

Resolution to Suspend Rule of Order Requiring Ranking of Nominees for Deputies to General Convention

Explanation: This year's Convention does not have the technical framework needed to conduct the election for Deputies to General Convention according to the new rank order voting process adopted at last year's Convention, and attempting to use rank choice voting this year without the assistance of technology would be unreasonably time-consuming. This resolution proposes to revert this year to the former way that these deputies and alternates were elected, which worked well for many years. Because we have fewer candidates for both clergy and lay deputies this year, we expect most if not all deputies will be elected on the first ballot. This election only occurs every three years and by 2028 the Convention will determine an appropriate way to carry out the process in line with the new Rule of Order adopted last year.

Resolution:

Resolved, to suspend at this Convention the portion of the Rules of Order set forth in Section B. General Rules, Subsection 2. Elections by ballot, requiring use of rank choice voting for Deputies to General Convention, which is as follows:

Four Deputies and Alternate Deputies in each order to General Convention are to be elected by a majority of those present and voting. Those voting shall rank nominees in order of preference with 1 being the most preferred candidate, 2 the second most preferred and so on. All candidates shall be ranked.

Counting will proceed as follows:

If a candidate receives a majority of first place ballots, that person is elected. That name is then removed from all future rounds of counting. The ballots marking that person as first preference shall then be distributed by adding those ballots' next highest preference to the remaining candidates as though they were first preference votes. If one of the remaining candidates then has a majority of the votes cast, that person is declared elected, and removed from future balloting and the ballots for that person distributed to the appropriate remaining candidates. That process shall continue until no remaining candidate has a majority, or all deputies and alternates have been elected.

If in a round of counting, no candidate has a majority of highest preference ballots, the ballots cast for the candidate with the lowest number of first preference votes shall be distributed to the next highest preference on that ballot. That process shall be followed until all slots for deputies and alternates are filled. In subsequent rounds all unelected nominees shall be included in counting until all slots are filled.

And in place of the suspended Rule of Order on the process for voting for Deputies to General Convention adopt and employ at this Convention the previous Rule of Order, which is as follows:

Four Deputies in each order to General Convention are to be elected by a majority of those present and voting. If after the first ballot sufficient Deputies have not been elected, there shall be a second ballot prepared by eliminating from the ballot such nominees in each order, beginning with the nominee in each order who received the least number of votes on the first ballot, as may be necessary to reduce the number of nominees in each order to twice the number of vacancies to be filled from that order.

If after the second ballot, all vacancies have not been filled, by consent of a majority of those present, a motion may, then or after any succeeding ballot, be entertained to elect unanimously to the vacancy or vacancies still existing in each order the nominee or nominees of that order who received the highest number of votes, but less than a majority, on the preceding ballot and the same shall be declared duly elected.

Alternate Deputies shall then be elected from among the remaining candidates in each order by plurality vote and shall rank in the order of the number of votes received.