



PROCEDURAL RULES OF THE 2008 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

The following Procedural Rules shall serve as the Temporary Rules of Procedure for the 2008 Democratic National Convention and are recommended to the Rules Committee and to the Convention as the Permanent Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

(Adopted by the Democratic National Committee, February 3, 2007)

A. Temporary Chair:

1. The National Chairperson of the Democratic National Committee shall call the Convention to order and shall preside until the Permanent Chair of the Convention shall be chosen in accordance with these rules.
2. The National Chairperson of the Democratic National Committee shall appoint a Temporary Secretary and such other temporary officers as may be required to assist in the conduct of the business of the Convention. These officers shall be composed equally of men and women.

B. Temporary Roll:

1. The Secretary of the Democratic National Committee shall determine a Temporary Roll of delegates to the Convention which shall consist only of those persons selected and certified as delegates in accordance with the Rules and pursuant to this 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 recommended for inclusion by the Credentials Committee in its report.
2. Persons whose names are included on the Temporary Roll of delegates shall be permitted to vote on all matters before the Convention until after the adoption of the report of the Credentials Committee; provided that no person shall be permitted to vote on his or her credentials contest.

- C. **Order of Business:** The order of business for the Democratic National Convention shall be as provided in these rules and in any special order of business adopted under Section D. of 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.

2008 Democratic Rules Committee

Chairs: Former Governor David Walters · Former Congresswoman Mary Rose Oaker · Sunita Leeds
c/o DNC · 430 South Capitol St., SE · Washington, DC 20003 · Phone: 202-863-8055 · Fax: 202-572-7828

1. Report of the Committee on Credentials: The Report of the Credentials Committee shall be acted upon before the consideration of other business.
 - a. The Temporary Chair shall recognize the Chair of the Credentials Committee for up to thirty (30) minutes to present the committee's report unless a longer period of time shall be provided in a special order of business agreed upon by the Convention. The Chair of the committee may present committee amendments, yield part of his or her time to others and may yield for the presentation and disposition of minority reports without losing the right to the floor.
 - b. The Temporary Chair shall arrange for the orderly presentation of amendments and of minority reports offered at the direction of the committee. Twenty (20) minutes shall be allowed for the presentation of each committee amendment or minority report unless a longer period for any committee amendment or minority report is provided in special orders of business agreed to by the Convention. Time shall be allotted equally to proponents and opponents of each committee amendment or minority report. The questions shall be put on each committee amendment or minority report immediately following its presentation without intervening motion.
 - c. Upon conclusion of the consideration and disposition of committee amendments and minority reports, the Temporary Chair shall put the question on the adoption of the report of the Credentials Committee with amendments previously adopted, if any, without intervening motion. A favorable majority vote of the Convention delegates eligible to vote shall constitute adoption of the report.
 - d. In the event that the committee's report shall not be adopted when the question is put, the committee shall immediately reconvene to reconsider its report and shall present a new report to the Convention as soon as possible.
2. Report of Rules Committee: The Temporary Chair may then recognize the Chair of the Rules Committee to present the committee's report for the Rules of the Convention and minority reports, if any, in the same manner as that provided for the presentation of the Report of the Credentials Committee. However, the Temporary Chair may, in the interest of conducting an orderly proceeding, opt to place before the Convention the election of the Permanent Chair, the Co-Chairs and the Secretary, prior to the presentation of the Rules Committee report.
3. Convention Chair: The Convention shall proceed to elect the Permanent Convention Chair in the following manner:
 - a. 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 2008 Democratic National Convention shall be a female.
 - b. The Chair of the Rules Committee shall be recognized to offer a nomination for Convention Chair as recommended by the Committee on Rules. Nominations from the floor shall then be received.
 - c. When there are no further nominations or upon adoption of a motion to close nominations, the Temporary Chair of the Convention shall conduct a vote for Permanent Convention Chair.
 - d. A majority vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required to elect the Convention Chair. Balloting shall continue until a Chair is elected. The Permanent Chair shall then take the gavel.

4. Convention Co-Chairs: The Convention shall proceed to elect Co-Chairs and a Secretary in the same manner in which it elected the Chair. The Co-Chairs shall be divided equally between men and women.
5. Committee on Platform: The Permanent Chair shall recognize the Chair of the Platform Committee to present the committee's report and minority reports, if any, in the same manner as that provided for the presentations of the reports of the Credentials and Rules Committees.
6. Nomination of the Democratic Candidate for President: The Permanent Chair shall receive nominations from the floor for the Democratic candidate for the Office of President of the United States in the following manner:
 - a. Requests to nominate a presidential candidate shall be in writing and shall have affixed thereto the written 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 at a location as specified by the Secretary no later than 6:00 p.m. of the day preceding the day designated for the commencement of presidential nominations.
 - b. Each such request must be accompanied by a petition indicating support for the proposed nominee signed by delegates representing not less than 300 or more than 600 delegate votes, not more than 50 of which may come from one (1) delegation. A delegate may not sign more than one (1) nominating petition for president and for vice president.
 - c. The order for nominating presidential candidates shall be determined by the National Chairperson of the Democratic National Committee, the Permanent Chair of the Convention and each presidential candidate, or his or her authorized representative, who qualifies to be nominated pursuant to this section.
 - d. Each presidential candidate shall be allowed a total of twenty (20) minutes for the presentation of his or her name in nomination by nominating and seconding speeches, the time to run without interruption from the recognition of the nominator.
 - e. Delegates and alternates shall maintain order during and following nominations for the Office of President and demonstrations shall not be permitted.
7. Roll Call for Presidential Candidate:
 - a. After nominations for presidential candidates have closed, the Convention shall proceed to a roll call vote by states on the selection of the presidential candidate. The roll call voting 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. A majority vote of the Convention's delegates shall be required to nominate the presidential candidate.
 - c. 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 this Call and Rule 12.K. of the 2008 Delegate Selection Rules shall be considered a vote for "Present."
 - d. Balloting will continue until a nominee is selected. The nominee shall become the candidate of the Democratic Party of the United States for the Office of President upon the conclusion of his or her acceptance speech.

8. **Acceptance Speech by Presidential Candidate:** Immediately after the selection of the Democratic nominee for President, the Permanent Chair shall invite the nominee to deliver an acceptance speech to the Convention.
 9. **Nomination for the Democratic Candidate for Vice President:** The selection of a nominee for the Office of Vice President of the United States shall be conducted in the same manner as that heretofore provided for the selection of the nominee for President of the United States except that a request to nominate must be delivered to the Convention Secretary at a location as specified by the Secretary not later than 9:00 a.m. of the day designated for the commencement of Vice Presidential nominations.
 10. **Roll Call Ballot for Vice Presidential Candidate:**
 - a. After nominations for Vice Presidential candidates have closed, the Convention shall proceed to a roll call vote by states on the selection of the Vice Presidential candidate. The roll call voting procedure shall be conducted in the same manner as that heretofore provided for the selection of the nominee for President of the United States.
 - b. A majority vote of the Convention's delegates shall be required to select the Vice Presidential candidate. Delegates may vote for the candidate of their choice whether or not the name of such candidate was placed in nomination. Balloting will continue until after a nominee is selected.
 11. **Acceptance Speech by Vice Presidential Candidate:** Immediately after the selection of the Democratic nominee for Vice President, the Permanent 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 his or her acceptance speech to the Convention.
- D. **Special Orders of Business:** It shall be in order at any time for the Rules Committee at the request of the Chair of the Convention, or pursuant to its rules, to report a resolution providing a special order of business for debate of any resolution, motion, committee report or minority report or for the consideration of any matter.
- E. **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.
 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 composed equally of men and women; 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 to take any other actions consistent with the Charter and the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States and this Call.
- F. **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 Votes:**
 - a. Voting shall be by voice vote or, when prescribed by these rules, by roll call vote. The roll call voting shall follow the order as specified in Article VIII.C.7.a. A roll call vote

shall also be had if the Chair is in doubt or upon demand of any delegate supported by twenty percent (20%) of the Convention's delegates as evidenced by one of the following methods:

- 1) A petition submitted to the Chair indicating support of the demand by delegations which comprise not less than twenty percent (20%) of the Convention's delegates. In the case of the petition in support of a demand for a roll call vote, a delegation shall be taken to support the demand if a majority of its delegates have signed a petition to do so.
 - 2) By the rising in support of the demand by not less than twenty percent (20%) of the delegates present.
- b. When a roll call vote is ordered, the roll call shall be called by states, and the Chair of each delegation or his or her designee shall report the vote of his or her delegation and shall send to the Convention Secretary a tally showing the vote of each member of his or her delegation indicating whether such vote was cast in person or by an alternate. Such roll call votes may be conducted by having the Chair for each delegation report by telephone, or electronic voting mechanism, the vote of his or her delegation to the rostrum, provided that the telephone poll shall not be used in the balloting for the Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees. Business shall be permitted to proceed during the telephone roll call and votes may be conducted by electronic mechanism. After each official vote, the Delegation Chair shall record and tally votes of the delegation on official roll call tally sheets provided by the Convention Secretary. All official roll call tally sheets shall be turned in to the Convention Secretary at a specified location not more than thirty (30) minutes after the close of each voting period.
 - c. All delegates to the National Convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them.
 - d. In the case where a pledged delegate is not on the floor of the Convention Hall at the time a vote is taken, an alternate may be designated according to the rules to cast the vote. In no case may an alternate cast a vote for a delegate allocated under I.F., I.G., I.H. or I.I. of this Call.
 - e. On a roll call vote by states, the vote cast on behalf of a delegation may be challenged by communication to the Convention Secretary by telephone or other means by any voting member of that state's delegation within ten (10) minutes after the Convention Secretary's announcement of the state's vote. The votes of that delegation shall then be recorded as polled without regard to any state law, party rule, resolution or instruction binding the delegation or any member thereof to vote for or against any candidate or proposition. The Convention Chair may send a parliamentarian to the delegation to conduct the poll. At the discretion of the Convention Chair, the roll call may continue instead of waiting for the result of the polling.
 - f. On a roll call vote conducted by telephone or other electronic voting mechanism, the vote of a delegation as shown on the video projection system may be challenged by communication to the Convention Secretary by telephone or other means by any voting member of the delegation within ten (10) minutes after the delegation's vote is shown on the screen.
 - g. A demand to poll a delegation may be withdrawn at any time before the actual polling has begun.

4. Interruption of Vote: When the question has been put, the vote thereon may not be interrupted for any purpose other than a demand for a roll call vote or a point of order directed to the conduct of the vote.
 5. Determination of Question: Except as otherwise provided in these rules, all questions, including the question of nominations of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, shall be determined by a majority vote of the delegates to the Convention.
- G. 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.
- H. Interpretation of the Rules: In interpreting the rules, the Chair may have recourse to the ruling of Chairs of previous Democratic Conventions, to the precedents of the United States House of Representatives and to general parliamentary law.
- I. 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.
- J. Motion to Suspend the Rules: The Chair shall entertain a motion to suspend the rules, which shall be decided without debate and which shall require a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the delegates voting, a quorum being present.
- K. 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.
- L. 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.
- M. Minority Reports: Minority reports of committees shall not be considered unless adopted in writing by members representing at least twenty percent (20%) of the total votes of a committee. A minority report may be withdrawn at any time prior to or during the Convention. A minority report shall be deemed to be withdrawn when support for the report falls below the number of members representing twenty percent (20%) of the total votes of the standing committee as evidenced by the written withdrawal of support by

proponents of the report. A committee member may withdraw his or her support for a minority report by written notice to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee.

- N. **Responsibility:** By participating in the Democratic National Convention, each delegate assumes the responsibility for doing all within his or her power to assure that voters of his or her 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 Article VIII.G. 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 Article VIII.G.
- O. **Debate:** Unless otherwise provided in these rules or in a resolution providing for a special order of business, 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.
- P. **Quorum:** A majority of the delegates to the Convention shall constitute a quorum thereof for the purpose of transacting business. Upon a point of order of no quorum being made, the Chair shall ascertain the presence or absence of a quorum by visual estimation and shall not proceed until a quorum is present; provided that a motion to adjourn may be offered and voted upon without a quorum present.
- Q. **References to the "Chair":** All references to the authority and responsibilities of the "Chair" shall pertain to the Temporary Chair, the Permanent Chair, the Co-Chairs and any other person assuming the duties of the Chair as appropriate during the Convention.
- R. **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. This Call, in compliance with the Charter, and pursuant to Rule 6.C. of the 2008 Delegate Selection Rules, mandates 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).
- S. **Non-Discrimination:** Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status or physical disability in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited.
- T. **Territories:** The term "territories" shall refer to American Samoa, Democrats Abroad, Guam and the Virgin Islands in this Call.
- U. **Journal of Proceedings:**
1. A record of all actions taken each day by the Convention shall be printed and made available to all delegates and alternates the following day by the Convention Secretary.
 2. The Secretary of the Democratic National Committee will provide a journal of the full proceedings of the Convention, which shall be printed within the year following the Convention.