

Dear Democratic National Committee Members,

We write to share our serious concerns about the DNC's plan to hold a "virtual roll call" to select our Democratic Presidential Nominee as early as July 21.

There is no legal justification for this extraordinary and unprecedented action which would effectively accelerate the nomination process by nearly a month. The "virtual roll call" was initially proposed as necessary for meeting Ohio's unique ballot access requirements, but that is no longer a valid justification. Ohio enacted legislation on May 31 allowing the Democratic Party to nominate its candidate at the DNC in person.¹ At this point, there is no serious threat to the Democratic ticket nominated in regular order at next month's DNC convention appearing on the ballot in Ohio or any other state.

Simply put, there is no longer any legal reason for moving forward with the extraordinary step of an early nomination by way of a "virtual roll call," as even many DNC members have admitted.² Proceeding with the "virtual roll call" in the absence of a valid legal rationale will be rightly perceived as a purely political maneuver, which we believe would be counterproductive and undermine party unity and cohesion. Moreover, it would contradict what President Biden himself has repeatedly said to members of Congress in recent days, telling us that anyone who wants to challenge his nomination should do so "at the convention."

The Democratic Party – not just elected officials and delegates, but also millions of grassroots voters – is currently engaged in careful consideration and debate about the absolute imperative of defeating Donald Trump and winning control of Congress.

As Democratic members of Congress, we represent the spectrum of views on this question. Some of us have called on President Biden to step aside, others have urged him to stay in the race, and still others have deep concerns about the status of the President's campaign but have yet to take a position on what should happen.

All of us, however, agree that stifling debate and prematurely shutting down any possible change in the Democratic ticket through an unnecessary and unprecedented "virtual roll call" in the days ahead is a terrible idea. It could deeply undermine the morale and unity of Democrats – from delegates, volunteers, grassroots organizers and donors to ordinary voters – at the worst possible time.

Regardless of whether President Biden remains our nominee, Democratic unity and enthusiasm will be critical between now and November 5th. We respectfully but emphatically request that you cancel any plans for an accelerated "virtual roll call" and further refrain from any extraordinary procedures that could be perceived as curtailing legitimate debate or attempting to force an early resolution of the party nomination.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/31/us/politics/biden-ohio-ballot.html>

² <https://news.yahoo.com/news/exclusive-dnc-moves-ahead-virtual-120025562.html>

The Democratic Party must nominate its presidential ticket at the Democratic National Convention, in regular order, as we always have.

Sincerely,