



2023 Spring State Convention Rules Committee Report

Approved by the Convention Rules Committee on January 31, 2023

The Rules Committee for the 2023 Spring State Convention, having met to prepare this report, does hereby recommend the following permanent officers, agenda, and rules for the convention to be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at Huntington Place in Detroit, Michigan.

1 Convention Officers

Secretary, Nathan Triplett
Parliamentarian, Mary Ellen Gurewitz
Parliamentarian, Sheila Cummings

2 Caucus and Convention Agenda

1. District Caucuses, Saturday, February 11, 2023
 - a. District caucuses shall convene at 1:00 PM in the rooms assigned in the Official Call to Convention. The 2022 Democratic nominee for congress or their designee shall serve as the temporary chair and shall convene and preside over the district caucus at the State Convention until a permanent chair is elected by the caucus. In the event that the nominee is not present at the caucus at the hour for which it is called, their place as temporary chair shall be filled by the county chair from the county in the district having the largest number of votes at the last general election. The temporary chair shall designate a temporary secretary to serve until a permanent secretary is elected by the caucus.
 - b. The order of business shall include the following:
 - i. Credentials Report
 - ii. Rules Report
 - iii. Election of one (1) Chair, one (1) Vice Chair, one (1) Secretary, one (1) Treasurer of the District
 - iv. Election of fifteen (15) members of the District Committee
 - v. Election of delegates and alternates to the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee
 - vi. Hearing from candidates for office
 - vii. Additional business that is deemed proper and necessary
 - c. The presiding chair of each District Caucus shall be allowed to exercise discretion in presenting Democrats to address the Caucus.
 - d. District caucuses shall adjourn by 2:30 PM. Caucuses may only continue after 2:30 PM to complete the elections required by the order of business above.
2. Plenary Session, Saturday, February 11, 2023
 - a. The convention shall be convened at 3:00 PM by the Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party and is scheduled to adjourn by 5:00 PM. The time of adjournment is tentative and subject to change at the discretion of the Convention Chair. The convention will be held in person at Huntington Place in Detroit and also live-streamed online at michigandems.com/
 - b. The order of business shall be as follows
 - i. Credentials Committee Report
 - ii. Rules Committee Report
 - iii. Selection of a Permanent Convention Chair
 - iv. Appointment of Convention Officers
 - v. Adoption of Resolutions
 - vi. Election of one (1) Chair of the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee
 - vii. Election of one (1) First Vice-Chair of the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee
 - viii. Election of one (1) Second Vice-Chair of the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee
 - ix. Additional business may be brought before the Plenary Session only by a suspension of these rules as specified in Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised.

3 General Rules

1. Proceedings of the Convention shall be conducted according to the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party, the Call to Convention, these Rules, and Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, unless otherwise provided.
2. The Convention hall shall be open to all members of the Michigan Democratic Party.
3. In order to vote in person at the state convention or during a caucus, a person must have been issued a delegate credential in accordance with the eligibility standards outlined in the Official Call to Convention.
4. All action by the Convention shall require approval of a weighted majority of delegate votes at the Convention.
5. Weighted voting shall be used in caucuses and on the floor of convention to ensure proper distribution of the State Allocation of Delegate Votes (SADV) in accordance with Section 4 of the Rules for Voting and Elections in the Michigan Democratic Party.
6. Any delegate seeking to address this Convention upon recognition of the Chair shall identify themselves by name and District and show their credentialed card.
7. The presiding chair shall exercise their discretion in presenting Democrats to address the Convention.
8. The presiding chair shall be responsible for maintaining order and decorum during convention proceedings and may order the removal of delegates behaving in a disorderly fashion.

4 Nomination Rules

1. Candidates seeking election to Chair (1 position) and Vice-Chair (2 positions) of the Democratic State Central Committee must meet the eligibility requirements established in Section VI. of the Call to Convention and the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.
2. The names of candidates for all offices to be elected at the Convention who have satisfied the requirements set forth in the Call to Convention and the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party shall be placed into nomination by the presiding chair.
3. At the discretion of the presiding chair, the convention shall be permitted to delay the casting of votes for the nominated positions under consideration to allow further nominations to be made.
4. All candidates elected by the Convention shall be invited to address the Convention.

5 Voting Rules

1. In order to vote at the state convention or during a caucus, a person must have been credentialed through the VOATZ app. Those in attendance will be issued a delegate credential in accordance with the eligibility standards outlined in the Official Call to Convention.
2. In the event of a contested election for Chair (1 position) and Vice-Chair (2 positions) of the Democratic State Central Committee, electronic ballots shall be available through the VOATZ electronic voting system to all credentialed delegates as outlined in the Convention Rules.
3. Credentialed delegates shall cast a ballot through VOATZ using either their personal device (e.g., smartphone) or with tablets provided in the Convention Hall.
4. Voting for Chair (1 position) and Vice-Chair (2 positions) of the Democratic State Central Committee shall open via VOATZ at 8:00 AM on Saturday, February 11.
5. The presiding convention chair shall close voting after providing the Convention with a 10 minute warning and shall thereafter announce the result.
6. The presiding convention chair shall select the voting method most appropriate for a particular motion.
7. The following voting methods may be used on the floor of convention:
 - a. **Voice Vote**, whereby a delegate expresses their preference verbally in response to a prompt, shall be permitted on the floor of convention and may be used to address convention business properly brought before the body. This shall be the primary method of voting except where other methods are proper or necessary.
 - b. **Rising Vote**, whereby a delegate expresses their preference by standing to be counted in response to a prompt, shall be permitted on the floor of convention.
 - c. **Hand Vote**, whereby a delegate expresses their preference by raising their delegate credential to be counted in response to a prompt, shall be permitted on the floor of convention.
 - d. **Electronic Hand Vote**, whereby a delegate expresses their preference by logging into the provided VOATZ application and selecting their choice(s), shall be permitted for delegates on the floor of convention and also those delegates observing the live-stream. The votes shall be attributed to the member casting them and made publicly available.
8. The casting of secret ballots shall be prohibited.