

SPRCC 2021 Convention Rules

Monday, April 12th, 6:30 P.M. gavel

Sojourner's Cafe

Section 1: General

- 1) The order of business of this convention shall be as listed in the Official Call and agenda of the convention, incorporated with these rules, subject to the discretion of the Convention Chair.
- 2) "Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised" shall be the parliamentary authority on all points when not in conflict with the laws of the State of Minnesota, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Republican Party of Minnesota, the Constitution and Bylaws of the CD4-RPM, Constitution of the SPRCC, the Official Call and these Rules.
- 3) No quorum is required to convene SPRCC conventions. Which includes adoption of rules and agenda.
 - a) Official business that requires a vote can be conducted only while a quorum of 15% of the total Ward-Precinct delegates elected in the most recent precinct caucuses (2020) who reside within Saint Paul City limits.
 - b) The Convention Chair shall ensure that no business is conducted without a quorum.
 - c) Where a majority or two-thirds majority vote is required on any issue before the Convention, unless specifically stated otherwise it shall be based on the number of votes cast.
- 4) Once adopted, these rules shall not be amended nor suspended except by a two-thirds vote.
- 5) A motion to adjourn shall not be in order until the official business of the convention, as stated in the call and agenda, has been completed, or until time certain for adjournment, 8:40pm, has been reached.
- 6) No Convention Officer or Sergeants-at-Arms shall exhibit any outward sign of support for or engage in any activities on behalf of any candidate for SPRCC office.
- 7) Convention Attendees can attend in person or online via Zoom.

Section 2: Seating of Delegates and Alternates

- 8) The permanent roll of the convention shall be constituted as follows:
 - a) The duly elected delegates elected at the most recent precinct caucuses (2020) and currently reside in the city of Saint Paul shall be seated.
 - b) If any duly elected delegate to this Convention is absent, then a duly elected alternate at the most recent precinct caucuses (2020) and currently resides in the city of Saint Paul shall be seated in alternate rank order-With Alternate 1 being the first to be seated.
- 9) When a registered delegate returns to the floor of the convention, they shall be immediately seated, replacing the lowest ranked seated alternate. No one shall be seated while a written ballot is underway.
- 10) The order of seating alternates shall be as follows:
 - a) If alternates are ranked by the Ward-Precinct they shall be seated by rank.
 - b) If no ranking is known they shall be seated by a majority vote of the seated delegates in that overall Ward.
 - c) If no delegates are present and seated for a Particular Ward-Precinct, then there will be no representation for that Ward-Precinct.
 - d) Seated alternates shall have the same rights and privileges as seated delegates.
- 11) The voting strength of the convention shall be the number of delegates and seated alternates present at the convention as listed in the most recent credentials report.
- 12) The Credentials Committee may report changes in delegations prior to the vote on any Constitutional Amendment and Executive Position. Credentials Committee shall report changes when requested by the Convention chair.

Section 3: Speaking and Floor Privileges

- 13) Only delegates, and seated alternates, and Republican guests who reside within the city limits of Saint Paul and guests approved by the chair shall be allowed on the floor.
- 14) Non-seated alternates and other guests shall be seated in a designated area.
- 15) A delegate wishing to speak shall rise and address the presiding officer and when recognized, state their name, Ward, and purpose for wishing to speak. Those online should use the "raise your hand" feature on zoom. When recognized, your line will be unmuted for you to state your name, Ward, and purpose for wishing to speak.
- 16) Members of convention committees may engage in debate, but may not vote unless they are seated delegated or seated alternate.
- 17) Debate on any motion or subject shall be limited to one (1) minute for each speaker.
 - a) No person shall be allowed to speak a second time.
 - b) Each speaker shall identify whether they speak in favor or against before being allowed to speak on a motion or subject.

- c) Debate will be limited to two in favor and two opposed. After hearing for both sides, the motion will move to a vote.
- 18) The Convention Chair may require any motion or amendment be in written form prior to consideration.
- 19) No more than two (2) speakers on each side of a question shall be afforded the opportunity to speak one (1) minute before a motion to “call the question” or to “lay on the table” shall be in order. After four (4) minutes of debate the Convention Chair may end debate and call for the vote.
- 20) The Convention Chair shall appoint a timekeeper for the purpose of timing discussions and speeches during the Convention.
- 21) The Convention Chair may invite any office holder, state-wide candidate or distinguished guest to address the Convention for a period not to exceed three (3) minutes.

Section 4: Voting

- 22) Only delegates and seated alternates present at this Convention shall be permitted to vote. There shall be no voting by proxy or under unit rule.
- 23) The vote on all questions other than elections shall be by voice vote, except as follows:
 - a) A brief show of hands may be taken at the discretion of the Convention Chair (those online, use the “raise your hand” feature.
 - b) A roll call vote shall be taken if requested by at least three (3) delegates.
- 24) Contested ballots shall be written and secret. For contested ballots, those online will submit their vote via chat feature to the Chief Teller.
- 25) Uncontested ballots may be decided by acclamation.
- 26) The Convention Chair or designee shall distribute the ballots to each duly seated delegate or alternate.
- 27) Ballots shall be collected by the SPRCC chair or designee and returned to the Chief Teller or their designee.
- 28) Only tellers shall open and tally ballots.
- 29) If there is a dispute as to the vote, the Convention Chair shall appoint a judge and two (2) tellers to canvass the vote, and the judge shall report the results to the convention.
 - a) The Chief Teller shall report the results to the Convention.
 - b) The Chief Teller shall report the total number of blank, unintelligible and illegal ballots. These ballots shall not be counted as valid ballots.
 - c) Ballots marked as “no” or “none” or otherwise to indicate no action are valid ballots and shall be reported as such.
- 30) Ballots shall be destroyed after adjournment.

Section 5: Nominations

- 31) This section shall apply to SPRCC Leadership Positions.
 - a) Nominations can be made from the floor.
 - b) In the case of the Vice Chairs; Vice Chairs must reside in the Ward they will represent. Although it is preferred for a nominations be made by those residing in the Ward for which the Vice Chair is being elected, nominations can come forward from any seated delegate.
 - c) Each officer position shall be voted on separately and to be elected a Ward Vice Chair Officer, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast for the office by delegates and seated alternates elected at the most recent precinct caucuses and currently residing in the Saint Paul Ward the Vice Chair is for based on the most recent credentials report. Election of Secretary shall be voted on by all the delegates and seated alternates present at the convention as listed in the most recent credentials report.
 - d) If more than one ballot is required, the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes shall be eliminated prior to the second ballot. If there is tie vote, one more ballot shall be taken, if the tie cannot be broken after the second ballot the decision will be made by a simple majority of the current sitting Executive Committee casting a secret ballot.
- 32) A candidate may remove their name from consideration at any time.
- 33) Nominated candidates may address the convention prior to the vote for a period not to exceed one (1) minute.

Section 6: Miscellaneous

- 34) Distinguished Guests, MNGOP Leadership, and CD4-RPM Executive Committee members may not vote unless they are seated and reside in Saint Paul.
- 35) Republican guests who reside within the city limits of Saint Paul and approved by the chair may participate in the meeting, but may not vote unless they are seated and reside in Saint Paul.