

2020 SPOKANE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CONVENTION / Legislative Caucus

THE FOLLOWING RULES REVISIONS ARE TO BE USED IN ADDITION TO THE RULES for conducting an “electronic” or virtual Legislative Caucus ---

Whereas: Washington State Governor Jay Inslee has extended State Wide “Stay Home, Stay Safe” and Social Distancing orders in response to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic event for an indefinite time period.

Whereas: The Washington State Republican Party has amended the rules for the 2020 Caucus and Convention system that provide for County Conventions to be conducted through the use of technology. This temporary solution allows for County Convention Delegates to participate and elect Delegates to the Washington State Republican Convention remotely and authorizes the use of electronic voting measures and is not intended to replace traditional convention formats in the future.

Therefore:

The convention of delegates’ adoption of platform and resolution proposals is to be held at a future date, time and location to be determined- By the Spokane County Republican Central Committee Chairman. The Legislative District Caucus meetings to elect delegates to the Washington State Republican Party Convention is to be completed using the electronic voting and virtual meeting computer programs that have been recommended and prepared by the leadership of the WSRP and SCRCC.

This change to allow some type of electronic and virtual meeting format is to be used ONLY for this very exceptional situation. NO precedent is being set for any future meetings of this kind.

I. Credentials

- A. All delegates (and alternates) must register and be approved by the method used by the electronic Credentials Committee before voting or taking part in the Convention. Registration shall commence at 7:30am and close at 9:30am May 16, 2020. Credentialing may be done by using an e-mail address that has been verified to belong to the delegate or holding up the delegate’s driver’s license on the visual screen.
- B. The Credentials Committee shall report the number of delegates (and alternates approved as regular delegates) eligible to vote as the first order of business, immediately after the flag salute.
- C. In the event a delegate shall fail to register 72 hrs. ahead of the meeting such delegate’s position shall be filled by the Credentials Committee from the list of alternates registered from the absentee's precinct in the order of their priority as established at their precinct caucus. **No proxies will be allowed to participate in any votes or activities conducted at this Convention or Legislative District Caucus.**
- D. Only Delegates (and alternates approved as regular delegates) shall be allowed to participate.
- E. A quorum for this caucus will consist of 50%+1 of the delegates registered to participate.

- F. Any Republican within Spokane County who wishes to challenge the certification of a delegate elected to the Legislative Caucus must submit that challenge to the electronic Credentials Committee no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the caucus is called to order.
- G. The Credentials Committee shall make a decision on any challenge in a timely manner. All decisions by the Credentials Committee will be final.

II. Addressing the Chair

- A. Any delegate wishing to be heard will: use the “raise hand” signal on the computer screen and then be recognized by the Chair and their microphone un-muted.

The delegate shall state their name, precinct and the purpose for which they rise -- speak to an issue, stating pro, con or undecided on the issue in question.
- B. Duration of speeches by candidates or those recognized by the chair will be limited as follows and take place while the credentialing process is being completed:
 - 1. Statewide candidates – three (3) minutes.
 - 2. Countywide candidates – three (3) minutes.
 - 3. 5th Congressional District candidates – five (5) minutes.
 - 4. Speakers for any other purpose recognized by the Chair – three (3) minutes.

III. Order of Business for Combined Meeting:

All voting in the combined meeting will be done using Zoom Polling.

- 1. Call to order and opening ceremonies.
- 2. Appointment of temporary chair and temporary secretary
- 3. Credentials report and approval
- 4. Rules committee report and approval
- 5. Election of permanent chair
- 6. Election of permanent secretary
- 7. State Convention announcements
- 8. Break into Legislative District caucuses

IV. Order of Business for Legislative Caucus

The order of business will follow the Legislative District Caucus minutes form and complete the process of electing delegates to the WSRP State Convention:

- 1. Credentials Report
- 2. Election of permanent caucus chair
- 3. Election of permanent caucus secretary
- 4. Announce and put up on the screen the list of Delegate Candidates who met the 72 hr application deadline
- 5. Vote for the proper number of delegates using the electronic system
- 6. or by acclamation if the list of candidates is less than the maximum number allowed.
- 7. Alternates (if any) will be elected from the list of unsuccessful delegate candidates using the electronic system
- 8. Announcement about State Convention preparations
- 9. Adjournment

V. District Caucuses - Selection of Delegates to the State Convention

A. Temporary Chair.

The District Leaders shall appoint a temporary chair for each district caucus, who shall appoint a temporary secretary. The permanent chair and the permanent secretary of each caucus shall be elected by a majority vote of the delegates present at the legislative district caucus.

B. *Declaration of Candidacy to the State Convention. (WSRP Rule 26)

In any county which is required to have a printed ballot, any Republican who is a registered voter within the County/District he/she seeks to represent, wishing to be considered for the position of delegate to the State Convention and wishing to have his/her name appear on an alphabetized printed ballot for such post shall notify the county chairman or the chairman's designated representative in writing at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the opening gavel of the County Convention. Notice of this procedure shall be contained in the convention call.

C. **Printed State Delegate Ballot". (WSRP Rule 27)

In the case of any district election in which five (5) or more delegate positions are to be elected, the County Chairman shall cause to be printed a ballot listing each declared candidate for delegate to the State Convention in alphabetical order. **In any case, the produced ballot, whether paper or electronic must assure secrecy, auditability and visual verification of the results.**

D. No nominations from the "floor" (group of delegates participating) will be allowed due to the nature of the electronic voting.

E. *Majority Vote Required for State Convention Delegates. (WSRP Rule 29)

When there are more nominees than positions to be elected, all voting shall be by secret written ballot. Each delegate may vote for as many candidates as there shall be positions to be voted for that ballot. There shall be no cumulative voting. Those candidates for delegate to the State Convention who receive a majority of votes cast (over 50% of the of the amount of the delegates voting, Example: fifty [50] voting delegates, twenty-six [26] votes represents a majority) shall be deemed elected with succeeding ballots being conducted until all delegate positions have been elected by a majority of votes cast, except as provided in subparagraph E.1.c below.

1. Upon the completion of the first round of voting, the following rules of elimination shall be used:
 - a. On the second ballot, each candidate who receives less than 10% of the total votes on the first ballot shall be eliminated.
 - b. On the third ballot, each candidate who receives less than 20% of the total votes on the previous ballot shall be eliminated.
 - c. On the fourth ballot, sufficient candidates receiving the lowest number of votes on the previous ballot shall be eliminated so that the ballot includes twice the number of unfilled positions to

be voted on. Those candidates receiving the most votes shall be elected without regard to whether they have a majority of votes cast.

- d. However, regardless of the foregoing rules for elimination, every ballot shall include a number of candidates not less than twice the number of unfilled positions to be voted on if sufficient candidates have been nominated. When this requirement conflicts with the above rules the candidate receiving the most votes on the previous ballot who was eliminated shall be included until the number of candidates remaining is twice the number of unfilled positions.
- e. In the event of ties for election or elimination, the result shall be determined by the flip of a coin.

2. Registration and Payment for State Convention. (WSRP Rule 29) Delegates must complete and submit registration and payment for the State Convention by May 26, 2020. Should any elected delegate fail to complete registration and payment within said time, their position is forfeited, and delegate status awarded to the first alternate. Said elected delegate will be moved to the last alternate position slot available. The State Party Chairman will notify the county chair and alternate within 24 hours. Said newly designated delegate shall complete registration and payment by June 1, 2020, and shall forfeit their delegate position if they do not. The newly designated delegate shall receive a credit towards delegate registration any amount paid for alternate registration. If the first ranked alternate declines the delegate position, the next ranked alternate shall be the designated delegate and notified in the same manner as above (see Rule 29); provided that all registration fees and forms shall be paid and completed for the newly designated delegate(s) not later than June 5, 2020. State Headquarters shall make Delegate/Alternate Registration Packets available to all counties prior to their county or legislative district conventions.

3. Selection of Alternate Delegates to the State Convention. (WSRP Rule 30) Nominations for alternate delegates to the State Convention shall be made from the list of unsuccessful regular delegates. There shall be two ballots, if necessary, for the position of alternate delegate. On the first ballot, all candidates receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be elected to position numbers in accordance to the highest vote-getter following in a diminishing order. The second ballot shall fill the remaining vacant alternate delegate positions by a plurality vote, also in diminishing order. If fewer candidates are nominated than the number of positions allocated, a single ballot shall suffice. Alternates shall complete and pay registration fees to be received by the State Headquarters by June 5, 2020.

VI. *Unit Rule. (WSRP Rule 32)

At the county convention/district caucus, the unit rule (block voting) shall not be permitted, nor shall any county convention or district caucus adopt a resolution binding its delegates to vote as a unit at the State Convention.

**VII. *Pre-Convention Meeting of the County Delegates to State Convention
(SCRCC Bylaws, Art. 11.3, WSRP Rule 34)**

Within two weeks after the County Convention, Spokane County's elected State Delegates shall meet, at the call of the County Chairman, to elect a Delegation Chairman and such other officers, as they desire,

and to consider other relevant matters that the delegation chooses to consider. The County Chairman or his representative shall act as temporary Chairman at the meeting of State Delegates. The first order of substantive business shall be the election of a Delegate Chairman, who shall assume the Chair immediately upon election. Spokane County delegates shall elect one person to serve on the State Convention Platform Committee, Rules and Order of Business Committee, and Credentials Committee, taking into consideration the recommendations of the County Chairman. The last day to elect or appoint a member to the State Convention Committees is June 11, 2020. The names of those selected to the above committees and the chairman of the delegation shall be forwarded with the Certification of 2020 Delegates and Alternates form, postmarked or electronically time stamped no later than June 12, 2020, to the State Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted by the Rules Committee for consideration of the Spokane County
Republican Convention Committee of 2020