

# Rules of the 2018 Massachusetts Republican State Convention

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## ARTICLE I CALL OF THE CONVENTION

### **Rule 1: Call of the Convention.**

1.1 Convention Call. The Chair of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee (the "Party Chair") shall, if authorized by the State Committee, not later than December 31 of the year prior to the year in which a convention is held, issue a call to hold a State Convention of the Massachusetts Republican Party ("Convention") to take place on April 28, 2018 for the purpose of (a) endorsing for nomination candidates for state-wide office to appear on the ballot for the ensuing State Primary; and (b) such other purposes consistent with law and these Rules as the Convention may determine.

#### 1.2 Applicability of Rules.

1.2.1 Delegate Allocation and Selection. (Article II): These Rules shall govern the allocation and selection of delegates to the Convention of the Massachusetts Republican Party until replaced by a vote of a subsequent Convention or by two-thirds vote of the State Committee.

1.2.2 Convention Conduct. (Articles III and IV): These Rules shall govern the conduct of the Convention upon approval by a majority vote of the Convention delegates.

## ARTICLE II ALLOCATION AND SELECTION OF DELEGATES

### **Rule 2: Delegates.**

2.1 Categories of Delegates. The Convention shall consist of delegates chosen by each organized Republican ward or town committee, and delegates ex officio.

2.1.1 Town or Ward Committee Elected Delegates. A town or ward committee shall be deemed organized, for the purposes of these Rules, if a statement of organization listing the committee membership pursuant to G.L. c. 52, § 5 has been filed with the Secretary of State's office on or before December 31 of the year prior to the year in which a convention is held.

2.1.2 Delegates Ex Officio. The following persons shall be eligible to be delegates ex officio: (i) based on office held as of the date of the ward or town delegate election: The Regular Members of the State Committee, any Republican Senator or Representative in the General Court, the Sheriff, or District Attorney of each county, if a registered Republican; (ii) County Commissioners, Registers of Probate, Registers of Deeds, Elected Clerks of Courts, and County Treasurers, if holding office and if a registered Republican; (iii) mayor, selectman, alderman, and city or town councilors, and school committee (municipal, regional, vocational), and elected members of the finance committee if holding office and if a registered Republican; (iv) the Chair of each Republican "City, Town, or Ward" Committee; (v) 150 members of the Convention Planning Committee selected by the Party Chair; (vi) 150 members of the Massachusetts Republican Finance Committee selected by the Party Chair, 25 registered Republicans selected by the National Committeewoman, and 25 registered Republicans selected by the National Committeeman; (vii) current and former Republican congressional members, current and former Republican state-wide officeholders, and former Republican members of the General Court; (viii) all present and former Party Chairs and executive directors of the State Committee; and; (ix) candidates for state representative and state senate who qualified for the ballot in the last election immediately preceding the convention, only if members or associate members of their Republican town or city committee. Ex Officio delegates shall have all the rights and duties of elected delegates, including the right to vote.

2.2 Qualifications of Delegates. All delegates must be registered Republicans within Massachusetts on or before December 31 of the year prior to the year in which the Convention is held. The certified records of any municipal election department, town or city clerk, or registrar of voters shall be deemed conclusive for the purposes of these Rules. In addition, all delegates must have paid any current and delinquent registration fees as required prior to receiving their credentials. Any delegate who would be able to attend the Convention but for lack of the registration fee may petition the Party Chair, in confidence, to be excused from paying the fee.

2.3 Disqualifications. Notice of any challenge to a delegate's qualifications shall be filed in writing with the Credentials Committee Chair, c/o Republican State Committee, 85 Merrimac Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114 (or such other address as may be the address of the office of the Republican State Committee), "ATTN: Convention Delegate Challenges." Challenges not received by the Credentials Committee Chair on or before the seventh (7th) day after the date of the town/ward committee elections shall be deemed waived. Notice of all challenges shall contain the names, addresses, telephone number, and email address of both the challenger and

the challenged delegate(s), together with a summary of the basis of the challenge. The Credentials Committee shall meet in the month of March during the year of the convention to hold hearings and decide all challenges by majority vote. A delegate shall not be disqualified without notice and an opportunity to be heard. All delegates are presumed qualified unless otherwise proven by a preponderance of verified evidence. The determination of Credentials Committee with regard to each challenged delegate shall be reported to the Members of the State Committee.

2.4 Waiver of Deadlines. The Party Chair may, for good cause, waive strict compliance with any deadline imposed by this Rule 2.

### **Rule 3: Allocation of Delegates.**

The number of delegates allocated to each ward or town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, eligible for selection by the organized Republican Committee of that ward or town, shall be one delegate for every 300 votes received by the Republican gubernatorial candidate in the most recent general election in which the Republican candidate for Governor was elected, rounded up from any fraction thereof. In the event the total number of votes is less than 300, then one delegate shall be eligible for selection by the organized Republican committee of that town or ward.

### **Rule 4: Selection of Delegates.**

4.1 Selection by City, Ward and Town Committees.

4.1.1 Calendar. Each town or ward committee shall elect its delegates during the period beginning on February 1, 2018 and ending on February 28, 2018.

4.1.2 Notice. Notice of the time and location of the ward or town committee meeting for the purpose of electing delegates shall be mailed to every member and associate member of the ward or town committee at their last known address and to the Party Chair at 85 Merrimac Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114 (or such other address as may be the address of the offices of the Republican State Committee), ATTN: Convention Delegate Elections, postmarked by January 15, 2018. A copy of such notice shall also be mailed simultaneously to the members of the State Committee who represent the ward or town. Failure to give this notice shall invalidate any action taken at the meeting.

4.1.3 Meeting Procedure. The ward or town committee shall fill the delegate positions allocated to it by majority vote of those present and voting at the duly convened meeting. Any person residing in the ward or town at the time of election, who otherwise qualifies as a

delegate pursuant to Rule 2.2, shall be eligible for election as a delegate. Proxy votes are not permitted, although a person need not attend the meeting to be elected as a delegate. The name, address, email, and telephone number of all persons elected as delegates shall be listed on a form provided by the State Committee. Each ward or town committee chair, or in his or her absence, the person who presides over the delegate election meeting shall sign their name on the form to certify compliance with these Rules. Material failure by any committee to comply with this Rule shall invalidate the election unless compliance is waived by the Party Chair.

4.1.4 Report of Election. The presiding officer of each ward or town committee shall send the form listing the name, address, email, and telephone numbers of each delegate selected at the meeting to the Party Chair, either via an electronic submission system created by the chair for this purpose, or via mail to the Massachusetts Republican State Committee, 85 Merrimac Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114 (or such other address as may be the address of the offices of the Republican State Committee), ATTN: Report of Convention Delegates. All reports shall be either submitted to the electronic system created by the Party Chair, or postmarked or delivered by hand no later than five (5) days after the date of the election (faxes or e-mails are not acceptable). Failure to provide this report pursuant to this Rule shall invalidate any action taken at the meeting unless compliance is waived by the Party Chair.

4.2 Waiver of Deadlines. The Party Chair may waive strict compliance with any deadline imposed by this Rule 4.

### **ARTICLE III** **AUTHORITY OF THE CONVENTION**

#### **Rule 5: Endorsement.**

Any candidate who receives a majority of the eligible votes cast in accordance with these Rules shall have the status of the endorsed candidate of the Massachusetts Republican Party for election at the ensuing state primary election, and shall have exclusive claim to such status for campaign and fundraising purposes.

#### **Rule 6: Challenge by Non-Endorsed Candidates,**

6.1 Minimum Vote. Only candidates who receive 15% or greater of the Convention vote on any ballot for a particular office may challenge the Convention endorsement for that office in the state primary election, except as provided in 6.2 and 6.3.

6.2 No Candidate. In the case of a statewide office for which no name was entered into nomination at the Convention, or in the case that the convention adjourns without endorsing a candidate for a statewide office, the State Committee may authorize, at a duly called meeting and in accordance with state law, a candidate's name to appear on the primary ballot notwithstanding that such candidate did not receive 15% of the Convention vote.

6.3 Withdrawal of Endorsed Candidate. In the case of an office for which the candidate endorsed by the Convention dies or is otherwise physically incapacitated to fulfill such office's duties, ceases to be a registered Republican, is disqualified, or otherwise withdraws his or her candidacy before the Primary, and there not being any other candidate on the Primary ballot for such office, the State Committee may authorize, at a duly called meeting and in accordance with state law, a candidate's name to appear on the primary ballot notwithstanding that such candidate did not receive 15% of the Convention vote.

#### **ARTICLE IV** **CONDUCT OF THE CONVENTION**

##### **Rule 7: Call to Order**

The Convention shall be called to order at a time to be determined by the Party Chair, or in his or her absence, by a person designated to do so by the Party Chair. The person shall then preside over the Convention until such time as the Permanent Chair or Co-Chairs shall have been elected by the delegates of the Convention. The Party Chair shall appoint a Temporary Secretary to receive the roll of the Convention. The monitor of each state senatorial district, as determined by the application of Rule 10, shall receive the credentials of the delegates from his or her state senatorial district and present them to the Temporary Secretary. Delegates shall be seated by State Senate District, based on lots drawn by the Party Chair prior to the Convention.

##### **Rule 8: Convention Officers.**

The Convention shall elect up to three Permanent Co-Chairmen and a Permanent Secretary, none of whom shall be an officer of the State Committee.

##### **Rule 9: Convention Committees and Officials.**

9.1 Designated Officers. Prior to the Convention, the Party Chair shall appoint the following officers to serve at the Convention: Convention Director, Convention Deputy Director, Parliamentarian, Chief Clerk, Director of Operations, Chief of Tally Operations, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Chief Page. The Party Chair may also, in his or her discretion, designate a Senior Advisor and an Honorary Chair.

9.2 Other Officers. The Party Chair shall be empowered to create and appoint such other committees or other officials from the delegates or other enrolled members of the Republican Party in Massachusetts and shall assign responsibilities to the Committees and officials as he or she may deem appropriate.

9.3 Legal Issues. Any legal issues arising in connection with the Convention shall be referred to the General Counsel of the State Committee.

#### **Rule 10: Delegation Organization.**

A town or ward delegation shall consist of all delegates selected by town or ward committees, and all ex-officio delegates who reside in the town or ward. Each town and ward delegation shall select a Chair prior to the opening of the Convention responsible for reporting the vote of that town or ward delegation to the monitor of its state senatorial delegation. The monitor of each State Senatorial Delegation shall be the senior member of the State Committee for such district. If both members of the State Committee for such district shall have equal seniority, then the monitor shall be the State Committee member whose name is first in alphabetical order, provided however, that in the event that either member of the State Committee from any such district shall be absent from the floor of the Convention, then the other member shall serve as monitor during the absence. If both members of the State Committee from any such district are absent, the Party Chair may appoint a delegate from the district to serve as monitor. Prior to the Convention, the Party Chair or his or her designee may reallocate or reassign delegates for the purposes of their seating location at the Convention for those delegates from a town or city divided between or among more than one Senatorial district.

#### **Rule 11: Voting Procedure.**

11.1 General Procedures. The Party Chair shall determine the method and order of voting for each vote or election during the Convention. There shall be no voting by proxy. The Party Chair will provide for a method of verifying the vote or of polling of delegates as he or she deems necessary.

11.2 Religious Accommodation Waiver. Individuals prohibited from attending the convention because of a bona fide religious hardship may, when sponsored by one of their representatives on the state committee, apply to the credentials committee to vote on the first ballot for any statewide office via an absentee ballot.

#### **Rule 12: Candidate Qualifications.**

For a candidate to be eligible to have his or her name placed before the Convention for endorsement, he or she must:

- (a) be qualified by law to accept the Republican nomination for the office in question;
- (b) be otherwise qualified by law for the office in question; and
- (c) have manifested in writing fifteen (15) days prior to the opening of the Convention to the Party Chair his or her willingness to accept the endorsement of the Convention and the nomination of the Massachusetts Republican Party for the office sought.

The Party Chair or the Convention by majority vote (without debate) may waive, for good cause, any deadline imposed by this Rule 12.

**Rule 13: Nominations.**

Eligible candidates shall be nominated to the Convention by a delegate who shall identify himself and present the name of the candidate. One other delegate shall be required to second the nomination. Nominating speeches for each candidate shall not exceed two (2) minutes and seconding speeches for each candidate shall not exceed two (2) minutes, except if there are four or more candidates for a particular statewide office, seconding speeches shall not exceed one (1) minute.

**Rule 14: Speeches.**

Prior to voting on candidates for state office, each candidate duly nominated in accordance with these Rules, shall immediately assemble on or send a representative to the platform to draw for speaking order. Any such candidate may address the Convention on his or her own behalf, or may assign some or all of his or her time to others who need not be delegates to the Convention. Speeches for each office shall last for not more than 45 minutes, divided equally among all the candidates and rounded up to the nearest minute for each, provided that each candidate shall receive a minimum of five minutes to speak and a maximum of ten minutes, except that speeches for Governor shall be a minimum of five minutes and a maximum of fifteen minutes.

**Rule 15: Polling.**

After the names of all candidates have been placed in nomination before the Convention, and at the conclusion of the supporting speeches, the Presiding Officer of the Convention shall call a reasonable recess while the monitors of the delegations poll their delegates.

**Rule 16: Voting Procedure/Endorsement.**

The majority of the eligible votes cast must be obtained for endorsement by the Party. Voting shall continue until a candidate is endorsed. Following the announcement of the official results of any vote for endorsement of a candidate for a particular office, if no candidate shall have received a majority, the Convention shall proceed to the second ballot, provided however, that on any second or succeeding

ballot for a particular office, the name of the candidate(s) for the office who either (a) have received fewer than 3% of the total number of votes cast or (b) have received the lowest number of votes on the immediately preceding ballot shall be dropped from further consideration by the Convention. On all ballots of the convention, delegates shall have the option to cast a vote of “no preference”, which shall be counted as an eligible vote and tallied towards the total votes cast. On any ballot in which there are fewer than three eligible candidates, the candidate that receives the most votes will be the endorsed candidate at the ensuing state primary, even if that candidate does not receive the majority of eligible votes cast as defined in this rule.

#### **Rule 17: Disqualified Votes.**

A vote cast for any ineligible candidate or for any candidate who was not nominated and seconded in accordance with these Rules, or for any candidate who is removed from further consideration in accordance with these Rules, shall not be considered as an eligible vote, and shall not be included in determining the number of eligible votes cast for any purpose of these rules.

#### **Rule 18: Order of Business.**

The Order of Business for the Convention shall be as follows:

- (a) Call to order by the Party Chair or his or her designee
- (b) Appointment of Temporary Secretary to receive the credentials
- (c) Report of the Committee on Credentials and Adoption of that Report
- (d) Report of the Committee on Rules and Adoption of the Rules
- (e) Election of Permanent Co-Chairs and Secretary of the Convention
- (f) In an order to be determined by the Party Chair, voting for the endorsement of candidates for the Republican nomination for:
  - (1) Secretary of the Commonwealth
  - (2) Attorney General
  - (3) Auditor of the Commonwealth
  - (4) Treasurer and Receiver-General
  - (5) Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth
  - (6) Governor of the Commonwealth
  - (7) United States Senator in Congress
- (g) Reports of Other Committees

Provided, however, that if at the hour of twelve o'clock (12:00) noon, the Convention shall not have proceeded to the voting for candidates for endorsement, the Presiding Officer of the Convention shall suspend whatever business is before the Convention and proceed forthwith to the consideration of the endorsement of candidates, unless the pending business of the Convention shall be a Keynote Address, in which event the Presiding Officer shall so suspend at the conclusion thereof. In the event that it shall be necessary to suspend, then such unfinished



business shall be brought before the Convention at the conclusion of the endorsement of the candidates as set forth in this Rule.

**Rule 19: Campaigning and Vendors.**

Only signs and booths authorized by the Party Chair or his or her designee shall be displayed or erected within the Convention Hall. At any time, the Party Chair may revoke the status of any organization in the convention facility.

**Rule 20: Convention Floor Admission and Fee.**

Except by the order of the Party Chair, only delegates, members of the convention committees, and officials of the Convention, shall be admitted to the sections of the Convention reserved for delegates. The Party Chair shall assess such fees for attending the Convention as he or she may deem appropriate or necessary. Said fee shall be considered a contribution to the Massachusetts Republican Party and will be reported as such. Any delegate who would be able to attend the Convention, but for lack of the registration fee, may petition the Party Chair, in confidence, to be excused from paying the fee.

**Rule 21: Reconsideration.**

No vote shall be reconsidered during the Convention except a vote on a main motion, which may be reconsidered only upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of eligible votes cast upon a motion for reconsideration of the vote. The proponents of any such motion for reconsideration and the opponents of any such motion shall be limited to an aggregate of three (3) minutes each for the purpose of addressing the Convention. A vote shall not be subject to reconsideration for a second time. In the discretion of the Presiding Officer, vote on reconsideration may be taken by voice vote.

**Rule 22: Committee Reports.**

Committee reports shall be adopted upon a majority vote of eligible votes cast which may, in the discretion of the Presiding Officer, be taken by voice vote. No committee report may be amended or substituted except by affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of eligible votes cast.

**Rule 23: Parliamentary Authority.**

The parliamentary authority for the Convention as to matters not covered by these Rules shall be the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*. The decision of the Convention Chair upon consultation with the Parliamentarian on any point of order or question of procedure shall be final and binding, subject only to appeal by affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of eligible votes cast.