

Proposed Rules for 2018 Benton County Democratic Party Convention and Legislative District Caucuses

1. The 2018 Benton County Democratic Party Convention, 8th Legislative District Caucus, and 16th Legislative District Subcaucus shall be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 commencing at 10:00 am, at Desert Hills Middle School, 1701 S Clodfelter Rd, Kennewick, Washington.
2. To vote at the County Convention and at the caucus or subcaucus of a given legislative district, an individual must be a resident, registered voter in Benton County and in that legislative district, and must affirm that they are a Democrat by signing on the registration sheet, and agree to public record of their attendance at the meeting.
 - A. **Registered voters** include all registered voters and any 17 year old who will be eligible to vote on or before November 6, 2018. **Registered voters** also include any eligible individual who completes a voter registration form while signing in to attend the County Convention.
 - B. Individuals who are not qualified to register to vote because of residence, citizenship, or age shall be allowed to participate in the platform discussion, but may not vote on rules, matters of order, resolutions or for the election of delegates or alternates, nor may they be elected as delegates or alternates.
3. There is no registration fee for the County Convention and Legislative District Caucuses.
4. The Legislative District/County Chair or the Chair's designee shall serve as the Temporary Chair of the Legislative District Caucus/County Convention.

NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY: The present document states rules for the Benton County Convention, 8th LD Caucus, and 16th LD Subcaucus. The phrase "Legislative District Caucus/County Convention" used herein may denote any one of these three meetings, depending on the context. "Legislative District/County" may denote any of our three local party organizations, the Benton County, 8th LD, and 16th LD organizations. The rules for the three meetings have much language in common, so this terminology saves repetition.
5. The Chair of the County Convention Credentials Committee shall present the report of the Credentials Committee no earlier than 11:00am, which shall include the following:
 - A. The total number of registered voters registered and seated at the time the report is given;
 - B. Presentation of challenged voters wishing to be seated by the County Convention as a whole, proceeding in alpha-numeric order until all challenges are resolved. If the challenged voter is not sustained, they shall be ineligible to vote or be elected as a State Delegate or Alternate. A challenged voter may not vote on the question of their own challenge.

Proposed Rules for 2018 Benton County Democratic Party Convention and Legislative District Caucuses

6. The Credentials Committee may seat unchallenged voters arriving after the Initial Credentials Committee report.
7. The Chair of the Rules Committee shall present the report of the Rules Committee.
8. Any voting member of the Legislative District Caucus/County Convention may nominate themselves or be nominated by another voting member for the position of Permanent Caucus/Convention Chair. Nominations, seconding speeches and speeches by the candidate on their own behalf shall not total more than three (3) minutes per nominee. A majority of those voting is required to elect. If no person has a majority, the candidate receiving the least votes is dropped and balloting shall be repeated using the remaining names. This procedure shall be repeated until a candidate receives a majority of those voting. In case of a tie vote, the tie shall be broken by lot or coin toss.
9. The Permanent Caucus/Convention Chair shall appoint a Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, Time Keeper, Tally Committee Chair, and Parliamentarian. Assistants or Committees may be appointed to assist these caucus officers in their work, as volume dictates.
10. The election of State Convention delegates and alternates:
 - A. The 8th Legislative District Caucus shall elect 6 delegates and 3 alternates.
 - B. The 16th Legislative District Subcaucus shall elect 1 delegate and 1 alternate.
 - C. Each candidate for election as State Convention delegate or alternate from a given legislative district must be a resident registered voter, as defined in Section 2 of these rules, in that district.
 - D. Each candidate for State Convention delegate or alternate shall be nominated individually. No second is required. A candidate who is not present must signify in advance, in writing individually to the Benton County Chair, that they will serve if elected and that they are a Democrat and are willing to be known as such. The letter of any absent candidate shall be read by the Caucus Chair and shall constitute a nomination, no second required. All other nominations shall be made by signing the nomination list at the registration table. Each candidate shall have up to one minute (including the time spent by the Chair reading an absent candidate's nomination letter) for speech on their behalf. The Chair, at their sole discretion, may reduce the amount of speaking time, as long as all candidates are provided the same amount of time, based upon number of candidates and any other pertinent factors.

Commented [JC1]: Our 16th LD subcaucus does have one alternate, based on the "2018 LD Delegate and Alternate Allocations - Including County Breakdown" table in Olgy Diaz's 3/20 email, subject "Caucus and Convention: Final Countdown!"

Proposed Rules for 2018 Benton County Democratic Party Convention and Legislative District Caucuses

- E. Voting shall be by written ballot and a ballot to be counted must have all potential positions filled, contain only the names of persons nominated, and have no duplications. The ballot must not differ by more than one in the number of men and women selected. (These requirements prevent a candidate for delegate from skewing the vote by only voting for themselves and leaving the other positions blank). A plurality of those present and voting is required to elect. In case of a tie vote, the assignment of a delegate position shall be by lot or coin toss.
 - F. State Convention alternates shall be selected from the same set of ballots used for the election of delegates. The candidate for delegate receiving the most votes after all delegate slots are filled shall become alternate number one, and the alternate receiving the next most votes shall be alternate number two, and so forth. (Voting for alternates is done at the same time as voting for delegates).
 - G. The delegation elected shall differ by no more than one (disregarding any positions won by non-binary gender persons) between the number of women and number of men in both the delegate and alternate categories unless there are an insufficient number of nominees from one gender to fill the available positions. (If a legislative district caucus or subcaucus can elect 10 delegates but 3 men and 7 women are running then the women can take the delegates spots that the men are unable to fill and the delegation will consist of 3 men and 7 women).
 - H. If there are the same number of candidates seeking election to the State Convention as the number of positions available or fewer, they may be elected by acclamation.
- 11. At the discretion of the Permanent Caucus Chair, consideration of resolutions submitted to a caucus or subcaucus may commence without suspension of the rules.
 - 12. Any resolution not considered by a Legislative District Caucus/County Convention shall be referred to the next meeting of the Legislative District/County party organization.
 - 13. The motion "to table" shall be out of order at all times.
 - 14. A quorum shall consist of 30% of the number eligible to vote as shown on the credentials report, as most recently amended. Once a quorum is established, it may not be challenged until the election of delegates has been completed.

Proposed Rules for 2018 Benton County Democratic Party Convention and Legislative District Caucuses

- A. A caucus or subcaucus Tally Chair, in consultation with the Permanent Caucus Chair, may suspend counting of State Convention delegates and alternates ballots and inform the Caucus about where and when it will resume counting.
 - B. If this option is implemented, ballots and ballot documentation shall be sealed securely in an envelope or box, the seal signed by the Permanent Caucus Chair, the Tally Chair, and a third selected member, and not re-opened until the count resumes with the seal inspected beforehand.
15. The Permanent Caucus Chair shall appoint a representative tally committee to serve under the Tally Chair. All ballots shall be returned to the Permanent Caucus Chair and thereupon provided for safekeeping to the elected Legislative District/County Chair if that person is a different individual from the Caucus Chair. The ballots shall be retained by the Legislative District/County Chair until the State Convention has adjourned.
 16. The Unit Rule shall not be permitted at any time.
 17. Proxy voting shall not be allowed.
 18. All possible efforts shall be made to insure maximum participation of African Americans, Hispanic/Latinos, Enrolled Native Americans, Asian/Pacific Americans, and People with Disabilities. Other Constituencies of Concern include but are not limited to women, youth (considered separately to include both those between the ages of 17 and 24 and those between 17 and 36), persons over 65 years of age, LGBTQ+, and persons of economic disadvantage.
 19. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall prevail in other matters not specifically covered herein or in the 2018 Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan.
 20. Nothing in these rules shall be inconsistent with the 2018 Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan.
 21. The Legislative District Caucus shall adjourn at 2:30pm, if not earlier, provided that delegate elections have been completed.

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Proposed Rules for Consideration of the Platform

1. The Platform Committee of the County Convention shall transmit the draft platform to the County Chair, who is the Temporary Chair of the Convention, at least 10 days prior to the Convention.
2. The Permanent Convention Chair shall call upon the Chair (or co-chairs) of the Platform Committee to place the Platform before the body for adoption. (The presentation of the platform may be done through a video.)
3. The Permanent Convention Chair shall read each section heading and ask members of the Convention who disagree with the substance of a bulleted item within a section to flag the item for debate and removal as not representing the sentiment of the majority at this time. Motions to delete language require _____ seconds. ← TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE CREDENTIALS REPORT.*
4. Amendments to add language to the platform will not be in order at the Convention.
5. At any point after asking members to flag bulleted items for debate, the Permanent Convention Chair may call for a vote on the platform, which omits those flagged sections.
6. The Permanent Convention Chair retains the prerogative to bring up bulleted items for debate and action.
7. Debate shall alternate pro and con, limited to a maximum of four speakers for and four speakers against the issue or the main platform, each speaker to speak no more than one minute, or less, at the sole prerogative of the chair, provided that all speakers on a specific topic are provided the same amount of time. One extension of four additional speakers, two pro and two con, may be allowed by the Permanent Convention Chair at their sole prerogative per issue and on the motion to adopt the platform.
8. Removal of a bulleted item will be by simple majority of those voting.
9. In the event the platform is not passed at the Convention, the platform may be considered by the Benton County Democratic Central Committee at its next regular meeting.

* The rules should include a specific number of registered voters, **not a percentage**, to flag an item for debate. A recommended number will vary widely based on estimated attendance. A good rule of thumb is a number about 15% of the expected number of attendees.