

**STANDING RULES OF THE 27th INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION
August 8, 2020 (online)**

Special Rules for the 2020 Convention: Due to public health concerns about the coronavirus, the 27th International Convention of SEIU (“Convention”) shall be conducted online via electronic linkage of the Delegates. This special set of Convention Rules shall apply to the online 2020 Convention.¹

Rule 1. The Convention program shall be the order of business. However, the presiding officer may make changes as necessary.

Rule 2. The Convention shall convene at 1pm EDT on August 8, 2020 and adjourn at approximately 5pm EDT on August 8, 2020. In the event any election is not completed by that time, the Convention shall be extended and stand in recess until the electronic balloting for all positions is completed.

Rule 3. The Convention shall be conducted online, using the web platform created by the International Union’s approved vendor.

Rule 4. Participation during the Convention shall be limited to Delegates, Guest Delegates, Alternate Delegates, authorized guests, and International staff with URL credentials provided by the International Union’s approved vendor. Only Delegates and Guest Delegates with URL credentials shall be admitted to the online Convention floor to speak, in addition to any invited Convention guest speaker(s). Alternate Delegates and guests who are properly registered through the approved vendor and other authorized International staff shall be admitted to the Convention for viewing and listening purposes only.

Rule 5. Any Convention report or other communication required to be “in writing” under these rules or governing documents shall be posted electronically on the Convention website.

Rule 6. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (11th Edition)* shall govern the Convention in all cases to which they

¹ These Rules shall expire upon the conclusion of business of the 2020 International Convention. For any future Convention, the rules and order of business governing the 2016 SEIU Convention shall be reinstated and enforced until the new rules have been adopted by action of the Convention, in accordance with Article IV, Section 16 of the SEIU Constitution and Bylaws.

are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the SEIU Constitution and Bylaws and these Standing Rules. In case of any discrepancy among different language versions, English shall be the language of record for the text of SEIU resolutions and constitutional amendments.

Rule 7. Given the special challenges of conducting an online Convention, the presiding officer shall have authority to rule on questions as to how to proceed with the online proceedings, taking into account the SEIU Constitution and Bylaws, these special Standing Rules, and *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (11th Edition)*. Where warranted, the presiding officer shall consult with the Parliamentarian to fashion an appropriate accommodation.

Rule 8. Delegates and Guest Delegates shall be kept on “mute,” unless recognized to speak. When a Delegate or Guest Delegate is recognized to speak, the individual shall use their best efforts to eliminate background noise in order to be heard.

CREDENTIALING

Rule 9. The Credentials Committee, in consultation with the approved vendor, shall report online the number of Delegates, Guest Delegates, and Alternate Delegates registered as present with proper credentials, together with the total number of votes entitled to be cast. If there are any changes from the prior report, the Credentials Committee shall make a supplementary report before the electronic balloting for officer elections begins.

Rule 10.

- a. Only credentialed Delegates given a URL credential shall have access to the online Convention floor for purposes of speaking and voting.
- b. Credentialed Guest Delegates given a URL credential shall have access to the online Convention floor for purposes of speaking, but not for making motions or voting. A Guest Delegate may nominate a member for International Union office or for the Board of Auditors.
- c. Credentialed Alternate Delegates, approved guests, and staff given a URL credential by the approved vendor shall have access to the online Convention floor for viewing and listening purposes.

Rule 11. Members of the International Executive Board who are not otherwise Delegates to the Convention shall be “Guest Delegates.”

Rule 12. In order to maintain the electronic security of the Convention, Delegates may not transfer their credentials to Alternate Delegates after they have been provided a URL credential by the approved vendor.

RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Rule 13. A Constitution and Laws Committee shall report on amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. The International President may appoint other committees over the subject matter of resolutions and other topics.

Rule 14. One Delegate from a Local Union which has properly submitted a resolution or amendment to the SEIU Constitution and Bylaws shall be given an opportunity to address the appropriate Committee in support for up to three (3) minutes. The Committee may also establish procedures for receiving comments from other Delegates, which shall be limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. Committees may elect to conduct online hearings at which Delegates may appear to express their views pursuant to any committee procedures.

Rule 15. Committees shall prepare suitable resolutions or amendments to carry into effect recommendations referred to them, and shall submit to the Convention, with the relevant Committee's own recommendations as to appropriate action, those and all other referred resolutions or amendments. A Committee may (1) choose to report only one (1) of several resolutions or amendments on the same subject, (2) combine into a single resolution the whole or portions of several resolutions or amendments on the same subject and report the combined resolution as original text, with the original resolutions and amendments being subsumed, or (3) decide not to report out a proposed resolution or amendment. There shall be no minority report. The Convention by a majority vote may suspend this rule and order a Committee to report a resolution at a certain time, even if the Committee has voted not to report it. Upon unanimous consent of the Convention, a Delegate may offer a resolution in the nature of an original main motion from the floor of the Convention which shall be sent to the International Secretary-Treasurer and shall be referred to the appropriate Committee. Such resolution shall be submitted electronically and signed by the maker, who shall be voting member of the Convention.

Rule 16. Committees may report out multiple resolutions in one motion to be considered and voted upon as a block. The report of the Constitution and Laws Committee shall be handled in the same manner as the report of the Resolutions Committee. The reports of the Resolutions Committee and Constitution and Laws

Committee shall not be subject to motions to amend, but shall be voted on as presented by the Committee. If the Committee report as presented is voted down, it shall be referred to the International Executive Board upon adjournment of the Convention.

Rule 17. In light of the limitations presented by the online Convention, the presiding officer shall determine the number of prioritized resolutions put before the Delegates.

Rule 18. Resolutions on which no action has been taken by the Delegates shall be automatically referred to the International Executive Board upon adjournment of the Convention.

DEBATE

Rule 19.

- a.* Any Delegates and Guest Delegates wishing to speak to the Convention shall indicate their desire to do so by using the electronic dashboard.
- b.* Upon recognition, the Delegate or Guest Delegate shall identify themselves by name and local name or number.
- c.* No seconds to motions are required.
- d.* A Delegate wishing to make a motion or speak to a motion shall indicate by utilizing the appropriate dashboard button for that purpose.
- e.* A Delegate wishing to raise a **point of order** or **point of privilege** shall indicate by utilizing the appropriate dashboard button for that purpose.
- f.* A Delegate may vote on all matters other than contested officer elections by utilizing the dashboard button for “YES” or “NO.”
- g.* A Delegate may vote for a candidates(s) for International office in a contested election through the voting process outlined below.
- h.* The following motions are out of order: motions to table; motions to postpone indefinitely; motion to postpone to a certain time; motions to rescind; motions to limit debate; motions for reconsideration; and motions to divide the question.

Rule 20. No Delegate or Guest Delegate shall speak in debate more than twice on the same question, or longer than two (2) minutes each time, without permission of the assembly granted by a two-thirds vote without debate.

Rule 21. The reporting member of a Committee may exercise the right of reply even after debate has been closed.

Rule 22. No Delegate speaking in debate may move the Previous Question.

Rule 23. Total time on any main motion and pending secondary motions, including amendments, shall not exceed a total of twenty (20) minutes unless extended by a majority vote of the Convention.

Rule 24. Due to the limitations of an online Convention, there shall be no voice votes, rising votes, or roll call votes, except for the roll call vote applicable to the election of International officers and Board of Auditors.

ELECTIONS

Rule 25. Nomination of International Union Officers and Board of Auditors shall occur on August 8 of the Convention and shall be conducted under the supervision of the Roll Call Committee.

Rule 26. Nominations for particular offices shall be declared open by the presiding officer. However, the International President may designate another to conduct nominations of certain officers. The order of nominations shall be as follows: International President, International Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Vice Presidents, Vice Presidents, Executive Board Members, Retired Executive Board Member, any other International officer, and Board of Auditors. Voting for contested offices shall not begin until nominations for all offices to be filled have been completed. If nominations for more than one office are scheduled at the same time, a member may be a nominee for only one office.

Rule 27. Nominations for any office shall not be accepted until nominations for the prior office have been completed. A Delegate wishing to nominate a candidate or slate of candidates shall indicate by utilizing the appropriate dashboard button for that purpose. There shall be no seconds or seconding speeches.

Rule 28. A Delegate may nominate as many candidates as they wish. For the positions of Executive Vice President, Vice Presidents, Executive Board members (including Retired Member), and Board of Auditors, a Delegate may

nominate candidates as a slate, in which case the slate will be identified on the ballot. All candidates listed on a slate shall also be individually listed on the ballot.

Rule 29. Nominating speeches for candidates for International President, International Secretary-Treasurer, and Executive Vice President shall not exceed two (2) minutes. Nominating speeches for candidates for Vice President, Executive Board Members, and for members of the Board of Auditors shall not exceed one (1) minute.

Rule 30. Any member wishing to submit an election protest pertaining to any issue shall file such protest within fifteen (15) days after the Convention adjourns or after the vote count (whichever is later). The election protest shall be processed under the procedures described in Article V, Section 4 of the SEIU Constitution and Bylaws.

Rule 31. Prior to closing nominations for an office, the presiding officer shall ask if any of the nominees wish to decline their nomination. If nominations have been closed for a particular office and only one (1) nominee or the requisite number of nominees has been nominated for that office, such nominee(s) shall be declared elected by acclamation, and that declaration may be made as soon as nominations have been closed for that particular office and before nominations are made for the next office.

Rule 32. After nominations for all offices to be filled that day are completed, an online ballot of all nominees by office shall be prepared for each contested office by an approved vendor. Each Delegate who logged into the Convention will receive an email with instructions on how to access the electronic ballot. A Delegate's electronic ballot must be submitted no later than seven (7) days after the day on which it was emailed to the Delegate.

Rule 33. A nominee or prospective nominee may email the Chair of the Roll Call Committee the name of a Delegate to serve as observer. Observers shall be provided instructions for observing.

Rule 34. A candidate may withdraw from the election at any time.

Rule 35. Any election by roll call shall be taken as follows:

- a. Only eligible Delegates admitted to the online Convention floor at any time on August 8, 2020 may vote. There shall be no proxy voting. The

- voting strength of each Local Union delegation shall be calculated in accordance with Article IV, Section 12 of the SEIU Constitution and Bylaws, with the votes of the Local Union to be equally divided, by fractions if necessary, among the Delegates who are entitled to vote.
- b. Once the voting has been concluded, the authorized vendor, assisted by the Roll Call Committee, shall count the votes and report the election results to the Roll Call Committee Chair, who in turn will report the results to the Convention Delegates. The tally sheet of the Committee showing the number of votes cast by each Local Union for each candidate shall be posted on the Convention website as soon as possible and become part of the record of the Convention.

Rule 36. Records of the election, including a transcript of the proceedings and the credentials of all Delegates, shall be kept by the International Secretary-Treasurer for at least one (1) year.