

Standing Orders

Of the

Republican Party of Maryland

2022 Fall Convention

Order 1. Governing Documents

(a) The proceedings of Convention of the Republican Party of Maryland and in all committees of the Convention shall be conducted in accordance with the following Standing Orders and with the sessional and other orders of the Convention.

(b) In all cases not provided for in these Standing Orders or by sessional or other orders of the Convention, the Chairman shall be guided by the following in the order in which they are stated:

- i. The most recently adopted version of the Constitution of the Republican Party of Maryland.
- ii. The most recently adopted version of the By-Laws of the Republican Party of Maryland.
- iii. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of the Republican Party of Maryland and these Standing Orders.
- iv. The advice of the Parliamentarian of the Party, as appointed by the Chairman.

Order 2. Credentials Committee Report and Certifications

(a) The Credentials Committee will submit reports to the Convention indicating the total number of votes (members and other individuals carrying valid proxies attending) from each County Central Committee, and the Committee report most recently approved by majority vote of the Convention shall be utilized during subsequent voting

(b) Unless a Credentials Committee report is overturned by a majority vote of the Convention, all decisions of the Credential Committee are final.

(c) The Credentials Committee will complete the certification of members and proxies present within thirty minutes after the Convention is called to order, although this deadline may be extended at the Chairman's direction or by a majority vote of the Committee.

(d) With the exception of challenges to one's own credentials, each member who has officially registered for the Convention and who is present on the floor of the Convention shall be eligible to cast one vote on all motions placed before the Convention.

(e) With the exception of challenges to the validity of one's proxy, each non-member carrying a valid proxy who has officially registered for the Convention and who is present on the floor of the Convention shall be permitted to cast one vote using the proxy on all motions placed before the Convention.

(f) Challenges to credentials and to the validity of proxies will be handled by the Credentials Committee in a manner determined by that committee, and the results of all such challenges will be reported to the Convention.

Order 3. Admission to Convention Meeting

For admission to the sitting of the Convention Meeting, the individual must be a member of the State Central Committee, a designated holder of a valid proxy, or other individual so cleared by the Credentials Committee.

Order 4. Eligibility to Vote

(a) Each Member of the Maryland Republican Central Committee who has officially registered for the Convention and who is present on the floor of the Convention shall be permitted to cast one vote on all motions placed before the Convention.

(b) Any person carrying a valid proxy who has officially registered for the Convention and who is present on the floor of the Convention shall be permitted to cast one vote with the proxy on all motions placed before the Convention. A later-dated proxy by a member invalidates any previous proxies by that member.

(c) Each Member of the Maryland Republican Central Committee may carry no more than one proxy throughout the entirety of the Convention and no Member shall register and subsequently leave the Convention to be replaced by a proxy.

Order 5. Permanent Records

All reports and other material for the permanent record or printed proceedings shall be in typing and, immediately on presentation, shall be sent to the recording Secretary.

Order 6. Access to the Floor

Without written permission from the Party Chairman, only Central Committee members, persons carrying valid proxies, Party Officers, Republican elected officials, Party employees, and Party contractors will be allowed within the area reserved for members. Anyone interfering with Convention business will be removed by any person designated by the Chairman as a Sergeant-at-Arms, either upon a motion from the floor or at the direction of the Chairman.

Order 7. Debate Proceedings and Order

(a) Members may not speak to a matter before the Convention for more than two minutes unless the Chairman or a majority vote of the Convention authorizes additional time.

(b) Only the principal sponsor of a matter may speak to it more than twice, unless the Chairman or a majority vote of the Convention so authorizes.

(c) Debate will be limited to five (5) speakers per side for a maximum of two (2) minutes per speaker (not including the principal sponsor of a matter). This limit may be waived by a simple majority vote of the Convention.

(d) All speakers are expected to follow accepted rules of decorum. Personal attacks or innuendo will not be tolerated from any speaker, and the Chairman may rule such a speaker out-of-order and require the speaker to relinquish the remainder of his speaking time.

Order 8. Voting Procedures

(a) Voting shall normally be by voice vote, with each member or proxy casting one vote. A roll-call vote will be conducted if it is required by the Convention rules, or whenever it is demanded by:

- I. Three County Chairmen, or
- II. Any twenty-four members, or
- III. The Chairman.

(b) A challenge to the Credential Committee concerning any individual's vote (see Order 2(d) & Order 2(e) above) may interrupt the voting, provided the challenge addresses whether the voter is either:

- I. Ineligible to vote as a member of the County Central Committee, or
- II. Not present on the floor of the convention, or
- III. Improperly casting a proxy vote.

(c) Any member of a county delegation, or any three members from outside that County delegation, can require that County delegation to be individually polled during any roll call vote.

(d) A challenge to the tabulation of a roll call vote shall require the same support as noted in Order 8(a) above. If such a challenge is made, the Chairman shall appoint a representative from each side of the issue to monitor the re-tabulation. If the parliamentary circumstances permit, and at the discretion of the Chairman, the Convention may continue to conduct other business during the re-tabulation.

(e) The Convention votes reported by a County during a roll-call vote must indicate the number of members voting on every side of the issue in question, and no procedure or process whereby a majority or plurality vote is reported as a unanimous vote from a County shall be allowed.

Order 9. Voting

(a) *Total Vote from a County*: Only that portion of the vote of the County represented by individual members of its County Central Committee present, either in person or by proxy, may be cast at the convention.

(b) *County Votes Announced*: The Convention votes reported by a County during a roll-call vote must indicate the number of members voting on every side of the issue in question, and no procedure or process where-by a majority or plurality vote is reported as a unanimous vote from a County shall be allowed.

Order 10. Amendments

In an effort to achieve a more thorough understanding of all motions made from the floor, complex motions and/or amendments raised from the floor will be reduced to written form as quickly as possible after such motion or amendment is proffered and the text of said motion or amendment will be displayed to the voting body on the screen prior to casting a vote on said motion. This effort shall be made at the express and sole discretion of the Chairman of the Meeting.

Order 11. Powers to Maintain Order, the Health Code, and Naming

The Chair shall be vested with the authority to maintain order by naming individual members for disregarding the authority of the Chair or for not following proper health code and, without resort to motion, ordering their withdrawal for the remainder of that sitting of convention.

Order 12. Strangers and Their Presence

(a) If a member takes notice that one or more strangers (non-members of the Republican Party of Maryland without the ability to debate or vote) are present on the floor of the Convention chamber, the Chair, shall, if he or she considers it proper to maintain debate and order, and without permitting any debate or amendment, order that strangers withdraw.

(b) Any stranger or visitor admitted into any part of the Convention, who misconducts himself or herself, or who does not withdraw when directed to do so while the Convention or any Committee of the Whole is sitting, shall be forced to withdraw by the Chair. No stranger shall be allowed to return without a special order of the Convention.

Order 13. Recognition from The Chair to Speak

(a) For a member to receive recognition from the Chair, the member must stand, or in the case of a digital convention must make an appropriate action to gain the eye of the Chair. Individuals may address the Convention only after first being recognized by the Chairman.

(b) Members shall state their names & Counties for the record after being recognized by the Chair.

Order 14. Agreement to the Administrative Health Code

The approval of these Standing Orders requires all members by their participation in the convention to abide by the health code of the Convention and by the local and state health guidelines.

Order 15. Nominations from the Floor

A nomination not presented to the convention by the Nominations Committee may be made using the following procedure:

(a) The member wishing to make a nomination must first be recognized to speak by the presiding officer.

(b) The member must move, and the motion must be seconded, that the convention open nominations from the floor for the vacant office.

(c) Discussion shall be limited to the motion to open nominations from the floor and shall not discuss the qualifications of any candidate.

(d) If the motion to open nominations from the floor receives a two-thirds affirmative vote, it passes and the member who made the motion may immediately present a nomination.

(e) Until such time as the convention votes to close nominations, any member may make additional nominations from the floor for the vacant office.

Order 16. Election Procedures

The Party officers will be separately nominated and elected in this order: Chairman, 1st Vice Chairman, 2nd Vice Chairman, 3rd Vice Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary.

For each office:

(a) The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall announce, in alphabetical order, the names of all Nominees of the office who both completed the Committee's nomination process by the announced deadline and who are certified by the Committee as eligible to serve. Additional

nominations may be made from the floor by following the procedures specified in our Constitution and Bylaws, ARTICLE IX, Section 1.g(2). Once the Chairman determines that there are no additional nominations for the Office, the Chairman will call for the vote to close nominations, and all persons nominated shall thereafter be considered Candidates for the Office.

(b) In alphabetical order, each Candidate will be allowed a Nominating Speech of 2 minutes or less (3 minutes or less for the Office of Chairman), followed by a single Seconding Speech of 1 minute or less (2 Seconding Speeches for the Office of Chairman).

(c) In alphabetical order, each Candidate may address the Convention for 2 minutes or less (4 minutes or less for the Office of Chairman)

(d) At the conclusion of these speeches, the Chairman will direct that each County caucus. Each County Chairman will then determine by voice vote or written ballot (as decided by the County), the number of votes cast for each Candidate from the County's delegation.

(e) A roll-call Convention Vote will follow. As each County's name is called in alphabetical order, that County's Chairman will announce the votes from the County for each candidate.

(f) If no Candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, steps D and E will be repeated until such time as one candidate is elected by majority vote.

(g) The Officer who is elected will be allowed 1 minute to thank the Convention.