

MOCK CONVENTION

★ 2020 ★

RULES



Ohio Wesleyan University
February 21-22, 2020

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Rules are based on the official rules of the Democratic National Convention and were compiled by Elisabeth Evers and Greg Margevicius, Rules and Credentials Chairs.

Ohio Wesleyan University
Mock Convention 2020
The Future Is Ours

The subsequently listed procedures and rules, as well as Robert's Rules of Order, shall hereby be the determining factors governing "The Future is Ours" Mock Convention 2020. If Robert's Rules of Order should at any time come into conflict with the following listed procedures and rules, these procedures and rules shall take precedence over Robert's Rules of Order.

PROCEDURES:

1. No confetti may be used by a state, or any members of a state, during the convention.
2. The use of scotch tape on any object or surface of Gray Chapel is prohibited unless permission is previously given in writing to a state by the Executive Committee.
3. Eating, drinking, and smoking, without prior permission from the Rules Committee, are strictly prohibited while in Gray Chapel.
4. All State Chairs shall be held accountable for their delegation's behavior and involvement.
5. Each delegate shall have one vote in his/her assigned state.
6. State Chairs shall be limited to casting votes only on behalf of their delegates who are present in Gray Chapel at the time of voting.
7. Only the State Chair (or his/her designee) shall announce the state's vote for each candidate.
8. All caucusing shall take place on the floor of the convention.
9. Security officials shall have full authority to escort out of the convention hall any persons engaged in disruptive or disorderly conduct.
10. The Executive Committee shall reserve the right to reprimand or expel from the convention any delegate or chairperson whom they feel has violated any of the procedures or rules mentioned herein. It is requested, though not required, that the Executive Committee first warn a delegate or chairperson that his/her actions are out of order before ordering a delegate or chairperson's expulsion.

RULES:

1. Admission into the Convention Hall shall be limited to properly credentialed members of state delegations, officers and staff of the convention, members of the DNC, Democratic statewide and federal officeholders, and any others with written approval from the Executive Committee.
2. Order of Business: The Mock Convention shall proceed in the order of business prepared and distributed by the Executive Committee of the Mock Convention.
3. Parliamentary Authority, except for limitations mentioned in this document, shall adhere to the rules established by Robert's Rules of Order.
4. Diversity and Inclusion: The promises of a democratically elected government have not always been extended equally to all Americans. Historically, certain groups of Americans have been explicitly denied the right to vote or have been subjected to discriminatory and exclusionary practices that have denied them the ability to participate in our democracy. In recognition of this past history, the Mock Convention will promote an inclusive environment in which the diversity of our community is celebrated and encourages the full participation of all delegates, particularly those from historically underrepresented groups.
5. Speaking Privileges:
 - a. Any individual may address the plenary session with the consent of the Chair.
 - b. Officers of the convention shall have the privilege of addressing the session when matters pertaining to their official responsibilities are involved.
6. Credentials:
 - a. State Chairs must submit a list of their delegates to the Rules & Credential Committee
 - b. Prior to each session, State Chairs shall be in charge of picking-up and distributing credentials to each delegate on their list.
 - c. The State Chairs can proxy the presentation of credentials by submitting a written statement to the Chair naming the proxy they have selected.
 - d. Credential challenges must be made in writing and signed by no fewer than 20 delegates from at least two states.
 - e. Credentials may be revoked by a majority vote of the delegates.
7. Delegates of the Convention may have the following privileges:
 - a. To originate platform language
 - b. To vote
 - c. To make or second motions

- d. To make nominations
 - e. To raise parliamentary points
 - f. To address sessions of the convention
8. Quorum:
- a. A majority of delegates present when the convention is called to order and registered shall constitute a quorum. The presence of a quorum may be challenged if at least twenty delegates from at least two states request such a challenge. At such time, a roll call shall be called.
 - b. Whenever the rules of a convention require a certain percentage of delegates in plenary sessions for any purpose, that percentage shall be calculated on the basis of the most recent quorum vote.
9. Primary Amendments:
- a. All primary amendments must be submitted in writing before they can be introduced to the convention. After regular debate has ended, the Chair may choose to allow non-printed amendments to be brought up for debate at a time specified previously by the Chair.
 - b. Any primary amendment up for consideration must be turned in to the Secretary 20 minutes prior to debate on the relevant platform.
 - c. In order for an amendment to be considered, it must be submitted on the proper electronic form with the name and state of the sponsor. The sponsor must also submit a paper form bearing and the name, state, and signature of 25 additional delegates, and the signature of the sponsor.
 - d. If the Chair deems proposed amendments similar in nature, sponsors may be required to collaborate prior to debate and submit a single, revised amendment.
 - e. All amendments filed under these rules shall be maintained by the Secretary to be made available to all members of the convention.
 - f. Once the amendment has been deemed valid, it will be submitted to the Secretary for reading to the convention at the appropriate time. The Chair will then recognize the sponsor to speak for two minutes. Subsequent debate will alternate between amendment opponents and supporters.
 - g. Once a vote has been taken on a primary amendment all debate on said amendment will cease.

- h. Any primary amendment that seeks an alteration of the platform greater than 250 words must be submitted to the Chair with the signatures of at least 30 delegates.

10. No Secondary Amendments may be offered up to the Convention at any time.

11. Debate:

- a. Recognition: A delegate must first be recognized by the Chair to speak. At which time, the delegate must go to the microphone assigned to his/her region when speaking in a plenary session. Before speaking the delegate must state his/her name and delegation.
- b. General Limits on Debate: Where not otherwise provided by these rules, no delegate will speak more than once or longer than two minutes on the same question.
- c. Debate on a proposition or amendment may be closed after a minimum of one speaker from each side of the issue. It is at the Chair's discretion to close debate after this minimum has been met.
- d. Delegates can call the question to close debate on the topic. Debate will end if such a motion is supported by a 2/3 vote.
- e. Once debate is ended, a vote will commence.

12. Roll Call

- a. A roll call shall be taken at any such time that 50 delegates from ten states present to the Secretary a petition in writing requesting it or at any time at the behest of the Chair.
- b. At any such time that roll call is required, states shall be called in alphabetical order.
- c. Each state chairperson or his/her representative shall announce the vote of the delegation when called upon by the Secretary.
- d. If the vote of any state is divided, the Chairperson shall announce the number of votes for each candidate, or for or against any proposition.
- e. The announced vote of any state may be challenged by any voting member of the delegation of the state. At such time, the Chair shall poll the individual members of the delegation to determine the accurate vote count.
- f. Following a roll call vote of the states, the Chair, after asking for one round of challenges or corrections, shall rule the vote closed and cannot entertain any change subsequently, except by unanimous consent.
- g. Each delegation will be allowed to pass only once on each roll call vote. The Chair will call the roll once on each roll call vote. The Chair will call the roll once, at the conclusion of

which, states which have previously passed will be called in alphabetical order for the final time.

- h. No delegation shall be allowed to change its vote until all delegations which have previously passed have voted. Said delegations should also notify the Chair that it wishes to change its vote so that the Chair can recognize it to do so.

13. Tie Votes

- a. If, after the Chair of a session has exercised her/his privileges under Robert's Rules of Order, a tie vote remains, the Chair shall recess the session for ten minutes.
- b. Upon resumption, the vote will again be put up for discussion and a vote will again be called. If the vote remains tied, the motion or amendment being voted on shall be declared lost.

14. Nomination for President of the United States:

- a. At the designated time the Chair will call for nominations for President and Vice President of the United States. After the nominations have been closed, a roll of the states shall be called for both the President and the Vice President separately.
- b. Each candidate for nomination for President of the United States and Vice President of the United States shall demonstrate the support of thirty signatures from a minimum of 5 delegations. Each delegate may support only one candidate.
- c. The total time of the nominating speech and seconding speeches for any candidate for nomination for President or Vice President of the United States shall not exceed ten minutes.
- d. When, after the close of a roll call, any candidate for nomination for either President or Vice President has received a majority of the votes cast in the convention, the Chair shall declare that the candidate has been nominated.
- e. If no candidate shall have received such a majority, the Chair shall entertain motions from the floor, excluding any motion to adjourn the convention until candidates have successfully been nominated.

