

# Washington State Democrats Virtual State Convention

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Will this Convention be like past Conventions, only on the internet?**

WSDCC staff have worked hard to ensure that the delegates to this virtual convention will accomplish the work done at past in-person Conventions. **But** there are several things that need to be different from pre-Covid Conventions. The principal difference is our need to pre-package and distribute all materials that will be voted on and to organize presentations in support of positions in advance. It will **not be possible to recognize anyone spontaneously** from the floor of the Convention.

- **Wow, then how can I propose a change to the Rules Committee or Platform Committee reports?**

You will receive the proposed Platform and Rules on May 27<sup>th</sup>, and will have between May 27<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> to read these documents and submit proposed amendments. Your proposed change will **not** need a 'second' to be considered. The Rules and Platform Committees will review each change proposed, and if a majority of the Committee agrees with you it will be incorporated into the Committee's Report, or if there is strong support for your change but not quite enough to pass it in Committee it will be put forward for a vote by the Convention delegates as a "Minority Report".

- **Wait, what is a "Minority Report"?**

A "Minority Report" is when a strong percentage of the Committee agrees with a proposed change but not enough to include it in the Committee's Report. When this happens, the Convention delegates will decide whether to change the Committee Report. Those Committee members who supported the change will produce the argument for why it should be incorporated into the Rules or the Platform, and will identify speakers—not limited to Committee members-- who will argue in favor of the Minority Report during the Convention. Then all of the 1800+ State Delegates will vote on whether adopt the Committee recommendation or the Minority Report.

- **OK, so how do I submit my change?**

All proposed changes must be received by the Director of Party Affairs ( [PartyAffairs@wa-democrats.org](mailto:PartyAffairs@wa-democrats.org)) before 5:00pm on May 31<sup>st</sup>. If possible, the change should be emailed. We cannot guarantee our ability to promptly access and process other forms of communication during the current crisis. The email should contain the original text location in the document being referred to, as well as the exact text that you want to replace that or be inserted into the document. You will receive confirmation shortly after, which will include the Chairs of the

appropriate committee for your amendment to provide you additional points of contact. It is recommended that if you have not received confirmation by 4:00pm on May 31st, please contact Drew Estep, at [drew@wa-democrats.org](mailto:drew@wa-democrats.org) to verify that your proposed change has been received. The deadline of 5:00pm is firm, and no proposed changes will be accepted after that time.

- **Will I need a strong internet connection or technical skills to access the meeting?**

No! We are aware that accessibility to and reliability of internet connections varies around the state. The digital convention will be hosted via Zoom as the basic platform conducting the meeting but if you do not have a stable internet connection you will be provided with a call-in line that will allow you to follow-along with the meeting audio on your telephone. Even if you have stable internet but don't want to join via the Zoom program delegates can watch all the Convention proceedings on YouTube.

- **How long should I expect Convention day to run?**

The Convention will start at 9:00am on June 13<sup>th</sup>, and we hope will wrap by 5:00pm but please plan for the possibility it goes overtime. There will be a break for lunch in the middle of the day, as well as several breaks for voting that can be used to take care of any personal matters throughout the day.

- **How will I be voting?**

For each vote you will receive an individual Google Form based ballot emailed directly to you. There will be a set amount of time to vote, and then results will be announced. The method will be similar to the one that you used to vote for National Delegate on during the May 29<sup>th</sup>-May 30<sup>th</sup> voting window.

- **What happens if I have to leave for a little bit during the Convention?**

No problem! One of the advantages of the Digital Convention is that after you check-in (between 7pm on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 7pm on June 12<sup>th</sup>, the day before!) you're "Seated" for the duration of the Convention and can come and go as you please. All ballots will still be emailed to you, and if you miss a couple votes you can always come back until the business of the Convention is concluded.

- **I'm an alternate, when will I find out if I have become a delegate?**

You will be notified of your seating either as soon as possible after a delegate resigns a position that you are able to fill, or between 8:00pm and 9:00pm on June 12<sup>th</sup>, if a Delegate does not "check-in" for the Convention for your Legislative District.

- **What if I have a question that wasn't addressed here?**

Our Party Affairs team is always available to answer questions and provide support at [delegatehelp2020@wa-democrats.org](mailto:delegatehelp2020@wa-democrats.org). Given the volume of requests coming in, please allow at least 1 full business day to reply to your question. You can also reference the Rules for this Convention [here](#) and [here](#).