

Bylaws and Rules Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 10, 2025

Meeting was over Zoom.

Called to order by Chair Darr at 3:07pm ET.

Present: Kyle Davis, Andrew Kolstee, Dr. Chuck Moulton (VC), Paul Darr (C), Michael Seebeck (S), Rob Latham, Data Logan, Amanda Griffiths, Silvia Arrowwood, Bryce Thon (A1).

Absent: Geoffrey Neale.

Vacant: Alternate #2.

Mr. Thon sits for Mr. Neale.

No guests.

1. Agenda adopted w/o objection.
2. Proposal #4:
 - Started at this point:

ARTICLE 8: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

No officer or member-at-large shall be subject to removal from office except for failure to perform the duties of office or gross malfeasance. The process for removing officers and members-at-large shall be the trial procedure as outlined in the Party's parliamentary authority, with removal requiring a vote of 2/3 of the entire National Committee, excepting the member who is the subject of the vote may not participate in that vote; or upon a removal petition to the Judicial Committee specifying the aforementioned cause signed by 2/3 of the delegates credentialed at the most recent regular convention. The membership rights of the officer or member-at-large can be suspended by a 3/4 vote for up to sixty days while the matter is being investigated.

[Insert paragraph break]

The subject officer or member-at-large may appeal their removal in writing to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notice of removal. Failure to appeal within seven days shall confirm the removal and bar any later challenge or appeal.

[Insert paragraph break]

The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal between 20 and 40 days of receipt of the appeal. The Judicial Committee shall notify the petitioner and identified prospective respondents of their right to appear and present evidence and argument. At the

hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellee. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the removal of the officer or member-at-large or order reinstatement of the officer or member-at-large within 30 days of the hearing. Failure of the Judicial Committee to make a final decision on the appeal within 30 days shall affirm the removal of the officer or member at-large. At such time as the removal is final, the office in question shall be deemed vacant. A removed officer or member-at-large is ineligible to fill any National Committee vacancy until the next convention.

No further amendments; passed without objections.

Mr. Latham moved to amend Rule 8 as follows:

RULE 8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE

1. Nominations for Party officers shall be from the floor. The election shall be conducted by preferential voting. ~~in the following manner:~~

~~a. For each office, a majority vote will be necessary for election.~~

~~b. Each delegation shall tabulate its total vote, and the delegation chair shall deliver a written total to the Secretary. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Secretary shall declare the voting closed.~~

~~c. In cases where no candidate receives a majority, runoff votes will be held, dropping the candidate with the fewest votes after each ballot.~~

a. Officer elections shall be conducted using Ranked Choice Voting. For each office, a majority vote of all the ballots cast in that round shall be necessary and sufficient for election.

b. Ballots shall allow delegates to rank their choices of candidates in order of preference.

c. In cases in which no candidate receives a majority of First Choice votes, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated

d. If no candidate has a majority of votes cast, the process of eliminating the candidate with the fewest votes, redistributing according to the next choice on those ballots, and then recounting shall be repeated until one candidate has a majority.

e. In the event of a tie in any round which makes a difference in which candidate advances, ties shall be broken by retaining the candidate that had the most votes in the prior round, and if still a tie, then the most votes in the round before that, and so on. If this method results in a tie up through the current round, the tie shall be broken randomly.

f. The Secretary shall retain the record of all voting rounds and make it available to delegates upon request.

g. The Chair shall announce the winner of the election after votes have been fully tabulated. The Chair's announcement of the election outcome shall include results from each voting round.

Proviso: This amendment shall take effect upon the final adjournment of the convention at which it is adopted.

No amendments.

PASSED 6-2-1.

Mr. Latham moved to amend Article 15 and Rule 8 as follows:

ARTICLE 15: ALTERNATIVE VOTING PROCEDURES

1. The convention special rules of order may authorize specified forms of preferential voting.
2. The convention special rules of order may provide a mechanism under which, when no candidate initially receives a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes is removed from consideration.

3. The convention special rules of order may authorize cumulative voting.

[...]

RULE 8: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE

2. Nominations for the at-large members of the National Committee shall be from the floor. The election shall be conducted **by cumulative voting. in the following manner:**

~~a. Each delegate may cast a ballot with a vote for either none of the above or one vote per candidate for any number of candidates. Every ballot with a vote for none of the above or one or more candidates is counted as one ballot cast. A vote for none of the above shall be ignored if the ballot also includes a vote for any other candidate.~~

~~b. Each delegation shall tabulate its total vote, and the delegation chair shall deliver a written total to the Secretary, along with the ballots cast.~~

~~c. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Chair shall declare the voting closed. The top five candidates receiving a majority vote of the ballots cast shall be elected. Tie votes affecting the outcome shall be decided by lot.~~

Proviso: This amendment shall take effect upon the final adjournment of the convention at which it is adopted.

Mr. Darr dropped from the meeting by accident, Dr. Moulton assumed the gavel.
Mr. Darr returned to the meeting and resumed the gavel.

PASSED 5-2-2.

Mr. Seebeck moved to amend Article 10, Section 4-c as follows:

Proposal 1: Alleviate floor fights over credentials by setting a deadline for submissions to two weeks in advance of the convention instead of last-minute.

Proposal 2: Limit alternates to not more than 50 or the number of delegates allocated, whichever is lesser. As currently worded, a state with 5 delegates can have 50 alternates.

ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS

4. Delegate Allocation:

a. In order to be counted for delegate allocation, sustaining membership applications must be sent to the National Headquarters by either the individual member or the affiliate party and received or postmarked no later than the last day of the seventh month prior to the regular convention.

b. The Secretary shall make a count of the sustaining members qualified under the requirements set forth here and shall compute the delegate allocations for the affiliate parties. Notification of the sustaining membership totals and allocation totals shall be sent by the Secretary to the chair of each affiliate party no later than the last day of the sixth month prior to a regular convention.

c. A list of the names and addresses of all delegates and alternates chosen by each affiliate party shall be sent to the Credentials Committee no later than one month prior to start of the first general session of the regular convention. Amendments to such lists may be made by the affiliate parties and submitted to the Credentials Committee ~~until the close of the Credentials Committee meeting preceding the convention~~ not later than fourteen (14) days before the first Business Session of the National Convention. The number of alternates' names submitted shall not exceed the ~~greater~~ lesser of 50 or the number of delegates allocated.

Mr. Darr moved to amend the last sentence to read "The number of alternates' names submitted shall not exceed the number of delegates allocated." PASSED 7-2.

PASSED 6-2-1

Mr. Seebeck moved to amend Article 8 Section 5 as follows:

ARTICLE 8: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

5. Within 90 days following the regular convention at which elected, the Judicial Committee shall establish rules of appellate procedure to govern its consideration of matters within the scope of its jurisdiction. ~~The existing Rules shall remain in effect until and unless the Judicial Committee submits new proposed rules to the National Committee for approval, which approval shall be deemed given unless denied by a 2/3 vote of the National Committee within 60 days of submission.~~ Those rules shall remain in effect until further amended or suspended by the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee's session shall be between regular conventions at which they are elected. A copy of the current rules of appellate procedure shall be maintained by the Secretary at the Party Headquarters and shall be available to any member at cost.

Mr. Seebeck moved to insert between the two sentences, "An appeal shall be considered under the rules of appellate procedure in effect at the time the appeal is made." PASSED without objection.

Article 8, Section 5 now reads:

ARTICLE 8: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

5. Within 90 days following the regular convention at which elected, the Judicial Committee shall establish rules of appellate procedure to govern its consideration of matters within the scope of its jurisdiction. ~~The existing Rules shall remain in effect until and unless the Judicial Committee submits new proposed rules to the National Committee for approval, which approval shall be deemed given unless denied by a 2/3 vote of the National Committee within 60 days of submission.~~ Those rules shall remain in effect until further amended or suspended by the Judicial Committee. An appeal shall be considered under the rules of appellate procedure in effect at the time the appeal is made. The Judicial Committee's session shall be between regular conventions at which they are elected. A copy of the current rules of appellate procedure shall be maintained by the Secretary at the Party Headquarters and shall be available to any member at cost.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02pm ET.

For the Committee,
Michael Seebeck, Secretary
August 10, 2025