

Rules for the Conduct of Debate at Meetings of the WSDCC

As Updated and Adopted by the WSDCC on September 16, 2018

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- 4 I. **Applicability.** These Rules shall apply to debate by the Washington State Democratic
5 Central Committee (WSDCC) when no subject-matter special rules of debate have been
6 adopted.
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- 8 II. **Special Rules.** Where circumstances warrant, the WSDCC may, by majority vote as part
9 of the adoption of its agenda for a meeting, set special rules of debate for particular
10 motions of significance (e.g., a Charter Amendment). After the adoption of the agenda
11 further adoption of special rules of debate shall require a motion to suspend the
12 otherwise applicable rules of debate and a two-thirds majority. Where special rules have
13 been adopted they shall be applicable only for the debate of that particular motion, but as
14 to that motion the special rules shall prevail over these standing debate rules in the event
15 of conflict. Special rules may not change who is eligible to vote on a motion.
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- 17 III. **Voting Members.** Only State Committee (SCC) Members, individuals holding proxies
18 for State Committee Members, and special members (to the extent otherwise allowed by
19 the Charter and Bylaws) of the WSDCC shall have voice and vote from the floor.
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- 21 IV. **Rules for Speech from the Floor.**
22 A. Each speaker shall be limited to one (1) minute with no limit in number of speakers
23 on each side of the question. Each member of the body will be limited to two chances
24 to speak on the issue.
25 B. When practical, the Chair shall alternate between speakers in favor of and opposed to
26 the motion.
27 C. The Chair shall give preference in recognition to SCC Members who have not yet
28 spoken during the meeting.
29 D. In the absence of an opposing speaker or a speaker supporting a different side of the
30 question than the last speaker, the Chair may deem debate closed without
31 entertaining a motion for the previous question.
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- 33 V. **Motions.** Whenever possible, preference will be given to motions framed in the
34 affirmative.
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- 36 VI. **Amendments.**
37 A. Second degree amendments (i.e. 'amendments to amendments') are not in order.
38 B. The proposer of an amendment may withdraw an amendment to a main motion with
39 the consent of the SCC to propose a different amendment.
40 C. Amendments are encouraged to be presented in writing to the Secretary, or their
41 designee, prior to being proposed.
42 D. No amendments may be made on motions to amend the Charter or Bylaws, except
43 those proposed by the Rules Committee.
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- 45 VII. **Rules for Conducting Votes.** Votes without objection may be taken by such means (e.g.
46 show of hands or credential) as the Chair deems appropriate and without formal tally.

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- 47 Except where use of a written ballot is required by another document, the Chair may
48 choose to conduct a contested vote through either show of hands or written ballot.
49 Standing vote shall not be used under any circumstances; voice vote shall not be used for
50 contested votes.
- 51 A. When a contested vote is conducted by show of hands, the Chair may make an initial
52 determination of the outcome. Once the Chair has made an initial determination, any
53 member may call for division of the body which shall be conducted by a count of
54 raised credentials. The Chair may call for an immediate division of the body in lieu of
55 making an initial determination.
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- 57 VIII. **Robert's Rules.** On all matters not covered in these rules or elsewhere, Robert's Rules of
58 Order Newly Revised, 11th edition shall apply.