



WASHOE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

May 2, 2026

**Convention Site:
Proctor Hug High School Theater
3530 Sullivan Lane
Sparks, NV 89431**

Check in will open at the Convention Site at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 2, 2026, and continue until 10:30 a.m. Delegates and Guests who have registered shall pick up their credentials during that time. Guests who have not registered will be able to register at that time.

Delegates are defined as being registered Democrats residing in Washoe County at least two (2) months prior to the County Convention and have registered at WashoeDEMS.org or by email by the registration deadline of 5:00 p.m., Sunday, April 12, 2026. If, at the deadline, the number of persons who have registered to be a Delegate is less than the positions allocated, the deadline may be extended by a majority vote of the DPWC Rules and Bylaws Committee. Two hundred (200) Delegates and up to fifty (50) Alternate Delegates are allocated to the County Convention.

Guests are defined as being registered Democrats or Non-Partisans unless they are of non-voting age or a non-citizen AND accompanied by a Delegate, Alternate or registered eligible Guest. Guests shall sign in at the Guest Table.

Special guests, Democratic office holders and Democratic candidates shall sign in at the Speakers' Table.

The Press is welcome and required to sign in at the Press Table for credentials.

Membership to the 2026-2028 Washoe Democratic Central Committee (WDCC) will be voted on at the County Convention. Any registered Democrat residing in Washoe County may be nominated to the WDCC online prior to the County Convention or in-person at the County Convention. Presence at the Convention is not required for election. Current 2024-2026 WDCC membership ceases at the end of this County Convention and members must stand for re-election.

Delegates who intend to be a candidate for Delegate or Alternate to the Nevada State Democratic Convention must submit a State Delegate Intent Form by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, April 30, 2026. If, at the deadline, the number of persons who have submitted a State Delegate Intent Form is less

than the 80 state delegate positions allocated to Washoe County, this deadline may be waived or extended by a majority vote of the DPWC Rules and Bylaws Committee

Check-in of late-arriving Delegates will continue until 10:30 a.m. The County Convention shall commence at 10:00 a.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. The Chair of the Democratic Party of Washoe County (DPWC) welcomes the Washoe County Democratic Convention (hereafter Convention) attendees within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled time and introduces the Temporary Chair of the Convention.
2. The Temporary Chair of the Convention shall call the Convention to order.
3. The Temporary Chair shall appoint Temporary Officers to the Convention – Secretary, Parliamentarian, Sergeant at Arms, and Elections Chair.
4. The Temporary Chair shall introduce the Committee Chairs previously appointed by the Chair of the DPWC – Credentials Committee, Rules and Bylaws Committee, and Platform Committee.

The Credentials Chair shall present the Temporary Report of the Credentials Committee establishing quorum.

5. The Chair of the Rules and Bylaws Committee shall present the Temporary Rules of the Convention for adoption.
6. The adoption of the Final Report of the Credentials Committee certifying the presence of a quorum shall be in order at any time and the Delegates shall be seated.
7. The Temporary Convention Chair shall announce that the Delegates are seated as certified by the Credentials Committee.
8. The Chair of the DPWC shall nominate the Temporary Chair of the Convention as Permanent Chair. Nominations from the floor may be received. The Convention will then proceed with the election of the Permanent Chair of the Convention.
9. The elected Chair of the Convention shall appoint the permanent Officers – Secretary, Parliamentarian, Sergeant At Arms and Elections Chair.
10. The Chair of the Rules and Bylaws Committee shall move for the adoption of the Temporary Rules of the Convention as the Permanent Rules of the Convention.
11. If necessary, the committees shall retire to designated meeting rooms as announced by the Chair of the Convention.

12. The Convention will hear announcements, introductions and invited speakers. Invited speakers may speak at such times as allowed by the Temporary or Permanent Convention Chair.
13. Delegates shall elect members of the 2026-2028 Washoe Democratic Central Committee (WDCC).
14. Delegates shall elect Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Nevada State Democratic Convention.
15. The Platform Committee Chair will preside over the Platform discussion and adoption. A motion to adopt the Democratic Party of Washoe County Platform shall be in order at any time once the Platform Committee has met and finished the Platform in compliance with these Rules.
16. The Chair of the Convention will inquire as to further business to come before the Convention.
17. Adjournment.

TEMPORARY RULES OF THE CONVENTION

May 2, 2026

I. RULES GOVERNING THE ORGANIZATIONAL PHASE OF THE CONVENTION

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Convention shall be called to order by the Temporary Chair of the Convention no later than 10:15 a.m. If the Temporary Chair does not call the Convention to order within this time limit, any registered Delegate may call the Convention to order, and the business shall begin.

2. RULES OF THE CONVENTION

The Rules of this Convention shall be: (1) the Rules adopted by this Convention; (2) the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States; (3) the Charter and Bylaws of the Nevada State Democratic Party; (4) the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Washoe County; and (5) Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

3. SEATING AREAS FOR DELEGATES AND GUESTS IN THE CONVENTION ROOM

- a. Only Delegates, Alternate Delegates and persons authorized as convenient for the business of the Convention by the Rules and Bylaws Committee or the Convention Chair shall be allowed in the Delegate Seating Area in the Convention Room.
- b. Delegates to the Convention shall have the first right to be seated in the Delegate Seating Area at the beginning of the Convention, followed by Alternate Delegates.
- c. Delegates may enter the Convention Room beginning at 8:30 a.m., and the Convention will convene at 10:00 a.m.
- d. Check in of late-arriving Delegates will continue until 10:30 a.m.
- e. Guests, who have been certified as registered Democrats or Non-Partisans, will be seated in an area separate from the Delegates.
- f. Guests are prohibited from participating in debate, may not vote on any matter before the Convention, and may not interrupt or disturb the conduct of the Convention in any manner.

4. SPEAKERS TIME LIMIT

Convention speakers shall be limited to the speaking time as designated by the Convention Chair or Temporary Convention Chair, who shall have the discretion to enforce the time limit.

5. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

- a. The Temporary Report of the Credentials Committee certifying the presence of a quorum shall be adopted before consideration of other official business.
- b. The Temporary Convention Chair or Convention Chair shall recognize the Chair of the Credentials Committee for the presentation of the report(s) of the committee. The Chair of the Credentials Committee may yield to others to present Committee amendments without losing the right to the floor.
- c. In the event of a seating challenge, the Credentials Committee shall include in its report the name of the Delegate(s) or Alternate Delegate(s) whom it believes is entitled or not 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.
- d. 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 Delegate being challenged may vote or participate in the Convention.
- e. After all challenges have been resolved, the Convention Chair shall call for a vote on the adoption of the Final Report of the Credentials Committee including any amendments previously adopted.
- f. 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 as possible.
- g. The Final Report of the Credentials Committee must be adopted before the election of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Nevada State Democratic Convention and of members to the WDCC.
- h. Meetings of the Credentials Committee shall be open to any Delegate or Alternate Delegate who wishes to attend.

6. ELECTION OF THE PERMANENT CONVENTION CHAIR

- a. The Chair of the DPWC shall place in nomination the name of the Temporary Convention Chair for the position of Permanent Convention Chair.

- b. The Chair of the DPWC shall accept additional nominations for Convention Chair from the floor.
- c. When there are no further nominations, or upon adoption of a motion to close nominations, the Chair of the DPWC, after giving any nominee the opportunity to decline nomination, shall conduct the election of the Permanent Convention Chair.
- d. The Permanent Convention Chair shall then announce the appointment of a Permanent Secretary, Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Elections Chair and such other officers as may be required to assist in the conduct of the Convention.

7. REPORT OF THE RULES AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

- a. The Rules and Bylaws Committee's Report, containing the Temporary Rules for the Convention, will be provided via email to WDCC members and all registered Delegates and Alternate Delegates no later than seven days prior to the Convention.
- b. The Convention Chair shall recognize the Rules and Bylaws Committee Chair to present the Temporary Rules for the Convention from the Rules and Bylaws Committee's Report as the Permanent Rules for the Convention for adoption by Delegates.

II. SPECIAL RULES

1. SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

It shall be in order at any time for the Rules and Bylaws Committee to report to the Convention a resolution providing a special order of business for debate of a resolution, motion, Committee Report, amendment to a Committee Report, or for the consideration of any matter for which provision is not made under these rules. Any Delegate may request the Rules and Bylaws Committee Chair to present such a request to the Rules and Bylaws Committee, which shall vote on the request.

2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE CONVENTION CHAIR

The Convention Chair is authorized to:

- 1. Appoint any Delegate temporarily to perform the duties of the Convention Chair during the absence of the Chair.
- 2. Take such lawful action as may be appropriate and necessary to preserve order throughout the Convention Site.

3. PLATFORM COMMITTEE REPORT

Consideration of the Platform Committee's Report shall be taken up at the discretion of the Convention Chair, after the election of Nevada State Democratic Convention Delegates and WDCC membership. Rules found herein on debate (See II.9.) and voting upon the Platform Committee's Report shall apply (See II.10.).

4. VOTING

- a. Except as otherwise required, voting shall be by voice vote and, in case of doubt, by standing division. A written non-secret ballot may be in order only after a standing division, and upon a motion which is seconded and supported by a standing vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the authorized Delegates present and voting. It is the responsibility of the Convention Chair, or a designee, to provide assistance in reporting the vote of any Delegate who cannot comply with the physical requirements of this rule.
- b. All questions, except as otherwise specified in these rules, shall be determined by a majority vote of the authorized Delegates present and voting.
- c. When a question is put to the vote, the vote may not be interrupted for any purpose other than to move for a non-secret ballot vote or a point of order directed to the conduct of the vote.
- d. During the counting of non-secret ballots on any issue, the Convention Chair may place a new main motion on the floor and return to the previous motion after the counting is completed.
- e. Proxy or absentee voting is not permitted.
- f. Delegates leaving the Convention Site permanently must turn over all credentials and voting materials to the Sergeant at Arms or a member of the Credentials Committee posted at the Convention Site exit.
- g. The Convention Chair may appoint such persons, as necessary, to count votes.

5. APPEALS

- a. An appeal shall not be in order:
 - i. From decisions on recognition
 - ii. From decisions on the dilatoriness of motions
 - iii. During a vote on a question on which an appeal has just been decided, or
 - iv. When, in the opinion of the Convention Chair, such an appeal is clearly dilatory.

- b. Before the question is put on any appeal, the person making the appeal shall be entitled to two (2) minutes to express their reasons for the appeal.
- c. The Convention Chair or the Parliamentarian, if designated by the Convention Chair, shall be allowed three (3) minutes for explanation of the ruling. Without further debate, the Convention Chair shall then put the appeal to a vote. A simple majority vote of the Delegates present and voting is required to overrule the Convention Chair.

6. MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE CONVENTION RULES

- a. The Convention Chair may entertain a motion to suspend the Convention Rules only for a stated purpose. If seconded, the person making the motion to suspend shall be allowed two (2) minutes to explain the need to suspend.
- b. A motion to suspend the Convention Rules shall be out of order if the effect of the suspension is to prevent the election of Delegates to the Nevada State Democratic Convention or of WDCC members or the approval of the Platform.
- c. The Convention Chair shall immediately recognize the Chair of the Rules and Bylaws Committee, or their designee, whose remarks shall be limited to three (3) minutes. The motion shall then be decided without debate. A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Delegates present and voting is required to pass the motion for suspension. No provision of the Charter or Bylaws of the Nevada Democratic Party, the Democratic Party of Washoe County or the Democratic Party of the United States may be suspended by any means.

7. OTHER MOTIONS

- a. No question of privilege or any motion other than those provided under these rules shall be entertained except the motion to recess to a time certain or at the call of the Convention Chair.
- b. A motion to recess, for no longer than sixty (60) minutes, shall be in order at any time except when the question has been put or a vote is in progress. The motion shall be decided without debate. The Convention Chair shall not entertain a motion to recess when such a motion closely follows another such motion if, in the opinion of the Convention Chair, such a motion is dilatory.
- c. A motion to adjourn shall not be in order until all statutory and constitutional duties have been completed.

8. AMENDMENTS OTHER THAN TO THE PLATFORM

No amendments to resolutions or motions before the Convention shall be permitted except written amendments to Committee Reports signed by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the seated Convention Delegates. (Also see II.10., the special rules governing

adoption of the Platform.) The maker of an amendment shall provide the Convention Chair with a legibly written copy of the amendment, with signatures, before it is introduced. The signatures on the amendment must be verified by the Credentials Committee.

9. DEBATE

- a. Delegates, once recognized by the Convention Chair, must speak from the microphone and shall first state their full name.
- b. Each side shall be limited to four (4) minutes. Initial debate on any question shall be limited to eight (8) minutes alternating between proponents and opponents in speeches that shall not exceed two (2) minutes each. No more than two (2) consecutive speakers on the same side of an issue shall be permitted. The Convention Chair, at their discretion, may recognize one (1) additional speaker for each side of an issue.
- c. No speaker may yield the floor to another speaker.
- d. At the end of the initial debate time, the Convention, after a motion and second and by a simple majority vote, may extend the debate for a specified period of time not to exceed eight (8) minutes, subject in all other respects to II.9.b. above.
- e. Calling the Previous Question – Debate may be closed sooner by unanimous consent or by a two-thirds (2/3) standing division vote in support of closing debate.
- f. A motion to move the previous question shall not be in order from a speaker during the course of their debate. A motion to move the previous question shall be made from a microphone.

10. RULES GOVERNING ADOPTION OF THE PLATFORM

- a. **Procedures for the Platform Committee:**
 - i. The Platform Committee shall be composed of registered Democrats residing in Washoe County with a chairperson appointed by the Chair of the DPWC. Members of the Platform Committee are not required to be registered Delegates.
 - ii. The Platform Committee shall meet as necessary prior to the Convention to draft an initial Platform and approve or reject proposed amendments submitted by any registered Democrat residing in Washoe County. All votes shall be by simple majority for approval. These meetings shall be open to any registered Washoe County Democrat to attend; however, the Committee is not required to allow any non-member to speak or give input.

- iii. The Initial Draft Platform will be provided via email to all registered Delegates, Alternate Delegates and WDCC members on or before April 14, 2026.
- iv. Any Delegate or Alternate may submit amendments for the initial draft Platform (meaning changes, deletions, or additions) to the Platform Committee. All amendments shall be submitted no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Each amendment shall be considered by the Platform Committee with a majority vote. Delegates who submit amendments shall be notified as to whether their amendment was approved or not for inclusion in the final Draft Platform.
- v. The final Draft Platform shall be emailed to Delegates and WDCC members no later than 5:00 p.m., April 28, 2026.
- vi. At the County Convention, the final Draft Platform shall be presented for on-screen viewing.

b. Procedures for Adopting the Party Platform at County Convention

- i. The Platform Committee Chair shall move the adoption of the platform, and open debate. A vote will be taken on the platform as a whole, and the platform will be adopted by a majority vote. If the platform fails to achieve a majority, the convention will vote on each section of the platform individually.
- ii. Amendments not approved by the Platform Committee may be brought before the Convention with the signatures of twenty-five percent (25%) of the seated Convention Delegates in support of the resolution. The maker of an amendment shall provide the Platform Chair with a legibly written copy of the amendment, with signatures confirmed by the Credentials Committee, before it is introduced. Amendments not previously submitted to the Platform Committee may not be brought to the floor under any circumstances. If necessary, the Platform Committee may reconvene to confirm that the amendment was previously submitted.
- iii. Any amendment that comes to the floor must be approved by a majority vote.
- iv. After all amendments on the floor have received a vote, the Draft Platform shall be moved for adoption by the Chair of the Platform Committee. Upon a successful majority vote, the Platform shall be adopted.
- v. Any Delegate or the Platform Chair may request consideration of the Platform by section rather than as a whole, or may move for consideration of a particular section separate from the rest of the Platform.

- vi. Any Delegate may place a hold on any plank of the Draft Platform while the relevant section is being considered for approval. After the platform sections have been approved, subject to consideration of the planks put on hold, each held plank shall be brought up by the Platform Chair for debate. Each held plank shall be added to the Platform if approved by a majority vote.

11. QUORUM

- a. Forty percent (40%) of the registered Delegates to the Convention (as certified by the Chair of 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 Credentials Committee shall not be counted as a Delegate in arriving at the number constituting a quorum.
- b. No motion questioning a quorum shall be in order after the adoption of the Credentials Committee's temporary report certifying the presence of a quorum.

III. NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

1. GENERAL ELECTION PROVISIONS

- a. The Elections Chair shall conduct the election of Delegates to the Nevada State Democratic Convention and members to the WDCC.
- b. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting at the Convention.
- c. Challenges to elections shall be decided by the Rules and Bylaws Committee.

2. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE NEVADA STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

- a. Nomination
 - i. Delegates who intend to be a candidate for Delegate or Alternate to the Nevada State Democratic Convention must submit a State Delegate Intent Form by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, April 30, 2026. If, at the deadline, the number of persons who have submitted a State Delegate Intent Form is less than the eighty (80) state delegate and sixteen (16) alternate positions allocated to Washoe County, this deadline may be waived or extended by a majority vote of the DPWC Rules and Bylaws Committee.
 - ii. A Delegate may withdraw their nomination prior to the election in writing to the Elections Chair.

b. Election

- i. If the number of Washoe County Convention Delegates wishing to be Delegates and Alternates to the Nevada State Convention does not exceed the number of delegates allocated to the county by the NV Dems, the delegates shall be elected, pending vetting by NV Dems, by acclamation.
- ii. If there are more candidates for Delegates to the Nevada Democratic State Convention than allocated positions, an election shall be held to elect Delegates and Alternate Delegates.
- iii. All candidates who met the filing deadline (See III.2.a.i) shall be considered nominated. Nominations from the floor will not be considered.
- iv. All candidates shall follow the rules and timelines as set forth by the Rules of the Convention.
- v. There shall be no electioneering inside the Convention Room.
- vi. The Elections Chair shall conduct the election as set forth below:
 1. Ballots with candidates' last names in alphabetical order will be distributed to Delegates.
 2. Twenty (20) minutes will be allowed for Delegates to submit their ballots.
 3. Ballots shall be declared void if:
 - a. More Candidates are selected than the number of State Convention Delegates allocated.
 - b. The Delegate's signature is missing.
 - c. The Delegate's name is printed illegibly.

c. Ratification

- i. In the event the number of Candidates for Delegate to the Nevada State Democratic Convention does not exceed the number of positions allocated to Washoe County, the Convention shall elect the entire slate of Delegates by acclamation.
- ii. In the event the number of Candidates for Delegate to the Nevada State Democratic Convention exceeds the number of positions allocated, a

Tellers Committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the DPWC prior to the Convention for the purpose of accurately counting votes.

1. Any candidate shall be allowed to observe the counting process OR may have one (1) representative observe for them.
2. The Tellers Committee may opt for a second count if a majority of the Tellers Committee determines it is in the best interest of the integrity of the results.
3. Candidates shall be elected as Delegate and Alternate according to the number of votes they receive.

3. ELECTION OF THE WASHOE DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE (WDCC)

- a. Any registered Democrat residing in Washoe County may nominate themselves online to the WDCC and need not be present at the Convention to be elected.
- b. At the time of the Convention, Delegates, Alternates and Guests who are registered Democrats residing in Washoe County will be provided another opportunity to nominate themselves for membership to the WDCC.
- c. The Chair of the DPWC or person designated by said Chair shall describe the function of the Washoe Democratic Central Committee and shall read the names of registered Washoe County Democrats nominated for membership.
- d. In the event the number of registered Washoe County Democrats nominated to become members of the WDCC does not exceed four hundred (400) (See: Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Washoe County, Article V, Section 2.C), the Convention Delegates shall elect the entire slate of nominees to the WDCC by acclamation.
- e. If there are more nominees for the WDCC than positions allocated, the Rules and Bylaws Committee will meet and determine procedures to be used. These additional rules must be approved by a majority of the Delegates.

IV. DECORUM

1. No audio or video recordings are allowed in the Convention Room without approval of the Convention Chair.
2. Delegates, Alternates, and Guests are entitled to attend and participate in the Convention without harassment or intimidation. Anyone harassing or attempting to intimidate any Delegate, Alternate, or Guest to the Convention shall be ejected from the Convention immediately-
3. Intentional disruption of Convention activities may result in immediate ejection from the Convention-
4. Guests invited to speak at the Convention shall not have their remarks or presentations interrupted or interfered with in any manner, including auditory or visual distractions in the Convention Room. Violation of this rule may result in immediate ejection from the Convention-
5. Noisemakers of any kind are prohibited in the Convention Room.
6. Conversation in the Convention Room should be kept to a minimum to respect Guests, Delegates, and Speakers. Delegates, Alternates, and Guests wishing to converse should leave the Convention Room.
7. The Sergeant at Arms shall have the authority to enforce these rules with the approval of the Convention Chair.

V. FACILITY REGULATIONS

1. Delegates and Guests are required to comply with any and all Proctor Hug High School facility regulations.
2. The facility license agreement with Proctor Hug High School prohibits the improper placement of lapel stickers, bumper stickers, or other adhesive-backed campaign items (other than those used in the conduct of the Convention by the Convention Committee).
3. Banners may be brought into the facility and hung in a manner that does not damage any part of the facility, with approval of the Executive Director. The entity requesting the banner shall be responsible for the cost to hang the banner and will be financially responsible if any damage occurs from hanging the banner.

4. Campaign signs may be brought into the facility. The person bringing the sign shall be responsible for ensuring that the candidate's sign is removed from the facility and properly disposed of.
5. No individual or entity may offer items for sale within the Convention Hall absent prior arrangements for a vendor table and the express permission of the DPWC.

DATED this 8th day of April, 2026

Sarah Mahler
Chair, Rules and Bylaws Committee