



State Convention Election Rules

June 10 & 11, 2023

Green Bay, WI

I. Candidate Filings and Requirements:

- a. All candidates for a WisDems Officer position must file a Candidate Statement of Intent form and nomination signatures pursuant to Article III, section 8 of the WisDems Constitution with the Elections Commission at the State Party Headquarters. The completed form may be sent via scan or email to stateconvention@wisdems.org, or via post to 15 N Pinckney Street, Suite 200, Madison, WI, 53703. The completed form must be received by 5:00 PM on Saturday, May 20, 2023, in order for the candidate to appear on the ballot.
- b. All candidates for a DNC Member position must file a DNC Member Candidate Declaration of Candidacy Form pursuant to Article III, Section 8 of the WisDems Constitution with the Elections Commission at the State Party Headquarters. The completed form may be sent via scan or email to stateconvention@wisdems.org, or via post to 15 N Pinckney Street, Suite 200, Madison, WI, 53703. The completed form must be received by 5:00 PM on Saturday, May 20, 2023, in order for the candidate to appear on the ballot.

II. Floor Speeches:

- a. All WisDems officer candidates in contested races shall be limited to five (5) minutes total time for nominator, seconder and candidate speeches at a time designated in the final agenda. Speaking order will be determined by lot prior to the State Convention.

III. Hours of Voting & Delegate Lists:

- a. Uncontested races will be voted on by acclamation after the Convention is called to order on Saturday, June 10, 2023.
- b. The hours of voting on contested races will be from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Sunday, June 11, 2023 in the designated areas of the convention site (for delegates attending in-person), or via Google Form ballot (for eligible delegates attending online, per section V(a) of these rules).
- c. There can be no changes made in the delegate lists, or alternates raised to delegates, after 10:15 AM on Sunday, June 11, 2023. Only registered, certified delegates with their credentials will be allowed to vote.



IV. In-Person Election Logistics:

- a. There shall be no political signs of any nature which relate to the election being conducted displayed in the election rooms, other than incidental personal items.
- b. Each table will have at least two election volunteers present at all times during voting and tallying. At each table, one election volunteer will act as the ballot clerk and will have charge of the ballots, which shall be numbered, and the other will act as a ballot box clerk and will be stationed at the ballot box.
- c. Each delegate shall present their credentials and state their name to the ballot clerk who shall check off the name in the registry by recording the number of the ballot next to the delegate's name. Each ballot shall be initialed by the ballot clerk before it is handed to the delegate. Ballots without initials will not be counted. The delegate shall receive a ballot from the ballot clerk and mark the ballot.
- d. If there are three or more candidates for a WisDems officer position, the delegate shall rank their preference of each candidate. The ballot shall then be deposited in the ballot box under the observation of the ballot-box clerk, and the delegate shall then leave the room.
- e. When the time for voting has ended, ballots shall be counted at each table by the election volunteers. One volunteer shall open and read the ballot aloud and the other shall record the vote on the tally sheet. Counted ballots shall be placed in a separate receptacle so as not to be mixed with the uncounted ballots.
- f. If there are three or more candidates for a WisDems officer position, the ballots for that position shall also be counted at each table by election volunteers. One volunteer shall open, read the 1st choice of the voter and place it into separate piles for each candidate based on the voters' 1st choice. The other volunteer shall tally the vote on the 1st round tally sheet. The total number of votes will be tallied and the number of 1st choice votes for each candidate will be totaled. If no candidate receives the majority of votes based on voters' 1st choice, the candidate with the least amount of 1st choice votes is eliminated and one volunteer shall redistribute the eliminated candidate's ballots to the other candidate's piles based on the voter's 2nd choice and read aloud the 2nd choice. The other volunteer shall record the additional vote on the 2nd round tally sheet. This process shall continue, into 3rd, 4th, etc rounds if needed, until a candidate receives a majority of votes cast. If a voter whose candidate is eliminated doesn't record a choice for the next round of voting, that ballot shall be placed in a separate pile and won't be counted.
- g. After all votes cast at a table have been recorded on a tally sheet, the tally sheets shall be signed by the election volunteers and shall be turned over, together with the ballots, to the chair of the Elections Commission who shall retain them for not less than thirty (30) days, after which they shall be destroyed.
- h. Each candidate whose name appears on the ballot is allowed four observers during the balloting and tallying. Observers must remain in the designated area. No persons other than the election volunteers, the members of the Election Commission



and the candidates' designated observers shall be allowed in the room while the ballots are being counted.

V. Online Election Logistics:

- a. Delegates who are unable to attend the State Convention in-person & submit the accommodation request form by 5 PM on May 27th will be permitted to vote via Google Form ballot.
- b. An email will be sent no less than one week prior to State Convention to delegates attending online with the following information:
 - i. A unique voter number
 - ii. Information on viewing and participating in the virtual convention
 - iii. The link to the DNC Member & WisDems officer election ballot
 - iv. The link to the resolutions ballot
 - v. Additional information as necessary.
- c. Online voting for contested elections shall take place at the same time as in-person voting: 9 AM - 12 PM on Sunday, June 11, 2023
 - i. Electronic ballots shall open and begin accepting votes at 9 AM and will close to online votes at 12 PM.
- d. Electronic ballots will be prepared using Google Form software. Each voter will submit no more than one (1) completed ballot.
- e. In lieu of presenting traditional physical credentials, delegates at the virtual Convention will be required to provide the following on their electronic ballots:
 - i. An email address, in order to receive an electronic receipt of their votes.
 - ii. Their first and last name, in accordance with DNC rules which do not allow for secret ballots.
 - iii. Their unique voter number, assigned and emailed to them no later than 1 week before the opening of the Virtual Convention.
- f. DPW staff and a designated member of the Elections Commission will serve as the official ballot managers for all online balloting and tallying.
- g. DPW will also provide staff to serve as technological support for voters during the established voting period. These designated tech support staff shall correspond with voters experiencing difficulty receiving their ballots via email, text, and phone.
- h. Upon the close of voting, the ballot manager will deactivate the electronic ballot, ensuring no further responses are received, and shall sweep data for any fraudulent votes.
 - i. Votes will be considered fraudulent if:
 1. Multiple votes are cast under the same name
 2. Votes are cast with a name and unique voter number that do not match
 3. A ballot is cast with information that doesn't correspond with an eligible delegate



- i. Tallying shall begin immediately after the ballots have been swept for fraudulent votes, and shall take place at the designated in-person tallying space in the Convention Center.

VI. Election of DPW Officers:

- a. Pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, the qualified officer candidates who receive the majority of votes via rank choice voting shall be declared the winners. Write-in candidates are not permitted.
- b. The chair, and first vice-chair serve as members of the Democratic National Committee and therefore must be elected in a manner that is consistent with DNC rules. The DNC requires elections for its members to be held in an open meeting and secret ballots are prohibited.
- c. Pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, the first vice-chair must be of a different gender than that of the chair. Only first vice chair candidates who are of a different gender than the chair candidate who received the majority of votes may be considered for the position.
- d. The votes for the chair candidate will be counted first and a winner determined. Votes will then be counted for the first vice chair candidates of a different gender from the chair, and a winner determined. Next, second vice chair, treasurer, and secretary votes will be counted separately (in that order) and winners will be determined for any contested races.
- e. In the event of a tie, the election volunteers will recount the ballots. If the count remains a tie, the Election Commission shall determine a winner by lot.
- f. The Election Commission shall prepare a report of the results of the balloting for the office(s) voted upon at this election and it shall be signed by a majority of the members of the Elections Commission. The report shall be submitted to the State Chair, and results announced by the Election Commission Chairperson prior to the adjournment of the convention.
- g. At the request of any candidate, the Elections Commission may, at its discretion, conduct a recount governed by the same rules as the election count. The recount request must be made within twenty (20) minutes of the announcement of the vote totals at the convention and the request must be made in person to the Chair of the Elections Commission.

VII. Election of DNC Member (Special Election):

- a. Pursuant to the Constitution and By-laws of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and the Charter and rules of the Democratic National Committee, the DNC Member candidate who receives the most votes shall be declared the winner. Write-in candidates are not permitted.
- b. In the event of a tie, the election volunteers will recount the ballots. If the count remains a tie, the Election Commission shall determine a winner by lot.



- c. The Election Commission shall prepare a report of the results of the balloting for the office(s) voted upon at this election and it shall be signed by a majority of the members of the Elections Commission. The report shall be submitted to the State Chair, and results announced by the Election Commission Chairperson prior to the adjournment of the convention.
- d. At the request of any candidate, the Elections Commission may, at its discretion, conduct a recount governed by the same rules as the election count. The recount request must be made within 20 minutes of the announcement of the vote totals at the convention and the request must be made in person to the Chair of the Elections Commission.

VIII. Election Challenge:

- a. Pursuant to Democratic Party of Wisconsin Bylaws, only a defeated candidate for party office may challenge any election. Such challenge shall be filed in writing with the Election Commission Chair and a copy sent to the person(s) being challenged within ten (10) days of the election. The challenge must state the reason(s) therefore and must be made by a defeated candidate who may reasonably expect to replace the persons being challenged if the challenge is upheld. The challenge must be considered by the Administrative Committee within ten (10) days of being presented to the Election Commission Chair.
- b. Any party seeking to identify the vote of any delegate(s) shall file a request in writing with the Election Commission Chair within ten (10) days of the election. The request will be acted upon by the Administrative Committee at its next regular meeting in accord with the Charter and By-laws of the Democratic National Committee, the By-laws and Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.
- c. The Election Commission Chair can be reached via email at electioncommission@wisdems.org.