committee chairman shall notify the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus within seven days of the creation of any panel, task force, special subcommittee of any other subunit of a standing committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE POWERS

Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the committee on all matters referred to it. Subcommittee chairmen shall set meeting dates after consultation with the chairman and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings wherever possible.

SUBCOMMITTEE REFERRALS

All legislation and other matters referred to a committee shall be referred to all subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction within two weeks unless, by majority vote of the Democratic Members or the full committee, consideration is to be by the full committee.

PARTY RATIOS ON SUBCOMMITTEES

The committee caucuses shall determine an appropriate ratio of Democratic to minority party members for each subcommittee and shall authorize a Member or Members to negotiate that ratio with the minority party. Provided, however, that party representation on each subcommittee, including ex-officio members, shall be no less favorable to the Democratic Party than the ratio for the full committee. The Resident Commission or Delegates shall not be counted for purposes of this rule.

D. The Democratic Leader should negotiate full committee ratios so that when all Democratic Members have committee assignments, Rule 19(C) is being complied with.

If additional committee positions remain available after all Democratic Members receive assignments, the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall, when possible, leave those additional positions vacant to ensure flexibility if more Democratic Members are elected during a Congress.

However, if the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee decides it is in the best interest of the Democratic Caucus to fill any vacant committee position, the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall fill those positions with temporary assignments such that any Member receiving temporary assignment:

1. Does not obtain seniority on that committee:

2. May not participate in the bidding process for any subcommittee position but may fill any temporary subcommittee position remaining after all other Democratic Members of that committee have completed the bidding process:

3. Can be removed at any time if a Democratic Member is selected to serve as a permanent Member of that committee:

4. Is removed from the committee at the end of the Congress for which the temporary assignment was made.

Rule 27. Periodic Committee Caucuses

Meetings of the committee caucus may be called by the chairman or ranking minority member or a majority of the Members of the committee caucuses with due notice to all Members of such caucuses. A quorum of the committee caucus on each committee shall consist of a majority of the Democratic Members assigned thereto. All actions by the caucuses of said committees shall require a majority of those voting, a quorum being present. Upon written request of ten Democratic Members of any committee or upon written request of a majority of the Democratic Members, whichever is less, addressed to the chairman or ranking minority member thereof to hold a committee caucus, said chairman or ranking minority member shall call such caucus within ten days of such a request. Said request shall contain the subject matter for discussion at such caucus.

Subcommittee Chairmanships or Ranking Memberships

Rule 28. Election of Subcommittee Chairmen or Ranking Minority Members

BIDDING PROCEDURE

A. Except for the Appropriations Committee, the Democratic Members of any standing committee shall have the right, at the committee caucus described in Caucus Rule 26, to bid, in order of full committee seniority, for subcommittee chairmanships or ranking minority memberships on that committee. The committee caucus of the Appropriations Committee, in its discretion, may use seniority on the subcommittee concerned, as determined by the order in which Members elect to go on the subcommittee, as the criterion for determining subcommittee chairmanships or ranking minority memberships. Any request for a subcommittee chairmanship or ranking minority membership shall be subject to approval by a majority of those present and voting by secret ballot in the committee caucus. If the committee caucus rejects a Member's bid for a subcommittee chairmanship or ranking minority membership, that Member may bid for any remaining chairmanship or ranking minority membership. If that Member is not elected to any subcommittee chairmanship or ranking minority membership the next senior Democratic Member may bid for any remaining chairmanship or ranking minority membership as in the first instance.

APPROPRIATIONS, ENERGY AND COMMERCE, FINANCIAL SERVICES, AND WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEES

B. The election of subcommittee chairmen or ranking minority members of an Appropriations subcommittee, Energy and Commerce subcommittee, Financial Services Subcommittee, or Ways and Means subcommittee shall be as follows:

1. The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall vote on each member nominated by the committee caucus of the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Ways and Means to serve as chairman or ranking minority member of an Appropriations subcommittee, Energy and Commerce subcommittee, Financial Services subcommittee, or Ways and Means subcommittee, as applicable. If a majority of those present and voting reject any nominee for chairman or ranking minority member of an Appropriations subcommittee, Energy and Commerce subcommittee, Financial Services subcommittee, or Ways and Means subcommittee, the committee caucus of the Appropriations Committee, Energy and Commerce Committee, Financial Services Committee, or Ways and Means Committee, as applicable, shall submit new nominations to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee until all such nominations have been approved. In reviewing such nominations, the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall consider all relevant

factors, including merit, length of service on the committee and degree of commitment to the Democratic agenda, and the diversity of the Caucus.

2. The full Democratic Caucus shall vote on each Member nominated to serve as chairman or ranking minority member of an Appropriations subcommittee, Energy and Commerce subcommittee, Financial Services subcommittee, or Ways and Means subcommittee following the same procedure set forth in Caucus Rule 21 for the election of standing committee chairmen or ranking minority members. If a majority of those present and voting reject any nominee for chairman or ranking minority member of an Appropriations subcommittee, Energy and Commerce subcommittee, Financial Services subcommittee, or Ways and Means subcommittee, the committee caucus of the Appropriations Committee, Energy and Commerce Committee, Financial Services Committee, or Ways and Means Committee, as applicable, shall submit new nominations to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee until such position is filled by the Caucus.

CAUCUS VOTES ON SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBERS

C. The Chairman or ranking minority member of each standing committee (except the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct) shall report to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee and the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus the names of Members selected by the committee caucus to serve as subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member. The Chairman of the Democratic Caucus shall distribute the list to the Members of the Caucus. Except as provided in paragraph (B) or (E), the Democratic Caucus shall vote on any Member so selected if a vote is recommended by the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, or is requested in writing by 50 or more Members of the Caucus to the Caucus Chairman within three legislative days. The Caucus will convene within seven legislative days to hold the election. The subcommittee chair or ranking minority member shall not exercise his or her duties until the issue is resolved by the Caucus. The debate and vote of the Democratic Caucus shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Caucus Rule 21(D). If the full Democratic Caucus disapproves of the selection of any Member as subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member a new subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member shall be selected by the appropriate committee's caucus in accordance with procedures established in paragraph (A) of this rule.

CONVICTED OR CENSURED MEMBERS

D. The full Democratic Caucus shall vote on each Member selected by a committee caucus to serve as chairman or ranking minority member of any subcommittee who, within the two years of the preceding Congress, has been convicted of a felony or has been censured by the House. The debate and vote of the full Democratic Caucus shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Caucus Rule 21 for the election of standing committee chairmen or ranking minority members. If the full Democratic Caucus disapproves of the selection of such Member as subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member, a new subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member shall be selected in accordance with procedures established in this Rule.

STEERING AND POLICY VOTES ON CERTAIN SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN OR RANKING MEMBERS WHO ALSO SERVE ON EXCLUSIVE COMMITTEES

E. If any Democratic Member who serves on any committee referred to in paragraph (B) is nominated by the committee caucus of any standing committee other than one referred to in such paragraph to serve as chairman or ranking minority member of any of its subcommittees, then the election of such member to such position shall be voted upon by the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee and the Democratic Caucus pursuant to the procedures set forth in paragraph (B) as if such subcommittee were a subcommittee of a committee referred to in such paragraph. In reviewing such nominations, the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall consider all

relevant factors, including merit, length of service on the committee and degree of commitment to the Democratic agenda, and the diversity of the Caucus.

Rule 29. Subcommittee Chairmanship or Ranking Membership Vacancies

BIDDING

A. The bidding procedure for subcommittee chairmanships or ranking memberships described in Caucus Rule 28 shall begin anew as at the beginning of a Congress when any vacancy occurs in a subcommittee chairmanship or ranking minority membership. Under Rule 31, all subsequent subcommittee positions shall then be filled. Provided, however, the Democratic caucus of the committee in question may by unanimous consent provide for a different procedure.

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES

B. A vacancy in a subcommittee chairmanship or ranking membership on the Committee on Appropriations shall be filled within 30 calendar days from the date on which the vacancy occurs in accord with the steps for selecting the subcommittee chairmen or ranking minority members on the Committee on Appropriations outlined in Caucus Rule 28.

VACANCIES AFTER MARCH 1 OF A SECOND SESSION

C. Any vacancy occurring after March 1 of the second session of a Congress may be filled for the remainder of that Congress by the next ranking Democrat on that subcommittee notwithstanding the provisions of Caucus Rule 28.

Subcommittee Membership

Rule 30. Waiver of Committee and Subcommittee Chairmanship Restrictions

After March 1 of a second session of a Congress, Members who are elected as chairman or ranking minority member of a full committee or of a subcommittee or appointed as chairman or ranking minority member of a permanent select committee with legislative jurisdiction, shall be exempt for the remainder of that Congress from the provisions of Caucus Rule 25(A) (prohibiting service on another committee), Caucus Rule 25(D) (prohibiting two subcommittee chairmanships or ranking minority memberships), and Caucus Rule 25(E) (prohibiting full committee and subcommittee chairmanships and ranking minority memberships).

Rule 31. Election of Subcommittee Members

BIDDING PROCEDURE

A. With the exception of subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee, no Member elected as a subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member shall choose a second subcommittee position before Members who served in the preceding Congress and newly elected Members, in order of their rank on the full committee, have selected one subcommittee assignment. This provision in no way precludes a subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member from bidding for an additional subcommittee position during each subsequent round of bidding.

B. The Resident Commissioner and Delegates shall bid for subcommittee chairmanships or ranking minority memberships and memberships pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (A).

C. All Democratic subcommittee positions on House standing committees shall be filled at the committee caucus pursuant to Caucus Rule 26 according to these five steps:

1. Step One - Members who served on that committee in the preceding Congress who are not subcommittee chairmen or ranking minority members shall have the option during the first round of bidding, in order of their rank on the full committee, either to retain one subcommittee assignment held on that committee in the preceding Congress (or in the case where the Democratic caucus of the committee has determined to split a subcommittee into two subcommittees, to select assignments on both of said subcommittees) or to pass and forego their right to retain any committee position held in the preceding Congress. Members of the Appropriations Committee who served on that committee in the preceding Congress shall be entitled to retain not more than two subcommittee assignments held on that committee in the preceding Congress.

2. Step Two - Members who passed in Step One shall be entitled, in order of their rank on the full committee, to select a new subcommittee assignment to the extent that subcommittee size permits. Appropriations Committee Members who retain no subcommittee assignments and new committee Members shall he entitled, in order of their rank on the full committee, to select one subcommittee position each.

3. Step Three - New committee Members shall be entitled to choose anyone subcommittee assignment to the extent that subcommittee size permits. Members of the Appropriations Committee who have only one subcommittee assignment shall be entitled, in order of their rank on the full committee, to select a second subcommittee assignment, to the extent that subcommittee size permits.

4. Step Four - Members shall be entitled to select additional subcommittee assignments during further rounds of selection in order of Members' rank on the full committee until remaining subcommittee vacancies are filled.

5. Step Five - Members who are assigned to standing committees on a temporary basis shall be entitled to select subcommittee assignments, only after steps one through four have been completed, during further rounds of selection in the order of such temporary Members' ranks on such full committee until remaining subcommittee vacancies are filled.

D. For the purposes of these rules, the term "subcommittee" refers to any panel, task force, special subcommittee, or any other subunit of a standing committee which is established for a period of longer than six months. However, such term shall not apply to a task force of the Budget Committee, except for purposes of Caucus Rule 32(A), or an investigative or adjudicatory subcommittee of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Rule 32. Limitation on Subcommittee Membership

A. No Member shall serve on more than four of the following entities:

1. subcommittees as defined in Rule 31(D);

2. subcommittees of a non-legislative select committee, excepting one such subcommittee.

B. As soon as is practicable following the organization of a Congress the Caucus shall conduct a survey to determine if any Member of the Caucus is in violation of this rule. The Caucus shall provide those Members with written notification of any such violation and shall grant those Members 30 calendar days to bring themselves into compliance with paragraph (A). If, at the end of 30 calendar days following written notification, a Member is still not in compliance, the matter will be referred to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee for disposition.

Rule 33. Subcommittee Vacancies

The steps for selecting subcommittee membership in Caucus Rule 31 shall apply to membership vacancies on subcommittees and to membership on special subcommittees or subunits, exclusive to the committee and with legislative jurisdiction, that may be created during a Congress. Subject to the provisions of Rule 29 on vacancies in subcommittee chairmanships and ranking minority memberships, new members of a committee shall be entitled to choose subcommittee assignments under Step Three of Rule 31 and all subsequent subcommittee positions shall then be chosen anew as at the beginning of a new Congress. Provided, however, the Democratic caucus of the committee in question may by unanimous consent provide for a different procedure.

Rule 34. Subcommittee Staff and Organization

The Democratic chairman or ranking minority member as the case may be, of each full committee, after appropriate consultation with the subcommittee Democratic chairmen or ranking minority members of the committee, shall control the committee budget designated for the Democratic majority or minority, as the case may be, including the responsibility to select and designate staff members, subject to the approval of a majority of the Democratic Members of said full committee. Such staff shall serve all the Democratic Members of the full committee. All committee staff appointments are subject to the approval of the Speaker or Democratic Leader as the case may be.

Floor and Conference Procedure

Rule 35. Closed Rule Limitation

NOTICE

A. When the Democratic Party is the majority party of the House it shall be the policy of the Caucus that a Democratic committee chairman or his or her designee shall not seek, and the Democratic Members of the Rules Committee shall not support any rule or order prohibiting any germane amendment to any bill reported from committee until four legislative days have elapsed following notice in the Congressional Record of an intention to do so.

AMENDMENTS

B. If, within the four legislative days following said notice in the Congressional Record, 50 or more Democratic Members give written notice to the Democratic chairman of the committee seeking the rule and to the Democratic chairman or Democratic ranking minority member of the Rules Committee that they wish to offer a particular germane amendment, the Democratic chairman or Democratic ranking minority member or his or her designee shall not seek and the Democratic Members of the Rules Committee shall not Support any rule or order relating to the bill or resolution involved until the Caucus has met and decided whether the proposed amendment should be allowed to be considered in the House.

CAUCUS MEETING

C. If 50 or more Democratic Members give notice as provided in paragraph (B) above, then notwithstanding the provisions of Caucus Rule 6, the Caucus shall meet for such purpose within three legislative days fo1lowing a request for such a Caucus to the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, and to the Chairman of the Caucus by said committee chairman, ranking minority member or designee.

NOTIFICATION TO LEADERSHIP

D. Provided, further, that notices referred to above also shall be submitted to the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, and the Chairman of the Caucus.

Rule 36. Notice of Appropriations Violations

A. It shall be the policy of the Caucus that when the Committee on Appropriations orders reported any general appropriation bill which includes any provision in violation of clause 2 of House Rule XXI and within the jurisdiction of a standing committee, it shall give notice immediately to the chairman and ranking minority member of the standing committee which has jurisdiction over such provision of the specific provisions in violation of clause 2 of House Rule XXI; provided further, that when any other committee of the House orders reported any bill, resolution or amendment thereto carrying an appropriation from a committee not having jurisdiction to report appropriations in violation of clause 4 of House Rule XXI, such committee shall give notice immediately to the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

B. It shall be the policy of the Caucus that it is the responsibility of the Committee on Appropriations to deliver copies of House-passed appropriation bills with numbered Senate amendments to the chairman and ranking minority member of the appropriate authorizing committees at least 24 hours prior to requesting appointment of conferees thereon unless the Speaker determines otherwise. It shall be the policy of the Caucus that it is the responsibility of the Committee on Appropriations upon filing of a conference report on an appropriations measure to deliver copies of the conference report and joint statement of the managers to the chairman and ranking minority member of the appropriate authorizing committees at least 24 hours' prior to floor action thereon unless the Speaker determines otherwise.

Rule 37. Committee Review of Legislation Developed by Certain Ad Hoc Task Forces

It shall be the policy of the Democratic Caucus that the standing committee or committees of jurisdiction of the House of Representatives shall have the right, for a period not less than five legislative days, to consider, review, and report on any legislative measure developed by any ad hoc Task Force appointed or designated by the Speaker.

Rule 38. Guidelines on Suspensions of House Rules

A. When being consulted on the consideration of bills or resolutions under the suspension of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Democratic Leadership shall not consent to such consideration of any measure that;

1. Has not been cleared with the Democratic Leader and the ranking Democrat(s) on the committee(s) of jurisdiction;

2. Will be amended by an amendment that was not authorized by the committee(s) of jurisdiction, is not agreed to by the ranking Democrat(s) on the committee(s) of jurisdiction, and is not available at least three calendar days in advance of consideration (including the day of consideration);

3. Is considered a “major piece of legislation”;

4. Was opposed by more than one-third of any committee reporting it;

5. Is added to the suspension list less than one day in advance of consideration (except in case of a legitimate emergency); or

6. Does not meet the requirements of Paragraphs (B)–(E) of this rule.

B. Any Committee ranking minority member supporting a request that a bill or resolution be brought up under the suspension of the Rules of the House must provide to the Democratic Leader in writing any cost estimate provided to the committee by any of the following:

1. The committee considering said bill or resolution;

2. The Congressional Budget Office;

3. The relevant executive department, agency, or instrumentality having jurisdiction in the matter; or

4. Any other department, agency, or instrumentality of the government; in every case where such an estimate indicates that the bill or resolution in question may make or authorize appropriations in excess of $100,000,000 for any fiscal year.

C. The Democratic Leader shall not consent to consideration of any bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House or Representatives in any case where a request made under paragraph (B) of this Rule contains a cost estimate in excess of $100,000,000 in any fiscal year.

D. In any case where the Democratic Leader requests the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee of the Democratic Caucus to review a request to schedule for consideration under suspension of the Rules of the House an individual bill or resolution which may make or authorize appropriations in excess of $100,000,000 (as established under paragraph (A) of this Rule) in any fiscal year, and the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee authorizes the Democratic Leader to consent to scheduling said bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House, paragraph (C) of this Rule shall not apply to such bill or resolution.

E. In any case in which the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee of the Democratic Caucus authorizes the Democratic Leader to consent to scheduling a bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House as provided in paragraph (C) of the Rule, the Democratic Leader shall not consent to such bill or resolution being scheduled under the suspension of the Rules before the fourth calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) following the day on which the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee authorized such action.

EMERGENCY PROVISION

F. Paragraph (A) of this Rule shall not apply to:

1. Any measure for the declaration of war, or extreme emergency; or

2. Any measure directly related to any executive decision, determination, or action which would become or continue to be, effective unless disapproved or otherwise invalidated by one or both Houses of Congress.

END OF SESSION

G. Paragraph (A) of this Rule shall not apply in any session after the adoption by the House of Representatives near the end of that session or a resolution waiving certain Rules of the House for the consideration of legislation for the remainder of that session.

Rule 39. Motions to Recommit and Motions to Instruct Conferees

A. All motions on the floor of the House for which Democratic Members, when in the minority party of the House of Representatives, are granted priority in recognition, including motions to recommit and motions to instruct conferees, shall be used, to the extent possible, to support the positions of the Democratic Caucus and the leadership.

B. When more than one Democratic Member proposes to offer such a motion, the Democratic Leader (or if not present and in the absence of a stated leadership position, the most senior elected Member of the leadership available) shall determine the course of action that best reflects the position of the Democratic Caucus and the Leadership. Any Democratic Member having priority in recognition to offer such a motion shall act in accordance with that determination, including, if necessary yielding one’s rights to offer such a motion to another Democratic Member.

Rule 40. Role of Subcommittee Chairman or Ranking Minority Member on House Floor

The Chairmen or ranking minority members of full committees shall, insofar as practicable, permit subcommittee chairmen or ranking members to handle on the floor legislation from their respective subcommittees.

Rule 41. Democratic Representation on Conference Committees

The Democratic Party representation on conference committees shall be no less favorable to the Democratic Party than the ratio for the full House committee when the Democratic Party is the majority party of the House of Representatives. When the Democratic Party is not the majority party of the House, the Democratic Leader shall make recommendations to the Speaker on all Democratic Members who shall serve as conferees.

Party Committees

Rule 42. Democratic Steering and Policy Committee

There shall be a House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee constituted as follows:

MEMBERSHIP

A. The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall consist of the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, the Majority Leader if the Democratic Party is in the majority, Caucus Chairman, Caucus Vice Chairman, Whip, Chairman of the Committee on Organization, Study and Review, Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, two co-chairmen, two vice chairmen, Senior Chief Deputy Whip, seven Chief Deputy Whips, a Member of the freshman class, 12 Members who shall be elected from 12 equal regions as set forth below, not to exceed 15 Members who shall be appointed by the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Appropriations, the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on the Budget, the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Rules, the Chairman of Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Financial Services, and the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE

B. The Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall serve as Chairman of the Committee, two Members appointed by him or her shall serve as Co-Chairs, and two Members appointed by him or her shall serve as Vice Chairs. The Committee shall adopt its own rules which shall be in writing; shall keep a journal of its proceedings; and shall meet upon the call of the Chairman or whenever requested in writing by four of its Members. In addition, the committee may authorize the Chairman to appoint ad hoc committees from among the entire membership of the Caucus to conduct special studies or investigations whenever necessary.

FUNCTIONS

C. The Committee is vested with authority to report its nominations for committee memberships and chairmen or ranking minority members.

D. The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee may, by majority vote, recommend a committee chairman or ranking minority member position or a subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member position be declared vacant, or may recommend the removal of a Member's committee assignment. Such a recommendation shall be circulated to the Democratic Caucus by the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

The Democratic Caucus shall meet to consider such a recommendation within five to ten legislative days after the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee reports its recommendation. Debate on any such recommendation shall be limited to 60 minutes, equally divided between proponents and opponents of the recommendation of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

If the recommendation by the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee is approved, the vacancy shall be filled pursuant to Caucus Rules 13, 21, and 28.

E. The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall assist the Leadership and the full Democratic Caucus in the establishment and implementation of a Democratic policy agenda and legislative priorities. The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall coordinate policy development and implementation and message coordination efforts between the Democratic Leadership. Party Committees, the whip organization, and Democratic Members of standing Committees. The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall supplement ongoing policy development by the chairman or ranking minority members, as the case may be, in each of the standing Committees. When practicable, the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall recommend party policy to the Democratic Caucus for approval.

REGIONS

F. The 50 States (and other areas represented in the House) shall be divided into 12 compact and contiguous regions, each containing approximately one twelfth of the Members of the Caucus. Following each election, the Chairman of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall review the number of Members in each region, and if necessary, shall submit to the Caucus for its approval changes necessary to maintain, as near as practicable, an equal number of Members in each region. The proposed changes and a list of Members in each region indicating the total years of service for each as of the start of the new Congress shall be made available to Members of the Caucus at least seven days before a Caucus which shall meet to approve or amend the regions.

REGIONAL ELECTIONS

G. Each region shall meet to elect its representatives to the committee at a time determined by the Chairman of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee and announced by written notice at least seven days in advance. The Chairman shall also designate a Member from each region to call the region's election meeting to order and to preside until a permanent presiding officer is elected, which shall be the first order of business. If at such meeting, the election of a Member to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee does not take place due to lack of quorum, the Chairman shall reschedule the meeting as soon as practicable, provided Members are given at least 48 hours notice in writing of when and where the rescheduled meeting will be held. Nominations may be made from the floor or in advance of the election meeting by written notice signed by two Members from the region other than the nominee. Written nominations must be delivered to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee office not later than 5 p.m. on the second day immediately preceding the day of the election meeting and mailed to all Members of the Caucus in that region not later than midnight of the second day immediately preceding the election meeting. Following the close of advance nominations, a ballot shall be prepared for each region containing the names of candidates nominated in advance for election from the region. Candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order and all ballots shall contain space to write in the names of Members nominated from the floor.

One-half of the Members of a region shall constitute a quorum for an election and a majority of those present and voting for a nominated candidate shall be required to elect. If more than one ballot be required, the candidate receiving the fewest votes on each ballot shall be eliminated from all succeeding votes until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

SENIORITY LIMITATION

H. If a region's representative in the preceding Congress had completed 12 or more years service at the start of his or her continuous service on the committee, he or she shall be succeeded by a member who has less than 12 years service unless that member seeks election in a newly constituted region. This provision shall not apply to the reelection of an incumbent Member of the committee who is entitled to seek another term.

TERMS OF SERVICE

I. Terms of service for Members of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall expire when a successor is elected or appointed. In the event of a regional vacancy the region shall elect a successor to fill the unexpired term. No Member shall be appointed or elected to more than two consecutive full terms. No regionally elected Member shall serve concurrently as a regional whip.

Rule 43. Regional Whips

ELECTION PROCEDURE

Regional Whips shall be elected by secret ballot in accordance with the provisions of Caucus Rule 42(G) which governs the election of regional representatives to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. In the event of a vacancy, the region shall elect a successor to fill the unexpired term. No Member shall be elected to more than two consecutive full terms as a regional Whip.

Rule 44. Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee

MEMBERSHIP

A. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall consist of the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, and one Member from each State which has Democratic representation in the House, the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, and the Delegates from American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam and the Virgin Islands who are Members of the Democratic Party, and eight additional Members who shall be appointed by the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be. The state delegations shall choose their committee Members and inform the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, of their choice, and the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall make his or her appointments no later than January 31 of the first session of a new Congress. Members of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall serve for the duration of that Congress.

NOTICE

B. No later than February 1 of the first session of a new Congress, the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall send to all Members of the Caucus a listing of the Membership of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee for that Congress.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

C. No later than February 15 of the first session of a new Congress, the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall nominate a chairman of the DCCC. Such nomination shall be submitted to the Caucus. The Caucus shall vote on that nomination, and other nominations which may be made from the floor on petition of five Members of the Caucus, at a meeting of the Caucus no later than March 1 of the first session of a new Congress. Candidates for chairman shall not necessarily already be a Member of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

TERM OF THE CHAIRMAN

D. The chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall serve while a Member of the House and until a new chairman is elected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (C).

E. 1. If a vacancy occurs in the office of chairman prior to the end of a Congress, the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall appoint a temporary chairman immediately and convene a meeting of the Democratic Congressional Campaign committee within 45 days of the vacancy to nominate a new chairman. The Caucus shall act upon that nomination and additional nominations made from the floor on petition of five Members of the Caucus within 75 days of vacancy.

2. If a vacancy in the office of chairman occurs at the beginning of a Congress, a temporary chairman shall be appointed by the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, to serve until a new chairman is elected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (C).

3. Should a state Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Member or an appointee of the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, be unable to serve a full term, the state delegation or the Speaker or Democratic Leader, as the case may be, shall fill such vacancy within 15 days.

OFFICERS

F. The Chairman shall nominate, and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall elect, as many as eight officers to assist the chairman with his or her duties. Candidates for these positions shall be Members of the Caucus. Any officer who is not, at the time of his or her election, a Member of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, shall become a Member by virtue of his or her election as an officer.

Amendment and Review of Caucus Rules

Rule 45. Procedure for Amending Caucus Rules

A. The Chairman of the Caucus shall be responsible for codifying and technically revising the Caucus Rules, and for recommending modification where advisable.

B. When a Member offers an amendment to the Democratic Caucus Rules, the Member must provide twenty (20) copies of such amendment at the time the amendment is offered.

Rule 46. Committee on Organization, Study and Review

The Caucus Chairman shall appoint a Committee on Organization, Study and Review for the purpose of review of the Caucus Rules as circumstances may indicate, with no powers other than those recommending action to the Caucus.

Rule 47. Exemptions, Exceptions and Waivers

A. Any recommendation by the Committee on Organization, Study and Review relating to an exemption or exception from, or waiver of, any rule of the Democratic Caucus with respect to any Member or group of Members shall be accompanied by a written report setting forth the reasons or arguments in support of the committee's recommendation and the arguments made in opposition to such action. Said recommendation and report shall be distributed to all Members of the Caucus before said matter is considered by the Caucus.

B. Any vote relating to a request or recommendation that a specific Member or group of Members be exempted or excepted from any rule of the Democratic Caucus, or that any such rule be waived with respect to any Member or group of Members, shall be by secret ballot.

Disciplinary Procedures

Rule 48. Temporary Step Aside of a Chairman or Ranking Minority Member Who is Indicted

A. The chairman or ranking minority member of a standing, select, special or joint committee of the Congress, or subcommittee thereof, who is indicted for a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may be imposed, shall cease to exercise the powers of chairman or ranking minority member and shall step aside in favor of the next senior Democratic Member of the committee or subcommittee concerned who shall serve as acting chairman or ranking minority member for the remainder of that Congress unless the chairman or ranking minority member resumes the chair or ranking minority membership in accord with paragraph (B) or (C).

B. If a chairman or ranking minority member steps aside and subsequently during that Congress the charges are dismissed or reduced to less than a felony as described in paragraph (A); or if the Member is found not guilty of said charges, the chairman or ranking minority member shall automatically resume the powers and duties of the office of chairman or ranking minority member unless the Caucus within 10 legislative days decides otherwise.

C. The Caucus may waive the provisions of this rule at any time by majority vote.

D. If at the start of the next Congress a Member referred to in paragraph (A) is still under indictment, the Caucus shall fill the position of chairman or ranking minority member, for which that Member shall not be eligible, on an interim basis with a Member selected in accord with Caucus Rules 21, 22, 23 or 28 as acting chairman or ranking minority member. If said chairmanship or ranking minority membership is filled in this manner, and if during that Congress the charges against said Member are dismissed, or if the Member is found not guilty of said charges, or if circumstances no longer warrant holding said chairmanship or ranking minority membership in an interim status, the chairmanship or ranking minority membership shall be determined in accord with Caucus Rules 21, 22, 23 or 28, the same as at the start of a Congress.

E. The phrase "next senior Democratic Member" in paragraph (A) shall not include the chairman or ranking minority member of a standing, select, special or joint committee or an Appropriations subcommittee.

F. The member chosen as acting committee chairman or ranking minority member in accordance with paragraph (D) shall not serve simultaneously as the chairman or ranking minority member of any other full or permanent select committee. Service as an acting committee or subcommittee chairman or ranking minority member in accordance with paragraph (D) shall not be subject to the restrictions in Caucus Rule 25(C). If an indictment against a member referred to in paragraph (A) is quashed or otherwise vitiated and the Member returns to his or her former position of chairman or ranking minority member, then the next senior Democratic Member who took the place of the indicted member shall return without prejudice to his or her former subcommittee chairmanship or ranking minority member status.

Rule 49. Automatic Replacement of a Chairman or Ranking Minority Member Who Is Censured or Convicted

A. The chairman or ranking minority member of a standing, select, special or joint committee of the Congress, or subcommittee thereof, who is censured by a vote of the House or who is convicted of a felony for which a sentence of two or more years of imprisonment may be imposed, shall cease to exercise the powers of chairman or ranking minority member, shall be replaced in such position in accord with Caucus Rules 21, 22, 23, or 28, and shall not serve as chairman or ranking minority member of any committee or subcommittee for the remainder of that Congress.

B. Immediately upon censure or conviction of many chairman or ranking minority member referred to in paragraph (A), the next senior Democratic Member of the committee or subcommittee concerned other than the chairman or ranking minority member of a standing, select, special or joint committee or an Appropriations subcommittee, shall assume the powers of chairman or ranking minority member and shall serve as acting chairman or ranking minority member until a new chairman or ranking minority member is selected or until the Caucus acts in accord with paragraph (C).

C. If circumstances so warrant, the Caucus may order that the chairman or ranking minority member step aside rather than be replaced and that the acting chairman or ranking minority member continue in such status for the remainder of that Congress only, or may waive the provisions of paragraph (A) entirely. Provided, however, that the request for action by the Caucus under this paragraph shall be made by the chairman or ranking minority member involved within 15 calendar days of the censure or conviction.

D. If a Member is replaced as chairmen or ranking minority member of a committee or subcommittee in accord with Caucus rules 21, 22, 23, or 28 and if subsequently during that Congress the conviction of said Member is reversed and all appeals are exhausted, the Member shall be presumed to have been the chairman or ranking minority member of that committee or subcommittee for the entire Congress for purposes of selecting committee and subcommittee chairmen or ranking minority members at the start of the next Congress. Provided, however, that if said Member was ordered to step aside rather than be replaced as chairman or ranking minority member, the Member shall automatically resume the powers and duties of the office of the chairman or ranking minority member unless within 10 legislative days of such reversal the Caucus decides otherwise.

Rule 50. Temporary Step Aside of a Member of the Leadership Who is Indicted

A. The Democratic Leader, the Democratic Whip, the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Caucus, the Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, or the Assistant to the Democratic Leader who is indicted for a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may be imposed shall cease to exercise the power of his or her office. The Caucus may determine who shall exercise those powers on a temporary basis.

B. If the Democratic Leader, the Democratic Whip, the Chairman or Vice Chairman or the Caucus, the Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, or the Assistant to the Democratic Leader steps aside pursuant to paragraph (A) and subsequently the charges are dismissed or reduced to less than a felony as described in paragraph (A), or if the Member is found not guilty of such charges, that Member shall automatically resume the powers and the duties of that office unless the Caucus within 10 legislative days decides otherwise.

Rule 51. Automatic Replacement of a Member of the Leadership Who is Convicted

A. The Democratic Leader, the Democratic Whip, the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Caucus, the Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, or the Assistant to the Democratic Leader who is convicted of a felony for which a sentence of two or more years of imprisonment is imposed shall cease to exercise the powers of his or her office, shall be removed from such position and shall not serve in any such position for the remainder of that Congress.

B. Immediately upon the removal of any Member from a position described in paragraph (A), the Caucus shall select a replacement in accordance with Caucus Rule 2, 4, or 44.

THE RULES OF THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE 115TH CONGRESS

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Standing Orders for the 115th Congress

CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

Resolved, that the following shall be the rules of the House Republican Conference for the 115th Congress—

RULE 1 CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

(a) INCLUSION.—All Republican Members of the House of Representatives (including Delegates and the Resident Commissioner) and other Members of the House as determined by the Republican Conference of the House of Representatives ("the Conference") shall be Members of the Conference.

(b) EXPULSION.—A ⅔ vote of the entire membership shall be necessary to expel a Member of the Conference. Proceedings for expulsion shall follow the rules of the House of Representatives, as nearly as practicable.

RULE 2 REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

(a) ELECTED LEADERSHIP.—The Elected Republican Leaders of the House of Representatives are—

(1) the Speaker;

(2) the Republican Leader;

(3) the Republican Whip;

(4) the Chair of the Republican Conference;

(5) the Chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee;

(6) the Chair of the Committee on Policy;

(7) the Vice-Chair of the Republican Conference; and,

(8) the Secretary of the Republican Conference.

(b) DESIGNATED LEADERSHIP.—The designated Republican Leaders of the House of Representatives are—

(1) the Chair of the House Committee on Rules;

(2) the Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means;

(3) the Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations;

(4) the Chair of the House Committee on the Budget;

(5) the Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce;

(6) the Chief Deputy Whip;

(7) one member of the sophomore class elected by the sophomore class; and,

(8) one member of the freshman class elected by the freshman class.

(c) LEADERSHIP ISSUES.—The Republican Leader may designate certain issues as "Leadership Issues." Those issues will require early and ongoing cooperation between the relevant committees and the Leadership as those issues evolve. A Member of the elected or designated Republican Leadership has an obligation, to the best of his or her ability, to support positions adopted by the Conference, and the resources of the Leadership shall be utilized to support that position.

(d) LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE LIMITATION.—

(1) The Speaker, Republican Leader, Whip, and the Chairs of the Republican Conference, the Committee on Policy, and the National Republican Congressional Committee shall not serve on more than one standing committee or subcommittee of the House of Representatives and in no case shall any of these individuals serve as chair of a standing committee of the House of Representatives. Upon the recommendation of the Steering Committee and the approval of the Conference this provision may be waived.

(2) If a Member shall, at any time, cease to serve in any of the Leadership positions named above, he or she may resume his or her position on the standing committee on which he or she previously served.

(e) AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE MINORITY.—

(1) THE SPEAKER AND REPUBLICAN LEADER.—During any time that the Republican Party is not the majority party of the House of Representatives, the office of Speaker shall be considered as vacant, and any reference to, or authority vested in, the Speaker under these rules shall be considered references to and authority vested in the Republican Leader.

(2) COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBERS.—During any time that the Republican Party is not the majority party of the House of Representatives, any reference to, responsibility of, or authority vested in, the chair of a committee of the House in these rules shall be considered a reference to, responsibility of, or authority vested in the Ranking Republican Member of such committee.

(f) VACANCIES IN ELECTED LEADERSHIP.—In the event of a vacancy in an office described in paragraph (a) (other than a vacancy addressed by Rule 26), that vacancy shall be filled in the manner described in Rules 3 and 4 as though as a continuation of the organizational meeting under Rule 3(a).

RULE 3 ORGANIZING CONFERENCE

(a) ORGANIZING CONFERENCE.—The organizational meeting of the Conference shall be called by the Speaker, except as otherwise provided by law. The meeting shall be held not later than the 20th day of December.

(b) ORDER OF ELECTIONS.—At the organizational meeting of the Republican Conference, the Conference shall nominate and elect the Elected Leadership for that Congress in the following order—

(1) the Speaker;

(2) the Republican Leader;

(3) the Republican Whip;

(4) the Chair of the Republican Conference;

(5) the Chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee;

(6) the Chair of the Committee on Policy;

(7) the Vice-Chair of the Republican Conference; and,

(8) the Secretary of the Republican Conference.

Except that during any time that the Republican Party is not the majority party of the House of Representatives, there shall be no election held for the office of Speaker.

(c) Prior to the convening of the organizational meeting called pursuant to paragraph (a), the current Chair of the Republican Conference shall call a meeting to provide each of the announced candidates for Elected Leadership time to make an oral presentation and entertain questions from Members of the Conference. In establishing the time, date, and format of such meeting, the Chair shall consult with all announced candidates for Elected Leadership and a cross-section of Members of the Conference.

RULE 4 CONFERENCE ELECTION PROCEDURES

(a) VOTES BY SECRET BALLOT.—All contested elections shall be decided by secret ballot, and no proxy voting shall be allowed.

(b) NOMINATIONS.—

(1) Candidates for office shall be nominated in alphabetical surname order.

(2) For each Leadership nomination there shall be one nominating speech (not to exceed three minutes in length), and there may be two seconding speeches (each not to exceed one minute in length).

(c) BALLOTING PROCEDURES.—When there are more than two candidates for any office and none receives a majority of the votes on the first ballot, a quorum being present, the candidate with the lowest number of votes on that and each succeeding ballot will be dropped from the ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes, a quorum being present.

RULE 5 CONFERENCE MEETINGS

(a) CALL AND NOTICE.—Meetings of the Republican Conference may be called at any time by the chair of the Conference, after consultation with the Speaker.

(b) SPEAKER'S ANNUAL MEETING.—The Speaker shall hold an annual Meeting at the beginning of each session of Congress at which the Republican Leadership shall report to the membership on their plans for the upcoming session.

(c) With respect to a meeting called under this rule, whenever possible, at least 24 hours' notice of the time, place, and agenda of a meeting shall be given to Members of the Conference.

(d) DECORUM.—Meetings of the Republican Conference shall be conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the rules of the House of Representatives, including rule XVII, that govern decorum and the personal behavior of the Members of the Conference.

RULE 6 RULES OF PROCEDURE AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

(a) RULES OF THE HOUSE.—The rules of the House of Representatives, insofar as they are applicable, shall govern the proceedings of the Republican Conference.

(b) MOTIONS.—

(1) No motion shall be available other than those described in clause 4 of Rule XVI (relating to the precedence of motions) or rule XIX (relating to motions after the amendment stage) of the rules of the House of Representatives.

(2) When a motion has been made and carried or lost, it shall be in order for any member of the prevailing side, in the same or succeeding meeting of the Republican Conference, to move for the reconsideration thereof. The procedures for reconsideration shall be consistent with the rules of the House.

(c) RESOLUTIONS.—

(1) Any matter to be considered by the Republican Conference shall be in the form of a resolution.

(2) REFERRAL OF RESOLUTIONS, GENERALLY.—

(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (3), all resolutions brought before the Republican Conference shall be referred by the Chair to the appropriate committee for consideration.

(B) RESOLUTIONS PROPOSING A CHANGE IN REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE RULES.—

i. A resolution proposing a change to the rules of the Republican Conference shall be referred to an ad hoc committee for the purpose of consideration of that measure.

ii. The committee shall be appointed by the Speaker and chaired by the senior Republican member of the Committee on rules of the House.

iii. In making the appointments under this subparagraph, the Speaker shall appoint at least one Member who is a proponent of the resolution.

(3) PRECEDENCE OF RESOLUTIONS OFFERED BY THE SPEAKER.—The Speaker, or a designee, may present any resolution to the Conference for its immediate consideration.

(d) PETITIONS.—

(1) DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE.—

(A) A resolution which has 25 or more signatures of Members shall be considered by the appropriate committee of the Republican Conference as soon as practicable and reported back to the Conference.

(B) If the resolution is not acted on by the committee to which it was referred in a timely manner, a petition of 50 or more Members will discharge the resolution for consideration before the Conference.

(2) PETITION FOR A SPECIAL MEETING.—

(A) If 20 percent of the Members of the Republican Conference petition the Chair for a special meeting of the Conference, the chair shall schedule such special meeting as soon as practicable.

(B) The Chair shall provide a means by which Members may submit such a petition or other evidence of support electronically.

(e) SUSPENSION PROCEDURE.—Two-thirds of the Members voting, a quorum being present, may suspend the Conference rules. All motions to suspend the rules shall be seconded by a majority, if demanded. The consideration of a motion to suspend the rules, to the extent practicable, shall follow the rules of the House.

RULE 7 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: QUORUM

A majority of the Members of the Conference shall constitute a quorum.

RULE 8 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: SECRET BALLOT

On demand of one Member, with the support of five others, the vote on any matter properly pending before the Conference shall be taken by secret ballot.

RULE 9 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: ADMITTANCE

(a) The Chair may decide whether meetings of the Conference shall be open or closed to the public, subject to an appeal by any Member.

(b) The Chair may designate Leadership staff or other eligible persons to attend Conference meetings which are closed to the public. Those individuals shall be excused at the discretion of the Chair.

(c) Upon timely notice from the Chair, an executive session of the Conference may be called. This meeting shall be closed to all persons except Members of the Conference.

(d) On the demand of one Member, with the support of 25 others, a Conference meeting shall be taken into executive session.

RULE 10 CONFERENCE MEETINGS: JOURNAL

The Secretary of the Conference shall keep a journal of the Conference proceedings and each journal entry shall be signed by the Conference Secretary and the Conference Chair. The journal shall be open for inspection at the request of any Member of the Conference.

RULE 11 REPUBLICAN STEERING COMMITTEE

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—

(1) There is hereby established a Republican Steering Committee which shall recommend to the Republican Conference—

(A) the membership of the standing committees; and

(B) the chairs of the standing committees.

(2) The Republican Steering Committee shall interview each Member seeking election as chair of a standing committee before making its recommendation, even if that Member served as chair of such standing committee in the prior congress.

(3) This subsection shall not apply to a standing committee listed in Rule 12.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Republican Steering Committee shall be comprised of—

(1) the Speaker, who shall serve as its chair;

(2) the Republican Leader;

(3) the Republican Whip;

(4) the Chief Deputy Whip;

(5) the Chair of the Republican Conference;

(6) the Chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee;

(7) the Chair of the Committee on Policy;

(8) the Vice-Chair of the Republican Conference;

(9) the Secretary of the Republican Conference;

(10) the former Chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee;

(11) the chair of a standing committee when the Steering Committee is considering members for election to such standing committee;

(12) a Member designated by the Speaker;

(13) Members elected by geographic regions of the Conference;

(14) a Member elected by the sophomore class; and

(15) a Member elected by the freshman class.

(c) ELECTION OF REGIONAL AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) (A) Prior to the election of the Members elected pursuant to subsection (b)(13) of this rule, the Republican Conference shall adopt a resolution establishing the structure of such regions.

(B) i. The Speaker shall appoint a task force of Members to recommend a regional plan.

ii. If the task force is unable to recommend a regional plan to the Speaker, the Speaker shall recommend a regional plan to the Republican Conference.

(C) It shall not be in order to consider the regional plan until the third calendar day (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays, unless the House is in session on such day) on which the regional plan has been available to Members.

(D) Any proposed amendments to the regional plan shall be submitted to the Republican Conference not later than the calendar day prior to consideration of the regional plan by the Republican Conference. The Chair of the Republican Conference shall make all such amendments available to the Members of the Republican Conference prior to consideration of any such amendment.

(2) It shall not be in order to elect regional and class representatives to the Republican Steering Committee until the second calendar day (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays, unless the House is in session on such day) after adoption of the regional plan. Any such election shall be conducted by secret ballot.

(d) VOTING STRENGTH.—Each member of the Republican Steering Committee shall have a single vote, except the Speaker, who shall have 4, and the Republican Leader, who shall have 2.

(e) DEFINITION.— For purposes of this rule, the term "regional plan" shall mean a plan establishing geographic regions for purposes of electing representatives under subsection (b)(13) of this rule.

RULE 12 ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR STANDING COMMITTEES

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) The Republican Steering Committee shall recommend to the Republican Conference the Republican Members of the standing committees of the House of Representatives, except as otherwise provided in this rule.

(2) In those cases where the Steering Committee nominated Members for membership on standing committees, the Steering Committee shall recommend directly to the House of Representatives the Republican Members to fill vacancies on standing committees which occur following the organization of a Congress. Whenever possible, a vacancy shall be filled within thirty days while Congress is in session.

(b) ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES.—

(1) NOMINATION.—The Speaker shall nominate the Republican Members of the Committee on Rules, including the chair. These nominations shall be submitted to the Conference along with the other nominees from the Steering Committee.

(2) REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATION.—If the Republican Conference rejects the nominee for Chair of the Committee on Rules, the Speaker shall again submit a nomination to the Conference.

(3) RETENTION OF SENIORITY RIGHTS.—A Member newly assigned to the Rules Committee shall have the option of being "on leave with seniority" from one standing committee on which he or she served previously. At such time as service on the Rules Committee shall cease, such member shall have the right to return to active membership on that standing committee with the relative seating and seniority accumulated during his or her tenure on the Rules Committee.

(c) ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—

(1) CHAIR.—The Republican Steering Committee shall nominate the Member to serve as the Chair of the Committee on the Budget. Limits on the term of service for the Chair shall be determined by the Rules of the House.

(2) LEADERSHIP MEMBER.—The Speaker shall appoint one member to serve on the committee. That Member will serve as the second highest-ranking Republican on the committee.

(3) NOMINATION OF OTHER MEMBERS.—The Steering Committee shall recommend members from the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Rules for service on the Committee on the Budget in such numbers as may be consistent with the Rules of the House. Chairs and Leadership Members are considered towards these requirements if that member also happens to serve on the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Ways and Means, or the Committee on Rules.

(d) ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) NOMINATION.—The Speaker shall nominate the Republican Members of the Committee on House Administration, including the Chair. These nominations shall be submitted to the Conference along with the other nominees from the Steering Committee.

(2) REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATION.—If the Republican Conference rejects the nominee for Chair to the Committee on House Administration, the Speaker shall again submit a nomination to the Conference.

RULE 13 APPOINTMENTS TO JOINT AND SELECT COMMITTEES

The Speaker shall recommend to the House all Republican Members of such joint, select, and ad hoc committees as shall be created by the House, in accordance with law.

RULE 14 NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

(a) NOMINATIONS BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE.—

(1) The Republican Steering Committee shall nominate the Republican Members who shall serve as chairs, except as provided in Rules 12 and 13. The Member nominated by the Steering Committee for this position need not be the Member with the longest consecutive

service on the Committee, and such nominations shall be out of order except as recommended in the report of the Steering Committee.

(2) The Republican Steering Committee may also designate the Republican Members who shall serve as Vice Chair. The Member designated by the Steering Committee for this position need not be the Member with the longest consecutive service on the Committee.

(b) VOTING PROCEDURE.—The Conference shall vote by secret ballot on each recommendation of the House Republican Steering Committee for the position of Chair. The call of the Conference at which such balloting will take place shall name and list the individuals recommended by the Committee.

(c) REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATIONS.—If the Republican Conference fails to approve a recommendation of the Steering Committee with respect to a nomination for the position of Chair, the matter shall be automatically recommitted without instructions to that Committee.

(d) OBLIGATION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS.—

(1) The Republican Chair of each committee has an obligation to ensure that each measure on which the Republican Conference has taken a position is managed in accordance with such position on the Floor of the House of Representatives.

(2) (A) If the chair of a committee receives a written request from the sponsor of a measure requesting a hearing on that measure and the measure is:

i. primarily referred to such committee;

ii. cosponsored by a majority of the members of the Republican Conference; and

iii. cosponsored by not fewer than 1/3 of the Republican members of such committee; then the chair of such committee shall schedule a hearing on the measure within 15 legislative days and hold such hearing not later than 30 legislative days after receipt of such request or prior to the sine die adjournment of the congress in which such request is made, whichever occurs first.

(B) This provision shall not apply to a measure directing the Secretary of the Treasury to strike and issue a commemorative coin or strike a Congressional Gold Medal, or a measure naming a postal facility.

(e) TERM LIMITATION.—No individual shall serve more than three consecutive terms as chair or Ranking Member of a standing, select, joint, or ad hoc committee or subcommittee beginning with the 104th Congress.

(f) CANDIDATES FOR OTHER OFFICES.—If a Chair of a committee addressed by Rule 14 or a subcommittee addressed by Rule 19(b) publicly announces his or her intention to seek an elected office in Federal, State, or local government, that Member shall resign as chair of such committee or subcommittee and the next ranking Republican Member shall serve as acting chair until such time as the Committee on Steering nominates a replacement consistent with this rule. This paragraph may be waived by an affirmative vote of the Steering Committee.

RULE 15 LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

No individual shall serve as chair of more than one standing committee or subcommittee except for the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct; or the Committee on House Administration; or any joint, select, or ad hoc committee; or any subcommittee thereof. Provided, however, that upon recommendation of the Steering Committee and approval of the Conference this provision shall be waived.

RULE 16 VACANCIES IN COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS

A vacancy which occurs during a session of Congress for the position of Chair shall be filled in accordance with Rule 14. Whenever possible, a vacancy shall be filled within thirty days while Congress is in session.

RULE 17 COMMITTEE ORGANIZING CAUCUSES

(a) Each Committee shall have an organizing caucus of the Republican Members before the organizing meeting of the full committee. The committee chair shall call the meeting, giving at least three days written notice to all Republican Members of the committee.

(b) During any time in which the Republican Party is the majority party in the House of Representatives, the chair of a committee shall seek to the maximum extent possible to avoid overlapping scheduling of subcommittee meetings in order to assure maximum Member participation.

RULE 18 PERIODIC COMMITTEE CAUCUSES

Meetings of a committee caucus shall be called if requested by a majority of the Republican Members of the Committee or at any time by the chair. A majority of the Members may request a meeting provided the request to the chair is in writing and states the subject matter to be discussed at the meeting. A meeting so requested must be called by the chair within ten days after receipt of the written request, and after notice to all committee caucus Members.

RULE 19 ELECTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) In accordance with Rule 15, the method for the selection of chairs of the Committee's subcommittees shall be at the discretion of the full Committee chair, unless a majority of the Republican Members of the full Committee disapprove the action of the chair.

(2) The chair shall formalize in writing for the other Republican Members of the Committee the procedures to be followed in selecting subcommittee chairs and individual subcommittee assignments and shall do so in advance of the Committee's organization. The procedures may be modified by a majority vote of the Republican Members of the full Committee.

(b) APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS.—The Chair of the Committee on Appropriations shall bring his nominations for the subcommittee chairs to the Republican Steering Committee for approval. If any nomination is rejected by the Steering Committee, the Chair shall submit the new nomination(s) in a timely fashion.

RULE 20 VACANCIES IN THE POSITION OF SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

Vacancies in the position of subcommittee chairs shall be filled according to the procedures established by the various committees in accordance with Rule 19.

RULE 21 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

No Member shall serve on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for more than three consecutive terms.

RULE 22 COMMITTEE ON POLICY

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) The Committee on Policy shall be an advisory committee to the Membership of the House Republican Conference. The Committee on Policy shall meet at the call of the Chair of the Committee on Policy or the Speaker, and shall discuss legislative proposals with Republican Members of the appropriate standing and special committees and with such other Republican Members as the Chair may invite to meetings.

(2) The Committee on Policy shall report its suggestions for Republican action and policy to the Republican Members of the House. The Chair of the Committee on Policy may appoint, in consultation with the Speaker, such subcommittees from the Republican Members of the House for such purposes as may be deemed appropriate.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Committee on Policy shall be composed of:

(1) One Member elected from each region, State, or group of States under the Steering Committee structure;

(2) Two Members elected by the sophomore class and one Member elected by the freshman class;

(3) The House Republican Leadership, as designated by Rule 2;

(4) One Member from each standing committee of the House appointed by the Speaker; and,

(5) Such Members-at-large as may be appointed by the Speaker.

(c) SENIORITY.—The traditions and privileges of seniority shall not apply to membership of the Committee on Policy and the Committee may, at its direction, make such rules as are necessary for conduct of its business.

RULE 23 THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

(a) COMPOSITION.—The National Republican Congressional Committee ("NRCC") shall be composed of an executive committee of 38 members, to be composed of—

(1) the Speaker;

(2) the Republican Leader;

(3) the Republican Whip;

(4) the Chair of the Republican Conference;

(5) the Chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee;

(6) the Chair of the Committee on Policy;

(7) the Vice Chair of the Republican Conference;

(8) the Secretary of the Republican Conference; and,

(9) Thirty members appointed to serve on the executive committee by the Chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

(A) Appointments pursuant to this subparagraph shall be reported to the Conference for its approval.

(B) The Conference shall vote by secret ballot on each such recommendation.

(C) If the Republican Conference fails to approve a recommendation of the Chair of the NRCC with respect to a nomination, the matter shall be automatically recommitted to the Chair of the NRCC without instructions.

(b) DUTIES.—The duties of the National Republican Congressional Committee shall be to—

(1) act as counsel and advisor to the Members of the House Republican Conference;

(2) furnish support services to the extent consistent with the rules of the House; and,

(3) have oversight in election campaigns in all general and special elections for membership in the House of Representatives.

RULE 24 REPUBLICAN PERSONNEL

(a) The House Republican Conference hereby vests in the Speaker supervisory authority over all Republican employees of the House of Representatives, and direct authority over the Republican Floor Assistants and Republican Conference.

(b) The Speaker is hereby empowered to offer recommendations and advise the Republican Conference as to the location and use of all personnel and funds, appropriated or otherwise, of the Republican Conference or any committee or officer thereof including but not limited to: the Republican Whip, the Republican Committee on Policy and the National Republican Congressional Committee, to avoid duplication and improve coordination and best utilization of those assets.

(c) The funds appropriated for the offices of the Republican Leader, the Republican Whip, and the Republican Conference may be allocated and utilized by the Republican Leader, the Republican Whip and the Chair of the Republican Conference, respectively, only after a budget, prepared in consultation with the Speaker, detailing the proposed use of such funds has been established.

(d) The Speaker shall provide general personnel referral services to Republican Members and such other services as he or she deems necessary.

(e) The staff employed by the elected Republican Leadership as defined under Rule 2, or under the direct authority of the Speaker, will be considered a unified staff, although directly responsible to the employing office, will work for all others of the Leadership as directed by the Speaker in consultation with the employing office.

RULE 25 TEMPORARY STEP ASIDE OF A CHAIR WHO IS INDICTED

(a) The chair of a standing, select, joint or ad hoc committee, or any subcommittee thereof, who is indicted for a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may be imposed, shall step aside in favor of the next ranking Republican Member of the committee or subcommittee concerned who shall serve as acting chair for the remainder of the Congress, unless the Steering Committee nominates a Member consistent with Rule 14, or unless the chair resumes his position in accord with paragraphs (b) or (c) of this rule.

(b) If a chair steps aside and subsequently during that Congress the charges are dismissed or reduced to less than a felony as described in paragraph 1 of this section, or if the Member is found not guilty of said charges, the chair shall automatically resume the powers and duties of the position of the Chair unless the Conference within 10 legislative days decides otherwise.

(c) The conference may waive the provisions of this rule at any time by majority vote.

RULE 26 TEMPORARY STEP ASIDE OF A MEMBER OF LEADERSHIP WHO IS INDICTED

(a) A Member of the leadership shall step aside if indicted for a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may be imposed.

(b) If a Member of the Republican leadership is indicted, the Republican Conference shall meet and elect a Member to temporarily serve in that position.

RULE 27 AUTOMATIC REPLACEMENT OF A CHAIR WHO IS CENSURED OR CONVICTED

(a) The chair of a standing, select, joint or ad hoc committee of the Congress, or subcommittee thereof, who is censured by a vote of the House or who is convicted of a felony for which a sentence of two or more years imprisonment may by imposed, shall cease to exercise the powers of the chair and shall not serve as chair of a committee or subcommittee for the remainder of the Congress. The position will be considered vacant under the rules of the Conference.

(b) The rule is in effect for any indictments or convictions handed down subsequent to the adoption of the rule.

RULE 28 GUIDELINES ON SUSPENSION OF HOUSE RULES

(a) The Republican Leader shall not schedule, or request to have scheduled, any bill or resolution for consideration under suspension of the rules which—

(1) fails to include a cost estimate;

(2) has not been the subject of a notification to the minority;

(3) creates a new program, unless it also eliminates or reduces a program of equal or greater size;

(4) authorizes appropriations without including a sunset provision;

(5) authorizes an increase in authorizations, appropriations, or direct spending in any given year, unless fully offset by at least an equal reduction in current spending;

(6) expresses appreciation, commends, congratulates, celebrates, recognizes the accomplishments of, or celebrates the anniversary of, an entity, event, group, individual, institution, team or government program; or acknowledges or recognizes a period of time for such purposes; or

(7) directs the Secretary of the Treasury to strike a Congressional Gold Medal unless—

(A) the recipient is a natural person;

(B) the recipient has performed an achievement that has an impact on American history and culture that is likely to be recognized as a major achievement in the recipient's field long after the achievement;

(C) the recipient has not received a medal previously for the same or substantially the same achievement;

(D) the recipient is living or, if deceased, has not been deceased for less than five years or more than twenty-five years;

(E) the achievements were performed in the recipient's field of endeavor, and represent either a lifetime of continuous superior achievements or a single achievement so significant that the recipient is recognized and acclaimed by others in the same field, as evidenced by the recipient having received the highest honors in the field; and

(F) adoption of such measure does not cause the total number of measures authorizing the striking of such medals in that congress to substantially exceed the average number of such measures enacted in prior congresses.

(b) A waiver of this rule can be granted by the majority of the Elected Leadership as defined under Rule 2.

RULE 29 TRANSPARENCY

(a) To the maximum extent practicable, the Chair shall make the text of matters adopted during the organizational conference held pursuant to Rule 3 publicly available in electronic form.

(b) Not later than January 31 of each odd-numbered year, the Chair shall make available in electronic form to all Members of the Conference a listing of the various boards, commissions, and committees that include appointees by the Speaker or the Majority Leader.

STANDING ORDERS FOR THE 115TH CONGRESS

EARMARK MORATORIUM.—It is the policy of the House Republican Conference that no Member shall request a congressional earmark, limited tax benefit, or limited tariff benefit, as such terms have been described in the Rules of the House.

POLICY STATEMENTS ON ARTICLE I POWERS.—

(a) It is the policy of the Republican Conference that all Members of the Republican Conference shall, to the maximum extent practicable, draft legislation so as to preserve Congress' authorities under Article I of the Constitution. It is further the policy of the Republican Conference that authorizing committees shall, as agencies and programs are reauthorized—

(1) seek opportunities to move, where appropriate, mandatory programs with automatic funding streams to the annual appropriations process to increase oversight and accountability; and

(2) limit agency discretion in implementing statutes and rulemaking through more effective drafting practices for bills and committee reports, including, to the maximum extent practicable, provisions to allow congressional review of new major regulations as defined in the Congressional Review Act, so as to limit executive overreach.

(b) IT IS FURTHER THE POLICY OF THE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE THAT—

(1) the Majority Leader shall prioritize measures that seek to preserve Congress' authorities under Article I of the Constitution when scheduling the House Floor, which should periodically include, after receiving concurrence from the appropriate committee chairs of primary jurisdiction, designated floor time for consideration of single-issue bills related to exercising such authorities; and

(2) the Republican Conference shall periodically schedule Planning Conferences to include the topic of preserving and exercising Article I of the Constitution.

GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LAND CONVEYANCES.—It shall not be a violation of House Republican Conference rules, House rules, or any general protocols to enact a government-to-government land conveyance.

RULES OF THE

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

115th Congress

Joe Crowley, Chair

Linda T. Sánchez, Vice Chair

Approved by the Democratic Caucus

July 18, 2017

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DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise specified within a Rule:

- All references to “Speaker” refer to the Democratic Caucus nominee for Speaker and, when in the minority, the Democratic Leader.
- All references to “Caucus Chair” refer to the Chair of the Democratic Caucus.
- All references to the “Chair” when in reference to a committee of the House, or a subcommittee thereof, should be read to mean the Democratic Chair or the Democratic Ranking Member.
- All references to the “Caucus” refer to the Democratic Caucus of the House of Representatives.
- All references to “Rules” refer to the Rules of the Democratic Caucus unless otherwise specified.
- All references to “Member” or “Members” are references to one or more Democratic Members (or Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico) of the entity named, such as the Caucus, House committees, or House committees’ subcommittees.
- The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall be referenced as the “DCCC.”
- The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall be referenced as “Steering and Policy.”
- Co-Chairs, the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee shall be referenced as “DPCC Co-Chairs.”
- The Caucus Leadership Representative shall be referenced as “CLR.”
- The Freshmen Leadership Representative shall be referenced as “FLR.”

Title I: Rules Related to Caucus Organization and Operation

Rule 1. Caucus Membership

A. All Members of the House of Representatives, the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, and the Delegates from American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands who are Members of the Democratic Party shall be prima facie Members of the Democratic Caucus of the House of Representatives.

1. Except that when a Member resigns from the Democratic Party or acts affirmatively to change political parties, the Member shall automatically cease to be a Member of the Caucus.

a) Such acts shall be limited to:

(i) Changing party registration in his or her home state, or

(ii) Filing for office as a candidate for nomination of or accepting the nomination of another political party, unless the Member files for or accepts the nomination of another party in addition to accepting the nomination of the Democratic Party.

2. The following procedures shall govern when a Member chooses to leave the Democratic Party.

a) The Caucus Chair shall notify a Member in writing when he or she ceases to be a Member of the Caucus in accordance with subparagraph 1.

b) The Member shall have the opportunity to request reinstatement, provided the request has the support in writing of at least five Members.

(i) Within 10 days of such a request, the Caucus shall meet.

(ii) The Member shall be reinstated by a majority vote, by secret ballot, at the meeting.

c) If the Member is not reinstated within 30 days of receiving notification, the Caucus Chair shall notify the Speaker of the House that the Member is no longer a Member of the Democratic Caucus.

3. The Caucus may expel any Member by a two-thirds vote.

B. In order to maintain membership in good standing, Members shall not participate in campaign activities for any candidate in a partisan federal election who is not a Member of the Democratic Party.

Rule 2. Party Leaders and Officers of the Caucus

A. The Caucus shall nominate a candidate for Speaker of the House of Representatives.

1. During any time that the Democratic Party is not the majority party of the House of Representatives, any reference to, and any authority vested in, the Speaker under these rules shall be considered references to and authority vested in the Democratic Leader.

B. The Caucus shall elect the Democratic Leader, the Democratic Whip, and the Assistant Democratic Leader.

C. The Caucus shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair.

1. No Member shall be elected to serve as Chair or Vice Chair of the Caucus for more than two consecutive full terms.

2. The Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair during the temporary absence of the Chair. The Chair or Vice Chair shall have the right to name any Member to perform the duties of the Chair during a temporary absence.

D. The Caucus shall elect a Chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee at a meeting of the Caucus no later than March 1 of the first session of a new Congress.

1. Candidates for Chair shall not necessarily already be a Member of the DCCC.

2. The Chair of the DCCC shall serve while a Member of the House and until a new Chair is elected.

3. If a vacancy in the office of the Chair occurs at the beginning of a Congress, the Speaker shall appoint a temporary Chair to serve until a new Chair is elected pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph.

4. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair prior to the end of a Congress, the Speaker shall appoint a temporary Chair immediately and convene a meeting of the DCCC within 45 days of the vacancy to nominate a new Chair.

a) The Caucus shall act upon that nomination and additional nominations made from the floor on petition of five Members of the Caucus within 75 days of vacancy.

E. The Caucus shall elect three Co-Chairs of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee.

1. The Caucus shall elect three Members who will serve as the DPCC Co-Chairs who will be elected through a multi-candidate election. Each Member will cast votes for up to three candidates, and the top three vote-getters will be elected.

2. No Member shall be elected to more than two consecutive full terms.

F. The Caucus shall elect a Caucus Leadership Representative.

1. The Caucus shall elect a Member who has served five terms or less to serve as the CLR. That person will be elected by majority vote of the Members who have served five terms or less, when a quorum of their membership is present and voting.

2. No Member shall be elected to serve as CLR more than one full term.

G. The Caucus shall elect a Freshmen Leadership Representative.

1. The Caucus shall elect a Member of the freshmen class who will serve in leadership as the FLR. That person will be elected by majority vote of the Members of the freshmen class, when a quorum of their membership is present and voting.

Rule 3. Caucus Election Procedures

Except as otherwise provided by another rule, the following provisions shall apply to all elections in the Caucus or in entities of the Caucus:

A. A quorum, which shall consist of a majority of the Members of the Caucus, shall be required to proceed.

B. The name of each candidate shall be placed in nomination.

1. Nominations shall be limited to not more than one 5-minute nominating speech and three 2-minute seconding speeches on behalf of each candidate so nominated.
2. For the positions of the DPCC Co-Chairs, CLR, and FLR, the Caucus Chair may, in consultation with the candidates and the Caucus, establish alternate time limits for nominations.

C. After nominating and seconding speeches, balloting shall proceed without interruption or recess from ballot to ballot until one candidate has received the votes of a majority of those present and voting, or other requirements detailed below. Such candidate shall be declared elected.

1. All votes shall be by secret ballot, except when a motion is made to waive the secret ballot or on committee lists where no secret ballot is demanded under Rule 20.
2. If there are more than two candidates, the nominated candidate receiving the fewest votes on the first and each succeeding ballot shall be eliminated, and votes for such candidate shall not be tallied or considered except for the purpose of determining the number of Members present.
3. Votes cast for a person whose name was not placed in nomination shall not be counted nor considered except to determine the proper majority necessary for election.
4. If two or more candidates tie for fewest votes on the first ballot or on subsequent ballots, neither shall be eliminated; should this occur for a second time, however, both shall be eliminated.
5. Following any ballot, a candidate wishing to withdraw shall be entitled to recognition for one minute for the purpose of so advising the Caucus.
6. For the position of DPCC Co-Chairs, the winners shall be determined by the three candidates who receive the most votes, with a quorum being present.

Rule 4. Temporary Step-Aside of a Member of the Leadership Who Is Indicted

A. The Speaker, Democratic Leader, the Democratic Whip, Assistant Democratic Leader, the Chair or Vice Chair of the Caucus, the Chair of the DCCC, any one of the DPCC Co-Chairs, CLR, or FLR who is indicted for a felony for which a sentence of two or more years of imprisonment may be imposed shall cease to exercise the power of his or her office.

B. Upon the step-aside of the Member, the Caucus may determine who shall exercise those powers on a temporary basis.

C. If the Member steps aside pursuant to paragraph (A), and subsequently the charges are dismissed or reduced to less than a felony as described in paragraph (A), or if the Member is found not guilty of such charges, that Member shall automatically resume the powers and the duties of that office unless the Caucus within 10 legislative days decides otherwise.

Rule 5. Automatic Replacement of a Member of the Leadership Who Is Convicted

A. The Speaker, Democratic Leader, the Democratic Whip, Assistant Democratic Leader, the Chair or Vice Chair of the Caucus, the Chair of the DCCC, any one of the DPCC Co-Chairs, CLR, or FLR who is convicted of a felony for which a sentence of two or more years of imprisonment is imposed shall cease to exercise the powers of his or her office, shall be removed from such position and shall not serve in any such position for the remainder of that Congress.

B. Immediately upon the removal of any Member from a position described in paragraph (A), the Caucus shall select a replacement in accordance with Rules 2 or 3.

Rule 6. Nominations for Officers of the House

A. The Speaker shall recommend to the Caucus nominees for the Officers of the House, such as the Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, and Chief Administrative Officer.

B. The Caucus shall vote on the nominations.

1. Upon a demand supported by 10 or more Members, a separate vote, by secret ballot, shall be had on any nomination. Any debate on such a demand, made and properly supported, shall be limited to no more than 30 minutes with the time equally divided between proponents and opponents of the nomination.

2. If a majority of those present and voting reject a nominee, the Speaker shall be entitled to submit new nominations until the position is filled.

Rule 7. Calling and Scheduling Caucus Meetings

A. The Caucus shall meet regularly while the House of Representatives is in session.

B. Meetings of the Caucus shall be called by the Caucus Chair upon his or her own motion, at the request of the Speaker, or upon the written request of 50 Members.

C. Members shall not schedule committee meetings or hearings at times when the Caucus is in session.

Rule 8. Notice and Agenda of Caucus Meetings

A. The Caucus Chair shall set the time and place of each meeting of the Caucus and shall provide Members with an agenda listing all matters to be considered by noon on the fifth day preceding the day on which the Caucus meeting is convened.

1. The Caucus Chair may waive the five-day notice requirement with reasonable notice to Members when the purpose of the meeting is to consider a veto override, legislation that has been reported to the House, or legislation scheduled for House consideration.

B. An addition to the agenda shall not be in order except as specified in this paragraph.

1. The agenda for each meeting called with five days' notice shall include any matter requested in writing by five or more Members and delivered to the office of the Caucus Chair on the same day the notice and agenda were issued under paragraph (A).

a) The Caucus Chair shall provide Members with written notification of any addition to the agenda under this subparagraph not later than 5 p.m. the following day.

b) This subparagraph shall not apply to any meeting for which the five-day notice requirement has been waived by the Caucus Chair.

2. The agenda shall include additional items requested by the Caucus Chair or by the Speaker, or upon petition by 50 Members delivered to the office of the Caucus Chair by noon on the second day preceding the day on which the Caucus meeting is convened.

a) The Caucus Chair shall provide Members with written notification of any addition to the agenda under this subparagraph not later than 5 p.m. the same day.

3. By a two-thirds vote of the Caucus, where the additional matter has been available for at least two hours.

C. It shall not be in order to offer an amendment to a resolution being considered in Caucus that adds language directing or instructing the Democratic Members of a committee on any matter, unless the intent to instruct said Members was noticed in accord with the provisions of this rule.

D. A meeting of the Caucus may, at the call of the Caucus Chair or upon motion, be recessed and later reconvened for continuation of properly noticed business, at a time and place designated, except during election balloting as provided in Rule 3(C).

Rule 9. Admittance to and Procedure in Caucus Meetings

A. No persons, except Members of the Caucus, a Caucus Transcript Clerk, and other necessary employees shall be admitted to a meeting of the Caucus without the express permission of the Caucus Chair.

B. Quorum

1. A quorum of the Caucus shall consist of a majority of the Members of the Caucus.

2. If the absence of a quorum is established, the Caucus Chair may continue the meeting for purposes of discussion only. No motion of any kind, except a motion to recess or adjourn, shall be in order at a continued meeting.

3. Subject to the provisions of Rules 3 and 9(G) regarding secret ballots, a quorum call or roll call may be taken by electronic or other means, provided Members shall have not less than 15 minutes in which to have their vote or presence recorded.

C. Parliamentary Procedure

1. The procedures, motions, and five-minute rule that apply when the House of Representatives is operating as the Committee of the Whole, with such special rules as may be adopted, shall govern the meetings of the Caucus.

2. Two-thirds of the Members voting may suspend the Caucus Rules. Consideration of a motion to suspend the rules, including the discretion of the Caucus Chair whether or not to entertain such a motion, shall follow the rules of the House.

D. Proxy voting is not allowed in the Democratic Caucus, nor in subunits of the Caucus, including Democratic caucuses of House committees and subcommittees.

E. The Caucus shall keep a transcript of its proceedings pertaining to elections and amendments to these rules, which shall be available for inspection by any Member of the Caucus upon request.

F. Any question shall be decided by secret ballot or other non-record vote if a majority so demands, before the yeas and nays are ordered.

G. The yeas and nays on any question (except elections under Rule 3) before the Caucus shall, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered in the transcript, and a copy of each record vote shall be distributed to each Member of the Caucus.

Rule 10. Democratic Steering and Policy Committee

There shall be a Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

A. Membership

1. The Speaker shall serve as Chair of Steering and Policy, two Members elected by the membership of Steering and Policy shall serve as Co-Chairs, and two Members appointed by the Speaker shall serve as Vice Chairs.

2. The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee shall consist of the Speaker, the Democratic Leader, Democratic Whip, Assistant Democratic Leader, Caucus Chair, Caucus Vice Chair, Chair of the DCCC, Chair of the Committee on Caucus Procedures, the two co-chairs of Steering and Policy, the two vice chairs of Steering and Policy, Senior Chief Deputy Whip, all Chief Deputy Whips, a Member of the freshmen class, 12 Members who shall be elected from 12 equal regions as set forth in Rule 11, up to 15 Members who shall be appointed by the Speaker, the Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, the Chair of the Committee on the Budget, the Chair of the Committee on Rules, the Chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Chair of the Committee on Financial Services, the Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, the DPCC Co-Chairs, the CLR, and the FLR.

3. Terms of Service for Members of Steering and Policy shall expire when a successor is elected or appointed.

4. No Member shall be appointed or elected to more than two consecutive full terms.

B. Procedure

1. Steering and Policy shall adopt its own rules, which shall be in writing.

2. Steering and Policy shall keep a journal of its proceedings.

3. Steering and Policy shall record all committee waivers, grandfathering, and special permissions in a manner that will be available to Members.

4. Steering and Policy shall meet upon the call of the Chair of Steering and Policy or whenever requested in writing by four of its Members.

5. Steering and Policy may authorize its Chair to appoint ad hoc committees from among the entire membership of the Caucus to conduct special studies or investigations whenever necessary.

C. Functions

1. Steering and Policy is vested with authority to:

   a) Report its nominations for House committee memberships.

   b) Report its nominations for House committee Chairs.

2. Steering and Policy is vested with authority to recommend vacating chairmanships and removing Members from committees.

   a) By majority vote, the Committee may recommend:

      (i) That a House committee Chair or a subcommittee Chair position be declared vacant; or

      (ii) The removal of a Member's House committee assignment.

b) Such a recommendation shall be circulated to the Caucus by the Caucus Chair.

(i) The Caucus shall meet to consider such a recommendation within five to 10 legislative days after the Committee reports its recommendation. Debate on any such recommendation shall be limited to 60 minutes, equally divided between proponents and opponents of the recommendation of the Committee.

(ii) If the recommendation of the Committee is approved, the vacancy shall be filled pursuant to Rules 19, 21, and 28.

3. Steering and Policy is vested with authority to render assistance in policy development and implementation.

a) Steering and Policy shall assist the Leadership and the full Democratic Caucus in the establishment and implementation of a Democratic policy agenda and legislative priorities.

b) Steering and Policy shall coordinate policy development and implementation and message coordination efforts between the Democratic Leadership, the whip organization, Members of standing committees, and other Caucus entities.

c) Steering and Policy shall supplement ongoing policy development by the Chairs of each of the standing committees.

d) When practicable, Steering and Policy shall recommend policy to the Caucus for approval.

Rule 11. Regions, Regional Elections and Regional Whips

A. The 50 States (and other areas represented in the House) shall be divided into 12 compact and contiguous regions, each containing approximately 1/12 of the Members of the Caucus.

1. Following each election, the Chair of Steering and Policy shall review the number of Members in each region, and if necessary, shall submit to the Caucus for its approval changes necessary to maintain, as near as practicable, an equal number of Members in each region.

2. The proposed changes and a list of Members in each region indicating the total years of service for each as of the start of the new Congress shall be made available to Members of the Caucus at least seven days before a Caucus meeting to approve or amend the regions.

B. Each region shall meet to elect its representatives to Steering and Policy at a time determined by the Chair of Steering and Policy and announced by written notice at least seven days in advance.

1. The Chair of Steering and Policy shall also designate a Member from each region to call the region's election meeting to order and to preside until a permanent presiding officer is elected, which shall be the first order of business.

2. Nominations may be made from the floor or in advance of the election meeting by written notice signed by two Members from the region other than the nominee.

a) Written nominations must be delivered to Steering and Policy office not later than 5 p.m. of the second day immediately preceding the day of the election meeting and distributed to all Members of the Caucus in that region not later than midnight of the second day immediately preceding the election meeting.

b) Following the close of advance nominations, a ballot shall be prepared for each region containing the names of candidates nominated in advance for election from the region. Candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order and all ballots shall contain space to write in the names of Members nominated from the floor.

c) If more than one ballot is required, the candidate receiving the fewest votes on each ballot shall be eliminated from all succeeding votes until one candidate has received the votes of a majority of the votes cast.

3. One-half of the Members of a region shall constitute a quorum for an election and a majority of those present and voting for a nominated candidate shall be required to elect.

a) If the election of a Member to Steering and Policy does not take place due to lack of quorum, the Chair of Steering and Policy shall reschedule the meeting as soon as practicable, provided Members are given at least 48 hours' notice in writing of when and where the rescheduled meeting will be held.

4. If a region's representative in the preceding Congress had completed 12 or more years' service at the start of his or her continuous service on Steering and Policy, the region's next representative shall be a Member who has less than twelve years' service, unless the incumbent Member seeks election in a newly constituted region.

a) This provision shall not apply to the reelection of an incumbent Member of the committee who is entitled to seek another term.

5. In the event of a regional vacancy the region shall elect a successor to fill the unexpired term.

C. Regional Whips shall be elected by secret ballot, according to the provisions of Rule 11(B), which governs the election of regional representatives to Steering and Policy.

1. In the event of a vacancy, the region shall elect a successor to fill the unexpired term.

2. No Member shall be elected to more than two consecutive full terms as a Regional Whip.

3. No regionally elected Member of Steering and Policy shall serve concurrently as a regional whip.

Rule 12. Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee

A. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shall consist of the Speaker; one Member from each state that has Democratic representation in the House; the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, and the Delegates from American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands who are Members of the Democratic Party; and eight additional Members who shall be appointed by the Speaker.

1. The state delegations shall choose their Committee Members and inform the Speaker of their choice, and the Speaker shall make the Speaker's appointments no later than January 31 of the first session of a new Congress.

2. No later than February 1 of the first session of a new Congress, the Speaker shall send to all Members of the Caucus a listing of the membership of the DCCC for that Congress.

3. Members of the DCCC shall serve for the duration of that Congress.

B. Should a state's DCCC Member or an appointee of the Speaker be unable to serve a full term, the state delegation or the Speaker shall fill such vacancy within 15 days.

C. The Chair shall nominate, and the DCCC shall elect, as many as eight officers to assist the Chair with his or her duties.

a) Candidates for these positions shall be Members of the Caucus.

b) Any officer who is not, at the time of his or her election, a Member of the DCCC, shall become a Member by virtue of his or her election as an officer.

D. Additionally, Members shall elect five Regional Vice Chairs to assist the Chair of the DCCC. Members of each region shall elect their Vice Chair. Should more than one Member of a region run for the position, a secret ballot vote of the region's Members shall be used to elect the Vice Chair.

Rule 13. Committee on Caucus Procedures

The Caucus Chair shall appoint a Committee on Caucus Procedures for the purpose of reviewing the Caucus Rules as circumstances may indicate, with no powers other than to recommend action to the Caucus.

Rule 14. Procedure for Amending Caucus Rules

A. The Chair of the Caucus shall be responsible for codifying and revising the Caucus Rules, and for recommending modifications where advisable.

B. When a Member offers an amendment to the Caucus Rules, the Member must provide 20 copies of such amendment at the time the amendment is offered.

Rule 15. Exemptions, Exceptions, and Waivers of Caucus Rules

A. Any recommendation by the Committee on Caucus Procedures relating to an exemption or exception from, or waiver of, any rule of the Democratic Caucus with respect to any Member or group of Members shall be accompanied by a written report setting forth the reasons or arguments in support of the Committee's recommendation and the arguments made in opposition to such action. The recommendation and report shall be distributed to all Members of the Caucus before the matter is considered by the Caucus.

B. Any vote relating to a request or recommendation that a specific Member or group of Members be exempted or excepted from any rule of the Democratic Caucus, or that any such rule be waived with respect to any Member or group of Members, shall be by secret ballot.

Title II: Rules Related to Committees

Rule 16. Committee Ratios; Temporary Assignments to Committees

A. The Democratic Leadership shall work to ensure that committee ratios are at least as representative of the number of Democrats in the House of Representatives and that each panel include the greatest number of Democrats possible.

B. The Speaker should negotiate full committee ratios so that when all Members have committee assignments, Rule 18 is being complied with.

C. If additional committee positions remain available after all Members receive assignments, Steering and Policy shall, when possible, leave those additional positions vacant to ensure flexibility if more Members are elected during a Congress.

1. However, if Steering and Policy decides it is in the best interest of the Caucus to fill a vacant committee position, Steering and Policy shall fill those positions with temporary assignments, such that any Member receiving temporary assignment:

a) does not obtain seniority on that committee;

b) may not participate in the bidding process for any subcommittee position, but may fill any temporary subcommittee position remaining after all other Members of that committee have completed the bidding process;

c) can be removed at any time if a Member is selected to serve as a permanent Member of that committee; and

d) is removed from the committee at the end of the Congress for which the temporary assignment was made.

Rule 17. Classification of Committees

For the purposes of these Rules, the following committee designations shall apply:

A. The Committees on Appropriations, Ways and Means, and Rules shall be “exclusive” committees.

1. The Energy and Commerce Committee shall be an “exclusive” committee for all Members first serving on the committee in the 104th and subsequent Congresses.

2. The Financial Services Committee shall be an “exclusive” committee for all Members first serving on the committee in the 109th and subsequent Congresses.

B. The Committees on Agriculture; Armed Services; Budget; Education and the Workforce; Foreign Affairs; Homeland Security; House Administration; Judiciary; Natural Resources; Oversight and Government Reform; Science, Space and Technology; Small Business; Transportation and Infrastructure; and Veterans’ Affairs shall be considered “non-exclusive” committees.

1. The Energy and Commerce Committee shall be considered a "non-exclusive" committee for Members who served on the committee before the 104th Congress.

2. The Financial Services Committee shall be a “non-exclusive” committee for all Members first serving on the committee before the 109th Congress.

Rule 18. Restrictions on Committee Memberships

A. No Member of an exclusive committee shall also serve on another exclusive or non-exclusive committee.

1. Except that service on the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on House Administration shall be exempt from this provision.

B. No Member shall serve on more than two committees with legislative jurisdiction.

1. Except that the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Ethics shall be exempt from this provision.

C. A Member shall be entitled to take a leave of absence from service on any committee or subcommittee during the period the Member serves on the Committee on the Budget. Seniority rights on each such committee and subcommittee to which the Member was assigned at the time shall be fully protected as though the Member had continued to serve during the period of the leave of absence.

D. No Member shall serve as a Member of the Committee on Ethics during more than three Congresses in any period of five successive Congresses, disregarding for this purpose any service performed as a Member of the Committee for less than a full session of any Congress.

E. No Member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence may serve on more than one standing committee during that Member's term of service on the select committee.

1. Members shall be entitled to take leaves of absence from service on any committee or subcommittee thereof during the period they serve on the Select Committee. Seniority rights on each such committee and subcommittee, to which they were assigned at the time shall be fully protected as though the Member had continued to serve during the period of the leave of absence.

F. No Member shall serve as a Member of the Committee on the Budget during more than three Congresses in any period of five successive Congresses, disregarding for this purpose any service performed as a Member of the Committee for less than a full session in any Congress.

1. Except that an incumbent Chair, having served on the Committee for three Congresses and having served as Chair for not more than one Congress, shall be eligible for reelection to the Committee as Chair for one additional Congress.

2. Except that this limitation shall not apply to the Member appointed to the Committee by the Speaker.

Rule 19. Nominations for Membership on Standing Committees

A. Steering and Policy shall recommend to the Caucus nominees for membership on the standing committees of the House, one committee at a time.

1. Except that the Speaker shall recommend to the Caucus nominees for membership on the Committee on Rules and the Committee on House Administration.

2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph (B), Steering and Policy shall recommend to the Caucus nominees for membership on the Committee on the Budget, Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Ways and Means in the means described in the appropriate following paragraphs.

B. With respect to the consideration of nominees by Steering and Policy:

1. Steering and Policy shall automatically consider a Member for nomination to the committee membership to which the Member aspires, upon a letter from a Member signed by 50 percent or more of said Member's state Democratic delegation, including said Member.

a) The Chair of Steering and Policy shall see that such Member's name is placed in nomination.

b) Except that this provision shall not apply to nominations for the Committee on Rules or the Committee on House Administration.

2. Steering and Policy shall consider all relevant factors, including merit, length of service on the committee, degree of commitment to the Democratic agenda, and the diversity of the Caucus, in making nominations for committee assignments.

3. Steering and Policy need not necessarily follow seniority in making nominations for committee assignments.

4. Steering and Policy shall not discriminate on the basis of prior occupation or profession in making nominations for committee assignments.

C. With respect to the Committee on the Budget:

1. The Speaker shall appoint a leadership Member of the Committee; and

2. Steering and Policy shall nominate for membership on the Committee and election by the Caucus:

   a) When the Democratic Party is the majority party of the House of Representatives, three Members of the Appropriations Committee, three Members of the Ways and Means Committee, at least one Member of the Rules Committee, and the requisite number of Members of other committees to fill all remaining Democratic seats.

   b) When the Democratic Party is not the majority party of the House of Representatives, two Members of the Appropriations Committee, two Members of the Ways and Means Committee, and the requisite number of Members of other committees to fill all remaining Democratic seats.

3. All selections of Members to serve on the Committee shall be made without regard to seniority.

4. A list of said nominees shall be distributed to all Members of the Caucus prior to the election meeting described in Rule 20.

D. With respect to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means:

1. Steering and Policy shall report the nomination of any Member who served on the Committee on Appropriations or the Committee on Ways and Means in the preceding Congress to the Caucus for action pursuant to Rules 19 and 20.

2. Steering and Policy shall nominate one Member for each Democratic vacancy of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Appropriations and distribute to all Members at least 24 hours' before the election meeting the name(s) of its nominee(s).

E. Members may nominate additional candidates to the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on the Budget by written notice signed by five Members other than the nominee. Such nominations must be delivered to the offices of the Caucus Chair and the Caucus Vice Chair by the close of business on the day immediately preceding the election meeting. The Caucus Chair or Vice Chair shall distribute a list of all nominees to Members of the Caucus before the election.

F. Members of the same class nominated to membership on a committee at the same time shall be ranked for seniority purposes by the method chosen by Steering and Policy.

1. This paragraph shall not apply to the Committees on Rules and House Administration, and is subject to the special procedures provided in Rule 20(A)(1) for selection of Members of the Committee on the Budget.

Rule 20. Procedure for Electing Members to Standing Committees Chairs

A. Once recommendations for membership on the committees of the House are received from Steering and Policy or, for the Rules Committee and the House Administration Committee, from the Speaker, the Caucus shall vote, one committee at a time, on memberships, except as provided in paragraph (B).

1. The Caucus shall use the following procedures for election to membership on the Committee on the Budget.

a) The Caucus shall elect one Member to serve as Chair of the Committee on the Budget. The election of the Chair (who by virtue of his or her election is a Member of the Committee) shall precede the election of other Members to the Committee. The Member selected as Chair shall be counted as having filled one position in the appropriate category as described in Rule 19(C)(2).

b) Following election of the chair, election of other Members shall be by ballot that lists all candidates by category in the order they were nominated.

c) A majority of those present and voting for a nominated candidate shall be required to elect; provided however, that any ballot which contains votes for more or fewer candidates than there are vacancies to be filled in each category shall not be counted.

2. The Caucus shall use the following procedures for election to membership on the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means.

a) Election shall be by ballot that lists all candidates in the order they were nominated, and a majority shall be required to elect; provided, however, that any ballot which contains votes for more or fewer candidates than there are vacancies to be filled shall not be counted.

B. Upon a demand supported by 10 or more Members, the Caucus shall hold a separate vote, by secret ballot, on any individual Member of a committee.

1. Debate shall be limited to not more than 30 minutes with the time equally divided between proponents and opponents, upon a demand made and properly supported.

2. If the noes prevail on any such vote, the list for the committee in question shall be recommitted to Steering and Policy for the sole purpose of implementing the direction of the Caucus.

3. Except that if any nominee is rejected for membership to the Committee on Rules or the Committee on House Administration, the Speaker shall be entitled to submit new nominations until any such positions are filled.

4. Except that this paragraph shall not apply to nominees to the Committee on the Budget, or nominees to fill vacancies on the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Rule 21. Nomination and Election of Committee Chairs of Standing Committees; Committees' Selection of Vice Chairs

A. Except as provided in this paragraph, Steering and Policy shall nominate one Member of each standing committee for the position of Chair.

1. Steering and Policy shall consider all relevant factors, including merit, length of service on the committee, degree of commitment to the Democratic agenda, and the diversity of the Caucus, in making nominations for Chair.

2. Steering and Policy need not necessarily follow seniority in making nominations for Chair.

3. With the exception of the Committee on the Budget, only Members who have been recommended for membership on the committee shall be eligible for nomination as Chair.

a) Nomination and election by the Caucus of the Chair of the Budget Committee shall be in accordance with the provisions of Rules 3, 18(F)(1), 19(C), 20(A)(1), and this rule.

4. Steering and Policy shall conduct secret ballots for each Chair of the standing committees and shall count all such ballots for which there is more than one nomination.

5. The Speaker shall recommend to the Caucus a nominee for Chair of the Committee on Rules and the Committee on House Administration.

a) Debate and balloting on a nominee as Chair of the Committee on Rules or the Committee on House Administration shall be subject to the same provisions as apply to the nominations of Chairs of other committees under Rule 3 and this rule.

B. If the nominee of Steering and Policy or the Speaker for Chair of a committee was the Chair of the committee in the previous Congress who was re-elected and who is eligible for the position,

1. No other nominations shall be allowed and the Caucus shall vote by secret ballot to approve or disapprove that nominee alone; and no debate shall be allowed unless requested by the nominee or by a Member who wishes to speak in opposition to the nomination, provided that the request to speak in opposition is supported by three or more Members.

a) Except that additional nominations shall be in order from the floor of the Caucus and election shall be in accord with the provisions of Rule 3(B) if:

(i) At least 14 Members of Steering and Policy voted for candidates other than the Member nominated for Chair of a standing committee; or

(ii) At least 50 Members request, in writing, that nominations be considered in addition to the nominee of Steering and Policy.

b) If subparagraph 1 does not apply, additional nominations shall be in order from the floor of the Caucus in accord with the provisions of Rule 3(B).

C. Debate on any nomination for Chair of a committee shall be limited to 60 minutes, equally divided between proponents and opponents of the nominee. Debate time on a nomination shall be extended only by a majority vote of the Caucus.

D. If a majority of those present and voting reject a nominee of Steering and Policy for Chair of a committee, Steering and Policy shall report a new nomination to the Caucus within five days.

1. The Caucus shall meet five to 10 days after Steering and Policy makes the new nomination, in order to consider the new nominee and any additional nominations offered from the floor. Should additional nominations be made from the floor, the election shall be conducted in accord with Rule 3, subject to the debate provided under paragraph (C) of this rule.

2. Except that if a majority of those present and voting reject a nominee for Chair of the Committee on Rules or the Committee on House Administration, the Speaker shall be entitled to submit to the Caucus a new nomination until that position is filled.

E. Each committee shall have a Member, who must have served on that committee fewer than five terms, serve as the Committee Vice Chair or Vice Ranking Member. The purpose of this position is to provide an opportunity for a junior Member to gain insight and experience into the workings of the committee. Procedures for selecting the Vice Chair or Vice Ranking Member are as follows:

1. The membership of each standing committee shall elect one Member who will serve as Vice Chair or Vice Ranking Member.

   a) When the Democratic Party is the majority party in the House of Representatives, each Committee Chair shall then designate the elected Vice Chair as the Vice Chair under House Rule XI(d).

2. The individual shall be selected in a manner consistent with the following requirements:

   a) The position of Vice Chair or Ranking Member does not amend, adjust or interfere with succession, seniority on committee, or seating arrangement.

   b) Should more than one Member of a committee seek the position, a secret ballot vote of the committee Members shall be used to elect the Vice Chair or Ranking Member.

   c) The term of the Vice Chair or Ranking Member will be limited to one term.

Rule 22. Limitations on Chairmanships of Committees and Subcommittees; Exceptions to Limitations

A. No Chair of an exclusive or non-exclusive committee may serve on another exclusive or non-exclusive committee;

1. Except that this limitation shall not apply to the Chairs of the Committees on the Budget, Foreign Affairs, House Administration, Natural Resources, Oversight and Government Reform, Science, Space and Technology, Small Business, and Veterans' Affairs.

B. No Chair of an exclusive or non-exclusive committee or select committee with legislative jurisdiction shall serve as a Member of the Committee on Ethics.

C. No Chair of a full committee shall serve simultaneously as the Chair of any other standing, select, permanent select, special, ad hoc, or joint committee:

1. Except that the Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means Committee may also serve as Chair of the Joint Committee on Taxation;

2. Except that the Chair of the Committee on House Administration may also serve as Chair of the Joint Committee on Printing and the Joint Committee on the Library; and

3. Except that the Caucus may grant an exemption in the case of an ad hoc committee.

D. No Chair of a full committee or a select committee with legislative jurisdiction shall serve as the Chair of a subcommittee of that committee or any other such full committee:

1. Except that this limitation shall not apply to the Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Ethics, the Committee on House Administration, or Joint Committees.

E. Except that Rules 22(A) (prohibiting service on another committee), 22(D) (prohibiting two subcommittee chairs) and 28(F) (prohibiting full committee and subcommittee chairs) shall not apply for the remainder of the Congress to Members who are elected as Chair of a full committee or subcommittee, or appointed as Chair of a permanent select committee with legislative jurisdiction, after March 1 of the second session of a Congress.

Rule 23. Filling a Vacancy in the Position of Chair of a Committee

A. Should a vacancy in the position of a Chair of a committee occur due to the death, retirement or resignation of the Chair, the position shall be filled within 30 calendar days from the date on which the vacancy occurred in accord with the steps for selecting committee Chairs described in Rule 21.

B. The nominee of the Caucus for the vacancy will be submitted to the House of Representatives at the earliest practicable date thereafter.

Rule 24. Temporary Step-Aside of a Chair Who Is Indicted

A. A Chair of a standing, select, special or joint committee of the Congress, or subcommittee thereof, who is indicted for a felony for which a sentence of two or more years of imprisonment may be imposed, shall cease to exercise the powers of Chair and shall step aside.

B. The next senior Member of the committee or subcommittee concerned who is not the Chair of a standing, select, special or joint committee or an Appropriations subcommittee, shall serve as acting Chair for the remainder of that Congress unless the Chair resumes the chair in accord with paragraphs (C) or (E).

C. If during the same Congress the charges are dismissed or reduced to less than a felony as described in paragraph (A), or if the Member is found not guilty of said charges, the Member shall automatically resume the powers and duties of the office of Chair unless the Caucus within 10 legislative days decides otherwise.

D. If at the start of the next Congress, the Member referred to in paragraph (A) is still under indictment, the Caucus shall fill the position of Chair, for which that Member shall not be eligible, on an interim basis with a Member selected in accord with Rules 20, 21, and 28 as acting Chair.

1. If said Chair position is filled in this manner, and if during that Congress the charges against said Member are dismissed, or if the Member is found not guilty of said charges, or if circumstances no longer warrant holding said Chair in an interim status, the Chair shall be determined in accord with Rules 20, 21, and 28, the same as at the start of a Congress.

2. The acting committee Chair shall not serve simultaneously as the chair of any other full or permanent select committee.

3. Service as an acting committee or subcommittee Chair or in accordance with this paragraph shall not be subject to the restrictions in Caucus Rule 22(B).

4. If an indictment against a Member referred to in paragraph (A) is quashed or otherwise vitiated and the Member returns to his or her former position of Chair, then the next senior Member who took the place of the indicted Member shall return without prejudice to his or her former subcommittee chair status.

E. The Caucus may waive the provisions of this rule at any time by majority vote.

Rule 25. Automatic Replacement of a Chair Who Is Censured or Convicted

A. The Chair of a standing, select, special, or joint committee of the Congress, or subcommittee thereof, who is censured by a vote of the House or who is convicted of a felony for which a sentence of two or more years of imprisonment may be imposed, shall cease to exercise the powers of Chair and shall not serve as Chair of any committee or subcommittee for the remainder of that Congress.

B. Immediately upon censure or conviction of any Chair referred to in paragraph (A), the next senior Member of the committee or subcommittee concerned who is not the Chair of a standing, select, special or joint committee or an Appropriations subcommittee, shall assume the powers of acting Chair until a new Chair is selected or until the Caucus acts in accord with paragraph (D).

C. The Member described in paragraph (A) shall be replaced in such position in accord with Rules 20, 21, and 28.

D. Subsequent to a request made by a Chair described in paragraph (A) within 15 calendar days of his or her censure or conviction, the Caucus may order, if circumstances so warrant, that the Chair step aside rather than be replaced and that the acting Chair continue in such status for the remainder of that Congress only, or may waive the provisions of paragraph (A) entirely.

1. If subsequently during that Congress the conviction of the Member described in paragraph (D) is reversed and all appeals are exhausted, the Member shall automatically resume the powers and duties of the office of the Chair unless within 10 legislative days of such reversal the Caucus decides otherwise.

E. If a Member described in paragraph (A) was replaced as Chair of a committee or subcommittee pursuant to paragraph (C), and if subsequently during that Congress the conviction of said Member is reversed and all appeals are exhausted, the Member shall be presumed to have been the Chair of that committee or subcommittee for the entire Congress for purposes of selecting committee and subcommittee Chairs at the start of the next Congress.

Rule 26. Committee and Subcommittee Staff

A. The Chair of each full committee shall control the committee budget designated for the Democratic majority or minority after appropriate consultation with the subcommittee Chairs of the committee.

B. The Chair shall select and designate Democratic committee staff Members subject to the approval of a majority of the Members of the full committee. Such staff shall serve all of the Members of the full committee.

C. All committee staff appointments are subject to the approval of the Speaker.

Rule 27. Committee Caucus Organizational Meeting

A. There shall be a caucus of each standing committee and any other committee with legislative jurisdiction consisting of all Members of the committee, hereafter referred to as the "committee caucus".

1. At the start of each Congress, the Chair of each standing committee (except the Committee on Ethics) or other committee with legislative jurisdiction shall call a meeting of the committee caucus, giving at least three days' notice to all Members of the committee.

a) The Chair shall call the meeting subsequent to the House Democratic Caucus approval of the committee lists but prior to the organizational meeting of the full committee.

b) The committee caucus shall fill the positions of subcommittee Chairs, and subcommittee Members in accordance with procedures described in Rules 27 through 30.

c) If, within 10 days after the organization or reorganization of any committee, a Member of the committee raises a point of order against the organization or reorganization of that committee with the Chair of the Democratic Caucus on the grounds that the Caucus rules have been violated, the Caucus Chair shall inform the Chair of that committee of the point of order.

d) If the point of order is sustained by the Caucus Chair and if the committee has not brought itself into compliance within five legislative days of receipt of the communication of the Caucus Chair, the matter will be referred to Steering and Policy for disposition.

B. When the Democratic Party is the majority party of the House of Representatives, the committee caucuses as described in paragraph (A) shall approve and secure adoption of committee rules incorporating the following principles:

1. Prior to the start of the bidding process for subcommittee Chairs positions and assignments, the caucus of each committee shall establish the number of subcommittees, fix the jurisdiction of each subcommittee, and determine the size of each subcommittee.

a) The Resident Commissioner and Delegates shall not be counted in determining committee and subcommittee sizes for purposes of this rule.

b) Subcommittee size shall be limited to no more than sixty percent of the size of the full committee.

c) If the committee caucus determines to change the size of any subcommittee after the start of the bidding process, it may do so, but in that event, all previous action on the bidding process shall start anew.

d) No panel, task force, special subcommittee, or any other subunit of a standing committee may be created without the knowledge of the full committee Chair and the concurrence of the caucus of that committee. The Chair of the committee shall notify the Caucus Chair within seven days of the creation of any panel, task force, special subcommittee, or any other subunit of a standing committee.

2. Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the committee on all matters referred to it. Subcommittee Chairs shall set meeting dates after consultation with the Chair and other subcommittee Chairs with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings wherever possible.

3. All legislation and other matters referred to a committee shall be referred to all subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction within two weeks unless, by majority vote of the Members of the full committee, consideration is to remain with the full committee.

C. When the Democratic Party is the majority party of the House of Representatives, the committee caucus shall determine an appropriate ratio of Democratic to minority party Members for each subcommittee and shall authorize a Member or Members to negotiate that ratio with the minority party.

1. Party representation on each subcommittee, including ex-officio Members, shall be no less favorable to the Democratic Party than the ratio for the full committee.

2. The Resident Commissioner or Delegates shall not be counted for purposes of this provision.

D. Periodic meetings of the committee caucus may be called by the Chair of the committee, or a majority of the Members of a committee caucus, with due notice to all Members of the committee of such caucuses.

1. The Chair shall call a meeting of the committee caucus within 10 days of a written request of 10 Members of the committee or of a majority of the Members of the committee, whichever is less, addressed to the Chair, to hold a committee caucus. Said request shall contain the subject matter for discussion at such caucus.

2. All actions by a committee caucus shall require a majority of those voting, a quorum being present.

3. A quorum of a committee caucus shall consist of a majority of the Members assigned to the committee.

Rule 28. Election of Chairs of Subcommittees; Exceptions to Limitations

A. The Members of any standing committee shall have the right, at the committee caucus described in Rule 27, to bid, in order of full committee seniority, for the positions of Chair of the subcommittees of that committee.

1. Except that the committee caucus of the Appropriations Committee, in its discretion, may use seniority on the subcommittee concerned, as determined by the order in which Members elect to go on the subcommittee, as the criterion for determining subcommittee Chairs.

2. Any request for a subcommittee Chair shall be subject to approval by a majority of those present and voting by secret ballot in the committee caucus.

3. If the committee caucus rejects a Member's bid for the position of subcommittee Chair, that Member may bid for any remaining position of Chair of a subcommittee.

a) If that Member is not elected to serve as Chair of any subcommittee, the next senior Member may bid for any remaining subcommittee Chair positions as in the first instance.

4. The Resident Commissioner and Delegates shall bid for the positions of subcommittee Chair pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph and Rule 30(A).

B. The Chair of each standing committee shall report to Steering and Policy and the Caucus Chair the names of Members selected by the committee caucus to serve as subcommittee Chairs. The Caucus Chair shall distribute the list to the Members of the Democratic Caucus.

1. Except as provided in paragraph (C) or (D), the Democratic Caucus shall vote on any Member so selected if Steering and Policy recommends such a vote, or it is requested in writing by 50 or more Members and is submitted to the Caucus Chair within three legislative days.

a) The subcommittee Chair shall not exercise his or her duties until the issue is resolved by the Caucus.

b) The Caucus will convene within seven legislative days to hold the election.

c) The debate and vote of the Democratic Caucus shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Caucus Rule 21(C).

d) If the full Caucus disapproves of the selection of any Member as subcommittee Chair, the appropriate committee caucus shall select a new subcommittee Chair in accordance with procedures established in paragraph (A) of this rule.

2. Except that Rule 28(B) shall not apply to the Committee on Ethics.

C. Steering and Policy shall vote on the nomination of each Member nominated by the appropriate committee caucus to serve as the Chair of a subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Financial Services, or the Committee on Ways and Means.

1. If a majority of those present and voting reject any nominee for Chair, the relevant committee caucus shall submit new nominations to Steering and Policy until all such nominations have been approved.

2. In reviewing such nominations, Steering and Policy shall consider all relevant factors, including merit, length of service on the committee, degree of commitment to the Democratic agenda, and the diversity of the Caucus.

3. The full Democratic Caucus shall vote on each such nominee following the same procedure set forth in Rule 21 for the election of standing committee Chairs.

4. If a majority present and voting rejects any such nominee, the appropriate committee caucus shall submit new nominations to Steering and Policy until such position is filled by the Caucus.

D. Steering and Policy and the Democratic Caucus shall vote on the nomination of any Member who serves on the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Financial Services, or the Committee on Ways and Means, who serves on any other standing committee and who is nominated by the committee caucus of the other standing committee to serve as Chair of a subcommittee of that other committee, pursuant to the procedures set forth in paragraph (C).

1. In reviewing such nominations, Steering and Policy shall consider all relevant factors, including merit, length of service on the committee and degree of commitment to the Democratic agenda, and the diversity of the Caucus.

E. The full Democratic Caucus shall vote on the nomination of any Member selected by a committee caucus to serve as Chair of any subcommittee who, within the two years of the preceding Congress, has been convicted of a felony or has been censured by the House.

1. The debate and vote of the full Democratic Caucus shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Caucus Rule 21 for the election of standing committee Chairs.

2. If the full Caucus disapproves of the selection of any Member as subcommittee Chair, the appropriate committee caucus shall select a new subcommittee Chair in accordance with procedures established in paragraph (A) of this rule.

F. No Member shall serve as Chair of more than one subcommittee of a full committee or select committee with legislative jurisdiction.

1. Except that this limitation shall not apply to the Committee on House Administration, Committee on Ethics, and Joint Committees.

G. Members who are elected as Chair of a full committee or of a subcommittee or are appointed as Chair of a permanent select committee with legislative jurisdiction after March 1 of the second session of a Congress shall be exempt for the remainder of that Congress from the provisions of:

1. Rule 22(A), prohibiting service on more than one committee;

2. Rule 22(D), prohibiting full committee and subcommittee chairmanships; and

3. Rule 28(F), prohibiting two subcommittee chairmanships.

Rule 29. Filling a Vacancy in the Position of Chair of a Subcommittee

A. When a vacancy in the position of subcommittee Chair occurs, the bidding procedure described in Rule 28 shall begin anew as at the beginning of a Congress.

1. All subsequent subcommittee positions shall then be filled pursuant to Rule 30.

2. Provided, however, the committee caucus of the committee in question may by unanimous consent provide for a different procedure.

3. Any vacancy occurring after March 1 of the second session of a Congress may be filled for the remainder of that Congress by the next senior Member on that subcommittee, notwithstanding the provisions of Caucus Rule 28.

B. A vacancy in the position of subcommittee Chair on the Committee on Appropriations shall be filled within 30 calendar days from the date on which the vacancy occurs in accord with the steps for selecting the subcommittee Chairs on the Committee on Appropriations outlined in Caucus Rule 28.

Rule 30. Procedure for Electing Members to Subcommittees

A. A Member elected as a Chair of a subcommittee shall not choose a second subcommittee position before Members of the full committee who served in the preceding congress and newly elected Members have selected one subcommittee assignment, in order of their rank on the full committee.

1. Except that paragraph (A) shall not apply to subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations.

B. A Member elected as the Chair of a subcommittee may bid on additional subcommittee positions during each subsequent round of bidding.

C. The Resident Commissioner and Delegates shall bid for membership on a subcommittee pursuant to the provisions of paragraphs (A) and (B).

D. All Democratic membership positions on the subcommittees of the standing committees of the House shall be filled by the committee caucus pursuant to Rules 16 and 27 according to these five steps:

1. Step One - Members who served on that committee in the preceding Congress who are not a Chair of a subcommittee shall have the option, during the first round of bidding and in order of their rank on the full committee, to retain one subcommittee assignment held on that committee in the preceding Congress, or to pass and forego their right to retain any subcommittee position the Member held in the preceding Congress.

a) In a case where the committee caucus has split a subcommittee into two subcommittees, such Member may select assignments on both of said subcommittees.

b) A Member of the Committee on Appropriations who served on that committee in the preceding Congress shall be entitled to retain not more than two subcommittee assignments the Member held on that committee in the preceding Congress.

2. Step Two - Members who passed in Step One shall be entitled, in order of their rank on the full committee, to select a new subcommittee assignment to the extent that subcommittee size permits.

   a) A Member of the Committee on Appropriations who retains no subcommittee assignments shall be entitled, in order of their rank on the full committee, to select one subcommittee position each.

3. Step Three - New Members of the committee shall be entitled to choose any one subcommittee assignment to the extent that subcommittee size permits.

   a) New Members of the Committee on Appropriations shall be entitled, in order of their rank on the full committee, to select one subcommittee position each.

4. Step Four - Members shall be entitled to select additional subcommittee assignments during further rounds of selection in order of rank on the full committee until remaining subcommittee vacancies are filled.

   a) Members of the Committee on Appropriations who have only one subcommittee assignment shall be entitled, in order of their rank on the full committee, to select a second subcommittee assignment, to the extent that subcommittee size permits.

5. Step Five - Members who are assigned to standing committees on a temporary basis shall be entitled to select subcommittee assignments only after steps one through four have been completed, during further rounds of selection in the order of the temporary Members' ranks on the full committee, until remaining subcommittee vacancies are filled.

E. For the purposes of these Rules, the term "subcommittee" refers to any panel, task force, special subcommittee, or any other subunit of a standing committee which is established for a period of longer than six months.

   1. Except that such term shall not apply to a task force of the Committee on the Budget, except for purposes of Caucus Rule 31(A), or to an investigative or adjudicatory subcommittee of the Committee on Ethics.

Rule 31. Limitations on Subcommittee Membership

A. No Member shall serve on more than four of the following entities:

   1. Subcommittees as defined in Rule 30(E); and

   2. Subcommittees of a non-legislative select committee, excepting one such subcommittee.

B. As soon as is practicable following the organization of a Congress, the Caucus shall conduct a survey to determine if any Member of the Caucus is in violation of this rule.

   1. The Caucus shall provide those Members with written notification of any such violation and shall grant those Members 30 calendar days to bring themselves into compliance with paragraph (A).

   2. If, at the end of 30 calendar days following written notification, a Member is still not in compliance, the matter will be referred to the Steering and Policy Committee for disposition.

Rule 32. Subcommittee Vacancies

A. After March 1 of a second session of a Congress, Members who are elected as Chair of a full committee or of a subcommittee or appointed as Chair of a permanent select committee with legislative jurisdiction, shall be exempt for the remainder of that Congress from the provisions of Rule 22(A) (prohibiting service on another committee), Caucus Rule 28(F) (prohibiting two subcommittee chairmanships), and Caucus Rule 22(C) (prohibiting full committee and subcommittee chairmanships).

B. Subject to the provision of Rule 29 on vacancies in subcommittee chairmanships, a Member who is assigned to a committee during a Congress shall be entitled to choose subcommittee assignments under Step Three of Rule 30, and all subsequent subcommittee positions shall then be chosen anew as at the beginning of a new Congress.

C. The steps for selecting subcommittee membership in Caucus Rule 30 shall apply to membership vacancies on subcommittees and to membership on special subcommittees or subunits, exclusive to the committee and with legislative jurisdiction, that may be created during a Congress.

D. A committee caucus may by unanimous consent provide for a different procedure.

Rule 33. Appointments to Joint and Select Committees, Boards and Commissions

A. In those instances where the Speaker has the power to appoint Members to joint and select committees, boards and commissions, due consideration should be given to sharing the workload and responsibility among qualified Members of the House who have indicated an interest in the subject matter of the committee, board, or commission and have expressed a willingness to actively participate in its deliberations and operations.

B. All Members serving on joint and select committees, boards and commissions by virtue of appointment by the Speaker shall be considered to have completed their tenure and their positions deemed to be vacant until filled by appointment or re-appointment by the Speaker at the start of a new Congress.

Title III: Rules Related to Floor and Conference Procedure

Rule 34. Binding Votes on House Leadership

A. With respect to voting in the House of Representatives for Speaker and other officers of the House, for each committee Chair, and for membership of committees, a majority vote of those present and voting at a Democratic Caucus shall bind all Members of the Caucus.

Rule 35. Closed Rule Limitation

A. When the Democratic Party is the majority party in the House of Representatives, it shall be the policy of the Caucus that a Committee Chair or his or her designee shall not seek, and the Members of the Committee on Rules shall not support, any rule or order prohibiting any germane amendment to any bill reported from committee, until four legislative days have elapsed following notice in the Congressional Record of an intention to do so.

B. If, within the four legislative days following said notice in the Congressional Record, 50 or more Members of the Caucus give written notice to the Chair of the committee seeking the rule and to the Chair of the Committee on Rules that they wish to offer a particular germane amendment, the Chair of the committee or his or her designee shall not seek and the Members of the Committee on Rules shall not support any rule or order relating to the bill or resolution involved until the Caucus has met and decided whether the proposed amendment should be allowed to be considered in the House of Representatives.

C. If 50 or more Members give notice as provided in paragraph (B), then notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 8, the Caucus shall meet for such purpose within three legislative days following a request for such a meeting by the reporting committee's Chair or his or her designee to the Speaker and to the Chair of the Caucus.

D. Notices referred to above also shall be submitted to the Speaker and the Caucus Chair.

Rule 36. Notice of Appropriations Violations

A. When the Committee on Appropriations orders reported any general appropriation bill which includes any provision in violation of clause 2 of House Rule XXI and within the jurisdiction of a standing committee, it shall be the policy of the Caucus that the Committee on Appropriations give notice immediately to the Chair and Ranking Member of the standing committee which has jurisdiction over such provision or the specific provisions in violation of clause 2 of House Rule XXI.

   1. When any other committee of the House orders reported any bill, resolution, or amendment thereto carrying an appropriation from a committee not having jurisdiction to report appropriations in violation of clause 4 of House Rule XXI, such committee shall give notice immediately to the Chair of the Committee on Appropriations.

B. It shall be the policy of the Caucus that it the responsibility of the Committee on Appropriations to deliver copies of House-passed appropriation bills with numbered Senate amendments to the Chair and Ranking Member of the appropriate authorizing committees at least 24 hours' prior to requesting appointment of conferees thereon unless the Speaker determines otherwise.

C. It shall be the policy of the Caucus that it the responsibility of the Committee on Appropriations, upon filing of a conference report on an appropriations measure, to deliver copies of the conference report and joint statement of the managers to the Chair and Ranking Member of the appropriate authorizing committees at least 24 hours prior to floor action thereon, unless the Speaker determines otherwise.

Rule 37. Committee Review of Legislation Developed by an Ad Hoc Task Forces

A. It shall be the policy of the Caucus that the standing committee or committees of jurisdiction of the House of Representatives shall have the right, for a period not less than five legislative days, to consider, review, and report on any legislative measure developed by any ad hoc task force appointed or designated by the Speaker.

Rule 38. Guidelines on Suspensions of House Rules

A. When being consulted on the consideration of bills or resolutions under the suspension of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Democratic Leadership shall not consent to such consideration of any measure that:

1. Has not been cleared with the Speaker and Chair(s) of the committee(s) of jurisdiction;
2. Will be amended by an amendment that was not authorized by the committee(s) of jurisdiction, is not agreed to by the Chair(s) of the committee(s) of jurisdiction, and is not available at least three calendar days in advance of consideration (including the day of consideration);
3. Is considered a "major piece of legislation";
4. Was opposed by more than one-third of any committee reporting it;
5. Is added to the suspension list less than one day in advance of consideration (except in case of a legitimate emergency); or
6. Does not meet the requirements of paragraphs (B)–(E) of this rule.

B. Any committee Chair supporting a request that a bill or resolution be brought up under the suspension of the Rules of the House must provide to the Speaker in writing any cost estimate provided to the committee by any of the following:

1. The committee considering said bill or resolution;
2. The Congressional Budget Office;
3. The relevant executive department, agency, or instrumentality having jurisdiction in the matter; or
4. Any other department, agency, or instrumentality of the government; in every case where such an estimate indicates that the bill or resolution in question may make or authorize appropriations in excess of $100,000,000 for any fiscal year.

C. The Speaker shall not consent to consideration of any bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House or Representatives in any case where a request made under paragraph (B) of this Rule contains a cost estimate in excess of $100,000,000 in any fiscal year.

1. Except that this prohibition shall not apply where the Speaker requests Steering and Policy review a request to schedule for consideration under suspension of the Rules of the House such legislation, and Steering and Policy authorizes the Speaker to consent to scheduling said bill or resolution for consideration under the suspension of the Rules of the House.

2. In any case as authorized in paragraph (C)(1), the Speaker shall not consent to such bill or resolution being scheduled under the suspension of the Rules before the fourth calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) following the day on which Steering and Policy authorized such action.

D. Paragraph (A) shall not apply to:

1. Any measure for the declaration of war, or extreme emergency; or

2. Any measure directly related to any executive decision, determination, or action which would become or continue to be, effective unless disapproved or otherwise invalidated by Congress.

E. Paragraph (A) of this Rule shall not apply in any session after the adoption by the House of Representatives near the end of that session of a resolution waiving certain Rules of the House for the consideration of legislation for the remainder of that session.

Rule 39. Motions to Recommit; Motions to Instruct Conferees

A. All motions on the Floor of the House of Representatives for which Democratic Members, when in the minority party of the House of Representatives, are granted priority in recognition, including motions to recommit and motions to instruct conferees, shall be used, to the extent possible, to support the positions of the Democratic Caucus and the Democratic Leadership.

B. When more than one Member proposes to offer such a motion, the Democratic Leader shall determine the course of action that best reflects the position of the Democratic Caucus and the Democratic Leadership.

1. Any Member having priority in recognition to offer such a motion shall act in accordance with that determination, including, if necessary, yielding one's rights to offer such a motion to another Member.

Rule 40. Role of Subcommittee Chairs on the Floor

The Chairs of full committees shall, insofar as practicable, permit subcommittee Chairs to handle on the floor legislation from their respective subcommittees.

Rule 41. Democratic Representation on Conference Committees

A. When the Democratic Party is the majority party in the House of Representatives, representation on conference committees shall be no less favorable to the Democratic Party than the ratio for the full House committee.

B. When the Democratic Party is not the majority party in the House of Representatives, the Democratic Leader shall make recommendations to the Speaker of the House on all Democratic Members who shall serve as conferees.