

## National Convention Rules

1. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the seated delegates and shall remain in effect until the time set for the session to end.
2. No one shall be admitted to the floor without paying required fees. Alternates and observers are permitted on the convention floor. Observers may speak only at the pleasure of the body.
3. Each delegate and alternate must provide credentials of election and pay required fees.
4. Voting shall be by display of official red voting card.
5. Each state or local delegation shall designate a “delegate captain” who shall keep the convention secretary informed of any changes to the delegation due to the rotation of delegates and alternates, or for any other reason. The “delegate captain” shall be responsible for maintaining order and gender balance within her or his delegation.
6. The deadline for challenging the credentials of any delegate shall be 12:30pm on the first day of the convention, unless the delegate registers after that time.
7. Convention chairs shall be elected at the opening session of the Convention, two for each morning, afternoon and evening session. Convention chairs for each session shall be gender balanced, and will have a working knowledge of Robert’s Rules of Order.
8. Provisions shall be made at each session for hearing, vision and mobility impaired upon request.
9. A Peacekeeper and Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Chair of the first session, and they shall appoint assistants as necessary.
10. The chair of the first session shall appoint two convention secretaries for each morning, afternoon and evening session.
11. The chair of the first session shall appoint four tellers who shall count votes and distribute written ballots as necessary.
12. Committees of the Convention shall be as follows:
  - a) Credentials
  - b) Constitution and Statement of Principles
  - c) Resolutions
  - d) Platform
13. Delegates are encouraged to join a convention committee when registering. Only seated delegates may vote at committee meetings.
14. The National Committee shall appoint the Credentials Committee.
  - a) The Credentials Committee determines the validity of delegate credentials and reports to the first session. Delegates and delegations may be challenged by a majority vote of the convention after the credentials committee report.
  - b) The Credentials Committee is directed to abide by the following Constitutional provision that “Any delegation which fails to achieve gender parity shall have the delegation’s total number of votes reduced to the size of a balanced delegation (the equal number of men and women, plus one) by the Credentials Committee, unless the Credentials Committee is persuaded that the state/local has made a good-faith effort to meet the gender requirements.”
  - c) The meetings of the Credentials Committee are open to observation by any SP member.
15. The convention committees shall elect their own conveners and recording secretaries.
16. The Convention shall determine the convention agenda, including then length of sessions and the time and location of convention committee meetings.
17. All resolutions, except procedural and congratulatory resolutions shall be in writing.

18. Resolutions, constitutional and Statement of Principle amendments, and platform revisions are vetted through convention committees.
  - a) Convention committees decide whether a proposal is reported to the convention.
  - b) Proposals that have met the deadline for publication in the Convention Bulletin will have priority in committee; i.e. must be disposed of before other proposals are in order.
  - c) Proposals submitted after the Convention Bulletin deadline but before 3:00 pm Friday shall require a 2/3 vote by the appropriate committee for consideration by that committee.
  - d) The committee shall post (or otherwise distribute to the delegates) all resolutions by Saturday 9 am.
19. Proposed resolutions, constitutional and Principles amendments and platform revisions shall be considered by the Convention in the following order of priority:
  - a) Proposals published in the Convention Bulletin and reported out of convention committees.
  - b) Proposals not published in the Convention Bulletin, but reported out of the convention committee.
  - c) Committees shall prioritize the proposals they bring to the floor, keeping in mind the total amount of time allotted for discussion and voting.
20. Except as provided in the agenda, discussion from the floor shall be limited to two minutes by each speaker, but the Convention may limit or extend time by a 2/3 vote. No male delegate shall be recognized a second time until all delegates desiring to speak have had the opportunity to do so. Pro and con speakers shall alternate if possible.
21. The motion "Previous Question" shall be out of order at the end of one's own speech. No more than six total speakers unless waived by 2/3 vote of the convention.
22. Except where otherwise provided, voting shall be by a show of delegates' voting cards, except that when demanded by 1/3 of the delegates present and voting, the vote shall be by roll call. The Chair may call for a voice vote if no delegate objects.
23. Only those members in good standing who meet the qualifications set forth in the Constitution and who are present at the Convention, and who state their acceptance of a nomination for that office, or members not present who have submitted their acceptance of a nomination in writing, or members who shall be eligible for nomination as a national officer or national committee member or alternate.
24. The election for female NC members and alternates shall precede the election for male NC members and alternates.
25. The procedure for the election of co-chairs and vice chairs shall be determined by the convention at the time of the election.
26. The election of National Committee members and alternates shall be signed. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected as National Committee members. The next highest vote-getters equal in number to those elected to the National Committee shall be elected as alternates.
  - a) The number of National Committee members shall be decided by the convention.
27. No motions are in order while tellers are counting votes.
28. A two-thirds majority is needed to amend the Statement of Principles.
29. The Convention shall be governed by the Constitution of the Socialist Party USA and Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised by default unless another system is decided by the convention.
30. These rules (not including the Constitution of the Socialist Party USA) may be suspended by a majority vote during the first session of the Convention. After that time, they may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the delegates present and voting.