

2011 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 12:00 noon 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. These shall include a large-print schedule of events; seating designated for disabled delegates at each session; and assisted listening devices and sign-language interpreters, 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:
 - 1) Credentials
 - 2) Constitution and Statement of Principles
 - 3) Resolutions and 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.
 - 1) The Credentials Committee determines the validity of delegate credentials and reports to the first session.
 - 2) In particular, the Credentials Committee shall abide by the 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.”
 - 3) 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 the 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.
 - 1) Convention committees decide whether a proposal is reported to the convention.
 - 2) 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.
 - 3) 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.

- 4) The committee shall post (or otherwise distribute to the delegates) all resolutions by Saturday 9 am.
19. Proposed resolutions, constitutional amendments and platform revisions shall be considered by the Convention in the following order of priority:
 - 1) Proposals published in the Convention Bulletin and reported out of convention committees.
 - 2) Proposals not published in the Convention Bulletin, but reported out of the convention committee.
 - 3) 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 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, shall be eligible for nomination as a national officer or national committee member or alternate.
24. All votes shall be open, i.e. no secret ballots. The election for female NC members and alternates shall precede the election for male NC members and alternates.
25. 1) Election of co-chairs and co-Vice-Chairs will be through a series of standing votes. Each delegate may vote for one candidate. The candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and a new round of voting will then take place until one candidate receives a majority of the votes.
2) The election of National Committee members and alternates shall be by standing vote, with each delegates having as many special voting cards as there are National Committee members to be elected. With each vote, the delegate will hand the teller one of their voting cards. The voting cards for female candidates will be red, and the voting cards for male candidates will be orange to prevent the possibility that cards from the first round of voting will be used in the second round. 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.
3) Each delegate may vote fewer votes than they have ballots, but may not cast more than one vote for any candidate
26. No motions are in order while tellers are counting votes.
27. A two-thirds majority is needed to amend the Statement of Principles.
28. Except when in conflict with these rules, the proceedings of the Convention shall be governed by the Constitution of the Socialist Party USA and Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
29. 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.