

## TEMPORARY AND PROPOSED COVID-19 STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE RULES

On August 22, 2020, the State Executive Committee adopted these Temporary and Proposed COVID-19 State Central Committee Rules, both for the August 29, 2020 State Central Committee meeting and for any additional meetings this biennium, including the 2021 Business Conference, that need to be held virtually due to restrictions imposed on large gatherings by the Minnesota Department of Health and/or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Section A applies to both the August State Central Committee meeting and future virtual meetings held under these rules. Section B **only** applies to business **which would otherwise have been completed** at an in-person State Convention and to at-large elections which occur at the first State Central Committee meeting held after the state convention in the even-numbered year.

### Section A – Process for Virtual State Central Committee Meetings

**Introduction:** The rules in this Section A shall apply to all State Central Committee meetings that must be held virtually due to restrictions imposed on large gatherings by the Minnesota Department of Health or the Center for Disease Control. This includes the 2021 Business Conference, if it must be held virtually. These rules will automatically expire no later than the conclusion of the 2022 State Convention. (Rules are numbered for reference purposes.)

#### Technology

- A1. Virtual Technology.** The Chair shall select the videoconference (including telephonic participation) and electronic balloting technology(ies) which will be used for the State Central Committee meeting. These rules contemplate that such technology **may not** afford a delegate or upgraded alternate the ability to participate exactly as they could at an in-person meeting.
- A2. Technology Assistants.** Before preregistration begins, the Chair shall appoint assistants to operate the video/teleconference software for the Joining the Virtual Meeting period and that day's State Central Committee meeting. The Technology Assistants shall be deemed as having been appointed by the meeting chair under Rule 13 of the Standing Rules of the State Central Committee prior to their formal appointment by the meeting chair.

#### Registration and Upgrading Alternates

- A3. Preregistration.** The Chair shall set a registration period, which shall close no earlier than two days (48 hours) before the call to order and must be included in the meeting notice. The minimum advance notice for a meeting shall be calculated based on the preregistration deadline for the meeting, not the scheduled call to order. Delegates and alternates must preregister for the respective State Central Committee meeting by the close of registration. The deadline will allow State Party staff to upgrade alternates, as space allows. As a result, preregistration will provide

clarity as to which delegates and upgraded alternates may vote at the meeting. Failure to preregister during the window will result in loss of voting privileges.

- A4. Upgrading.** Following Preregistration, eligible alternates will be upgraded. These alternates shall be notified that they will be upgraded alternates for that State Central Committee meeting prior to the commencement of the Joining the Virtual Meeting window. No further upgrading or downgrading of alternates will occur for that day's State Central Committee meeting.
- A5. Joining the Virtual Meeting.** At least two hours before the meeting is scheduled to be called to order, the Technology Assistants shall begin admitting registered delegates and upgraded alternates into the meeting platform. All delegates and alternates who did not preregister, all non-upgraded alternates, and other interested parties shall be allowed to view the meeting by way of a public livestream.
- A6. Flexibility of Call to Order.** In the event the Chair determines additional time is needed to complete admitting the pre-registered delegates and upgraded alternates to the meeting, the call to order of that day's State Central Committee meeting shall be adjusted by the Chair to accommodate entry to the meeting.

### During the Meeting

(Please note: There will be brief instruction before the meeting on how to use the technology participation functions described in this section.)

- A7. Seeking Recognition.** Delegates shall use the "raise your hand" function to seek recognition. Points of order and other privileged motions should be made via the chat function in the videoconference.
- A8. Nominations.** In order to be nominated from the floor, candidates must have screened or requested to be included in the ballot prior to the meeting. The notice of the meeting shall include how individuals may request a screening or to be included in the ballot. The deadline shall be no more than 48 hours before the scheduled call to order and shall remain open for least 5 days.
- A9. Voice Votes.** In lieu of voice votes, participants of the videoconference platform shall use the yes/no voting buttons. Delegates participating only by telephone shall be moved into a breakout room by the Technology Assistants. The meeting chair shall instruct the Technology Assistants as to whether to take a single voice vote or roll call vote of these delegates. No other business may be conducted while this breakout room is being used to tally voice votes.
- A10. Counted Votes.** In lieu of paper ballots, participants of the videoconference platform shall use the polling function to cast their ballots. Delegates participating only by telephone shall be moved into a breakout room by the Technology Assistants, who shall use a roll call to record the voice votes of each delegate. At the discretion of the meeting Chair, other voting technology may be used as long as it provides similar security, transparency, and traceability as the video/teleconference polling function.

**A11. Plurality Elections.** Due to the limitations of the available technology, all elections shall be by plurality, and no proportional representation (e.g., walking subcaucus) shall be used. Where multiple individuals are elected to the same office on a single ballot, equal division is required.

**A12. Other Motions.** Delivery of a motion under Rule 19.I. of the Standing Rules of the State Central Committee (which requires delivery of motions in writing to the chair) shall be via the chat function in the videoconference software. In the event the delegate is participating only by telephone, the meeting chair shall provide the delegate with direction on how to deliver their motion.

### General Rules

**A13. Meeting Materials.** A copy of these rules, the Standing Rules of the State Central Committee, and any other meeting materials shall be provided on the state party website or on a secure website, with links provided to delegates and alternates with the meeting notice.

**A14. Amendment.** The Central Committee may amend these Section A rules by means of a motion of which previous notice was given at the last meeting: (a) by a two-thirds vote; or (b) by simple majority, with a favorable report from the Executive Committee or the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules Committee.

**A15. Suspension.** A motion to suspend these Section A rules takes a two-thirds vote. For these rules' purposes, there is no difference between an ordinary Section A rule and a rule of order. However, the Central Committee may only suspend this rule and the immediately preceding rule by unanimous consent.

**A16. Subordination.** Where conflict exists, all rules in Section A supersede the Standing Rules of the State Central Committee, but not the rules in Section B.

## Section B – Process for Business Deferred from 2020 State Convention and First State Central Committee At-Large Elections

**Introduction:** Where there are conflicts, this Section B process supersedes all other standing and temporary rules including the Standing Rules of the State Central Committee and the Rules in Section A. This Section B only applies to business deferred from the 2020 State Convention and to at-large elections which occur at the first State Central Committee meeting held after the state convention in the even-numbered year. This business consists of the Platform report, the Constitution report, the election of 16 at-large State Directors, the election of at-large standing committee members, and the election of 50 at-large state central committee members. These rules will automatically expire at the adjournment of the State Central Committee meeting called to order on August 29, 2020. (Rules are numbered for reference purposes.)

## Platform

**Background:** On April 24, 2020, the State Executive Committee adopted a process for the consideration of the Platform, Issues, and Legislative Affairs Committee's State Convention report. This process had state convention delegates provisionally approve resolutions that receive an affirmative vote of at least 60% on the State Convention Ballot. Those provisionally approved resolutions would then be considered for official ratification at the first State Central Committee Meeting after the State Convention with the same threshold of at least 60% affirmative vote. At that State Central Committee meeting, individual resolutions may be pulled for special consideration by majority vote. Resolutions may not be amended at this meeting.

- B1. Special Consideration and Debate Process:** The Central Committee will consider ratification of the Platform and Action Agenda items which were provisionally adopted on the State Convention Ballot. There shall be a Special Consideration period of 60 minutes on the agenda for the purpose of debating any of the provisionally adopted items. If a majority of delegates agree to special consideration for any item, debate shall occur following General Limits of Debate under Rule 18.A. of the Standing Rules of the State Central Committee. Amendments to Platform and Action Agenda items provisionally adopted on the State Convention Ballot are not allowed. Following debate of each item, the Central Committee shall vote whether to ratify that specific item. Ratification of any platform or action agenda item requires a 60% affirmative vote. Time spent conducting votes to determine whether a majority agrees to special consideration of an item, and voting on ratification of an item, shall not count towards the time allocated for the Special Consideration period.
- B2. Ratification of Platform Ballot.** Following the Special Consideration period, the Central Committee shall vote on ratification of the remainder of the Platform and Action Agenda items passed by the State Convention. Ratification requires a 60% affirmative vote.

## Constitution

- B3. Minority Reports.** A minority report of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules Committee report must be supported by at least two committee members. A minority report which is germane to a report item will be considered at the same time as the committee position and will be voted on first. Other minority reports will be taken up at the end of the committee report. Each minority report will be presented by its author.
- B4. Amendments to Constitution Report.** An amendment to the report of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules Committee must be seconded by 10% of the delegates. Amendments that change or add five or more words must be submitted in writing as provided in Rule A12.

## Elections

- B5. Speeches.** After the candidates for director have been named, the chair shall determine, by lot, the order of candidate speeches. Each nominee for state director, if contested, shall be allowed up to 3 minutes time to be used as the nominee wishes. No time will be allotted to candidates declining

nomination. Each nominee for any other position in contested elections may speak for up to one minute.

- B6. Question-and-answer sessions.** There shall be no question and answer sessions for any of the elections.
- B7. Elections of more than 10 candidates.** Due to the limitations of the Zoom videoconference platform, for contested elections including more than 10 candidates, the election ballot shall be divided into multiple polls which shall be considered a single ballot. Delegates shall be presented all candidates in these multiple polls and may vote for up to the total number of candidates eligible to be elected on that ballot (e.g., delegates may vote for up to 16 candidates for at-large director). To tally the results, the tellers shall combine the results of the multiple polls after all polls for that ballot have been conducted. If a delegate votes for more candidates than eligible to be elected, that delegate's ballot shall be spoiled. This means delegates will need to keep track of the number of candidates for which they have voted in earlier polls. Delegates participating only by telephone shall be moved into a breakout room by the Technology Assistants, who shall use a roll call to record the voice votes of each delegate. At the discretion of the meeting Chair, other voting technology may be used as long as it provides similar security, transparency, and traceability as the video/teleconference polling function.

### General Rules

- B8. Amendment.** Once adopted, the Central Committee may amend these Section B rules by a two-thirds vote.
- B9. Suspension.** A motion to suspend these Section B rules takes a two-thirds vote. For these rules' purposes, there is no difference between an ordinary Section B rule and a rule of order. However, the Central Committee may only suspend this rule and the immediately preceding rule by unanimous consent.
- B10. Subordination.** Where conflict exists, all Rules in Section B supersede the Standing Rules of the State Central Committee and the rules in Section A.