

Proposed 2026 WSLC Convention Rules

General

1. An attendee must display the convention badge while attending any official convention event. Any attendee who does not display the convention badge may be asked to leave.
2. Attendees should be seated before the scheduled starting time for the meeting and before the ending time of each recess.
3. Guests will be seated at the rear of the meeting hall.
4. No literature, including internal Candidate literature, may be distributed without prior approval of the President or the Secretary-Treasurer. All literature must be distributed by a sergeant-at-arms and only if it includes a union bug.
5. All electronic devices and noise makers must be silenced during each meeting of the convention and each committee meeting.
6. All announcements must be submitted to the chair or the Secretary-Treasurer in writing.
7. The President may make adjustments to the items on the agenda that are outside of the business meetings.
8. The doors of the Convention Hall will not open to attendees until the Sergeants-at-Arms are at their posts.

Motions and Debate

9. Those who wish to speak in favor of the pending motion will use a microphone labeled 'For.' Those who wish to speak against the pending motion will use a microphone labeled 'Against.'
10. A motion, request for information, or parliamentary inquiry can be made at any microphone.
11. As much as possible, the chair will alternate between delegates speaking in favor and against and will rotate among the microphones.
12. The same microphone can be used by the maker of the motion for the first speech in debate on the motion. After this, the chair should recognize a delegate at an 'Against' microphone.
13. When recognized by the chair, a delegate will first state the delegate's name, status (delegate, WSLC office held, or WSLC past office held), union, and local number.

14. Each speech in debate is limited to two minutes.
15. Speakers using interpretation will be limited to four minutes.
16. A point of order may be raised at any microphone. Alternatively, a delegate may rise, say 'Point of order!' in a loud voice, and then approach any microphone; the chair will then recognize the delegate for the purpose of stating the point of order.
17. A delegate who has raised a point of order will be seated until the chair has ruled on the point of order.
18. The previous question (to close debate) may not be moved until at least two speakers in favor and at least two speakers opposed have had the opportunity to speak.
19. If the previous question is ordered on a resolution before consideration of the preamble has begun, it applies to the entire resolution. It will not apply to the preamble, however, if the order for the previous question expressly excludes the preamble or if a delegate has indicated a desire to amend the preamble.
20. When recognized for a request for information, the delegate will be permitted one question and one follow-up question, and then must yield the floor.
21. Each affiliate report and each item for the good of the order is limited to the same amount of time as a speech in debate.

Voting

22. Each delegate will receive a voting card when registering at the registration desk. Lost voting cards will not be replaced.
23. Each vote will initially be taken by raising the voting card while remaining seated unless a different voting method has been ordered by the assembly.
24. If a rising vote is taken, the chair will give alternate instructions for those who have difficulty standing.

Roll-Call Votes

25. A motion to roll-call requires a 25% vote. When a roll-call vote is ordered, the assembly will recess for 10 minutes prior to the vote. Once any votes have been cast during a roll-call vote, the convention may not recess or adjourn until the result of the vote is announced.

Committee Meetings

26. Credentialed delegates, alternates, and guests may attend any committee meeting.
27. At the discretion of the chair during a committee meeting, a credentialed delegate who is not a committee member may speak in debate when recognized. This privilege does not allow a non-committee member to make a motion.

Resolutions

28. A convention committee may amend a resolution, put a resolution into proper form, eliminate duplication when similar resolutions are introduced, and ensure that all resolutions relating to a specific subject will be offered in a logical sequence.

29. A convention committee may choose to withhold a resolution from the convention by a three-fourths vote. Withheld resolutions will be reported to the convention, and the convention may order the committee to report a withheld resolution by a majority vote.

30. During a committee report to the convention, only the resolved clauses will be read. By a majority vote, the delegates may order the preamble of a specific resolution to be read.

31. The Secretary-Treasurer is authorized to amend resolutions to put them into proper form and to use a consistent form across all adopted resolutions.

Election Board

32. Nominations for members of the Election Board will be made from the floor.

33. Nominations for members of the Election Board are not debatable. Nominating speeches are not permitted.

34. A nominee must consent to serve on the Election Board before the nominee's name will be included on the ballot. Upon consenting to serve, a nominee becomes a candidate.

35. Candidates for the Election Board will not be given the opportunity to address the delegates.

36. The polls will be open from 9:00a.m. until 1:30p.m. on Wednesday. If another ballot is necessary, the chair will announce the polling times.

Amendment of Governing Documents

37. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee is authorized to correct section designations, punctuation, and cross-references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the convention in connection with the amendment of the Constitution or the COPE Bylaws.

Minutes

38. A special committee will be appointed for the purpose of approving the minutes of the convention.