



STATE CONVENTIONS

3 PER 2-YR TERM

PURPOSES

“FALL” CONVENTION: Elect major state office candidates (and presidential electors in presidential election years)

“SPRING” CONVENTION: Elect state party chair and other officers

ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION: Elect major state office party endorsees

CONVENTION FOR NATIONALS: Elect delegates to national convention (Republicans also elect national committeeman and national committeewoman)

*Do you need a refresher on the convention calendar?
Review the **Party Convention & Election Calendar Course** at moveitchristian.com.*

ASPECTS

Laws & Rules

Call to Convention

Voters

Officers & Committees

Program (Agenda)

Election

LAWS & RULES

IN ORDER BY PRECEDENCE

Michigan Compiled Law Chapter 168 (MCL 168):

- MCL 168.596 Fall conventions and spring conventions; definition
- MCL 168.620a Law applicable to selection of delegates; state or national political party rule
- MCL 168.686 State convention; canvas of returns; certification of nominees
- Specific laws apply dependent on convention purpose (detailed on following pages)

Special Rules of Order:

- The state convention is a distinct parliamentary body. State party bylaws and rules only apply to the state committee.
- The State Party Policy Committee drafts rules for the state convention. These are considered and approved by the State Committee.
- The Rules Committee for the State Convention will present the rules approved by State Committee in a rules report to be considered by the state convention body for amendment and/or adoption.

Robert's Rules of Order:

- The parliamentary authority used at state conventions is Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR), current edition.

LAWS SPECIFIC TO "FALL" CONVENTIONS

Michigan Compiled Law Chapter 168 (MCL 168):

- MCL 168.42 Presidential electors; selection at state political party conventions, certification
- MCL 168.72 Candidates for lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general; nomination at fall state convention
- MCL 168.282 Candidates for boards of state universities; nomination at fall state convention
- MCL 168.282a Candidates for state board of education; nomination at fall state convention
- MCL 168.392 Candidates for justice of supreme court; nomination at fall state convention
- MCL 168.591 Commencement of state convention in even numbered years; date, time and location; issuance of calls
- MCL 168.598 State central committee; forwarding copy of call for fall state convention; apportionment of delegates; allocation of additional delegates

LAWS

SPECIFIC TO “SPRING” CONVENTIONS

Michigan Compiled Law Chapter 168 (MCL 168):

- 168.593 State conventions in odd years; time, issuance of calls; apportionment of delegates among counties
- 168.597 State central committee; members, officers, term of service
- 168.600 Congressional district conventions and caucuses; election and terms of officers and committee

LAWS

SPECIFIC TO ENDORSEMENT CONVENTIONS

There are no Michigan Compiled Laws specific to Endorsement Conventions.

State political parties hold Endorsement Conventions to give party candidates more time to campaign against their political opponents.

Endorseees must still receive the official party nomination (“rubber stamped”) at the Fall State Convention prescribed in Michigan Compiled Law.

LAWS & RULES

CONVENTION FOR NATIONALS

Michigan Compiled Law Chapter 168 (MCL 168):

- 168.562b Election as delegate to state convention or national convention; signing affidavit; voting for presidential candidate; filing affidavit
- 168.611 Reconvening of delegates in county convention; election of delegates to state convention; day, time and place of county convention; definitions
- 168.618 Allocation of delegates to national convention; qualifications of delegates; selection procedures
- 168.619 National convention delegates; basis of election; affidavit; certification; duration of commitment; vacancy; legislator prohibited from selecting delegates; participation of legislator in convention business; opportunity of registered elector or public official to be elected as delegate not restricted.

National Committee Rules:

- The national committee drafts and adopts convention rules for the selection of delegates and alternates to a national convention.

CALL TO CONVENTION

“Fall” Convention: call issued 60 days before August primaries (MCL 168.591)

“Spring” Convention: call issued at least 59 days before the first Monday of April in odd years (MCL 168.593 & 168.594)

Convention for Nationals: call issued at least 90 days before the national convention (MCL 168.611)

The time and method for issuing the call to convention will be in Rules for the Selection of Delegates and Alternates to State Convention approved by the State Committee. Convention timing and issuance of call must be within requirements of MCL 168.591, 168.593, 168.594, and/or 168.611.

The call to state convention is forwarded by county party executive committees to all precinct delegates and delegates at large in the call to the preceding county convention.

VOTERS

MCL 168.595 & 168.595a

State Delegates (or their Alternates) elected at preceding county conventions (MCL 168.595)

***Do you need a refresher on the aspects of electing delegates and alternates to state convention?** Review the **County Convention Course** at moveitchristian.com.*

Delegates At Large

- MCL 168.595a: “In addition to the delegates to the state convention of any political party...**all incumbent members of the state legislature** shall be entitled to attend the convention of their political party as delegates at large of the county in which they maintain their legal residence. Such delegates shall not have alternates. He may attend the convention of the county, counties, or portions of counties which he represents in the state legislature and may choose to vote in any or all said county or district caucuses but having only 1 vote on the floor at the state convention.”
- Past state convention rules have given delegate at large status to **state party officers, statewide government officials and even state party committee members**. For these rules to remain in effect, they need to be reapproved each time.

CONVENTION OFFICERS

Chair:

- conducts the convention
- state party chair is temporary convention chair who calls convention to order, appoints the other temporary officers and committees, and receives committee reports
- convention body elects a permanent convention chair who appoints permanent officers and committees, and conducts official business of convention

Secretary:

- records convention minutes
- receives and records voting results from tellers or vote aggregators

Parliamentarians:

- offers parliamentary advice upon request of chair

Sergeants At Arms:

- maintains order and ensures safety and security of officers, delegates and guests

Tellers:

- counts votes
- traditionally appointed by district party chairs to count votes within the congressional district

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Credentials Committee:

- receives the lists of state delegates and alternates elected at preceding county conventions, certifies the lists
- registers and provides credentials to convention voters
- presents a report of the number of delegates registered to the convention body for amendment and/or approval
- maintains the list of registered voters and tracks the number of delegates in attendance

Committee on Organization (Standing Rules & Agenda):

- reviews the state convention agenda and rules approved by the state committee and amends and/or approves these
- presents a report of the agenda to the convention body for amendment and/or adoption
- presents a report of the standing rules to the convention body for amendment and/or adoption

Optional Committees:

- standing rules may authorize the appointment of other convention committees for specific purposes

AGENDA

Call To Order

Opening Ceremonies

Appointment of Temporary Convention Officers

Read Call to Convention

Credentials Committee Report

Committee on Organization Report

**Standing Rules & Agenda*

Election of Permanent Convention Chair

Appointment of Permanent Convention Officers

Oath of Office

Elections

Announcements

Adjourn

**District conventions at “spring” conventions and district caucuses at “conventions for national” have traditionally taken place the night prior to a state convention. Reports of district election results are then received at state convention.*

ELECTIONS

TRADITION AT STATE CONVENTIONS

All convention delegates within a congressional district vote together.

Paper ballots are used to vote.

When there are more than two candidates running for a position, there may be one or more elimination rounds.

Vote counting methods used in the past include:

- insecure tabulator machines
- insecure ballot hand count processing system
- insecure tabulator machines AND a secure, transparent ballot hand count processing system (April 2022 Republican State Convention): more details at unity4mrp.com

Vote totals for each congressional district are subjected to the “modified unit rule” before they are aggregated to produce final election results. (described on next page)

Final election results are displayed on large screens at the front of the convention hall.

MODIFIED UNIT RULE

Traditionally, state convention rules have prescribed that delegates present from any congressional district shall vote the entire voting strength of such congressional district...

EXAMPLE

Congressional District 1 is **apportioned 100 delegates** to state convention, but only **80 attend and cast votes**.

Votes cast for a particular office are multiplied by 100/80.

Votes for a Particular Office		Modified Unit Rule Votes	
Candidate A	40	Candidate A	50
Candidate B	20	Candidate B	25
Candidate C	18	Candidate C	22.5
Abstain	2	Abstain	2.5
Total	80	Total	100