

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 12, 2007

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STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OPTS TO OPEN PRIMARY ELECTIONS TO 'NON-AFFILIATED' VOTERS

CHARLESTON, WV – Members of the West Virginia State Democratic Executive Committee voted overwhelmingly to amend its party rules to allow non-affiliated voters to request and vote a Democratic ballot in primary elections. The change, which was initially approved at the state committee's December 2006 meeting, will affect all offices ranging from the federal to the local level, and will be effective April 1, 2007.

"The state committee's action comes on years of healthy discussion and debate," said Nick Casey, Chairman of the West Virginia Democratic Party. "It is the will of the state committee to move forward and allow non-affiliated voters to participate in Democratic primary elections."

The change affects Rule 4, Section B of the West Virginia Democratic Party's governing rules.

The adopted rule now states, "For the purpose of nominating candidates for any federal, state, district, county, municipal, or other public office in any primary election held in West Virginia on or after April 1, 2007, the State Democratic Party will allow individuals who are not affiliated with any existing recognized party to participate in the election process by receiving and voting a Democratic ballot if they so request."

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