

PROPOSED RULES OF THE 2018 MASSACHUSETTS DEMOCRATIC ENDORSING CONVENTION

Chairperson

The Chairperson of the Democratic State Committee shall call the Convention to order and preside until he/she appoints a Convention Chair. The Chairperson of the Democratic State Committee shall appoint a Chairperson of the Convention, a Vice-Chairperson of the opposite sex, a Parliamentarian, three (3) Assistant Parliamentarians, a Credentials Committee, a Sergeant-at-Arms, Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms, a Head Teller, Tellers, Assistant Tellers, Pages, and a Convention Secretary who shall oversee that an official record of the Convention be kept, and additional assistants, as the Chair of the Democratic State Committee may deem necessary, none of whom need be Delegates.

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. The order of business will include:
 1. Call to order/Declaration of a Quorum by the Chair
 2. Invocation
 3. National Anthem
 - 4. Party Endorsement**
 5. Consideration of any Charter Amendments
 6. Other Business determined essential by the Chairperson of the Democratic State Committee
- B. The order of business for the Massachusetts Democratic Convention shall be as provided in these Rules. The Chairperson of the Convention may interrupt the order of business provided for in these Rules for remarks appropriate to the business of the Convention.
- C. The Chairperson of the Democratic State Committee shall appoint a Charter Amendments Committee. Only those proposed amendments reported favorably by the Charter Amendments Committee shall be presented to the convention, except that proposed amendments, which had been previously submitted to the Charter Amendments Committee and not recommended by the Charter Amendments Committee, but which are accompanied by the signatures of five hundred (500) certified Delegates, identified by name, Senate District, City and Ward or Town, and who are in attendance at the times of consideration of same, and which have previously been submitted to the Sergeant-at-Arms for certification not later than 8:00 PM of **the first day of the convention, June 1, 2018**. No less than one hour prior to any vote on the Charter a determination shall be made by the Rules Committee as to whether the proposal has qualified under the rules of the Convention and make a report to the Chair. All proposed amendments must be

divided into numbered paragraphs and must specify on each signature page the section to be amended. The Charter Amendments Committee shall consider all amendments submitted by 5:00 PM, March 3, 2018 to the office of the Democratic State Committee, 11 Beacon St, 4th Floor, Boston, MA, 02118 (617) 939-0800 (submission date is 90 days prior to the first day of the convention). A copy of each amendment to be proposed to the Convention by the Charter Amendments Committee shall be sent to the pre-registered Delegates not later than ten (10) days prior to the Convention. The proposer of an amendment by signatures must furnish to the Sergeant-at-Arms, together with the required signatures, a copy of the amendment for each certified Delegate at the same time as the submittal of the amendment. Amendments presented to the Convention may be debated for ten (10) minutes each, equally divided between the proponents and opponents; or in case of a proposal submitted by petition, between proponents and speakers designated by the Charter Amendments Committee.

II. ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURE

A. For a candidate to be eligible for endorsement he/she must:

1. Be qualified by law to accept the Democratic nomination for the office in question;
2. Be otherwise qualified by law for the office in question;
3. Have filed notice of his/her intention to seek that office in question with the Democratic State Committee by 5:00 PM, January 22, 2018 or have presented to the Democratic State Committee, 11 Beacon Street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA, 02118, a petition for endorsement containing the signatures of five hundred (500) Delegates not later than 5:00 PM, April 17, 2018. (Deadlines are respectively 130 and 45 days prior to the convention.) In the event of the withdrawal or death of a candidate for one of the constitutional offices who has filed before the aforesaid intention deadline or an otherwise unanticipated event, the Chairperson of the State Committee, may extend the deadline. Every candidate shall file with the State Committee prior to the convention proof of compliance with the filing requirements of state law and, a statement whether he/she supports each provision of the most recent national and state party platforms and charters, the reasons for any disagreement, and the alternative policy he/she will support instead. The Democratic State Committee will distribute to all pre-registered Delegates before the Convention a list of all candidates. Candidates may distribute at their cost, their statement to Delegates, and the State Committee will use reasonable efforts to make the statements available to Delegates if the candidate makes financial compensation to the committee for same. The name of any candidate who fails to file such a statement and proof of

compliance with filing requirements on time shall not be placed in nomination before the Convention.

- B. In the event of a contested office, the nominating speaker (s) chosen by each candidate may address the Convention for three (3) minutes. There will be no seconding speeches but the Chairperson will announce to the Convention the names of the 3 certified Delegates whose signatures have been furnished by the candidate and who have agreed to second the nomination. The entire presentation (including the candidate's speech if any) by a candidate for contest (including the candidate's speech if any) by a contested office may not exceed fifteen (15) minutes, with three (3) minutes reserved for the candidate's speech, if needed.
- C. The order of nomination and the conducting of rolling multiple ballots for more than one office shall be determined by the Chair of the Democratic State Committee at least 30 days prior to the convention, as provided in the recommendation of the Convention Reform Commission identified as #1 and #4.

III. VOTING

- A. **Secret Ballot and Unit Rule.** No secret ballot or unit rule shall be permitted at any stage of the Convention. Unit Rule is prohibited. i.e. every vote shall be cast individually and no delegation may bind its members to vote with the majority.
- B. **Proxy Voting.** Delegate votes may not be cast by proxy.
- C. **Roll Call Votes.**
 - 1. Consistent with the requirement to establish a quorum in Section I, A.1, a district-by-district roll call may be conducted to determine a quorum.
 - 2. Voting shall be by voice vote or, when prescribed by these Rules, by roll call vote or signed, written or printed ballot. A roll call vote may be had if the Chairperson is in doubt or upon the vote of a majority of the Delegates present and voting. Each Delegate shall cast only one vote on each roll call. The endorsement by the Convention of a candidate for office shall be by roll call except when there is only one candidate, when such endorsement may be by voice vote, and shall require a majority of the Delegates present and voting. **Any candidate who does not receive at least fifteen (15) percent on the first ballot shall not be eligible for placement on the primary ballot. If a candidate receives a majority (greater than 50%) on the 1st ballot, there will not be a subsequent ballot. A second ballot for endorsement (if needed) shall include only the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot who are still in contention for the endorsement.** Any candidate may withdraw their request for endorsement at any time. Any vote cast other than a vote for a candidate eligible for endorsement under these rules shall be ruled invalid.

The number necessary for endorsement by the Convention shall be based upon the number of valid votes.

3. The person receiving the majority of votes is the **ENDORSED** candidate of the Democratic Party and shall have the first position on the primary ballot and be identified on the same as the “**ENDORSED CANDIDATE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEMOCRATIC PARTY**”. (Subject to legislative change)
 4. When a roll call vote is ordered, the roll call shall be announced by Senatorial District. The Chairperson of each delegation shall be the most senior Democratic State Committee member from the district at the opening of the Convention or such other member designated by the Chair. The Chairperson of the Democratic State Committee shall appoint a **TELLER** of votes for each delegation. The **TELLER** shall report the vote of his or her delegation by sending or transmitting the tally to the Sergeant-at-Arms at the rostrum showing the vote of each member of his or her delegation. The Chairperson will announce the vote as reported.
- D. Interruption of Vote.** When the question has been put, the vote thereon may not be interrupted for any purpose other than a demand for a roll call vote or a point of order directed to the conduct of the vote.
- E. Challenge of Roll Call Vote.** Any challenge to a vote must be made to the Delegation Chairperson and the Sergeant-at-Arms, by a member of the delegation being challenged, and within three minutes after the announcement of the last delegation’s vote on the roll call. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall present all such challenges to the Rules Committee. If there is a challenged of a roll call vote, the vote shall be verified within thirty (30) minutes by the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee shall meet for this purpose off the floor of the Convention.
- F. Determination of Question.** Except as otherwise provided in these Rules and the Charter, all questions shall be determined by a majority of the Delegates present and voting.
- G. Reconsideration.** No vote upon the endorsement for nomination of any candidate shall be subject to reconsideration. No other vote shall be reconsidered unless moved by a member of the majority and voted by two thirds (2/3) of the Delegates present and voting. Debate shall be limited to six minutes, three minutes to each side. A vote shall not be subject to reconsideration for a second time after a motion to reconsider has failed on adoption.

IV. ALTERNATES REPLACING DELEGATES FOR VOTING PURPOSES

An hour after the opening of the Convention on Saturday, if needed, the Senate District Teller will read through the Delegate listing to determine attendance and take a call of the Roll. All Delegates can check in with their Senate District Teller **an hour prior to the call to the convention**. At the

end of the reading or after 15 minutes, whichever comes last, the Senate District Teller will strike the name (s) to which there was no response. After a second reading, any Delegate who is not marked present shall be replaced by an Alternate of the same gender, when possible. He or she shall be from the same town or ward in the order that the Alternates were elected. The Senate District Teller will note on a line under each Delegate's name the name of the Alternate replacing that Delegate, and initial his or her approval. The Credentials Committee must certify the switch. No alternate switching will take place after the start of the first ballot on Saturday. (The first ballot process begins after the complete of the attendance Roll Call. It is the responsibility of the Delegate to be seated in their delegation at that time.)

V. APPEALS

The Chair shall decide all points of order subject to an appeal to the Convention by any 50 Delegates, presented in writing to the Sergeant-at-Arms, which may be debated for not more than five (5) minutes, the time to be equally divided between the Delegates appealing the ruling and the Delegates in favor of sustaining the ruling of the Chairperson, provided that an appeal shall not be in order while another appeal is pending; or from decisions on recognition, or during a roll call vote or on a question on which an appeal has just been decided, or upon the determination of the order of balloting and the number of consecutive or multiple ballots. Before the question is put on any appeal, the Chairperson shall be entitled to briefly state the reasons for the ruling being appealed.

VI. MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES

The Chairperson may entertain a motion to suspend the Rules, in order to allow a matter submitted in writing by at least 50 Delegates by noon on the second day of the convention to the Sergeant-at-Arms, to refer an item to the Democratic State Committee or to adopt a resolution relative to a sense of the Convention. A motion to suspend the Rules shall be decided without debate and shall require a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all Delegates voting, a quorum being present.

VII. QUORUM

Seven hundred and fifty (750) certified Delegates to the convention shall constitute a quorum of the Convention for the purpose of transacting business. Upon a point of order of no quorum being made, the Chairperson shall ascertain the presence or absence of a quorum by visual estimation and shall not proceed until he or she determines that a quorum is present. A standing count shall be ordered upon the request of any 50 Delegates. A certified Delegate is one whose credentials are validated at the Convention Hall.

VIII. RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Chairperson of the Democratic State Committee shall appoint a Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee will rule regarding any questions of certification of Delegates. No person otherwise not eligible for status as an Ex-Officio Delegate may be provided a credential. The Credential Committee shall provide a permanent form for Delegate and Alternate transfer of credentials. No person assigned to or working the Credential process may wear candidate or issues paraphernalia of any kind, or be part of any candidate's official convention teams. The reconvening of the Convention on Saturday shall be gavelled at 9:00 am. and the Section IV roll call, if needed, shall start at 10:00AM on Saturday. No credentials will be issued after 8:00 PM on the first day of the convention nor after 11:00 AM on the second day of the convention.

Challenges to the credentials of any Delegate or Alternate shall have been submitted to the Credentials Committee no later than one week prior to the start of the Convention by written challenge submitted to the headquarters of the Democratic State Committee. All those whose credentials are challenged shall be notified and afforded due process. The decision of the Credentials Committee shall be final and not subject to appeal or further challenge. If the identity of a Delegate, or of the recorded vote of that Delegate is challenged or the tallied vote of the Delegate is challenged such challenge shall be presented in writing to the Sergeant-at-Arms within three (3) minutes from the vote and referred to the Credentials Committee for resolution within fifteen minutes. Members of both the Credentials and Rules Committees shall make themselves available upon notice of the Chair; a majority of those responding within five (5) minutes shall decide the issue and report to the Chair, through their respective Chairperson.

- A. Except as these Rules otherwise provide, the Convention shall be governed by the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, as most recently revised.
- B. All proceedings of the Convention shall be open to members of the Democratic public and the media.
- C. As used in these Rules, "Chairperson" means the Current Chairperson of the Massachusetts Democratic Convention, unless otherwise provided.
- D. If a Delegate wishes to be recognized by the Chairperson on any matter other than a challenge to a roll call vote, he/she must present his or her request to the Chairperson by registering with the Sergeant-at-Arms at the rostrum. Requests will be honored in order of receipt. When a Delegate wishes to speak on a specific amendment, the Delegate should sign up with the Sergeant-at-Arms, indicating his/her position on the amendment, so he/she will be called on at the appropriate time.
- E. No radios, telephones, other communications devices, types of signs, banners, stickers or similar paraphernalia may be displayed, installed or used in the

Convention Hall, unless authorized by the Chairperson of Democratic State Committees or his or her designee. Notwithstanding the above, a standard of commercially available cell phone, paging device or other technological devices shall be allowed, unless the Chairperson or his or her designee determines that it interferes with the operation of the Convention Hall. Delegates shall be allowed to bring to the Hall small quantities of food and water unless prohibited by the site management.

- F. Only Delegates, members of the Convention committees, officials of the Convention, and accredited members of the media shall be admitted to the section of the Hall reserved for Delegates, except by order of the Presiding officer of the Convention, or the Chairperson of the State Committee.
- G. All security personnel shall be under the jurisdiction of the Sergeant-at-Arms.
- H. In making decisions relative to granting or withholding credentials, the Credentials Committee shall be guided by the requirements set forth in method of selecting Delegates as most recently published in the Preliminary Call to Convention.
- I. Matters allowed to be submitted as provided, by signature of Delegates, will not be printed by the Democratic State Committee. However, the proposer of same shall be responsible for printing at his/her expense sufficient copies for each Delegate. The printed petitions shall be presented to the Sergeant-at-Arms by 8:00 PM on the first day of the Convention.