

Twin Cities DSA

Rules for Delegate Election for 2019 DSA Convention

Nominations

1. Self-nominations will be done using a form supplied by the chapter.
2. The deadline for nominations (to have name on pre-printed ballot) is midnight of June 1, 2019.
3. Members of DSA in good standing (dues current) as of June 1, 2019 and resident within the boundaries of the Twin Cities DSA area as of the same date are eligible to self-nominate for delegate positions. (Members not residing in the Twin Cities can apply to be at-large delegates through the national office.)
4. Potential candidates who miss the deadline will have another chance to be nominated at the Delegate Election meeting. If they cannot attend the meeting, they must fill in the form and then get a friend who is also a member in good standing to nominate them at the meeting. Otherwise they can just self-nominate from the floor.

Campaigning

1. The chapter will provide candidates nominated by the deadline with means to get information to members and campaign for votes prior to the Delegate Election Meeting.
2. Candidates are also free to campaign on their own behalf on separate platforms or in person.
3. On June 8, there will be a Delegate Election Meeting. That meeting will include a candidate forum with each candidate allowed an equal amount of time for speaking to a short list of questions. Candidates are not required to participate or attend.
4. If a candidate wants to do more campaigning on the day, they may do so in the lobby, as long as they stay at least 10 feet from the ballot box.

Delegate Election Meeting

1. The Delegate Election Meeting will be on June 8, 2019 at the Avalon Theatre, 1500 E. Lake Street, Minneapolis. The meeting will be convened at noon and will end at 4:30 pm, but attendance at the entire meeting is not required to vote.
2. The Delegate Election Meeting will be co-chaired by two TCDSA members not of the same gender and not running for delegate. These Rules (which also take the place of an agenda) will be adopted by vote at the outset, and the co-chairs approved by vote (simple majority.)
3. Voting will start as soon as the meeting is convened and the rules adopted and will continue until 4:30 pm. A member can cast their vote any time in that period.

4. Members will receive a pre-printed ballot upon signing in as a member. Ballots will be consecutively numbered, and upon signing in, the member will fill in the number of their ballot on the sign-in sheet.
5. Secrecy of the ballot will be maintained by keeping separate the people who can see the sign-in sheet (and which number relates to which member) and the tellers who see the ballots themselves and count the votes.
6. After adoption of rules and co-chairs, community agreements, land acknowledgement and other “housekeeping,” the meeting will move into a candidate panel.
7. Before the candidate forum, the co-chair will explain that “late” nominations are allowed from the floor and call three times for nominations. No further nominations are allowed after this. The pre-printed ballots will have two blank spaces in case of late nominations.
8. Each candidate will have 3 minutes to speak (or 2 minutes if there are more than 29 candidates.) They will each be provided with the same set of three questions and asked to address one or more of them in their speech.
9. At the end of the candidate panel, the meeting will recess for thirty minutes.
10. After the recess, the meeting will adjourn to the lobby for a social gathering. Candidates may stay and chat with members, or if they prefer, members can just vote and leave. Members can also arrive, sign in and vote, any time up to 4:30 pm. (If a line forms, they have to be in line by 4:30 pm.)

Voting and counting votes

1. Two or more TCDSA members who are not running for delegate will be ballot watchers. They will bring the blank ballots to the meeting place prior to check-in, and they will watch the ballot box throughout the meeting.
2. The votes will be counted at the TCDSA office by a team of four tellers, all of whom are TCDSA members not running for delegate. The tellers will be chosen by the Steering Committee before June 8. Candidates may observe the counting.
3. Tellers will use preprinted tally sheets and a coordinated method of counting. Ballots will be batched so that every ballot is counted by at least two tellers and their tallies matched.
4. The vote shall be determined by a simple plurality, in that the top 19 vote-getters will be elected delegate. If there is a tie, it will be resolved by a coin toss, or by drawing straws if a 3-way or greater tie. The top 19 vote-getters of the unsuccessful candidates will be offered a chance to be an alternate. If a candidate elected in the top 19 prefers to be an alternate, they will become first alternate and the next one in line moved up to delegate.
5. All the ballots will be retained for 30 days, and then destroyed.
6. Results will be announced to the membership by no later than June 10, 2019. Results will be transmitted to the DSA national office as required by June 18, 2019.