

2020-2022 BCDCC Reorganization Meeting Proposed Rules

Applicability

In the event that the in-person election of officers cannot be held due to a public emergency or natural disaster which makes the holding of an in-person election unlawful or impossible as determined by the WSDCC, and the Benton County Democratic Central Committee (BCDCC). This set of rules shall govern all business that must be conducted at BCDCC's bi-annual Re-organization meeting. Due to Covid-19, the BCDCC reorganization meeting will be held on Zoom. **Each participant must have access to an established Google account to enable online voting during the meeting if the body does not unanimously choose Chat voting.**

Conduct of Business

Each Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) elected in the August 2020 Washington State Primary election for the 2020-2022 term shall identify themselves by First Name, Last Name, Precinct Number, and voting email address in the chat when logging into the meeting. Example: Judith Johannesen 175 johannesen@aol.com

Individuals are to remain muted throughout proceedings unless unmuted by the Chair or the Chair's designee after being granted the floor. To prevent debate that circumnavigates the standard speaking order or distracts focus from the recognized speaker holding the floor, only chat relative to the meeting function is permitted.

To be recognized, a Member must first communicate their desire to be recognized and the purpose for which recognition is sought. If a member would like to be recognized for debate or to provide a motion, or a nomination during the election of officers, enter "Chair" in the Chat for recognition. The Chair or the Chair's designee will monitor the Chat and the order in which they sought to be recognized.

If conducting debate, the Chair may bypass the next speaker to hear from additional individuals who seek recognition via chat to alternate debate between pro and con.

Requests for recognition to make a motion that requires interrupting the current speaker and requests for recognition when no other business is pending should be made by entering the request in Chat, e.g., Point of Information, Point of Order.

Debate will be limited to a maximum of one minute per speaker, and a maximum of two speeches pro and two speeches con, per motion.

Election of Officers

The current Chair of the Organization will preside over the meeting until such time as a new Chair is elected.

Election of Officers will be the first item of business after adoption of agenda and rules.

Nominations

Self-nomination for office prior to the meeting: Any individual who otherwise is eligible to serve as an elected officer may submit their name and position for which they are running prior to any virtual election being held, to the current Chair and district Secretary. The Secretary will confirm receipt of intention to run within 24 hours of receiving the intention. An individual may submit their name for multiple positions but if they do, they need to expressly indicate whether they will accept the first position to which they are elected and withdraw their name from nomination for the other offices to be elected, or if they intend to occupy multiple offices if so elected.

Nomination from the floor during the meeting: Any individual may be nominated from the floor for any office.

All votes will be conducted sequentially in the order of Chair; First Vice Chair; both State Committee Officers. Only PCOs duly elected in August 2020 for the 2020-2022 term can vote for these officers under the Charter and Washington State statute.

A majority is required for election.

In the event that no candidate achieves a majority on the first round of voting, candidates will be removed until there are two (2) times the number of positions available (example: If 8 people are running for 2 state committee member positions, then the bottom 4 vote-getters are dropped, with 4 remaining, following all applicable gender requirements.)

In the event of a tie when no other candidates can be dropped due to positions being filled, the position shall be decided by lot.

After the conclusion of the Chair's election, only candidates of a different gender identity, if any are running, are eligible to appear on the ballot for First Vice Chair election.

Elections for State Committee Members must be conducted simultaneously. All candidates for State Committee Members will be listed on the ballot, and voters must select exactly two (2) candidates, but they must be of different genders (example: a voter may chose 1 male and 1 female, 1 male and 1 gender non-binary individual, 1 female and 1 gender non-binary individual, but may not select 2 gender non-binary individuals, 2 males, or 2 females). Gender constraints do not apply if only one gender runs for the positions.

Each candidate who is nominated in advance shall be allowed to submit a written statement to the Chair and Secretary of the organization no later than four (4) days before the election. The Secretary shall transmit any such submitted statements to all members in good standing no later than three (3) days prior to any election being held. As of December 1, 2020, the only members are the PCOs elected in August, 2020, for the 2020-2022 term.

Chair Candidates: Statement of no more than 500 words.

First Vice Chair and State Committee Members: Statement of no more than 350 words.

All other offices: Statement of no more than 250 words.

Each candidate shall be allowed to give a live speech prior to the vote for each respective position over Zoom, subject to the below limitations. Order is determined by the order in which candidates were nominated (including those who were nominated prior to the beginning of the meeting).

Chair Candidates: Speech no longer than four (4) minutes.

First Vice Chair and State Committee Members: Speech no longer than three (3) minutes.

All other offices: Speech no longer than two (2) minutes.

The Chair may seek unanimous consent to allow voting to proceed via the Chat rather than the complex balloting process that follows. Voters would be giving up a degree of anonymity in the interest of expediency. The Chat will be part of the permanent record of the meeting.

Complex Voting Process:

The Chair and/or a designated individual or tally committee shall create and compile the ballot for all positions. Ballots must meet the following requirements:

Each ballot shall go "live" only upon the conclusion of all speeches for the respective position.

A ballot must contain a unique voter identifier such as an email or other unique code that is associated with a name during registration or roll call to ensure the integrity of the election. Any ballot that does not have these identification criteria shall be considered spoiled and invalid.

Ballots must remain open for a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes or until all eligible ballots are collected, whichever is shorter.

Any member of a local organization in good standing must be able to audit all ballots and election results upon a written request to the Chair and/or another designated individual.

The highest-ranking outgoing officer of the organization and a second individual designated by the outgoing Chair, neither of whom may be candidates themselves, shall certify the election results as timely as possible after the close of voting and immediately transmit said results to all members present.

The same process will be used to elect Second Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Other Business

An agenda proposed by the Chair at the time of Call to Meeting, to be distributed no fewer than 10 days from the beginning of the meeting will be voted upon.

The proposed agenda must include elections for all officers.

All other business will be conducted in accordance with Bylaws and section 2 of these rules.

The meeting shall not adjourn until each elected officer has supplied: Full name, residential and mailing address, telephone number, email address.