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Updated Version

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ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

Dear Bureau of Elections, Regulatory Division:

I apologize to the Bureau of Elections in advance. I'm not an attorney, so I will write in a conversational style. Dennis Lennox forwarded me information about the public comment period for his request on a declaratory ruling. This is likely because of our long-standing conversations, even friendly disagreements. I state this in the spirit of full disclosure, but the views enclosed are entirely my own. I believe Dennis's questions to the Bureau of Elections are relevant, well-defined, and timely.

Question 1: I have no intention of interfering with the privileges afforded political parties in Michigan under the Right of Free Association. I perceive the endorsement convention as a multi-stage or linked election that complies with existing constitutional and legal requirements. However, I fail to understand how any viable candidate would not exceed the established spending or contribution limits,

necessitating campaign finance reporting akin to an “election.” I hope the Bureau of Elections will agree.¹

Question 2: I have two differing thoughts.

First, I don’t want to restrict Freedom of Speech or impose limits on personal spending. We each have our own financial means and will arrive as precinct delegates by them.

However, my personal experience, as mentioned in my unpublished editorial, demonstrates there is a need for supplemental funding to enable young people, minorities, parents, and the elderly better participation at conventions.²

Second, there must be transparency regarding financial and in-kind support provided precinct delegates to attend conventions.

To avoid embarrassing anyone, I will use an analogy. In life, we might have participated in charitable events where a small donation into a bucket represents a vote. We have likely also experienced frustration when someone subverts the intent by placing a substantial amount of money into one voting bucket. While the results of homecoming, a chili cook-off, or even a political straw poll may not seem significant, these endorsement and regular conventions intend to be binding.

Within the current convention system, getting your supporters to the polls is paramount. Therefore, I recommend the Bureau of Elections require transparency for precinct delegates who receive financial or

¹ The saying is, “If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it probably is a duck”. This “duck test” suggests that if something has all the characteristics of a particular thing, it likely is that thing.

² I have never seen the Upper Peninsula or northern lower Michigan send full slates of delegates to a State Convention. Not because they don’t try, they reasonably can’t. The Party has never held a convention north of Flint. Even living near Lansing, it costs me a day off work, and a hotel stay to attend a two-day State Convention in Grand Rapids or Detroit. I have sat through County Conventions where new precinct delegates, we worked hard to recruit, young people, minorities, parents, the elderly, and small business owners realize they cannot afford the time or expensive to attend ...

in-kind support for fees, lodging, travel, or food, regardless of the third-party source (individual³, charity, social welfare organization, candidate, etc.). I will leave it to the Bureau of Elections to determine the thresholds and process for disclosures. However, I would also suggest the burden of informing, educating, recordkeeping, and filing be placed on the financial or in-kind provider, who is likely the most powerful party in the relationship, not the precinct delegate.

Question 3: Without access to the Democrat's endorsement convention documents, I cannot comment on their rules. However, after reviewing the Republican rules for the upcoming endorsement convention, I believe they effectively address Question 3. My interpretation of the Republican rules suggests later participation is possible through an alternative method, even if a bit cumbersome. The Republican Party likely doesn't exclude the possibility of future participation because it understands that it constitutionally and legally can't. I will leave the final review of the Democrat's version and judgments to the Bureau of Elections.

Ongoing discussions about earlier primary dates suggest the 2026 election cycle might be unprecedented regarding Questions 1 and 3. While I request Bureau of Elections action on Question 1 and clarification on Question 3, I understand if the Bureau of Elections adopts a wait-and-see approach, prefers citizen driven court action, or declares these a political matter, the domain of the legislature. However, I believe retaining our current convention system would necessitate precinct delegates being more transparent about their financial and in-kind support for Question 2.

³ No reporting requirement is envisioned for an immediate family member, grandparent, your personal trust, or your sole proprietorship or authorized partnership funds.

In closing, I wish to express my gratitude to the Bureau of Elections for the opportunity to contribute my thoughts on these significant matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Peter D. Manina". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" and "M".

Peter D. Manina

EXHIBIT A: Endorsement Convention Rules
RULES FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF THE MARCH 28, 2026 MICHIGAN
REPUBLICAN ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION

Number 1: That the business of this Endorsement Convention is to endorse:

- a. One (1) Secretary of State
 - b. One (1) Attorney General
 - c. Two (2) Justices to the Michigan Supreme Court
 - d. Two (2) members of the State Board of Education
 - e. Two (2) members each for the Wayne State University Board of Governors, the Michigan State University Board of Trustees, and the University of Michigan Board of Regents
 - f. And Transact other such business as may properly come before the Endorsement Convention as provided by the Endorsement Convention Rules.
-

Number 2: That the State Party Chair shall appoint the Chair, Secretary, and any other officers the State Party Chair sees fit to govern this Convention. The State Party Chair shall establish a theme for the Endorsement Convention and make reasonable efforts to obtain a nationally recognized speaker. The State Party Chair shall determine the order of business of the Endorsement Convention and may add other items of business not referenced in **Rule 22**; provided, however, that candidate nominations shall occur in the order established by the Rules Committee. This order may only be amended by a majority vote of the delegates of the full Endorsement Convention present and voting. Notwithstanding any provision in these Rules to the contrary, the State Party Chair may insert other items of business between candidate nominations.

Number 3: That Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised be adopted for the procedures of this Convention for all matters not covered by these Rules.

Number 4: That the Committees of this Convention be a Rules Committee,

a Committee on Credentials, and a Committee on Issues, which is the MIGOP State Issues Committee.

Number 5: That the membership of the Convention Rules Committee consist of two members from each congressional district appointed by the Congressional District Chair. These appointments (plus two alternates designated as first alternate and second alternate) must be reported to the State Party Chair by **March 9, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.** Should a proper appointment not be made as outlined in this Rule, the State Party Chair shall make the appointment for any such congressional district.

Number 6: The Committee on Credentials, whose members shall consist of the Policy Committee members, that represent all the 13 Districts. They shall carry out their duties accordingly, with the State Party Chair serving as Chair of the Committee (as an ex-officio **non-voting** member).

The Credentials Committee shall:

- a. Present a certified list of delegates and alternates for each county and district to the Rules Committee.
 - b. Include this list in the Rules Committee's report without amendment.
 - c. Have its decisions regarding credentials included in the Rules Committee report and not subject to change by the Convention, except by a two-third (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting;
 - d. The Committee on Credentials is not allowed to consider or rule on any challenges unless those challenges were submitted in accordance with the procedures set out in **Rule 8g** of the "Rules for Selection of Delegates and Alternates to the 2026 Republican County Convention and State Endorsement Convention," unless the challenge pertains to an identification or elevation procedure concern that arises on the day of the Convention.
-

Number 7: If a challenge is brought before the full Convention regarding the status of any delegate(s) or alternate(s), those individuals may not vote on matters related to their own certification. However, unless and until the challenge is upheld, they may vote on all other Convention matters.

Number 8: Delegates may not introduce new issues or amendments for consideration unless they either:

1. They submit a written draft to the Issues Committee Chair at least fourteen (14) days before the Convention; and
2. Receive approval of the issue or amendment by a majority of the Issues Committee at least seven (7) days before the Convention.

Or

1. They submit a written draft to the Issues Committee Chair at least fourteen (14) days before the Convention; and
2. Include a brief list of information in support of their proposal which may be supplemented by a support speech by the delegate making the motion of no greater than two (2) minutes; and
3. In the event that the Issues Committee does not approve the presentation of a properly-submitted issue or amendment to the full Convention, the Issues Committee shall notify the delegate so moving, and the delegate shall have forty-eight (48) hours after notice to inform the Issues Committee of his desire to bring the issue or amendment before the whole body, failing to do so, the issue may not be brought to the floor for consideration; and
4. Receive a vote from the floor in favor of consideration of no less than two-thirds (66.66%) of the delegates present.

The issues Committee shall provide a report to be included in the delegate packet as follows:

1. Detailed information about any issues or amendments being brought to the floor with their approval.
2. The original submission provided and any feedback, for issues presented to the Issues Committee and rejected.

Number 9: Each issue presented to the Convention will be open for discussion by the delegates.

- Each speaker will have a maximum of two (2) minutes to speak.
- No more than three (3) speakers are allowed for the issue and three

- (3) against it.
 - A maximum of five (5) issues may be presented to the Convention.
 - To allow additional speakers, the body must vote for such continuation by a vote of two-thirds (66.66%) of the body.
-

Number 10: Delegates who wish to speak on an issue must sign up with the Issues Committee at the Convention podium before the Issues Committee report is presented.

- Speakers will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis, alternating between those speaking for and against the issue whenever possible.
 - A delegate may voluntarily give up their spot to another delegate, but only as a substitution on the signup list.
 - Only official Convention delegates may speak from the floor on issues—unless they receive prior approval from the State Party Chair.
-

Number 11: Debate on all issues shall be limited to a total of 60 minutes, starting immediately after the Issues Committee presents its report.

Once the 60-minute time limit is reached, debate will end automatically, and the Convention will move on to the next item of business. Parliamentarians will serve as the official timekeepers to ensure the time limit is followed.

Number 12: Votes on issues shall be submitted by delegates present on the Convention floor and counted according to the procedures established by the Election Integrity Committee. Only votes cast by delegates who are present and voting will be counted. The Election Integrity Committee shall propose how votes are collected, counted, and reported. This process shall be approved by State Committee vote.

Number 13: If any delegate spot becomes vacant during the Convention, the District Chairs will fill that spot by choosing the **next eligible delegate** from the list of alternate delegates. The process for doing this follows the

guidelines set out in **Rule 11** of the Rules for Selection of Delegates and Alternates for the 2026 Republican County Convention and State Endorsement Convention.

Number 14: Modified Unit Rule: Districts Vote as a Block:

- (a) There shall be no modified unit rule applied.
-

Number 15: Any delegate who wants to speak must first state their name and their congressional district or county to be recognized by the Chairman. If there is a question about a delegate's credentials, the Chair will follow the decision made by the Credentials Committee.

Number 16: Contested Nominations

Delegates shall vote for up to two candidates per position, except Secretary of State and Attorney General. If two or more candidates achieve a simple majority, the two candidates winning the most votes are the nominees. If one nominee wins a simple majority, that candidate is then a nominee. The other position will be determined by a second ballot comprised of the top two plurality winners from the first round. The candidate with the most votes in the second round becomes the second nominee. In the event no candidate wins a simple majority in the first round, then the top three candidates who received the most votes will be placed on the ballot for a second round of voting. The two candidates with the most votes become the two nominees for that position.

For the purposes of this section, the term "simple majority" shall mean the following:

- a. for elections involving the election of a single nominee (i.e. vote for one), a simple majority is obtained when a candidate's fraction—with the numerator being the total votes received and the denominator being the total votes cast overall—is greater than one-half; and b) for elections involving the election of multiple nominees (i.e. vote for two or more), a simple majority is obtained when a candidate's fraction—with the

numerator being the total votes received and the denominator being the total ballots cast is greater than one-half.

Number 17: A losing candidate may request a recount of votes in contested elections or nominations before the Endorsement Convention ends. The recount will follow reasonable procedures set by the Chair. However, a recount will not be allowed if the winning margin is more than twenty-five (25) votes.

Number 18: How to Get Nominated for a Ballot Office at the Endorsement Convention

1. Filing Requirements: Anyone who wants to be nominated for an office that will appear on the general election ballot ("ballot office") must first file:
 - An Affidavit of Candidacy form
 - Written permission from the congressional district chairs (see details below); These must be submitted to the State Party Chair or their designee by **January 15, 2026**.
2. Affidavit Form: The State Party Chair will prepare the Affidavit form, approved by the Policy Committee. If any information on the form is false, the Michigan Republican State Committee can cancel that candidate's nomination by a 75% vote and, **if so desired**, choose a replacement.
3. Candidate List: Within 24 hours after Policy Committee approval, the State Party Chair will inform county conventions of the candidates who have filed correctly, including which office they seek. Anyone who doesn't file properly cannot be nominated at the Convention.
4. Filing Fees: Once approved by the Policy Committee, candidates have one week to pay the filing fee to be considered at the Convention. Fees are:
 - a. Attorney General, Secretary of State \$10,000
 - b. Supreme Court Candidates \$7,500

c. Board of Education and University Boards \$2,500

5. **Policy Committee Approval:** Before the Convention, candidates must get approval from the Policy Committee at a meeting held no later than 60 days before the Convention. To be approved, candidates need written permission from at least four (4) congressional district chairs. These meetings can be held by teleconference, but proxy voting is not allowed.
6. **Alternative Ways to Qualify:** If a candidate does not receive approval from the Policy Committee as provided above, they may still qualify to run by submitting no less than 30 days before the convention:
 - Written approval from at least seven (7) congressional district chairs, or
 - Written approval from any three (3) State Committee members representing at least seven (7) different congressional districts.

These approvals, along with the completed Affidavit of Candidacy, must be submitted to the State Party Chair or their designee by **February 27, 2026**.

7. Important Notes:

- a. Approval from the Policy Committee, district chairs, or State Committee members is not an endorsement—only a qualification to run. Delegates can vote for any eligible candidate at the Convention.
- b. If a person does not file the Affidavit or get the required approvals, they cannot seek nomination at the Convention.

Number 19:

No less than twenty one days (21) days before the Convention, nominees for open positions shall provide to the State Party: a) a nominating video of no greater than two (2) minutes, b) seconding video of no greater than one (1) minute, and c) candidate video of no greater than three (3) minutes, which shall be made available to the delegates through the State Party website or other appropriate means.

Number 20: A Convention candidate receiving an affirmative vote from the Convention floor shall be declared endorsed by this Convention.

Number 21: Because the nominating speeches, seconding speeches, and candidate information will be available online before the Endorsement Convention, voting will occur immediately following Item J, the Issues Committee Report. The names of the nominator and supporter of each nominee will be read into the record by the Chair of the Convention.

Number 22: The business of this Convention shall proceed as follows:

- a. Call to Order
 - b. Invocation
 - c. Pledge of Allegiance
 - d. National Anthem
 - e. Call to Convention
 - f. Appointment of Temporary Chair
 - g. Appointment of Temporary Officers
 - h. Rules Committee Report
 - i. Oath of Office to Officers
 - j. Issues Committee Report
 - k. Endorsement of Candidates
 - I. One (1) Secretary of State
 - II. One (1) Attorney General
 - III. Two (2) Justices to the Michigan Supreme Court
 - IV. Two (2) members of the State Board of Education
 - V. Two (2) members each for the Wayne State University Board of Governors, the Michigan State University Board of Trustees, and the University of Michigan Board of Regents
 - l. Announcements
 - m. Adjournment
-

Number 23: Except for Rules 2, 6, 22, and 23 in Exhibit A, all other rules in Exhibit A or the Michigan Republican Party Rules for the Selection of Delegates and Alternates to the 2026 Republican County & State Endorsement Convention may be amended by either:

- a. A vote of at least seventeen (17) members of the Rules Committee, which will meet on or before **March 19, 2026** as determined by the State Party Chair; or
- b. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting at the Convention.

MICHIGAN REPUBLICAN PARTY
RULES FOR THE SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES
TO THE MARCH 28, 2026 REPUBLICAN COUNTY &
STATE ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION

Event Deadlines & Key Dates

Event	Deadline / Date
First Filing Deadline for Candidates	January 15, 2026
County Convention Call Issued	January 27, 2026
County Convention Date	February 26, 2026
Second Filing Deadline for Candidates	February 27, 2026
Deadline to Submit Certified County Delegate/Alternate List	March 5, 2026
Credentials Challenges Deadline (Rule 8C)	March 9, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.
District Chair appointments to Rules Committee	March 9, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.
Response to Credential Challenge	March 12, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.
Deadline for All Credentialing Information to State Party	March 16, 2026
Rules Committee Meeting Date (to finalize Exhibit A rules)	March 19, 2026
Deadline to Elevate Alternates or Address ID Issues	March 28, 2026
Endorsement Convention Date	March 28, 2026
Time Credentials Distribution Opens	March 28, 2026 – 7:30 a.m.
Time Convention is Called to Order	March 28, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

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RULE 1: DATE AND CALL OF COUNTY CONVENTIONS: County conventions shall be held at **7:00 PM Eastern Time on February 26, 2026** throughout the state, at locations registered with the Michigan Republican Party ("MRP") by **January 27, 2026**.

The location, time, and date of each county convention shall be designated in the official call issued by the chair of the county executive committee, by **January 27, 2026**. For purposes of these rules, the term "county committee" shall include the congressional district committees in Wayne County and the congressional district portion committees within the boundaries of Wayne County.

The county executive committee shall send a copy of the official call by first-class mail to the most recent Republican nominees for state legislative and county office, and to precinct delegates duly elected at the **August 6, 2024** primary election, as well as to precinct delegates elected to permanently fill vacancies at any subsequent county conventions. In addition, the call must be sent to all Republican incumbent members of the State Legislature and Michigan Congressional delegation, statewide officeholders, the Republican National Committeeman and National Committeewoman from Michigan in the county in which they reside, and regular members of the Michigan Republican Party State Committee who reside in the county (Article III section A as defined the MIGOP Bylaws).

As an alternative to first-class mail, the chair of the county executive committee may send the call by email, provided the following conditions are met:

- a) The call is directly emailed to all individuals required to be notified by this rule no later than **January 20, 2026** and includes a request for confirmation of receipt by email no later than **January 26, 2026**
- b) The call may **not** be sent via Facebook, Twitter, or any other social media platform.
- c) The chair must copy the secretary of the county executive committee on all emails sent.
- d) If a recipient fails to confirm receipt by **January 27, 2026**, the call must be sent to that individual by first-class mail.
- e) A printed copy of each email confirmation must be retained and made available to any delegate at the county convention.

In the call to the county convention, the county executive committee must include the following notification requirement with, **if necessary, the alternative designated notification person as prescribed:**

"Precinct delegates and certain at-large delegates given preference under Rule 8 of the Convention Rules who do not attend the county convention must notify the chair of the county executive committee {or a designated person} in writing—by letter or email—of their intention to serve as a delegate or alternate delegate to the 2026 Endorsement Convention. This notification must be received at least two (2) hours before the county convention begins, unless otherwise provided in the call to convention provided to delegates. Failure to submit this written notification will result in forfeiture of the preference under Rule 8. Precinct delegates who attend the county convention do not need to submit this notification".

RULE 1a: Voting Eligibility at the County Convention: The call must also clearly state that only the following individuals are eligible to vote on matters that come before the county convention, provided they still legally reside in the county, and, where applicable, within the precinct or district from which they were elected as of the **August 6, 2024**, primary election:

- I. Duly elected Republican precinct delegates who continue to reside in the precinct they were elected to represent.
- II. Precinct delegates elected at subsequent county conventions following the **August 6, 2024**, primary election.
- III. Republican nominees for state legislative and county offices who still reside within the jurisdiction of the office for which they were nominated *who shall be credentialed as an at-large delegate*.
- IV. Republican incumbent members of the State Legislature and the Michigan Congressional delegation who reside in the county, who shall be *credentialed as an at-large delegates*).
- V. Statewide Republican officeholders who reside in the county *who shall be credentialed as an at-large delegates*.
- VI. Regular members of the Michigan Republican Party State Committee who reside in the county *who shall be credentialed as an at-large delegate*).

Individuals who are at-large delegates to county convention under sections IV, V, and VI, and the National Committeeman and Committeewoman will be at-large delegates to the Endorsement Convention.

The number of at-large delegates is in addition to the number of precinct delegates that will be elected to convention specified in the call for the **February 26, 2026** county conventions.

If delegates to the Endorsement Convention scheduled for **March 28, 2026** are to be elected using an apportionment method under **Rule 8E**, the call must include a copy of the approved apportionment plan, specifically listing apportionment districts and the number of delegates allocated to each.

A copy of the official call for county conventions must be received by MRP Headquarters no later than **January 27, 2026**.

If MRP does not receive the official call by **January 27, 2026** the State Party Chair is authorized to rescind any call issued or intended to be issued by the chair of the county executive committee. The State Party Chair may then issue an official call to that county convention.

RULE 2: COUNTY CONVENTIONS: County conventions are held instead of separate congressional district conventions—except in Wayne County. In Wayne County, conventions are held by the three parties that are within its borders, Wayne 6th, Wayne 12th and the 13th, which is a county and district committee. For the purposes of these rules, whenever we refer to a “county convention,” it also includes these conventions in Wayne County. If a county includes more than one congressional district (or parts of multiple districts), the county convention will first meet as one body to handle general county business. This includes electing the overall chair of the county convention.

However, when it comes time to elect delegates and alternates to the Endorsement Convention, each congressional district (or part of a district) within the county will split into smaller groups—referred to as “district sub-conventions”—to handle only that portion of business separately.

Each of these district sub-conventions will be led by a temporary congressional district chair, who will open and run the sub-convention for their respective district

portions for the purpose of electing delegates and alternates to attend the Endorsement Convention.

In addition to selecting delegates and alternates, each county convention may also discuss issues that will be considered at the Endorsement Convention, though they are not required to take formal action on those issues.

RULE 3: SELECTING THE COUNTY CONVENTION CHAIR: The county convention shall be called to order by the chair of the county executive committee, who will serve as the temporary convention chair until a permanent convention chair is elected.

A permanent convention chair shall be elected in the following manner:

The county chair shall have read aloud the following lists unless waived by the convention body:

- a) The list of precinct delegates duly elected at the August 6, 2024, primary election, as certified by the County Clerk.
- b) The list of precinct delegates elected at subsequent county conventions, if any; and
- c) The list of at-large delegates, if applicable.

The person who receives a majority of the votes from the delegates present shall become the permanent chair of the convention.

The convention may choose to conduct the vote for permanent chair using any method allowed under Robert's Rules of Order.

RULE 4: SELECTING THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CHAIR:

(Applicable only to counties that are split into more than one congressional district)

Each congressional district portion of a county must have a temporary chair to preside over its sub-convention during the county convention. The selection process shall follow this order:

- a. If the congressional district chair resides in the county and is present at the convention, that person shall serve as the temporary chair for that congressional district portion of the county.

- b. If the district chair does not reside in the county or is not present, and the vice chair of that district does reside in the county and is present, then the vice chair shall serve as the temporary chair for that district portion.
- c. If neither the district chair nor the vice chair resides in the county or is present, then the district chair may appoint someone to serve as the temporary chair.
 - I. This appointment must be received in writing (by letter or email) by the county chair at least three days prior to the start of the county convention.
- d. If no district chair, vice chair, or appointed designee resides in the county or is present at the convention, and no written appointment has been made, then:
 - I. The county chair shall select the temporary chair for that district portion.
- e. In counties that use an apportionment method and require sub-convention "caucus leaders" for each apportioned township/city caucuses, the district chair shall appoint the sub-convention "caucus leaders" for their respective district sub portions.

RULE 5: COUNTY CONVENTION DELEGATES

Rule 5a: Filling of Precinct Delegate Permanent Vacancies: A permanent vacancy in a precinct delegate position only occurs when:

- a. No delegate was elected in the precinct at the August 6, 2024, Primary Election; or
- b. A duly elected delegate has died, resigned, or changed voter registration out of the precinct they were elected to represent.

In either case, the county convention may fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term by a majority vote of the precinct delegates present. The person selected must be a qualified registered elector residing in the same precinct where the vacancy exists.

Timing Requirement: The entire county convention, acting as one body, must decide whether to fill precinct delegate vacancies. However, no vacancy vote may occur until all voting for Endorsement Convention delegates and alternates has concluded. In counties with multiple congressional districts:

- a. No vacancy votes may occur until all sub-conventions have concluded,
and
- b. The full county convention has reconvened.

Any person appointed under this rule does not become a duly elected precinct delegate for purposes of the 2026 Endorsement Convention.

Rule 5b: Procedural Requirements for All Reporting

For all permanent vacancies filled and for the reporting of Endorsement Convention delegate and alternate elections, the permanent chair and secretary of the convention must submit the following information to Michigan Republican Party Headquarters and to the chair of the county executive committee by **March 5, 2026**.

Full name, Residential address, Phone number, Email address, Precinct or ward designation. This must be submitted using the MRP-provided template and follow MRP formatting instructions, along with the certified list of all delegates and alternates to the Endorsement Convention.

Rule 5c: No Additional Qualification Requirements: Only individuals defined under these Rules may participate in the county conventions. A county convention may not adopt or enforce any additional qualification requirements, such as requiring a delegate to be a dues-paying member or financial contributor to the local party.

Rule 5d: Prohibition on Participation in Other Parties

Any individual who has served as a delegate, alternate, or candidate of a political party other than the Republican Party during the same two-year election cycle is ineligible to serve as a delegate or alternate to any Republican county convention or the Endorsement Convention.

RULE 6: PROXY VOTING PROHIBITED: No delegate to any convention or caucus governed by these Rules may assign or give a proxy to another person to represent them. Proxy voting is strictly prohibited in all cases.

RULE 7: DELEGATE APPORTIONMENT TO THE

ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION: The number of delegates elected to the Endorsement Convention shall be apportioned among the counties based on the number of votes cast for the Republican candidate for Secretary of State in each county at the November 2022 election. This apportionment shall be determined by the Credentials Committee.

The apportionment formula and the resulting spreadsheet will be provided to all county and district chairs prior to the county conventions.

The number of at-large delegates is in addition to the number of precinct delegates specified in the official call for the **February 26, 2026** county conventions.

No delegation may be expanded by assigning a fractional vote to each delegate.

The authority to approve the final apportionment of delegates to the Endorsement Convention is delegated to the Credentials Committee.

RULE 8: METHOD OF ELECTING DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO THE ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION: County conventions have two options for electing delegates and alternates to the Endorsement Convention:

- a. The apportionment method
- b. The at-large method (commonly referred to as “slates”)

Only one method may be used at each convention. If the apportionment method is used but does not fill all delegate or alternate spots, the remaining vacancies may be filled by an at-large vote.

Rule 8a Precinct Delegate Preference Requirement: To recognize the importance of precinct delegates, any duly elected precinct delegate must be given preference over a non-precinct delegate when electing delegates or alternates to the Endorsement Convention.

- I. Among precinct delegates, no one is preferred over another.
- II. A county convention may, as one body, authorize the election of non-precinct delegates as delegates or alternates—up to 15% of the total Endorsement Convention delegation, or two individuals, whichever is greater. The intention of this provision is to reward hard-working Republicans who are not yet precinct delegates. This authorization vote must occur before the convention splits into separate congressional district sub-conventions.
- III. In counties with more than one congressional district, the selection of these individuals must take place within the respective district caucuses.
- IV. Violating this preference rule is subject to challenge under **Rule 8G**.

Before any voting begins, the convention chair—or, in counties with more than one congressional district, the sub-convention district chair or district caucus leader as the case may be—must ask all attending precinct delegates if they wish to be considered as a delegate or alternate to the Endorsement Convention.

Even if a county uses the apportionment method (dividing delegate spots among geographic areas like precincts or townships), it cannot override the rule that precinct delegates have priority in being elected as delegates or alternates to the Endorsement Convention.

- I. Precinct delegate preference - Precinct delegates must be given priority over non-precinct delegates when being elected to the Endorsement Convention.
- II. Using apportionment doesn't change the reach of the precinct delegate preference rule. As an example, if there is an unfilled spot in any apportionment sub-caucus, it cannot be filled with a non-delegate if there are delegates in other sub-caucuses that were not chosen; those unchosen delegates in other apportionment sub-caucuses must fill those spots before any non-delegate can be chosen.

Example:

1. Jane is a precinct delegate from Sub-Caucus A.
2. Bob is not a precinct delegate but lives in Sub-Caucus B, which is currently voting to elect Endorsement Convention delegates.
3. Even though Bob lives in Sub-Caucus B (the one voting), he cannot be given preference over Jane, who is a precinct delegate from another district.

In short: Precinct delegate status matters more than geographic apportionment when it comes to preference for electing delegates to the Endorsement Convention.

Only absent precinct delegates who submitted a Notification (*see Rule 1*) are entitled to the precinct delegate preference.

Rule 8b: Alternate Delegate Ranking: Precinct delegate preference does not apply to the numerical ranking of alternates. However, in counties using the apportionment method or with more than one congressional district, the convention may choose to:

- I. Apply precinct delegate preference within caucus-level alternate rankings.
- II. Use that caucus order to determine the countywide alternate list.

Rule 8c: At-Large Delegates Given Equal Preference: Certain at-large county convention delegates are granted the same preference as precinct delegates. These include the most recent Republican nominees for:

- I. State Senate
- II. State House
- III. Countywide offices
- IV. County Commission (provided they currently reside in the county)

To qualify for this preference, these individuals must have continuously resided in the county since winning their nomination and must not have moved outside the county.

When comparing multiple precinct delegates and at-large delegates, no preference is given to any individual over another.

Rule 8d: Delegate & Alternate Eligibility and Residency: County conventions must elect alternates in the same number and method as they elect delegates.

All delegates and alternates must be registered voters in their county and congressional district. No one may serve as a delegate or alternate to the Endorsement Convention unless they reside in the county and district they seek to represent.

In counties with more than one congressional district, each congressional district must caucus separately.

Delegates from one congressional district may not vote to elect delegates or alternates for another district.

Rule 8e: Apportionment Method of Electing Delegates and Alternates: When issuing the call for a county convention, the county executive committee may apportion Endorsement Convention delegates among wards, precincts, cities, townships, or districts.

- a. County convention delegates from each area (ward, precinct, etc.) will elect the delegates apportioned to their area.

- b. These apportionments should approximate as closely as possible the number of delegates assigned to the county.

If the apportionment method is used:

- a. Contiguous areas may be grouped into multi-delegate districts, but:
 - I. They must be contiguous, and
 - II. Only whole units (no partial precincts, cities, etc.) may be joined. **For example**, neighboring cities, townships, villages or a combination thereof may be combined, but a city, township or village may not be broken up when creating sub-caucus apportionment districts.
- b. The apportionment formula must match the one used in Rule 7 (based on the 2020 presidential vote).

Once a district elects its delegates and alternates, its decision is final and cannot be altered by the county convention.

If any apportionment district fails to fill its delegation, those vacancies may be filled at-large by the full county convention.

If the apportionment method is used, all delegates must be apportioned. There may not be separate at-large delegate positions.

The apportionment plan:

- a. Must follow the rules precisely
- b. Cannot be altered by the convention
- c. Must be created and included with the delegate call before it is issued

Rule 8f: At-Large Method of Electing State Convention

Delegates and Alternates (More commonly referred to as "Slates")

If the at-large method (i.e. "slates") is used—or if the apportionment method is started but not completed or followed—then the county convention as a whole will choose the delegates and alternates.

There is no requirement to divide delegate or alternate spots by ward, precinct, township, city, or district. All delegates and alternates are elected by the full county convention. *Exception:* If the county includes parts of more than one

congressional district, each district (or part of a district) must meet and vote separately to select its own delegates and alternates.

Conventions can choose from several common methods:

1. *Nominations from the Floor*: Delegates can be nominated one by one during the convention. If there are more nominees than open positions, each convention delegate will vote for each available seat individually.
2. *Nominating Committee Appointed by the Chair*: The convention (or sub-convention chair in counties with more than one congressional district) may appoint a committee to create a proposed slate (list) of delegates and alternates. The committee can be of any size. The proposed slate is presented to the convention for approval.

Note: If the committee is appointed ahead of time, the chair must reappoint it at the actual convention for its slate to be valid.

- I. The convention's rules should include language like:
"The report of the delegate selection committee shall be received."
- II. The proposed slate can be amended during the convention.
 - a) A motion can be made to remove names and replace them with others.
 - b) Once a majority of the convention agrees, the final version of the slate is approved.
3. *Competing Slates from Groups*: Groups of delegates can submit their own slates (full lists of proposed delegates and alternates).
 - a. If there is a slate-vs-slate vote, the convention must first approve that voting method before ballots are cast.
 - b. Slates may be amended in the same way as committee slates—by striking and replacing names.
 - c. All slates must follow the precinct delegate preference rules.

Rule 8g: Credentials Challenges: All credentials' challenges must be submitted to MRP Headquarters by **March 9, 2026 by 5 pm Eastern Time.**

- I. The Credentials Committee may extend the deadline if a county convention chair fails to report the delegate/alternate list on time.
- II. Challenges must be signed and include evidence to support the claim.

III. Late challenges (after the deadline) will not be accepted.

Credentials Committee Membership shall consist of the Policy Committee members who are representatives from all the 13 Districts.

The committee may meet electronically.

Once a challenge is received:

- I. The Committee will notify the chair of the convention, executive committee chair and any other named parties whose decisions or credentials are being challenged.
- II. The challenged party may submit a response if time permits.
- III. A decision will be made within 48 hours after deliberation.

The Credentials Committee's decisions:

- I. Will be included in the Endorsement Convention Rules Committee report.
- II. Cannot be overturned by the Endorsement Convention without a 2/3 vote of those present and voting.
- III. Will be used to issue credentials before the Endorsement Convention on **March 28, 2026**,

Note: The Credentials Committee has authority over all matters related to delegates and alternates, even if not explicitly mentioned elsewhere in these rules.

RULE 9: PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES: The permanent convention chair of each county convention shall send a list, certified by the Permanent Secretary of the Convention, of the delegates and alternates chosen by such county convention electronically in a Microsoft Excel format form prescribed by the State Party Chair to the MRP, the County Executive Committee Chair and County Secretary by **March 5, 2026**.

Each delegate certification list shall provide the registered voting address of each Endorsement Convention delegate and alternate so that the temporary roll of the Endorsement Convention may be prepared. Any delegate certification list not received electronically in Excel format by the MRP by **March 5, 2026** will not be received and therefore will have to be presented before the Credentials

Committee (see Rule 8C) prior to seating any delegate from the county convention in question.

The State Party Chair must provide the list of delegates and alternates for any given county convention to the following individuals upon request:

- a. Any candidate running for endorsement at the Endorsement Convention, or their authorized representative.
- b. Any delegate or alternate delegate to that specific county convention.
- c. District Chairs and District Secretaries

In addition to the automatic Convention officers the State Party Chair may appoint additional Convention officers as needed to conduct the business of the Endorsement Convention.

RULE 10: ISSUANCE OF CREDENTIALS: All credentials shall be issued by Convention officers at a location or locations convenient to the sites of the Endorsement Convention. Credentials shall be issued personally and individually to each delegate, alternate, guest, or VIP—no one is authorized to pick up credentials on behalf of another person. Prior to being issued credentials, each delegate, alternate, guest, or VIP must identify themselves by presenting an official state identification card, operator's or driver's license, or other generally recognized government-issued photo identification. All credentials' challenges shall be decided by the Credentials Committee.

RULE 11: FILLING ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION

DELEGATE VACANCIES: The elevation of alternates to delegates shall be a nondiscretionary, automatic, and consistently applied process throughout the Endorsement Convention. District Chairs and other Convention officers are authorized to automatically elevate alternates. Any challenges regarding elevation shall be resolved by the Credentials Committee. Note: Delegates must have clear directions or access to a designated Elevation Station for assistance.

Vacancies must be filled by alternates from the same county and congressional district portions as the absent delegate. For example, a vacancy in the 9th Congressional District portion of Oakland County must be filled by a duly elected alternate from that same portion; likewise, vacancies from the Wayne County portion must be filled by alternates from that portion.

Delegate vacancies shall be filled following the numerical elevation system, where alternates are elected in ranked order (first alternate, second alternate, etc.) within their county or county portion of a congressional district. Alternates fill vacancies in that order.

Delegates must check out with Convention officers or at designated stations before leaving the Convention floor. Delegates who leave without checking out shall be deemed present, and their seats may not be filled by alternates until proper check-out is confirmed. This ensures orderly management of vacancies and elevations.

If a delegate returns to the Convention floor after an alternate has been elevated in their place, the delegate may reclaim their seat and voting rights only after reporting to the designated Elevation Station and receiving confirmation from Convention officers. Reinstatement takes effect after the conclusion of any business in progress at the time of return. The displaced alternate shall then be returned to the alternate pool in their original ranked position.

RULE 12: MODIFIED UNIT RULE/METHOD OF VOTING

(a) There shall be no modified unit rule applied.

RULE 13: PURPOSES OF ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION:

The Michigan Republican State Committee ("MRSC") directs that the Endorsement Convention of the delegated representatives of the Republican Party of Michigan be held on **March 28, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** Eastern Time, for the purpose to endorse

- a. One (1) Secretary of State
- b. One (1) Attorney General
- c. Two (2) Justices to the Michigan Supreme Court
- d. Two (2) members of the State Board of Education
- e. Two (2) members each for the Wayne State University Board of Governors, the Michigan State University Board of Trustees, and the University of Michigan Board of Regents
- f. Transacting other such business may properly come before the Endorsement Convention.

RULE 14: A REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION: Participation in the Republican county and Endorsement Conventions shall in no way be abridged for reasons of sex, race, religion, color, age, or national origin, and the county and Endorsement Conventions shall encourage the broadest possible participation by everyone in party affairs.

RULE 15 – ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION RULES: The governance of the **March 28, 2026** Michigan Republican Endorsement Convention shall be as follows:

A. Governing Rules

The attached *Rules for the Governance of the Convention* (Exhibit A) shall govern the Convention unless amended. All rules may be amended either by a vote of 17 or more members of the Convention Committee on Rules, or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting, with the exception of Exhibit Rules 2, 6, 27, and 28, which may only be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full Convention and shall not be amended by the Rules Committee.

B. Exhibit Rule 2 – Role of the State Party Chair

The State Party Chair shall:

- I. Appoint the Convention Chair, Secretary, and any other officers deemed necessary to conduct the Convention.
- II. Establish the theme for the Endorsement Convention and make reasonable efforts to secure a nationally recognized speaker.
- III. Determine the order of business, including the addition of items not listed in Rule 27.
- IV. Candidate nominations shall follow the order prescribed by the Rules Committee, which may only be changed by a majority vote of delegates present and voting.
- V. The Chair may insert additional items of business between candidate nominations.

C. Exhibit Rule 6 – Credentials Committee

The Committee on Credentials, as constituted under **Rule 8G** and *Exhibit Rule 6*, shall carry out its duties accordingly, with the State Party Chair serving as Chair of the Committee (as ex-officio member).

The Credentials Committee shall:

- I. Present a certified list of delegates and alternates for each county and district to the Rules Committee.
- II. Include this list in the Rules Committee's report without amendment.
- III. Have its decisions regarding credentials included in the Rules Committee report and not subject to change by the Convention, except by a two-third (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting;
- IV. Not hear challenges unless filed under Rule 8C of the County/State Endorsement Convention Selection Rules, except for those concerning identification or alternate elevation as addressed in these rules.

D. Exhibit Rule 27 – Voting Process

No voting shall commence until all nominations and support has been affirmed.

E. Exhibit Rule 28 – Order of Business (Agenda)

The Convention shall proceed according to the order of business outlined in Exhibit Rule 28.

RULE 16– OVERTURNING THE ELECTION The Election of this convention can only be overturned by a supermajority two-thirds (2/3) vote at the August 2026 Convention.

RULE 17- FUNDING OF THE CONVENTION The convention will be supported by:

- a. Precinct Delegate, Alternate and Guest \$50
- b. Vendors \$500
- c. Charging Candidates (per person) with table:
 - I. Attorney General, Secretary of State \$10,000
 - II. Supreme Court Candidates \$7,500
 - III. Board of Education and University Boards \$2,500

In the event that the convention contributions exceed the cost of the convention, the net proceeds shall be allocated toward the 2026 general election campaigns.

RULE 18– AMENDMENTS TO THESE RULES: These Rules may not be amended without the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Michigan Republican State Committee elected and serving, and such vote must be in person and not by proxy. Any proposals for amendment to these Rules shall be submitted to the State Party Chair in writing, at least ten (10) days prior to their consideration.