

# 2024 DEMOCRATIC STATE PARTY CONVENTION RULES

Resolved by this Convention that the following shall be the Rules of the 2024 Democratic State Convention:

These rules shall govern the nominating process for the 2024 Connecticut Democratic State Convention to ensure the orderly proceedings of the convention and to comply with our requirement to endorse candidates for Federal and State Constitutional Offices

1. The Newly Revised 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, unless superseded by the Rules of the 2024 Convention or the State Party Rules, shall be controlling and conclusive on any parliamentary issues arising before this Convention. In the case of conflict between the Rules of the 2024 Convention, the State Party Rules, or Robert's Rules of Order, the priority of authority shall be in the following order:
  - a. The State Party Rules;
  - b. The Rules of the 2024 Democratic State Convention;
  - c. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 12<sup>th</sup> Edition.
2. The Chair or Secretary of the convention may designate such assistants as are deemed necessary to assist in the recording of the roll call vote or any other official task deemed necessary for the orderly conduct of the convention.
3. If the Chair of the Convention deems it necessary, a vote on the issue of party endorsement as between two or more properly nominated and seconded candidates for any given office, to be acted upon by this Convention, shall be by roll call of each town delegation. Prior to the call of the roll, each town delegation shall select from among its members a Delegation Chair and a Recording Secretary. The Delegation Chair of each town delegation shall poll the members thereof on the issue then before the Convention and the Recording Secretary of each such delegation shall record the vote of each delegate on forms provided to each town by the Secretary of the Convention. Such roll call vote may be recorded by electronic means with the results of the roll call posted in a highly visible manner for all delegates to view before any roll call is declared final. The Delegation Chair and the Recording Secretary shall certify to the vote recorded on such forms as are designated by the Secretary of the Convention.
  - a. To obtain the endorsement of the Convention, a candidate must receive a majority (50% plus one vote) of the votes of the convention delegates present and voting. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes at the end of a roll call, then an additional roll call shall occur. With respect to each roll call vote for the office of United States Senator, each delegate voting in favor of a candidate for such office shall cast that vote with the chair of that delegate's delegation. The Secretary of the Convention shall keep a duly certified record of the vote of each delegation by candidate.
  - b. If, after any roll call, there remains only one duly nominated candidate remaining, the Chair may entertain a voice vote for endorsement of that candidate by the Convention.

- c. The Chair shall, at the end of each roll call, determine which candidates have achieved 15% of the vote during such roll call and announce such achievement. In the event that the opinion of the Chair is challenged as to the achievement of 15% of the votes of the delegates present and voting, such challenge shall be presented promptly after the disputed announcement, in writing, to the Chair of the Convention. The issue then before the Convention will be to sustain or overrule the opinion of the Chair.
  - d. In the event that the vote of a given town delegation, as reported by the Delegation Chair, is in doubt, only a delegate from that town's delegation may challenge the vote as reported. Such a challenge shall be presented promptly after the disputed announcement, in writing, to the Chair of the Convention or a duly designated assistant. Challenges may be made during a roll call and promptly following the announcement of the delegation vote. However, the Chair of the Convention will not address such challenges until all opportunities for delegations to make changes to the town's vote have been exhausted. In the event any delegate of a given town challenges the vote as reported, the Chair of the Convention or the Chair's designee shall poll the entire delegation. No challenge to a reported vote shall be entertained by the Chair after the final result of any given roll call has been reported by the Chair of the Convention.
  - e. In the event that any other conclusion of the Chair of the Convention is challenged, such challenge shall be presented promptly after the disputed announcement, in writing, to the Chair of the Convention. The issue then before the Convention will be to sustain or overrule the opinion of the Chair.
4. Roll call votes will be cast at voting stations designated by the Secretary of the Convention. Each delegation must cast its vote within the time designated by the Chair of the Convention. At the end of the roll call, the Chair shall offer any delegation an opportunity to change its vote. The following rules shall apply to each round of voting:
  - a. First Ballot: On the first ballot, if no candidate for a particular office has received a majority, as defined in Subparagraph (a) of Paragraph 3 of these rules, and if any candidate for a particular office has failed to receive the votes of 7.5% of the delegates present and voting on the first ballot, the Chair will announce those conclusions and any candidate failing to receive 7.5% of the votes shall be eliminated from further consideration by the Convention for such office.
  - b. Second Ballot: On the second ballot, if no candidate for a particular office has received a majority, as defined in Subparagraph (a) of Paragraph 3 of these rules, the Chair will announce that conclusion and only the candidates receiving the two highest amount of delegate votes on the second ballot shall proceed to the third ballot.
  - c. Third Ballot: On the third ballot, the candidate receiving a majority, as defined in Subparagraph (a) of Paragraph 3 of these rules, will be the endorsed candidate of the Democratic Party.
5. The only persons permitted to address the Convention shall be:
  - a. A delegate;

- b. Candidates who have received the endorsement of the Convention for the purpose of making an acceptance speech;
  - c. Convention officials and their duly designated assistants; or
  - d. Any other persons granted permission by the Chair.
6. No designation of an alternate as a delegate shall be effective, and the designee named as the alternate delegate shall not be entitled to vote on a roll call, unless the alternate form has been filed with the Secretary of the Convention prior to the beginning of any roll call vote. Article III, Section 9 of the State Party Rules shall govern and this section provides, in part, as follows:

Each delegate to a convention elected in conformity with law and with these rules may, if in good standing, designate in writing an alternate delegate to act in that delegate's absence at any convention or other meeting of delegates held under these rules. Such appointment of an alternate shall cease to be effective upon adjournment of the respective convention or meeting, except as otherwise provided in Article I, Section 4. In the absence of such alternate delegate, the Town Chair shall have the right to fill vacancies in delegations to conventions during conventions and until the respective convention adjourns. This right to fill vacancies shall cease upon adjournment of the convention.

7. If the Town Chair is not present, vacancies in a delegation may be filled by the Town Vice Chair. If neither the Town Chair nor the Town Vice Chair is present, vacancies may be filled by the Delegation Chair. An alternate must be otherwise eligible to serve as a delegate (meaning an enrolled Democratic elector residing in the municipality which he or she would represent). An alternate may be designated to serve for all or any part of the convention.
8. Only individuals listed on the official program for the Convention or granted permission by the Chair may use the microphones at the rostrum. The microphone located on the Convention floor shall be used by all other individuals who seek to address the Convention.
9. With respect to nominating, seconding and acceptance speeches:
  - a. All nominating speeches shall be carried out solely by a delegate. All seconding speeches shall be carried out by a delegate or by a person with the consent of the Chair. Delegates may not nominate themselves or second their own nominations. All nominations shall require a second.
  - b. All nominating and seconding speeches for each Candidate shall be limited to a total combined time of 4 minutes per respective office.
  - c. No nominations will be entertained unless the written consent of the person to be nominated has been filed with the Secretary of the Convention.
10. There will be no time allotted for demonstrations for any candidate.

11. The order of business of the Convention shall be as follows, unless otherwise determined by the Convention Chair:

- a. Opening session for the 2024 State Convention to be called at 10AM on Saturday, May 11, 2024 for the purpose of:
  - I. Committee Reports (Credentials, Permanent Organization, and Rules & Resolutions Committees), and to dispose of routine matters.
  - II. Endorsement of a Candidate for United States Senator
    - i. Acceptance speeches will follow endorsements for U.S. Senate Candidate and will be no more than 5 minutes.
  - III. Endorsement of nominees for United States Electoral College
  - IV. Endorsement of nominees for Democratic National Committee

III. ADJOURNMENT