



PERMANENT Procedural Rules of the 2020 Democratic National Convention

The following Procedural Rules were approved by the Rules Committee at its meeting on July 30, 2020, and are adapted from the Temporary Rules of Procedure for the 2020 Democratic National Convention as adopted by the Democratic National Committee on August 25, 2018 in its Call for the 2020 Democratic National Convention (the "Call"). Pursuant to an amendment to the Call subsequently adopted by the National Committee on May 29, 2020, the Rules Committee has adopted these Permanent Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the 2020 Democratic National Convention. These Rules reflect changes to accommodate the unique circumstances in which the 2020 Convention will be held during the COVID-19 pandemic and do not affect the applicability of longstanding procedures to future Democratic National Conventions.

A. Permanent Chair and Convention Officers:

1. In accordance with the requirements of the 1984 Democratic National Convention Resolution which calls for alternating the Convention Chair by gender, the Permanent Chair of the 2020 Democratic National Convention shall be a male.
2. The Permanent Chair, as selected by the Rules Committee, shall call the Convention to order and shall preside in accordance with these rules.
3. The National Committee Secretary shall serve as the Secretary.
4. The Rules Committee or the Chair may select such other officers as may be required to assist in the conduct of the business of the Convention. These officers shall be divided equally. In the case of gender non-binary officers, they shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the officers shall be equally divided.

B. Temporary and Permanent Roll:

1. The Secretary of the Democratic National Committee shall determine a Temporary Roll of delegates and alternates to the Convention which shall consist only of those persons selected and certified as delegates and alternates in accordance with the Delegate Selection Rules and pursuant to the Call, unless a credentials contest shall have arisen with respect to any such person(s), in which case the Secretary shall include on the Temporary Roll the name of the credentials contestant to be considered by the Credentials Committee.
2. The Credentials Committee shall determine and resolve questions concerning the seating of delegates and alternates in its report, which shall be the Permanent Roll of delegates and alternates to the Convention.
3. The Permanent Roll will be the Roll unless there is a minority report passed pursuant to Article VII.J.3 of the Call and said minority report is adopted by a majority of the delegates present and voting, changing only that portion of the Roll as outlined in the minority report. Persons whose names are included on the Permanent Roll of delegates shall be permitted to vote on all matters before the Convention until the adoption by a majority of the Convention delegates present and voting of any minority report of the Credentials Committee

withdrawing their credentials; provided that no person shall be permitted to vote on their own credentials contest.

C. Order of Business: The order of business for the Democratic National Convention shall be as provided in these rules. The Chair of the Convention may, at appropriate times, interrupt the order of business provided for in these rules for introductions, announcements, addresses, presentations, resolutions of tribute and appreciation, or remarks appropriate to the business of the Convention.

1. Report of the Credentials Committee:

- a. Pursuant to Article VII.J.1 of the Call, as amended by the Democratic National Committee on May 29, 2020, the Credentials Committee shall determine and resolve questions concerning the seating of delegates and alternates to the Convention. These determinations, as reported in the Credentials Committee's report, shall be the Permanent Roll of the Convention. Any minority report meeting the requirements of Article VII.J.3 of the Call shall be submitted to the Convention delegates for their consideration and vote according to the procedures set forth in Section E of these Rules.
- b. The Chair shall recognize the Chair(s) of the Credentials Committee to present the committee's report. In the event that any minority report of the Credentials Committee received a majority vote of the Convention delegates present and voting according to the procedures provided for in Section E of these Rules, the Chair(s) of the Credentials Committee shall read the results of such vote into the record and the Chair will declare the minority report adopted. Upon the Chair's declaration that a minority report has been adopted, the Permanent Roll of the Convention shall be amended to reflect the adopted minority report, and the Secretary shall remove the votes of any delegates removed from the Permanent Roll by the minority report from any subsequent vote tally.

2. Report of Rules Committee:

- a. Pursuant to Article VII.I.1 of the Call, as amended by the Democratic National Committee on May 29, 2020, the Rules Committee shall adopt the Permanent Rules of the Convention and the Convention agenda; select the permanent officers of the Convention; propose amendments, if any, to the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States for the Convention's consideration; and propose resolutions, if any, concerning any other matter not provided for in the Permanent Rules of the Convention and not contained in the reports of other standing committees for the Convention's consideration. The Rules Committee may also convey statements, if any, adopted by a majority vote of the Committee. Any minority report meeting the requirements of Article VII.I.3 of the Call, any proposed amendments to the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States, and any proposed resolutions concerning any other matter not provided for in these Rules and not contained in the reports of other standing committees shall be submitted to the Convention delegates for their consideration and vote according to the procedures set forth in Section E of these Rules.
- b. The Chair shall recognize the Chair(s) of the Rules Committee to present the committee's report. In the event that any minority report or resolution of the Rules Committee received a majority vote of the Convention delegates present and voting according to the procedures provided for in Section E of these Rules, the Chair(s) of the Rules Committee shall read the results of such vote into the record and the Chair will declare the minority

report or resolution adopted. In the event that the Rules Committee has proposed an amendment to the Charter of the Democratic Party for the Convention's consideration and vote, the Chair(s) of the Rules Committee shall read into the record the results of the vote of the Convention delegates present and voting according to the procedures provided for in Section E of these Rules on the proposed amendment and, if a majority of Convention delegates present and voting voted to approve the amendment, the Chair will declare the amendment approved by the Convention and the amendment shall be transmitted to the Democratic National Committee for its consideration.

3. Report of Platform Committee:

- a. The Platform Committee's report and any minority report meeting the requirements of Article VII.H.6 of the Call shall be submitted to the Convention delegates for their consideration and vote according to the procedures set forth in Section E of these Rules.
- b. The Chair shall recognize the Chair(s) of the Platform Committee to present the committee's report. A majority vote of the Convention delegates present and voting according to the procedures provided for in Section E of these Rules will be required for the passage and adoption of the Platform Committee's report. The Chair(s) of the Platform Committee shall read the results of the Convention delegates' vote into the record, and if a majority of delegates present and voting have voted to adopt the report, the report shall be declared adopted. In the event that any minority report of the Platform Committee received a majority vote of the Convention delegates present and voting according to the procedures provided for in Section E of these Rules, the Chair(s) of the Platform Committee shall read the results of such vote into the record and the Chair will declare the minority report adopted.

4. Nomination of the Democratic Candidate for President: The Chair shall announce the nominations received for the Democratic candidate for the Office of President of the United States. Nominations shall be made in the following manner:

- a. Requests to nominate a presidential candidate shall be in writing and shall have affixed thereto the approval of the proposed nominee and the name of the individuals who shall be recognized to make the nominating and seconding speeches on behalf of a presidential candidate and shall be delivered to the Convention Secretary by a method specified by the Secretary no later than 6:00 p.m. August 1, 2020; the receipt of said request shall constitute the placement of the individual's name in nomination to facilitate voting according to the procedures provided for in Section E of these Rules.
- b. Only presidential candidates who have secured not less than 300 pledged delegates certified to the DNC Secretary shall be eligible to request to have their name placed in nomination.
- c. The order for nominating presidential candidates shall be determined by the National Chairperson of the Democratic National Committee, the Chair of the Convention and each presidential candidate, or their authorized representative, who qualifies to be nominated pursuant to this section.

Each presidential candidate shall be allowed a total of twenty (20) minutes for the presentation of their name in nomination by nominating and seconding speeches, the time to run without interruption from the recognition of the nominator.

- d. Delegates and alternates shall maintain order during and following nominations for the Office of President and demonstrations shall not be permitted.
5. Roll Call for Presidential Candidate:
 - a. After the nominating and seconding speeches for presidential candidates have concluded, the Convention shall proceed to a roll call by states on the selection of the presidential candidate. The roll call shall follow the alphabetical order of the states with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico and the territories treated as states for the purpose of the alphabetical roll call.
 - b. On the first presidential roll call, only the votes of pledged delegates cast according to the procedures provided for in Section E of these Rules will be included in the count and announced unless a presidential candidate has been certified by the DNC Secretary to have obtained a number of pledged delegates equal to a majority of all pledged and automatic delegates to the Convention,¹ at which point the votes of automatic delegates cast according to the procedures provided for in Section E of these Rules will also be included in the count and announced on the first roll call.
 - c. In the event that a nominating contest moves beyond the first roll call, the votes of all pledged and automatic delegates will be counted in each round of successive roll calls until a nominee is chosen.
 - d. A majority vote of all Convention delegates eligible to vote on the ballot in question shall be required to nominate the presidential candidate.
 - e. Eligible delegates may vote for the candidate of their choice whether or not the name of such candidate was placed in nomination. Any vote cast other than a vote for a presidential candidate meeting the requirements of Article VI of the Call and Rule 13.K. of the 2020 Delegate Selection Rules shall be considered a vote for "Present."
 - f. The roll call will continue until a nominee is selected according to the tally of votes announced during the roll call. State Delegation Chairs will report their delegation's votes, which in the discretion of the Chair can be done verbally or in writing at any time. Upon announcement of a nominee having received a majority of the votes, the roll call may be suspended by the Chair, provided that all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the territories shall deliver their vote prior to the nominee's acceptance speech.
 6. Acceptance Speech by Presidential Candidate: Immediately after the selection of the Democratic nominee for President, the Chair shall invite the nominee to deliver an acceptance speech to the Convention. The nominee shall become the candidate of the Democratic Party of the United States for the Office of President upon the conclusion of their acceptance speech.
 7. Nomination for the Democratic Candidate for Vice President: The Democratic candidate(s) for Vice President shall be nominated by the Presidential candidate who has obtained a number of pledged delegates equal to a majority of all pledged and automatic delegates to

¹ The determination that a presidential candidate has secured the requisite number of pledged delegates shall be made by the DNC Secretary upon certification to the Secretary of the requisite number of pledged delegates (the Secretary's calculation shall not take into account any alternates). The DNC Secretary shall publicly announce his or her determination as soon as practicable. Subsequent events after the Secretary's announcement shall not change the determination.

the Convention. If there is only one nominee for Vice President, the Chair is authorized to declare the nominated individual the Democratic Candidate for Vice President.

8. Acceptance Speech by Vice Presidential Candidate: Immediately after the selection of the Democratic nominee for Vice President, the Chair shall invite the nominee to deliver an acceptance speech to the Convention. The nominee shall become the candidate of the Democratic Party of the United States for the office of Vice President upon completion of their acceptance speech to the Convention.

D. Powers and Duties of the Chair:

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Chair to conduct and expedite the business of the Convention and to preserve order and decorum in its proceedings. When, in the opinion of the Chair, the business of the Convention is completed, then the Chair may adjourn the Convention.
2. The Chair is authorized to appoint such Convention officers as may be required to assist in the conduct of the business of the Convention, such officers to be divided equally (in the case of gender non-binary convention officers, they shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the officers shall be equally divided); to appoint any delegate temporarily to perform the duties of the Chair; and to take such lawful action as may be necessary and appropriate to preserve order throughout the Convention Hall and on any virtual platform(s) utilized by the Convention; and to take any other actions consistent with the Charter and the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States and the Call.

E. Voting:

1. Secret Ballot: No secret ballots shall be permitted at any stage of the Convention or its committee proceedings.
2. Proxy Voting: Neither delegate nor alternate delegate votes may be cast by proxy.
3. Roll Call. The roll call shall follow the order as specified in Section C.5.
4. Delegate Voting:
 - a. On all votes, except the first presidential roll call as described in Section C.5, the votes of automatic delegates made according to their own preferences will be counted and announced.
 - b. All delegates to the Convention will vote on all questions on which they are eligible to vote, including the nomination of the Democratic candidate for President, the approval of the Democratic Party Platform, any resolution or amendment submitted for consideration of the Convention by the Rules Committee pursuant to Section C.2.a of these Rules, and the adoption of any minority report of the Credentials, Rules, and Platform committees, by a remote voting system which will include email, mail, and telephone voting options. Remote ballots will be returned to the Secretary or the Secretary's designee for tabulation; provided, however, that where the Secretary or the Secretary's designee has an articulable basis to believe that the ballot was cast in error or by someone other than the delegate to whom the ballot was issued, the Secretary or the Secretary's designee shall take such steps, as determined in the Secretary's sole

discretion, as may be necessary to confirm the identity of the delegate voting and the substance of the vote cast. There will be a separate ballot for each item to be voted on.

- c. The Secretary may open voting on any matter at any point after the adoption of the reports of the Credentials Committee and the Rules Committee by the respective committees. The date and time (“deadline”) by which votes must be received by the Secretary or the Secretary’s designee shall be announced not later than the date on which the ballots are distributed. A delegate may change their vote by submitting an updated vote to the Secretary or the Secretary’s designee not later than the ballot deadline. Certification of the replacement of a delegate (due to resignation, death, or unavailability) by an alternate and replacement of a vacant alternate position will be accepted by the Secretary until 11:00 pm ET, Friday, July 31, 2020.
 - d. Any delegates whose vote is received by the Secretary or the Secretary’s designee by the deadline shall be deemed “present and voting” for purposes of these Rules and the Call.
 - e. All delegates to the National Convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them.
5. Unit Rule: The unit rule, or any rule or practice whereby all members of a Party unit or delegation may be required to cast their votes in accordance with the will of a majority of the body, shall not be used.
6. Determination of Question: Except as otherwise provided in these rules, all questions shall be determined by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting at the Convention.
- F. Filling a Vacancy on the National Ticket: In the event of death, resignation or disability of a nominee of the Party for President or Vice President after the adjournment of the National Convention, the National Chairperson of the Democratic National Committee shall confer with the Democratic leadership of the United States Congress and the Democratic Governors Association and shall report to the Democratic National Committee, which is authorized to fill the vacancy or vacancies.
- G. Interpretation of the Rules: In interpreting the rules, the Chair may have recourse to the rulings of Chairs of previous Democratic Conventions, to the precedents of the United States House of Representatives and to general parliamentary law.
- H. Appeals:
- 1. The Chair shall decide all questions of order subject to an appeal by any delegate which may be debated for not more than ten (10) minutes, the time to be equally divided between the delegate appealing the ruling and a delegate in favor of sustaining the ruling of the Chair; provided that an appeal shall not be in order while another appeal is pending, or from decisions on recognition, or from decisions on dilatoriness of motions or during a roll call vote, or on a question on which an appeal has just been decided or, when in the opinion of the Chair, such appeal is clearly dilatory
 - 2. Before the question is put on any appeal, the Chair shall be entitled to state briefly the reasons for the ruling being appealed.
 - 3. Any appeal shall be decided by the members of the Rules Committee.

- I. Motion:
1. No question of privilege or any motion other than those provided under these rules shall be entertained, except the motion to recess (to a time certain or at the call of the Chair), which shall be privileged, and the motion to adjourn, which shall be the highest privilege.
 2. Motions to adjourn or to recess shall be in order at any time except when the question has been put or a vote is in progress and shall be decided without debate. The Chair shall not entertain a motion to adjourn or recess when such motion closely follows another such motion if in the opinion of the Chair such motion is dilatory.
- J. Amendments: No amendments to resolutions or motions before the Convention shall be permitted, except amendments to standing committee reports or resolutions offered at the direction of the standing committee or in a minority report of that standing committee; provided that no motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted in the form of such an amendment.
- K. Minority Reports: Minority reports of committees shall not be considered and voted on by Convention delegates via the procedures provided for in Section E of these Rules unless a minority report is endorsed by members representing at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the total votes of a committee. Each committee's rules of procedure will provide procedures for the submission of minority reports. A minority report may be withdrawn at any time prior to the close of voting on the minority report. A minority report shall be deemed to be withdrawn when support for the report falls below the number of members representing twenty-five percent (25%) of the total votes of the standing committee as evidenced by the written withdrawal of support by proponents of the report. If a minority report is withdrawn after voting has begun, no votes cast for adoption of that report will be counted. A committee member may withdraw their support for a minority report by written notice (including email and fax) to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee until the voting on the minority report closes.
- L. Responsibility: By participating in the Democratic National Convention, each delegate assumes the responsibility for doing all within their power to assure that voters of their state will have the opportunity to cast their election ballots for the Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees selected by the Convention or, should a vacancy arise, pursuant to Section F. of these rules, and expressly agrees that he or she will not publicly support or campaign for any candidate for President or Vice President other than the nominees of the Democratic National Convention, or, should a vacancy arise, the nominee(s) selected pursuant to Section F.
- M. Debate: Unless otherwise provided in these rules, debate on any question shall be limited to a total of twenty (20) minutes and shall be equally divided between proponents and opponents unless they and the Chair agree upon an additional or lesser amount of time.
- N. Quorum: A majority of the delegates to the Convention present and voting, as defined in Section E.4.d, shall constitute a quorum thereof for the purpose of transacting business. The presence of a quorum, as evidenced by the receipt by the Secretary of a majority of the ballots sent to the delegates upon the organization of the Convention, shall be required to adopt any standing committee report, minority report, or resolution; approve any proposed amendment to the Charter of the Democratic Party; and select the Democratic candidate for President. For the avoidance of doubt, presence of a quorum on any item of business shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of selecting the Democratic candidate for Vice President chosen pursuant to the process set forth in Section C.7 in the event there is only one nomination for that candidacy at

the time of the selection. Regardless of the presence of a quorum, the Chair may announce any of the foregoing actions effectuated by the processes set forth in Sections E and C.7 of these rules.

- O. References to the “Chair”: All references to the authority and responsibilities of the “Chair” shall pertain to the Permanent Chair, the Co-Chair(s) and any other person assuming the duties of the Chair as appropriate during the Convention.
- P. Equal Division: The Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States provides that the National Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates equally divided between men and women (as determined by self-identification). These Rules, in compliance with the Charter, and pursuant to Rule 6.C. of the *2020 Delegate Selection Rules*, mandate that delegates and alternates from each state and jurisdiction shall be equally divided between men and women with a variance of no more than one (1). In the case of gender non-binary delegates, they shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the delegation shall be equally divided between male gender and female gender.
- Q. Non-Discrimination: Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status or disability in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited.
- R. Territories: The term “territories” shall refer to American Samoa, Democrats Abroad, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands in these Rules.
- S. Proceedings:
 - 1. A record of all actions taken each day by the Convention shall be made available to all delegates and alternates.
 - 2. The Secretary of the Democratic National Committee will provide a journal of the full proceedings of the Convention, which shall be made available within the year following the Convention.