



Official Call to Convention

June 5th and 6th, 2021
[Online](#)

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PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION

1. Promote Party Unity
2. Consideration of the DPW Platform
3. Consideration of 2021 Resolutions
4. Consideration of Constitutional Amendments
5. Election of Democratic Party of Wisconsin Party Officers

For more information about the platform & resolutions and constitutional amendments process, please see the [Overview of Additional Official Business](#) section near the end of this document.

For more information about the [Election of DPW Officers](#), please see the corresponding section below.

ACCOMMODATION REQUEST FORM

To request reasonable accommodations in advance of this year's online State Convention, please complete the form linked below no later than 5PM on Saturday, May 15th. Should you have any questions about the form or requesting accommodations, please contact stateconvention@wisdems.org.

Request for ADA & Virtual Connection Accommodations Form: [CLICK HERE](#)

DELEGATES & ALTERNATES

Wisconsinites may register their interest in becoming delegates by either 1) completing the Delegate Request Form linked on the WisDems website and included below, or 2) communicating directly with their County Party. State Party staff will collect the information of prospective State Convention submitted through the delegate request form, and will regularly share that information with County Party chairs.

Delegate Request Form: [CLICK HERE](#)

As County Party Chairs receive and review the updated delegate request lists sent your way throughout the next few months, you may add names of interested delegates by either 1) submitting them through the [Delegate Request Form](#), or 2) filling out [this spreadsheet](#) with the names of the delegates you wish to add and sending it to delegates@wisdems.org.

Relevant dates and deadlines for the delegate selection process are listed below:

March 7:	Full Call to Convention sent by WisDems Staff
March 12 - May 14:	WisDems Staff shares Delegate Request Lists on Fridays
May 6:	Delegate Request Form removed from WisDems website
May 14:	Last Delegate List shared by WisDems Staff
May 15, 5 PM:	Deadline for County Parties to Submit Final Delegate & Alternate Names
*May 22, 5 PM:	Membership Deadline for Delegates & Alternates
June 5 & 6:	State Convention

The number of delegates & alternates each county can send to the State Convention are stipulated by the quota outlined in Article IV, Section 2 of the [DPW Bylaws](#). The State & CD Convention delegate quotas for 2021 are linked below.

2021 Delegate & Alternate Quotas: [CLICK HERE](#)

The above-linked quotas are determined by the formula outlined in Article IV, Section 2 of the [DPW Bylaws](#), included in italics below for your reference:

1. *Each county shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate for every fifteen (15) members (or major fraction thereof) using the previous calendar year's total membership.*
2. *Each county shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate for every 1,000 votes (or major fraction thereof) cast for the Democratic U.S. Senate candidate in the 2018 general election.*
3. *Each Democratic County Party Chairperson, State Administrative Committee Member, U.S. Congressperson, State Senator, State Representative, or Constitutional Officer is automatically a delegate above the quotas established in items 1 and 2, but shall have no alternate. They must be current DPW members, and the state headquarters must receive such memberships no later than fourteen (14) days before the state convention (May 22, 2021).*

Please note that per Article IV, Section 2 of the [DPW Bylaws](#) and the relevant dates included above, all delegates must be Party members, and such membership must be received in State Party Headquarters no later than fourteen (14) days before the state convention (May 22, 2021). To join or renew your membership, please click the link below.

Membership Sign Up/Renewal: [CLICK HERE](#)

*Due to significant and varying delays in the mail service and membership processing, you are highly encouraged to ensure your county's delegates renew their memberships **using the website linked above** as far in advance of the May 22nd membership deadline as possible.

SAMPLE AUTHORIZATION FOR RAISING ALTERNATES TO DELEGATES

Note: The alternate to delegate raising process will be determined by the Elections Commission and subsequently communicated with County Party Chairs, per the invocation of the Chair's Emergency Measures at the March 6, 2021 Administrative Committee meeting.

In the meantime, sample alternate raising authorizations are included below, per Article IV, Section 2 of the [DPW Bylaws](#).

Sample Authorization 1

_____ County authorizes the County chairperson and _____ or _____ to make changes in the delegate/alternate lists at the time of the state convention.

County Chair or Secretary _____
Date

Sample Authorization 2

_____ County authorizes the County chair or _____ or _____, designated by the County chairperson, anyone of whom is authorized to make changes in the delegate/alternate list at the time of the state convention.

County Chair or Secretary _____
Date

Sample Authorization 3

_____, the county chairperson of _____ County appoints _____ or _____ either one of whom is authorized to make changes in the delegate/alternate list at the time of the state convention.

County Chair or Secretary _____
Date

ELECTION OF DPW OFFICERS

This year, five Party Officers -- namely, Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer -- will be elected at the State Convention to serve two year terms.

Per Article III, Section 8 of the [DPW Constitution](#), candidates for Party office must submit the below-included Declaration of Intent form via email to State Party staff at stateconvention@wisdems.org no later than Saturday, May 15th at 5:00 PM CST (21 calendar days prior to the convention).

Candidates must also file nomination papers containing no fewer than sixty (60) signatures of dues paid party members, with at least ten (10) signatures each from at least six (6) of Wisconsin’s congressional districts by the same deadline; via email to State Party staff at stateconvention@wisdems.org no later than 5 PM on Saturday, May 15th (21 calendar days prior to the state convention). Collection of nomination signatures cannot start more than ninety (90) days prior to the convention (March 7th).

Please find the Declaration of Intent form and Nomination Signatures form linked in the prospective Party officer packet on pages 2 & 3 below. These documents will also be available in the “Convention

Documents” section of the [WisDems State Convention](#) website.

Declaration of Intent Form & Nomination Papers: [CLICK HERE](#)

Prospective candidates for Party office must submit all required nomination signatures to State Party staff in one email. If signatories would like to submit physical copies of signatures, the onus is on the candidate to collect those physical copies and submit electronic scans via email to stateconvention@wisdems.org by May 15th at 5 PM.

In addition to being linked in the party officer packet above, the nomination papers form is isolated individually below, for ease of circulation.

Nomination Papers: [CLICK HERE](#)

REGISTRATION

There is no registration fee to attend this year’s online State Convention, and formal hours of registration will be determined in the Convention Rules as put forward by the Rules Committee.

Registration fees may be applied for Congressional District conventions as determined by the unit’s officers. Please see the [Congressional District Conventions](#) section of this document below for more information on CD Conventions.

For individuals who are interested in attending the State Convention but are not delegates, registration and viewing information will be provided on the [WisDems State Convention webpage](#) once these details have been finalized.

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

- March 7:** Full Call to Convention sent by WisDems staff
- March 7:** Prospective Party Office candidates may begin collecting nomination signatures
- March 7:** Proposals for Constitutional amendments must be submitted to HQ
- March 15:** Second draft of Party platform distributed
- March 12 - May 14:** WisDems Staff shares delegate request lists with County Chairs on Fridays
- March 27:** 4th CD Convention
- April 10:** 1st CD Convention
- April 17:** 7th CD Convention
- April 18:** 6th CD Convention
- May 1:** 2nd CD Convention
- May 2:** 8th CD Convention
- May 6:** Delegate Request Form removed from WisDems website

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May 6:	Proposed Constitutional amendments and C&B recommendations circulated
May 8:	3rd CD Convention
May 14:	Last delegate list shared by WisDems staff
May 15:	5th CD Convention
May 15, 5 PM:	Deadline for County Parties to submit final delegate & alternate names
May 15, 5 PM:	Declaration of Intent Forms & nomination signatures due from prospective Party office candidates
May 15, 5 PM:	Request for ADA & Virtual Connection Accommodations Form due
May 15:	Convention & Election Rules due to HQ
May 17:	Deadline for CD's to submit resolutions & recommendations for changes to second platform draft to P&R Committee via HQ
May 22, 5 PM:	Membership deadline for delegates & alternates
May 29:	Delegate challenge deadline
June 5 & 6:	State Convention
June 16:	Election challenge deadline

PRELIMINARY 2021 STATE CONVENTION AGENDA

Please note this schedule is subject to change. A final Convention schedule will be posted on the [WisDems Convention website](#) once finalized.

Saturday, June 5th

11:00 am	Opening Remarks
	Caucus Meetings
12:00 pm	Caucus Meetings
1:00 pm	Caucus Meetings
2:00 pm	New Delegate Orientation
	County Chairs Association Meeting
3:00 pm	Virtual Convention Hall Opens
3:30 pm	Convention Programming Begins
4:00 pm	Speeches by DPW State Officer Candidates
4:45 pm	<i>Convention in Recess</i>
5:00 pm	Caucus Meetings
6:30pm	<i>Convention Reconvenes</i>
	Report from Chair Ben Wikler
6:40pm	Speeches by Democratic Leaders, Statewide Electeds, and Keynote
9:00pm	<i>General Session Ends</i>

Sunday, June 6th

8:00am	Voting for Party Officers Begins
8:30am	Convention reconvenes with Platform & Resolutions Debate
9:30am	Opening Reports
9:40am	Continue with Platform & Resolutions Debate
12:00pm	Voting for DPW Officers Ends & Results are Tabulated

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OVERVIEW OF ADDITIONAL OFFICIAL BUSINESS

As mentioned in the [Purpose of Convention](#) section above, consideration of Constitutional amendments will be one of the official business pieces at this year's State Convention. Please see the italicized text below for a description of the constitutional amendment process, as outlined in Article IX of the [DPW Constitution](#).

Section 1 -This constitution shall be amended by the concurrence of two-thirds of a quorum of the registered and accredited delegates at a regularly called state convention of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin; and for the purpose of this provision a quorum shall consist of one-half of the total registered and accredited delegates.

Section 2 -Proposals for amending this constitution shall be submitted in writing by any county unit or authorized sub-division thereof or of any permanent committee of the party to a standing constitution committee through state headquarters at least 90 days before the state convention. This committee, appointed by the state chairperson shall consider such proposals and any others which the committee may itself initiate. Each proposed amendment accompanied by the recommendations of the committee shall be disseminated in writing to all members of the state administrative committee and the chairpersons of each county or authorized subdivision at least 30 days before the convention and shall be presented to the annual convention for adoption or rejection prior to the conduct of elections, and if adopted shall be effective immediately unless otherwise specified. All amendments to the state constitution shall follow this procedure. Appropriate notice of the provisions of this article shall be given to county chairpersons by the state headquarters prior to each convention.

In addition to the constitutional amendment process described above, the consideration of the DPW platform and resolutions will be another official business piece of this year's State Convention. Due to the cancellation of last year's P&R process and per the decision of the Administrative Committee on March 18, 2020, the DPW Platform will be considered this odd-numbered year.

Please see the italicized text below for a description of the platform and resolutions committee and process, as outlined in Article IV, Section 5(a) of the [DPW Bylaws](#).

A standing platform and resolutions committee shall be composed of three members from each congressional district and one alternate elected at the district conventions. The delegates shall be elected for three-year staggered terms with one delegate elected each year. The alternate shall be elected each year for a one year term. Terms for members of the committee will begin at the adjournment of the state convention. The committee shall elect its chairperson from its membership for a two year term at its first meeting following the even-yearred state convention.

In addition, up to three state representatives and two alternates elected from the Democratic Assembly Caucus, one state senator and two alternates elected from the Democratic Senate Caucus, and one representative selected by the Democratic members of the Wisconsin delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, one representative of the highest elected Democratic State Constitutional Officer, and a representative selected by the College Democrats may participate as voting members of the platform and resolutions committee but shall not be counted for quorum purposes. In the event of a vacancy of one of the elected members, the Congressional District executive committee shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next District Convention at which time a representative to the platform and resolutions committee shall be elected to complete the term of the vacated seat. A member of the platform and resolutions committee is deemed to have resigned if he or she misses two consecutive meetings of the committee without prior notice to its chairperson or secretary or misses three consecutive meetings of the committee with or without such notice. This committee shall promptly notify District executive committees of these vacancies and all other vacancies of which it may be aware. A quorum for platform and resolutions committee meetings shall consist of onehalf of its total membership. No member of the platform and resolutions committee may be represented by proxy other than the duly elected District alternate.

It shall be the duty of the platform and resolutions committee to write and revise the state platform and to manage resolutions before the annual convention.

The platform shall be presented to the annual convention in even numbered years. When no revisions arise from the platform and resolutions committee, the District Conventions, or from the convention floor, a vote shall be taken to reaffirm the platform as written.

The platform and resolutions committee shall hold hearings and consult with any person or groups necessary to write a platform. This platform shall communicate a positive expression of those principles and policies which provide the foundation for the political program of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. The platform itself shall be no more than 2500 words in length.

The platform and resolutions committee shall present an initial draft of the platform or revisions thereof to the administrative committee by January 15th of even numbered years, or fifteen (15) days prior to the first administrative committee meeting after February 1, whichever is later. Upon review of the initial draft, the administrative committee shall make such recommendations as it deems appropriate and return it to the platform and resolutions committee within forty- five (45) days for its second draft. The second draft of the platform shall be submitted to each member of the administrative committee, each county chairperson, each Democratic State Legislator, each Democratic U.S. Congressperson and Senator from Wisconsin, each Democratic statewide elected official, and to each District Convention, no later than March 15th of even numbered years.

Recommendations for changes to the second draft of the platform shall be made at the District Conventions and submitted in writing to the platform and resolutions committee in care of state headquarters no later than two days after the last Congressional District convention of even numbered years. The platform and resolutions committee shall then prepare a final draft of the platform to be included in each convention packet for consideration at the convention. Adoption of the entire platform as drafted by the platform and resolutions committee shall take a majority vote of those delegates present and voting at the convention. A sixty percent (60%) vote of those delegates present and voting is required to amend the platform from the convention floor.

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The platform and resolutions committee shall be responsible for any resolutions to be presented for adoption at the annual convention. Resolutions may be considered annually. Resolutions must be reasonable in length, but no more than one hundred (100) words in length; must be a standardized format, that is each resolution must start with a paragraph beginning "Whereas," and end with a paragraph "Resolved," with each line being numbered; and must derive from the following procedure:

- 1. Each must be passed by the county unit. Each such unit may submit no more than ten (10) resolutions and shall forward them to the District Chairperson at least ten days prior to the District Convention.*
- 2. The Congressional District Convention shall consider all resolutions submitted and shall adopt and forward no more than ten (10) to the platform and resolutions committee in care of state headquarters no later than two (2) days after the last Congressional District Convention.*
- 3. The platform and resolutions committee shall consolidate and edit the District resolutions and shall submit them to the annual convention for adoption.*
- 4. The annual convention may adopt additional resolutions from the floor after review by the Platform and Resolutions Committee and debate and voting has occurred on the above resolutions. Except in exceptional circumstances, such resolutions shall address relevant timely issues and shall not have been considered and not included in the 10 resolutions forwarded by the Congressional District convention. Such resolutions shall be in writing with a minimum of fifty (50) copies available to the delegates on the floor. Resolutions from the floor must also be in the standardized format noted above, and must be presented to the chairperson of the Platform and Resolutions committee a minimum of three hours prior to the start of the convention. The Platform and Resolutions Committee shall meet a minimum of two hours before the convention convenes to review all proposed floor resolutions. They shall reject those that do not meet the above criteria. They may make a recommendation for approval or rejection of floor resolutions.*
- 5. Any resolutions not acted upon at the State Convention shall be directed to the Platform and Resolutions Committee for review and recommendations to be made within 60 days. These shall be presented to the Administrative Committee for final action at its next meeting.*
- 6. Every resolution adopted by or on behalf of a state party convention expires as may be specified in the resolution but not later than the call-to-order of the annual convention in the fourth year after the state party convention by or on behalf of which the resolution was adopted.*

Finally, in addition to the platform & resolutions committee described above, the other three traditional Convention Committees outlined in Article IV, Section 5(b - d) of the [DPW Bylaws](#) shall serve at this year's State Convention; that is, the Rules Committee, the Credentials Committee, and the Elections Commission.

Due to the virtual nature of this year's Convention and the invocation of the Chair's Emergency Powers

at the March 6, 2021 Administrative Committee meeting, the scope of the Credentials Committee and Elections Commission have shifted slightly. Please see below for an outline of the role of each committee ahead of this year's Convention.

The Rules Committee shall serve as described below, per Article IV, Section 5(b) of the [DPW Bylaws](#):

A rules committee composed of one representative from each Congressional District, and chairperson(s), shall be appointed no less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual convention by the state chairperson with the approval of the administrative committee. It shall be the responsibility of the rules committee to draft and submit to state headquarters the annual convention rules at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the convention.

The Credentials Committee's traditional role is outlined in Article IV, Section 5(c) of the [DPW Bylaws](#). Their role for this year's Convention has been revised per the decision of the Administrative Committee on March 6, 2021. Credentials Committee members will serve as described below:

The Credentials Committee's role will be adjusted to reviewing and approving the process staff will use to virtually validate voting credentials at Convention, as well as resolving any credentialing disputes that arise during Convention.

The Elections Commission's traditional role is outlined in Article IV, Section 5(d) of the [DPW Bylaws](#) and included below. Per the invocation of the Chair's Emergency Powers at the March 6, 2021 Administrative Committee meeting, staff will be authorized to conduct this year's elections, and the Elections Commission's role will predominantly be to draft and refine this year's election and alternate raising procedures.

An elections commission shall serve as stated in the constitution. The duties of the elections commission are to conduct elections, ensure that all ballots are properly handled, and report the results of the election to the state chairperson. Any questions of eligibility for party office must be referred to the administrative committee when the report is presented. The elections commission shall consist of five members serving for five-year staggered terms with one member appointed or reappointed each year by the state chairperson, and approved by the administrative committee. In the case of a vacancy, a member shall be appointed to fill the unexpired term. The elections commission shall submit the procedures for conducting elections to the state headquarters at least 21 days before the annual convention. Elections include any convention vote which requires a written ballot.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Information about each of the Congressional District Conventions can be found on DPW's CD Conventions webpage, linked below.

2021 Virtual CD Conventions: [CLICK HERE](#)

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State Convention delegates are not required to attend their CD Conventions as delegates, but per Article IV, Section 2 of the [DPW Bylaws](#), delegate status preference is given to attendees of CD Conventions.

Please contact your local county party Chairperson for more information on being a delegate to a Congressional District Convention. County and CD Chair information is linked below.

County Party Chair Information: [CLICK HERE](#)

CD Party Chair Information: [CLICK HERE](#)

The procedures outlining the Congressional District Conventions process are delineated in Article V of the [DPW Bylaws](#), included below. Please note that per the invocation of the Chair's Emergency Measures at the March 6, 2021 Administrative Committee meeting, CD's are permitted to waive their credentials committee requirements, as outlined in Section 4(g).

The congressional district executive committee shall set the time and place of the congressional district convention and shall see that sixty day's written notice thereof is sent to the chairpersons of each county unit or authorized subdivision in the congressional district.

Section 1 - CALL TO CONVENTION: *The call to convention must be sent by the congressional district chairperson no less than sixty days prior to the convention and shall include date, purpose of the convention, site, delegate quotas, registration fees (if any), cut-off dates, and any other appropriate information.*

Section 2 - DATE: *The congressional district convention must be held not less than 21 days, but not more than 90 days prior to the annual state democratic convention.*

Section 3 - SITE: *The congressional district conventions must be held within congressional district boundaries unless the congressional district constitution shall provide otherwise.*

Section 4 - DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES:

- A. *Only current members shall be eligible to serve as delegates and alternates.*
- B. *Only properly registered delegates may vote. The state headquarters shall send to each district chairperson a copy of the final county delegate list for the counties in the congressional district to be used to check off the delegates and alternates as they register. For Milwaukee County, see Democratic Constitution, Article V, Section 2.*
- C. *Unless the administrative committee provides differently, delegates and alternates shall be chosen as in Article IV, Section 2 of the by-laws.*
- D. *The cut-off date for memberships to be in state headquarters to be counted toward the county quotas for the congressional district convention shall be fourteen days prior to the date of the congressional district convention.*

- E. Notice of meetings to select delegates and alternates shall be given to members and state headquarters as provided in constitution, Article V, Section 2.*
- F. Delegates and alternates to congressional district conventions shall be selected on a fair and equitable basis of representation within quotas set by the administrative committee in accordance with the state constitution. However, where part of a county with one or more congressional districts shares a district with another county, the single county follows the same rules as other counties; that is, the county chairperson is in charge of the delegates and alternates of the county and fills vacancies in the same manner as for all other counties except Milwaukee.*
- G. A credentials committee shall be appointed by each congressional district chairperson at least thirty days before the congressional district convention. It shall consist of one member from each county in the congressional district. A chairperson or co-chairperson shall be designated at the time the committee is appointed. If a congressional district chairperson neglects to appoint a credentials committee thirty days before the convention, within one week, the state chairperson shall make the necessary appointments. State headquarters shall be notified in writing of the appointments. Congressional district credentials committee shall meet at least one hour before the congressional district convention opens to check delegate/alternate lists and consider any challenges presented to it.*