

2025 Spring State Convention Rules Committee Report

Approved by the Convention Rules Committee on February 11, 2025

The Rules Committee for the 2025 Spring State Convention, having met to prepare and ratify this report, does hereby recommend the following permanent officers, agenda, and rules for the convention to be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center 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 22, 2025

- a. District caucuses shall convene between 1:00 PM and 2:30 PM in the rooms as assigned on the Convention website <https://michigandems.com/state-convention/>. The 2024 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 22, 2025

- a. The Convention shall be convened at 3:00 PM by the Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party and is scheduled to adjourn by 6:00 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 the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.
- b. The order of business shall be as follows:
 - i. Credentials Committee Report
 - ii. Rules Committee Report
 - iii. Electing a Convention Chair
 - iv. Appointing Convention Officers
 - v. Resolutions Committee Report
 - 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. Conducting any other business which is proper and necessary.

3. State Central Committee Meeting, Saturday, February 22, 2025

- a. The State Central Committee shall convene on the Convention Floor immediately following adjournment of the State Convention on Saturday, February 22nd.

- b. The order of business shall be as follows:
 - i. Canvass and Ratification of Convention Results
 - ii. Any other business properly brought before the State Central Committee.

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. The Credentials Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party at the State Convention, if necessary.
4. 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 Call to Convention.
5. All action by the Convention shall require approval of a weighted majority of delegate votes at the Convention.
6. 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.
7. Any delegate seeking to address this Convention upon recognition of the Convention Chair shall identify themselves by name and District and show their credentialed card.
8. The Convention Chair shall exercise their discretion in presenting Democrats to address the Convention.
9. The Convention Chair shall be responsible for maintaining order and decorum during convention proceedings and may order the removal of delegates behaving in a disorderly fashion.
10. Scheduled adjournment times may be extended at the discretion of the Convention Chair.

4 Nomination Rules

1. The method of nomination shall be as follows:
 - a. Candidates seeking election to Chair (1 position), First Vice-Chair (1 position), and Second Vice-Chair (1 position) of the Democratic State Central Committee at Convention shall be eligible for consideration if they gather a number of signatures equal to ten percent (10%) of the delegate vote or 1,270 signatures. All nominating signatures must be gathered in person from credentialed delegates on Saturday, February 22nd beginning at 8:00am and returned to MDP Executive Director, Christine Jensen, by 12:45pm.
 - b. In order to sign a candidate petition, a person must have credentialed through the VOATZ app in accordance with the eligibility standards outlined in the Official Call to Convention. A credentialed delegate shall be permitted to sign a nominating petition. There is no limit to the number of petitions a delegate may sign provided that a delegate does not sign the same candidate's petition more than once. If a delegate signs the same candidate's petitions more than once, only the first signature of the delegate will count for that candidate and any subsequent signatures will be stricken and not count for that candidate.
 - c. MDP Rule 2.13 of the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party requires that: "The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of any unit, Committee, Caucus or Convention of the MDP, shall be of a different gender." Rule 7.1.1 of the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party requires a First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair "each of a different gender and race."
2. Each qualifying candidate will be entitled to a single nominating statement. No seconding speeches or debate will be in order.
3. Nominations of eligible candidates must be made by a credentialed delegate recognized by the Convention Chair.
4. The nominator shall be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes each to address the convention for the purpose of making a nominating statement.
5. At the discretion of the Convention Chair, nomination and acceptance speeches will be made via video recording or in person.
6. 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), First Vice-Chair (1 position), and/or Second Vice-Chair (1 position) of the Democratic State Central Committee, electronic ballots shall be available through the VOATZ electronic voting system to all credentialed delegates using either their personal device (e.g.,

smartphone) or with tablets provided in the Convention Hall as outlined in the Convention Rules. 3. If only one person is nominated for a position, the candidate shall be elected by unanimous consent.

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4. The presiding Convention Chair shall select the voting method most appropriate for a particular motion.
5. 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, shall be permitted for delegates on the floor of convention. Only in-person voting is available. The votes shall be attributed to the member casting them and made publicly available.
6. The casting of secret ballots shall be prohibited.

