



State Convention General Rules

June 10 & 11, 2023

Green Bay, WI

I. General Rules

- a. The conduct of the Convention shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, insofar as it does not conflict with the following special rules of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, its Constitution and Bylaws.
- b. The State Chair may appoint temporary chairs and parliamentarians.

II. Registration

- a. Registration of delegates, alternates, and guests shall be Saturday, June 10, from 9:00 AM until 7:00 PM and Sunday, June 11, from 8:00 AM until 9:30 AM at which time registration shall permanently close.
- b. The process of elevating alternates to delegates shall begin on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at 9:45 AM and end at 10:15 AM. Alternates shall be raised to delegate status in the order that they present themselves at the registration table and in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party.
- c. Anyone in line to register by 7:00 PM on Saturday, June 10, or 9:30 AM on Sunday, June 11, will be eligible to register. Any alternates in line by 10:15 AM on Sunday, June 11, will be eligible to be raised to delegate status if a county's delegate quota allows and in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party.
- d. Changes in the delegate alternate lists shall be made pursuant to the provisions of the Bylaws of the party.

III. Quorum

- a. Pursuant to the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, a quorum is 25% of all registered delegates.
- b. Pursuant to the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, consideration of a Party Constitutional Amendment requires a 50% quorum of all registered delegates. Proposals for amending the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin must be submitted in writing by any county unit or authorized sub-division thereof or of any permanent committee of the party to a standing constitution committee through state headquarters at least 90 days before the state convention.

IV. Voting

- a. When a full delegation of any given county is not present on the floor of the Conventions, alternates may vote in the place of absent delegates. County chairpersons or designees



are responsible for assuring that alternates vote on the floor only when the full quota of the county's delegates is not present.

- b. Seating of delegations shall be by Congressional District.
- a. Party units conducting elections at Convention shall have purview over their voting process, insofar as it does not conflict with their governing documents.
- c. All other election and voting procedures shall be determined in the 2023 Election Rules.

V. Resolutions

- a. The Platform and Resolutions Committee report shall be distributed to all delegates and alternates by May 22nd, or as close to the 22nd as possible.
 - i. The report shall include all resolutions deemed in order by the P&R Committee, as well as the amendment process as outlined in this section of the General Convention Rules.
- b. In order to accommodate any delegates attending virtually, resolutions from the floor *from any delegate, virtual or in-person*, must be submitted to the Platform & Resolutions Committee Chair & the WisDems Party Affairs team not later than 5 PM on May 31st.
 - i. Pursuant to State Party Bylaws, resolutions shall be no more than 100 words in length and presented to the Chair of the Platform and Resolutions Committee in writing.
 - ii. Amendments on floor resolutions will not be permitted, per section VII (c) of these rules.
- c. Separations (aka the request to separate a resolution from the packet for individual consideration) *from any delegate, virtual or in-person*, must be submitted to the Platform & Resolutions Committee Chair & the WisDems Party Affairs team not later than 5 PM on May 31st, or may be recommended by the Platform & Resolutions Committee itself.
- d. A virtual meeting space will be provided for individuals who submit floor resolutions, amendments, or separations by the May 31st deadline, prior to the convening of the Convention.
 - i. The meeting space will convene no later than Friday, June 2nd, and with the purpose of providing a forum for delegates to discuss any final changes to send to the P&R Committee.
 - ii. Revisions may be made to previously submitted floor resolutions, amendments, or separations at this meeting, and must be forwarded to the P&R Committee Chair via State Headquarters within 24 hours.
- e. The Platform and Resolutions Committee shall meet no later than June 5th to review all proposed floor resolutions and amendments, as well as any submitted separations.
 - i. They shall reject those floor resolutions and amendments that do not meet the criteria as outlined in these rules.



- ii. They may modify or combine floor resolutions as they would resolutions from Congressional Districts.
- iii. They may make a recommendation for approval or rejection of floor resolutions, separated resolutions, and amendments to the platform and any resolutions.
- f. A revised Platform and Resolutions Committee report, incorporating all floor resolutions, amendments, and separations deemed in order by the Committee, will be circulated no later than 48 hours prior to the opening of Convention.

VI. Floor Debate

- a. The provisions of this section shall apply to the platform and resolutions process, and shall apply to both in-person and virtual attendees.
- b. The Platform and Resolutions Committee report shall be distributed to all delegates and alternates.
- c. Motions to approve ballot measures as presented shall only be considered in order when presented by the committee Chair. Seconds are not required.
 - i. For the purpose of this section, “ballot measures” shall be defined as any item requiring a vote by Convention delegates when considering the Platform and Resolutions.
- d. No amendments to floor resolutions or platform amendments shall be permitted.
- e. Floor debate shall only be permitted if delegates wish to speak in favor or in opposition to a ballot measure as presented.
 - i. Pre-registration of potential speakers: Due to the logistics of the hybrid P&R format, delegates **attending virtually** who believe that they may wish to speak during floor debate on any ballot measure must register with DPW HQ in advance, and no later than 5 PM on Thursday, June 8th. Instructions on how online delegates can pre-register to speak on a resolution or separation will be circulated to delegates no later than May 29th. Delegates attending the Convention in-person will not be required to pre-register to speak.
 - ii. Online delegates who pre-registered to speak will speak prior to in-person delegates. Then, in-person delegates registered to speak in opposition will speak, followed by in-person delegates speaking in favor. Up to half of the allotted speaking time will be reserved for in-person delegates as needed.
 - iii. The time for debate of any motion shall be determined by the chair and shall not exceed 20 minutes. For contested matters, the chair shall allocate equal time to each side.
 - iv. No delegate shall speak more than two (2) minutes at a time on any motion, nor speak a second time until all other delegates on the same side of the motion have spoken.
 - v. Upon being recognized, delegates shall announce their name and county.



- vi. If a delegate shall be called to order by the chair, the delegate shall be seated until the question of order is determined.
- vii. No motion offered from the floor, except a procedural motion, shall be considered until delivered to the secretary in writing.
- viii. All motions shall be for positive action. A motion to reject is not in order. A motion to table is not debatable or amendable.
- ix. A delegate who due to disability has difficulty in voting or taking any other action permitted delegates may if present on the Convention floor authorize another person to vote or take such other action on his/her behalf as s/he shall direct. A delegate who assists another in this manner surrenders no right of a delegate.
- x. On a motion to adopt, amend, or amend an amendment of a specific congressional district resolution, the chair may first recognize for debate only a delegate who opposes the motion. If no delegate who opposes the motion seeks recognition to be the first to debate it, the chair may put the motion to a vote without debate. If a delegate who opposes the motion seeks recognition to be the first to debate it, debate on the motion shall otherwise proceed according to the rules as if this rule were not in effect, except that this rule shall continue to apply to motions to amend that are subsidiary to the motion being debated. For purposes of this rule, to "oppose a motion" means to speak against adoption of the motion or make any pertinent subsidiary or incidental motion. This rule does not limit parliamentary inquiries, points of information and order, and other privileges.