

**County Democratic Convention**  
**Saturday ~ April 2, 2016**  
**Location: French Ford Middle School**  
**5495 Palisade Dr., Winnemucca, NV 89445**  
**Time: 10:30 AM**

**RULES GOVERNING THE COUNTY CONVENTION**

**A. RULES OF THE CONVENTION**

The Rules of this convention shall be (1) the Rules adopted by this convention, (2) the Nevada Delegate Selection Plan for the 2016 Democratic National Convention (3) the Charter and By-Laws of the Nevada State Democratic Party and (4) Robert's Rules of Order, as revised.

**B. CALL TO ORDER**

The convention shall be called to order no later than fifteen minutes after the time announced in the official call of Saturday, April 2, 2016, 10:30 a.m. If the Temporary Chair does not call the convention to order within this time limit, any delegate may call the convention to order and the business shall begin.

**C. ATTENDEES AND PRESENCE ON THE CONVENTION FLOOR**

1. All persons attending the County Convention MUST sign in with the Credentials Committee, declare a presidential preference or uncommitted status, and designate time signed in.
2. Only Delegates and personnel authorized by the Rules Committee shall be allowed on the Convention Floor. Alternate delegates are authorized to be seated in the designated Alternate Delegate Seating Area.
3. The Credentials Committee will also verify the requirement that each participant is a registered Democrat in Humboldt County.
4. Guests and non-participants shall sit in designated area other than convention floor.

**D. CONVENTION REGISTRATION AND SEATING OF DELEGATES**

1. The Convention shall be called to order no later than 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, April 2, 2016. Seating of alternate delegates shall begin at NOON upon the completion of sign-in. Anyone who was an eligible attendee at his or her precinct caucus may serve as an alternate to the County Convention. Unelected Alternates who did not attend their caucus may also serve as an Alternate to the County Convention granted they are in line by to register by the appropriate time.
2. Duly elected Delegates to the Convention shall have the first right to be seated at the beginning of the convention. Sign-in of late-arriving delegates will continue until Noon, or until all delegate seats are filled, whichever comes first. Open delegate positions will be filled first. Delegates who do not appear at the convention by Noon will have their positions filled by alternates. Late arriving delegates will be seated if positions are available.
3. Alternates to the county conventions will be allowed to attend regardless of voting status. If there are vacancies in the allotted number of delegates, alternates will be allowed to participate as voting delegates based on the order of their sign-in time. No alternates shall be seated until registration closes at noon and all eligible delegates have been seated.
4. All delegates and alternates must register a presidential preference or uncommitted status at the time of sign-in. Delegates and alternates who wish to run for a National Delegate position at the state convention (third tier) must file a Preliminary Delegate Intent Form prescribed by the Nevada State Democratic Party no later than 10:00 a.m. on April 2nd. Delegate Intent Forms will be made available on the Nevada State Democratic Party website, [www.nvdeems.com](http://www.nvdeems.com), 30 days in advance of county conventions, and forms will be available during the in-person registration periods.
5. A non-binding presidential preference will be conducted at the Convention based on written pledges of support.
6. A delegate who cannot attend all or part of the convention may designate an alternate from his or her ward by Thursday, March 31, 2016, through the authorized preference group chairperson designated by the respective Presidential Campaign.

7. If a delegate fails to name an alternate, in writing, through the authorized preference group chairperson, to serve in his/her stead, an alternate delegate may be seated by the Credentials Committee according to the rules below. A delegate who does not designate an alternate through the preference group chairperson shall not have the right to unseat anyone seated by the Credentials Committee because of the delegate's absence. In the event of a dispute, the Credentials Committee shall determine to whom the seat belongs. When a claim is made to be a delegate or an alternate without any evidence provided to the County Democratic Party, the preference group chairperson shall resolve such claim by Thursday, March 31, 2016, and shall submit it to the Credential Committee Chair.
8. In all cases the alternate shall be of the same preference group as the delegate he or she is to replace. All Presidential Campaigns shall submit the names and contact information for their authorized preference group chairperson by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2016, to the Credential Committee Chair.
9. When no alternate is designated in writing by a duly elected delegate, the Credentials Committee shall designate the name of an alternate from the Convention Alternate Sign-In List. The Credentials Committee shall receive and accept written recommendations from the presidential preference group chairperson and the appropriate Precinct Captain. The Credentials Committee shall hold the responsibility for selection of the alternate.
10. In designating alternates, priority shall be given to alternates from the same precinct and based upon their time of sign-in. If no alternate from the same precinct is available, an alternate from another precinct may be designated.
11. Alternates may only be seated if their presidential preference is the same as the delegate they are replacing. Under no circumstances should an alternate of one presidential candidate replace the vacant delegate position of a competing presidential candidate. In the event a presidential preference does not have enough alternates to fill its delegate slots, those positions will remain vacant and will not count toward the total number of eligible delegates present. Nothing in this provision prevents seated delegates, who no longer have alternate status, from realigning as provided in Section III.

#### **E. REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE**

1. The Chair shall recognize the Chair of the Rules Committee to present the Committee's report for the Rules of the Convention.
2. It shall be in order at any time for the Rules Committee to report to the Convention a resolution providing a special order of business for debate of a resolution, motion, committee report or minority report or amendment to a committee report, or for the consideration of any matter for which provision is not made under these rules.

#### **F. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

1. The temporary report of the Credentials Committee certifying the presence of a quorum shall be adopted before consideration of other official business.
2. The Chair shall recognize the Chair of the Credentials Committee for the presentation of the final report of the committee. The Chair of the Credentials Committee may yield to others to present Committee amendments and Minority Reports without losing the right to the floor.
3. The Credentials Committee shall include in its report the strength of each presidential preference group as indicated at the time of their registration.
4. In the event of a seating challenge, the Credentials Committee shall include in its report the name of the delegate or alternate whom it believes is entitled to participate in the Convention. When a number of challenges are to be resolved by the Convention, the Credentials Committee shall report on each in alphabetical/numerical order by the precinct in which the delegate seat being challenged is located.
5. The Convention shall vote on each challenge in the Credentials Committee report. The report of the Credentials Committee must be approved by a majority vote of the Convention before a delegate or alternate being challenged may vote or participate in the Convention.
6. After all challenges have been resolved, the Chair shall ask for a vote on the adoption of the final report of the Credentials Committee with any amendments previously adopted.
7. In the event that the final report of the Credentials Committee shall fail to pass, the Credentials Committee shall reconvene immediately to reconsider its report. A revised report shall be presented to the Convention as soon thereafter as possible.
8. The final report of the Credentials Committee must be adopted before election of delegates and alternates to the State Convention.

## G. ELECTION OF THE PERMANENT CONVENTION CHAIR

1. The Rules Committee Chair shall be recognized to place in nomination the name of the Temporary Chair for Permanent Convention Chair.
2. The Temporary Chair shall accept nominations from the floor.
3. When there are no further nominations, or upon adoption of a motion to close nominations, the Temporary Chair, after giving any nominee the opportunity to decline nomination, shall conduct the election of the Permanent Convention Chair.

The Permanent Chair shall then appoint Permanent Officers: Vice-Chair, Secretary, Parliamentarian, and Sergeant-at-Arms, and such other officers as may be required to assist in the conduct of the Convention.

## H. MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

1. The Chair may entertain a motion to Suspend the Rules only for a stated purpose. If seconded, the person making the motion to Suspend the Rules shall be allowed one minute to explain the need to suspend.
2. A motion to Suspend the Rules shall be out of order if the effect of the suspension of the rules is to deprive any minority of any rights granted to them under the rules of the Convention.
3. The Chair shall immediately recognize the Chair of the Rules Committee or his/her designee whose remarks shall be limited to one minute. The motion shall then be decided without debate. A standing division vote of 2/3 of the delegates present and voting is required to pass the motion for suspension. A suspension of the rules only relates to these rules: no provision of the Charter or By-Law of the Nevada Democratic Party or the Democratic Party of the United States may be suspended by any means.

## I. QUORUM

1. ***One third of the authorized delegates registered for the convention as certified by the County Chair to the Credentials Committee shall constitute a quorum.*** A delegate whose status has been formally challenged and whose right to participate is therefore a matter pending before the Credential Committee shall not be counted as an authorized delegate in arriving at the number constituting a quorum.
2. No motion questioning a quorum shall be in order after the adoption of the Credentials Committee temporary report certifying the presence of a quorum.

## J. VOTING

1. Except as otherwise required, voting shall be by voice vote and in case of doubt, by standing division. If a standing division vote of the convention floor is in doubt, decision will be reached through a teller vote, and upon a motion which is seconded and supported by a standing vote of twenty percent (20%) of the authorized delegates present and voting. It is the responsibility of the Chair of the Rules Committee or his/her designee to provide assistance in reporting the vote of any delegate who cannot comply with the physical requirements of this rule.
2. All questions shall be determined by a majority vote of the authorized delegates present and voting.
3. During the counting of non-secret ballots, on any issue, the Chair of the Convention may place a new main motion on the floor and return to the previous motion after the counting is completed.
4. No proxy or absentee voting is permitted.
5. Those delegates leaving the Convention permanently, and not designating an alternate, must turn all credentials and ballots over to a member of the Rules Committee.

## K. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

1. Delegates to the County Convention shall be considered to have aligned with a preference group when they sign-in for the convention. A delegate shall be required to designate his or her preference group at the time of sign-in. A delegate who refuses to designate a preference group shall be registered by the Credentials Committee as uncommitted.

2. The Credentials Committee shall have the responsibility of determining the number of delegates within each preference group, and shall, upon completion of registration (at 12:00 p.m.), present a report to inform the convention of the size of each preference group.
3. Following the report of the Credentials Committee, all delegates shall be afforded up a (1) hour period to realign with other groups if they so desire. A delegate choosing not to realign shall continue to be counted a part of his or her initial alignment as aforementioned. Other convention business may continue during this period.
4. Any preference group failing to obtain fifteen percent (15%) of the total number of registered delegates at the County Convention shall be declared non-viable.
5. Upon completion of the one (1) hour period for initial alignment of all delegates, the Credentials Committee shall report to the convention the viable and non-viable groups. In the event there are non-viable groups, members of non-viable groups shall have a reasonable amount of time not less than one-half hour in which to realign in second alignment with or into other viable groups if they so choose. Members of viable groups will not be allowed to realign the second alignment. If there are no non-viable groups, no second alignment will be conducted.
6. Each preference group will nominate a Captain for the election of delegates to the State Convention.
7. Election of delegates and alternates to the State Convention will occur after the completion of alignment, and shall be conducted by non-secret signed ballot. Nevada State Statute (NRS 293.145, Rule 8.B) provided for the election of one (1) delegate per 150 registered Democratic voters in each county. **For 2016, Humboldt County is allocated 11 delegates to the State Convention.** Should the number of delegates and alternates to the County Convention not exceed the delegate allocation to the State Convention, all delegates and alternates shall become automatic delegates to the State Convention.
8. Number of Delegates per preference group:  

$$\frac{(\# \text{ of delegates within a preference group}) \times (\# \text{ of State Convention Delegates from County Convention})}{(\text{Total number of eligible county convention Delegates})}$$
9. The preference group Captains or their designee will issue a call for nominations for delegates to the State Convention.
10. Should the total number of nominations for delegates to the State Convention not exceed the delegate allocation then all nominees shall become automatic delegates to the State Convention.
11. Should balloting be necessary, in the initial round of balloting, each delegate will record the numbers of five (5) persons they wish to vote for on their written ballot. All delegates must cast five (5) votes. No more than one vote may be cast for one candidate.
12. Ballots will be collected and counted by the Rules Committee.
13. No more than fifty percent (50%) plus one of the available positions may be filled on the first ballot. If the number of positions to be filled is less than five (5), each delegate shall vote for the number of candidates equal to the number of positions to be filled.
14. The group of candidates receiving the most votes on a ballot shall be declared elected to the open delegate positions which can be filled on that balloting. No candidate can be elected by less than 15 percent of the final strength of the preference group. Without violation of any other rules, all candidates receiving the same number of votes must either be elected or defeated as a group.
15. The delegates will ballot again to fill the remaining vacancies. All remaining vacancies may be filled on this or any subsequent ballot, consistent with the other rules herein. If there are more than five (5) positions to be filled, all delegates must cast five (5) votes. If the number of positions to be filled is 4 or fewer, each delegate shall vote for as many candidates as there are positions to be filled. In all cases no more than one vote may be cast for one candidate.
16. After each ballot, the Rules Committee representative will announce candidates who have been elected. Their names will be removed from the list of nominees and balloting will continue until all delegate positions have been filled.
17. All written ballots will be retained by the Chair of the Rules Committee for one year, and will be available for inspection for any challenges.

#### L. RATIFICATION AND VETTING OF ELECTIONS

1. The entire convention shall ratify the election of the entire slate of delegates and alternates to the State Convention.
2. The Humboldt County Central Committee and/or the Credentials Committee will verify eligibility of elected State Convention Delegates at a subsequent Humboldt County Central Committee meeting.

**M. CONTINUE WITH COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Finish any County Central Committee business: i.e.; County Platform discussion and adoption, election of Humboldt County Central Committee members, announcements, etc.

**N. ADJOURN**