

SRO 2018-006 General Meeting Procedures for the Central Committee

Rationale: To help everyone understand procedure and decorum during the Central Committee meetings and clarify the rules of debate.

Rules Committee Recommendation: Do Pass

Add Special Rule of Order:

1. The Washington County Democrats operate according to the adopted bylaws, special rules of order, standing rules, and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order
2. All members shall be credentialed in order to speak and vote.
3. Members shall follow decorum. Decorum will be enforced by the Chair, and includes at least the following:
 - a. Address all remarks through the Chair, not to another member;
 - b. Confine all remarks to the merits of the pending motion;
 - c. Refrain from verbally attacking another member;
 - d. Avoid the use of members' names;
 - e. Refrain from speaking adversely on a prior action not pending;
 - f. Refrain from speaking against one's own motion; and
 - g. Refrain from disturbing the assembly.
 - i. Taking side conversations outside of the room is encouraged.
4. All members of the Central Committee are encouraged to read the information provided, research and ask questions in order to understand each issue prior to the meeting.
5. Committee reports to the CC shall include their recent activities and will indicate any motions that will follow in the new business section of the agenda. The Resolutions report may include introduction of new Resolutions to be voted on in a future meeting.
6. Discussion/debate will only be in order once a motion is before the body. Exceptions include Q&A with an invited speaker or during forums.
7. A member shall move to a microphone to make a motion or to speak in debate and wait to be recognized by the Chair, with the exception of those motions which are in order when another has the floor.
8. Main motions and any amendments thereto must be in writing and turned in to the Chair with a copy for the Secretary, with exceptions allowed by the Chair or body for simple motions. Motions will not be turned away due to lack of time to write them down.
9. Once a second has been made, if needed, the Chair shall state the motion clearly before debate begins.
10. All debatable motions shall be given proper pause to allow for any debate or allowable secondary motions.
11. Speeches in debate shall be limited to 120 seconds per speech.
12. A motion to call the question is out of order until after both 3 speakers for and 3 speakers against have spoken, or when one side no longer has anyone wishing to speak.
13. The motion will be read once more prior to voting on the motion.
14. Voting cards may be used to vote on a motion.
15. After voting, the chair will announce the results of the vote and its effect. If a counted vote is taken the number will be announced.

16. A question/point of privilege is generally for the purpose of fixing something which is causing the member difficulty in participating in the meeting, such as requesting the temperature be turned up, or a door closed as there is too much noise in the hall, etc. It does not provide license to simply speak one's mind.
17. If a member is unsure of proper procedure, how to make or phrase a motion, or has some other pertinent question of the Chair, they may interject with a "Point of Information" and ask the Chair their question.