

One of the main goals of the Rules Committee in the past year and a half has been to replace the delegate election rules with a cleaner, clearer, and more gender inclusive process. Following the special committee's work on creating a very inclusive process, back in February the Rules Committee created a new replacement rule that we intended to be part of the Bylaws revision we were working on. With the COVID emergency, it is looking less and less likely that the rules committee will be able to complete and present the revision before the Organizational Meeting. Since we need these rules before the November Organizational meeting, Rules has decided to make the changes to our current rules now so that we can see them in action and make any necessary changes before the Organizational meeting.

The first part is to replace SRO #4 with the new delegate election rules, and the second part is to clean up the Standing Rules #4 and #5 to remove conflicts with the new process.

Rules Committee Moves to Replace **Special Rule of Order #4** with the following text:

~~The process for electing SCC delegates, SCC alternate delegates, Congressional District Committee delegates, and Congressional District Committee alternate delegates, shall each be as follows:~~

- ~~A. Voters may cast a number of votes up to the number of delegate or alternate delegate positions being elected.~~
- ~~B. The maximum number of votes a voter may cast will be distributed as evenly as possible across the three gender categories: female, male, and non-binary. If one or more gender categories have fewer candidates running than one-third of the available positions, the maximum number of votes which can be cast for the other gender category or categories will be commensurately higher.~~
- ~~C. Voters will be clearly told the maximum number of votes they may cast in each of the three gender categories.~~
- ~~D. The ballot will identify candidates with the gender category they have chosen.~~
- ~~E. After the votes have been tallied, those elected shall be determined as follows:
 - ~~1. Two columns will be created with the total number of positions divided as equally as possible between the two columns.~~
 - ~~2. In one column, the female candidates receiving the most votes will be placed in order of votes received. In the other column, the same shall be done for male candidates.~~
 - ~~3. The column with more positions will be chosen first. If both columns have the same number of positions, one of the two columns will be chosen randomly.~~
 - ~~4. The non-binary candidate who received the most votes who has not yet been assigned to a column will have the number of votes they received compared to the number of votes received by the lowest binary gender candidate in the column chosen. If the non-binary candidate received more votes, their name will replace the binary gender candidate's name in the column.~~
 - ~~5. Step (4) shall be repeated while alternating the column chosen until there is no longer a non-binary candidate who satisfies the requirement.~~
 - ~~6. The final list of candidates in the two columns shall be the list of candidates elected.~~~~
- ~~F. Ties shall be broken by a coin flip.~~

Section 1 - Eligibility

A Candidate is eligible to be a delegate if they are eligible to be a Democratic PCP in Washington County.

Section 2 - Gender Balance

Delegate and alternate positions shall be elected by a process that recognizes three gender categories: female, male, and non-binary.

Elections shall ensure that no gender category shall have greater representation than 50 percent minus one or, in the case of an odd number of delegates, 50 percent. The gender category that is least represented in the Washington County population shall reduce the delegate positions of the other two categories as evenly as possible.

Gender balance shall apply separately for delegates and alternates.

Section 3 - Elections for SCC and CD Delegates and Alternates

1. Elections for delegates and alternates to the SCC and each Congressional District are held separately.
2. All candidates are placed on a single ballot, and voters cast a number of votes less than or equal to the number of open positions. Candidates are ordered by total votes.
3. The candidate who received the most votes and whose election would not violate section 2 is removed from the vote list and placed on the delegate list at the highest remaining rank order.
4. Repeat this process until there are no more delegate slots remaining or selecting any remaining candidate would violate section 2.
5. #3-4 shall then be repeated for the creation of the list of alternates.
6. Any candidate who is elected to be a Delegate who wishes to be an Alternate may declare their intent to only be an alternate and the list of delegates will be created accordingly.
7. The Chair of the WCDCC shall be the highest ranked SCC Delegate.

Section 4 - Vacancies due to Resignation or Removal of Delegates

In the event of a Delegate resigning or being removed, the Delegation Chair shall:

1. Move all delegates ranked lower than the vacancy up in rank order so that the vacancy is at the lowest possible rank order,
2. Next, remove the highest ranking alternate that would not violate the gender balance conditions from section 2 from the alternate list and place them at the highest ranked delegate position that is available.

If no alternate can be selected, the position shall remain vacant until a candidate whose election would not violate section 2 is elected.

Section 5 - Elevation of Alternates for SCC or CD Meetings

At an SCC or CD Meeting, if a Delegate cannot attend that meeting, leaves that meeting early, or a delegate position is vacant, the Delegation Chair shall select an alternate using the highest ranked possible procedure below:

1. The highest ranked available Alternate of the same gender category as the vacancy.
2. The highest ranked available Alternate whose selection would not violate the gender balance conditions from Section 2.
3. The highest ranked available Alternate.

Rules Committee moves to **Amend Standing Rule #4 and #5**, striking the following sections (in red):

A. DELEGATES TO THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (SCC):

Adopted 10/25/2006, Amended 1/22/2014, Amended 4/26/2017, Amended 8/23/2017, Corrected 8/30/2018, Amended 9/26/2018

1. Delegates and alternate delegates will be elected to the SCC at the organizational meeting.
2. The number of delegates elected will be equal to the number of Democrats in Washington County registered on the day of the primary election, divided by 15,000. If the remaining number exceeds 7500, one additional delegate shall be elected. An equal number of alternates shall be elected.
3. The Chair of the Washington County Central Committee is an automatic member of the delegation, filling one of the delegate positions.
- ~~4. Vacancies in the delegation will be filled from the alternate's list, first by gender followed by rank order. The gender of the position vacated will determine which alternate delegate assumes the position.~~
- ~~5. Vacancies on the list of alternates will be filled by elections at subsequent meetings. Existing alternates will move up by gender to fill openings in the pairing of alternates, with vacancies created filled by gender and election rank order.~~
- ~~6. Vote totals, by candidate, must be maintained and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.~~
7. At the first Central Committee meeting following the organizational meeting, only the delegates-elect, and not the alternates, shall meet and select a Chair from among the delegate members. The Rules Committee will run this election.

A. DELEGATES TO THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CD1CC):

Adopted 10/25/2006, Amended 1/22/2014, Amended 4/26/2017, Amended 8/23/2017, Corrected 8/30/2018, Amended 9/26/2018, Corrected 1/2/2019

1. Delegates and alternate delegates will be elected to CD1CC at the organizational meeting.
2. The number of delegates elected will be equal to the number of Democrats in Washington County registered on the day of the primary election, divided by 15,000. If the remaining number exceeds 7500, one additional delegate shall be elected. An equal number of alternates shall be elected.
- ~~3. Vacancies in the delegation will be filled from the alternate's list, first by gender followed by rank order. The gender of the position vacated will determine which alternate delegate assumes the position.~~
- ~~4. Vacancies on the list of alternates will be filled by elections at subsequent meetings. Existing alternates will move up by gender to fill openings in the pairing of alternates, with vacancies created filled by gender and election rank order.~~

Amend Standing Rule #5

- A. Delegates are expected and alternates are encouraged to attend all meetings of the SCC or CD1CC, as appropriate.
- B. Delegates who cannot attend a regularly scheduled meeting shall notify the Delegation Chair with a reason for not attending as soon as possible, in order that an alternate may attend.
- C. The Delegation Chair shall send a minimum of 2 meeting notifications via email to all delegation members of their respective body. The first notice shall be sent no less than 3 weeks prior to the meeting. Delegates and alternates shall be asked, and expected, to notify the Delegation Chair whether they will be able to attend as soon as practical.

- D. In the event delegates and alternates do not respond with a definitive commitment to attend by two weeks prior to the start of a meeting, the Delegation Chair shall assign an alternate who has indicated that they will attend.
- ~~E. Alternates shall be called by gender, and then by rank order, as possible.~~
- F. If non-responsive delegates respond in the affirmative less than two weeks prior to the start of the meeting or if non-responsive delegates attend the meeting without confirmation notice, they will be assigned an alternate position unless there are additional or unexpected absences at the delegate level.
- G. Delegates who do not respond to the Delegation Chair who attend the meeting will receive credit for attending but will not be able to vote.
- H. This Standing Rule shall be referenced in all meeting notifications sent by the Delegation Chair.
- I. Resignation and Removal of Delegates
 - 1. A delegate may resign by written notice to the Chair of their body or the County Chair.
 - 2. SCC Delegates who have two unexcused absences, at the discretion of their delegation chair, or three total absences have effectively resigned, and may be replaced.
 - 3. CD1CC Delegates who have three consecutive absences or four total absences have effectively resigned, and may be replaced.
- J. If a Delegation Chair is unable to attend their respective meeting, the Delegation Chair shall appoint a temporary replacement for that meeting from the list of delegates attending.
- K. Delegation Chairs will keep an up to date list of all delegates and alternates in ~~gender and~~ rank order. Delegation Chairs will assure the delegation lists on the website are correct and up to date and advise the webmaster of any changes as soon as possible.
- L. Delegation Chairs are members of the Executive Committee. Delegation Chairs will advise both the Central Committee and the Executive Board of upcoming meetings and report on attendance, substantive discussions and actions taken by those bodies at the next regularly scheduled Central Committee and Executive Board meeting.
- M. Delegation Chairs will provide the Credentials Chair of their respective bodies the list of delegates for each meeting 48 hours in advance.
- N. Persons who choose to become a candidate for an SCC or CD1CC Delegate or Alternate Delegate position will sign a copy of this Standing Rule to acknowledge they have read and understand this rule.