

2025 SPUSA National Convention Rules

Section I: General Rules

- 1.** The Convention shall be governed by the Party Constitution, these convention rules, and Robert's Rules of Order.
- 2.** These rules, as proposed by the outgoing National Committee, must be reviewed, amended if necessary, and approved by the first session of the convention. If amendments are made, they cannot conflict with requirements in the Party Constitution.
- 3.** After adoption, these rules may be suspended by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of delegates present and voting. Using rule suspension to circumvent requirements in the Party Constitution is out of order.
- 4.** A quorum shall be defined as a majority of the seated delegates and shall remain in effect until the time set for each session to end.
- 5.** The convention agenda, as proposed by the National Executive Committee, must be reviewed, amended if necessary, and approved by the first session of the convention.
- 6.** The convention shall amend as necessary and approve the convention agenda drafted by the National Executive Committee.

Section II: Registration and Attendance

- 7.** Registration for all attendees must be received by the National Office by the start of the convention. No one shall be admitted to the convention without registering by the start of the convention.
- 8.** The National Executive Committee has set the regular registration fee for delegates and alternates at \$25.00, which is due to the National Office before October 24th at 6pm ET. No one shall be admitted to the convention without paying the registration fee by the start of the convention or having that fee paid for them by the deadline.
- 9.** Party member observers may be admitted to the convention but are ineligible to subsequently sit as a delegate or alternate. Non-member observers are not permitted to attend the convention. All observers must pay a registration fee.
- 10.** Each delegation shall designate a delegate captain who shall keep the convention chair informed of delegates seated at the beginning of each session. The delegate captain shall be responsible for maintaining order within the delegation, including gender balance as ruled by the Credentials Committee and/or convention.
- 11.** Once a session is called to order, seated delegates may not be switched out until after the session ends or there is a scheduled break, whichever happens first.
- 12.** All state and local organizations entitled to a delegation must provide credentials of election in order to be seated.
- 13.** The National Executive Committee shall serve as the Credentials Committee.
 - a.** The Credentials Committee shall rule on the validity of delegate credentials and report its findings to the first session of the convention.
 - b.** Credential Committee members shall abstain from any committee vote involving the delegation representing their location.

- c. All rulings of the Credentials Committee shall be made available to the registered delegates within 24hrs of its decision.
- d. The Credentials Committee shall rule on any delegate or delegation waiver requests. Waiver requests submitted after the Credentials Committee has adjourned shall not be accepted or considered.
- e. The deadline for challenging the credentials of any delegate or delegation, or the rulings of the Credentials Committee, shall be 5:00pm ET on the day preceding the first day of the convention. All challenges must be made in writing to the National Secretary via e-mail and will be adjudicated on the first day of the convention after the delegates are seated.
- f. Any ruling of the Credentials Committee can be challenged and overturned by a simple majority of the convention.
- g. The Credentials Committee proceedings are open for observation by any convention delegate or alternate.

Section III: Convention Roles

- 14.** Convention session chairs shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee and must have a working knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order and Zoom webinar.
- 15.** The National Executive Committee shall appoint at least one Parliamentarian who must have a comprehensive knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order.
- 16.** Recording secretaries shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee. The recording secretaries are responsible for maintaining a log of motions, amendments, and vote totals to be submitted to the National Secretary at the conclusion of the convention.
- 17.** Tellers shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee. The tellers are responsible for counting vote totals and reporting accurate vote totals to the convention.
- 18.** The National Executive Committee shall designate at least one person for attendee tech support. This designee shall be available for tech-related questions before and during the convention proceedings, with the understanding that the convention will not suspend business for individual technology issues. Attendees are strongly encouraged to test their videoconference software and hardware before the convention begins.
- 19.** Committees of the Convention shall be as follows:
 - a. Credentials (National Executive Committee)
 - b. Platform
 - c. Constitution & Principles
 - d. General Resolutions
- 20.** Delegates are encouraged to join one of the three resolution committees. Only seated delegates may vote at committee meetings, and each delegate may only be part of one of those committees.

Section IV: Voting

- 21.** All voting, except for officer and national committee elections, shall be conducted by verbal roll call of the delegates listed as seated at the beginning of each session.
- 22.** All resolutions and amendments, except procedural and congratulatory, shall be in writing.
- 23.** Constitutional amendments, platform resolutions, Statement of Principles resolutions, and general resolutions are vetted through the applicable convention resolution committee.

- a. Convention committees are responsible for deciding whether a proposal is reported to the convention for consideration.
- b. Convention committees are responsible for determining the order in which pre-submitted proposals reported to the convention are heard.
- c. Any resolution submitted to a resolution committee after the deadline can only be considered via a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the committee and, if reported to the convention, must be ranked after all ranked pre-submitted resolutions.
- d. All convention committees shall convene on Friday evening and must submit their list of ranked resolutions to the National Secretary by the convention opening on Saturday morning.
- e. Committee chairs shall be appointed by the National Action Committee and are responsible for chairing the meeting and submitting the resolution rankings to the National Secretary.
- f. Only seated delegates may vote in convention committees.

24. If the member who submitted the resolution is present and seated as a delegate at the time of its introduction to the convention, they shall have one minute to explain and motivate the resolution. This explanatory statement does not count towards any restrictions on speaking time.

25. Discussion on the floor to a resolution shall be limited to two minutes per speaker. No delegate shall be recognized a second time until all delegates desiring to speak have had an opportunity to do so. Speakers shall state their pro or con position at the beginning of their time and, in the interest of time, are encouraged not to repeat previous statements unless absolutely necessary.

26. Seated delegates wishing to address the convention during a debate must use the webinar chat function to be added to the stack of upcoming speakers.

27. The webinar chat function is to be used solely for conducting convention business. Unless speaking to other attendees privately, using the chat function for discussion or circumventing the speaking procedure is out of order.

28. Observers and non-seated alternates do not have speaking privileges on the convention floor.

29. The motion “previous question”, also known informally as “closing debate”, “calling the question”, or “calling the vote”, shall be out of order at the end of one’s own speech.

30. Voting by acclamation is out of order.

31. No motions are in order while a vote is being conducted or counted.

32. The Statement of Principles can only be amended via $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.

33. The Party Constitution can only be amended via a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.

34. General resolutions can only pass via a simple majority.

35. Platform resolutions can only pass via a simple majority.

Section V: Leadership Elections

36. 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.

37. Candidates who submit their nomination to the National Office by October 15th at 6pm ET shall be entitled to have a statement of candidacy submitted distributed to delegates and automatic nomination at the convention. All candidates declaring after this date must seek nomination by another delegate at the convention.

39. Instant Runoff Voting shall be used for the election of National Chair/Co-Chairs

and National Vice Chairs.

40.Candidates for National Chair/Co-Chair and National Vice Chair shall have a maximum of five minutes to address the convention followed by a maximum of five minutes of questions per candidate.

41.Before the election for National Chair/Co-Chair, the convention shall decide on whether to elect one Chair or two Co-Chairs.

42.The election for National Chair/Co-Chair shall be a single election of all candidates running. If there are multiple Co-Chairs, they shall be from different gender identities.

43.The election for National Vice Chairs shall be a single election of all candidates running. The two Vice Chairs shall be from different gender identities.

44.Before the election for National Committee, the convention shall decide on the size of the National Committee and an equal number of alternates.

45.Delegates may vote for as many National Committee candidates as there are seats to fill. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected as National Committee members, not to exceed 50% cis-male gender identity. The next highest vote-getters equal in number to those elected to the National Committee shall be elected as alternates.