| SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER

Special Rules of Order are rules which modify or supplement those contained in the parliamentary authority (i.e. Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised.)

Adopting Special Rules of Order require a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Resolutions – A resolution properly moved by a Convention Committee does not require a second.

Consent Calendar – Matters on the Consent Calendar may be adopted collectively by a majority vote. Before the vote is taken, any Delegate may remove a matter from the Consent Calendar by providing notice to the Chair of the Dispatch of Business Committee, or to the Convention Chair.

Conversation Prior to Debate and Voting: For matters of business and resolutions, Roberts Rules of Order may be suspended when desired by the chair or members of convention for the purpose of additional conversation, discussion and non-binding straw polls prior to formal debate and voting.

Uncontested Elections – In the event the number of nominees presented to the convention by the Bishop or Nominating Committee for election are equal to the number of offices to be filled, with all terms of office clearly specified when elections are to an unexpired term if there are no nominations from the floor, the President may declare an election via a request for unanimous consent.

Seat and Voice for Full Communion or visiting Clergy – The convention grants seat and voice on the convention floor to full communion partner clergy who are in good standing in their own denomination and who are serving in congregations of the diocese. The convention may from time to time grant seat and voice to other visiting clergy who are participating in the leadership of convention upon request from the President of convention.

| VOTING PROCEDURES

2026 CONVENTION VOTING PROCEDURES

Q1 – What happens when a Delegate cannot attend the Convention?
A1 – The Delegate's Rector, Vicar, or Person-in-Charge, must notify the Credentials Committee and designate an Alternate to be authorized as the Delegate for the remainder of the Convention.

a. Note: the original Delegate cannot arrive later and take over for the Alternate once the change is designated.

Q2 – How will delegates vote at the 2026 Convention?
A2 – Votes will either be by voice during the convention (aye/nay), or by paper ballots cast at polling stations located outside the main Convention hall.

Q3 – How will the ballots be distributed?
A3 – When you first arrive at the Convention registration you will be given your credentials as a Convention Delegate (normally identified on your nametag).

a. You do need to show your credentials at the polling station to receive a ballot.

Q4 – How will I know when to vote?
A4 – The Bishop will announce when each round of balloting begins, and also will warn the convention delegates before the polls close.

Q5 – What is "voting by Orders?"
A5 – In any election where the voting is distinguished between clergy and lay delegates, you will be allowed to vote called to do so as either clergy or laity.

Q6 – What kinds of elections involve "voting by Orders?"
A6 – Diocesan Constitution Article VIII (3) requires "voting by Orders" in the following circumstances:

a. at the election of a Bishop
    a. the Lay and Clergy houses must both concur.
b. on second reading for final adoption of an amendment to the Constitution
    a. the Lay and Clergy houses must both concur.
c. when electing Deputies to General Convention
    a. special rules apply.
d. At any other time on the demand of any four members of the clergy entitled to vote, or of any four lay members representing two or more different congregations.

Q7 – Are there any other times "voting by orders" are required?
A7 – Yes. Diocesan Canon 13 provides when amendments to the Canons are being considered a "Vote by Orders" can be demanded by any Convention Delegate.

a. A 2/3 majority is required in each order.

Q8 – Can a delegate request roll-call votes?
A8 – Yes. A Delegate may request the Chair (Bishop) to conduct a roll call vote. The Chair has the discretion to grant or overrule the request for roll call voting.

Q9 – If the Chair makes a ruling that we think is incorrect, what can the Delegates do?
A9 – A delegate can make a motion to "overrule the chair."

a. That motion has priority, and a vote is taken immediately.
b. Debate is not allowed on a motion to "overrule the chair."

Q10 – Are all members of the Spokane Diocese allowed to vote at Convention?
A10 – No. Only Convention Delegates authorized by the Credentials Committee will be issued credentials to vote. However, there are several individuals that are allowed to attend and speak to the Convention, but do not have credentials to vote (unless they are otherwise credentialed as a Convention Delegate):

a. Chancellor and Vice Chancellor;
b. Members of the diocesan staff;
c. Members of diocesan committees, commissions and boards;
d. A keynote speaker;
e. Officers of the Convention;
f. Candidates/Nominees for election to Diocesan office;
g. UTO coordinator;
h. Delegates to the Provincial Synod;
i. Deputies to General Convention;
j. Executive Director, Diocesan Foundation;
k. Trustees of the Diocesan Foundation;
l. Other special guests authorized by vote of Convention.

Q11 – Are there any limitations on debate at Convention?
Q11 – Yes, there are limits. Each Delegate may speak to a specific motion only twice, and no more than 5 minutes total in the same debate.

Q12 – Where can I read more about elections, voting, and balloting at Annual Convention?
A12 – Diocesan Canon 2.6 and Roberts Rules of Order (Newly Revised) Chapter 14 sec. 44.

VOTING FOR CANDIDATES FOR DIOCESAN OFFICES

Q13 – Will nominations for Diocesan office be allowed from the floor during Convention?
A13 – Yes. (Diocesan Canon 2.6.4)

Q14 – Will the candidates for Diocesan office be allowed to give a speech?
A14 – No.

Q15 – Will my ballot be counted if I vote for fewer candidates than I am allowed?
A15 – Yes. For example, if the ballot allows you to vote for 3 candidates but you only vote for 2 candidates your ballot will still be counted.

Q16 – Will my ballot be counted if I vote for more candidates than I am allowed?
A16– No.

Q17 – What if I don't want to vote for any of the candidates listed, and turn in a blank ballot?
A17 – Blank ballots will not be counted for any purpose.

Q18 – Will I be allowed to vote by proxy or by absentee ballot?
A18 – No. To vote you must present your credentials at the Convention to receive your ballot.

Q19 – If one ballot includes two elections but I only cast my vote in one of them, will my vote be counted?
A19 – Yes. The Elections Committee will count the ballot where you did vote and show your ballot as an "abstained" in the election where you did not vote.

Q20 – What happens to a ballot that is unintelligible or contains a "write-in" vote for an ineligible candidate (like "Mickey Mouse")?
A20 – The vote for Mickey Mouse won't count, but the ballot will be counted in calculating the number of ballots needed to determine a majority.

Q21 – Am I allowed to write-in a name instead of voting for the names printed on the ballot?
A21 – Of course!

Q22 – Who determines whether a candidate has received a majority of votes?
A22 – The Elections Committee.

Q23 – How will delegates know the number of votes needed for a majority?
A23 – The Bishop shall announce the number of Delegates present in each Order, and the number of votes needed for a majority.

Q24 – Must a candidate receive a majority of votes to be elected, or is a plurality sufficient?
A24 – A plurality is not sufficient. A candidate must receive a majority of the total number of votes cast in that election to be elected.

- This means a candidate receiving more votes than the other candidate(s), but not more than 50% of the total votes cast, is not elected and another round of balloting will be conducted.

VOTING FOR RESOLUTIONS

Q28 – What is a Resolution?
A28 – It is a proposal submitted for vote by the Convention delegates that changes the current Canons, or proposes action to be taken by the Diocese. (Canon 2.5.4)

Q29 – When are Resolutions submitted?
A29 –Resolutions (except those designated as being Privilege or Courtesy) shall be submitted no later than 30 days prior to the start of convention.

Q30 – Is there any way to introduce a Resolution at Convention?
A30 – Yes. During the first Business Session on Friday a Delegate can submit a resolution. The resolution will then be referred to the Resolutions Committee, or the Constitution and Canons Committee. (If you plan to introduce a late Resolution please contact the Chair of the Dispatch of Business Committee for additional instructions.). however, all resolutions submitted after the deadline of 30 days prior must be submitted by title only to the floor of convention, and a 2/3 vote of convention is required to take up the resolution. This is to allow for sufficient time for a resolution to be considered.

Q31 – What happens to a Resolution after it is submitted?
A31 – Resolutions that propose a change to the Canons or the Constitution shall be referred to the Committee on Constitution & Canons. Resolutions that do not propose changes to the Canons shall be referred to the Resolutions Committee. The committee to which a Resolution has been referred will report to the Convention regarding its recommendation as follows: "recommend adoption," or "recommend adoption with amendment," or "recommend referral," or "recommend rejection."

Q32 – Am I allowed to propose an amendment to a Resolution?
A32 – Yes. Motions proposing changes to the Canons can be amended in the same manner as other motions, except amendments pertaining to a Resolution that proposes changes to a Canon

shall be referred to the Committee on Constitution & Canons and shall be laid on the table until the Committee reports back to Convention.

Q33 – What happens when there is more than one Amendment to the same Resolution, or a proposal to revise/amend an Amendment?
A33 – Amendments are considered in the order in which they are made. For example, if there is a motion to amend an Amendment that is being considered by the Convention, the amendment to the Amendment is considered first, and if it is passed, then a vote is taken on the newly revised Amendment. If it is not passed, a vote is taken on the original Amendment.

Q34 – What if I think a Resolution (or Amendment) needs to be referred to a Committee for further work?
A34 – Typically a "motion to refer to committee" is in order.

Unless otherwise noted above, the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order governs the proceedings at Convention.