

**THE DIOCESE OF EASTON**  
**156<sup>th</sup> DIOCESAN CONVENTION RULES OF ORDER**

Whereas Article VII, Section 3 of the Constitution of the Diocese of Easton states that the Convention shall adopt such rules and regulations as will ensure orderly process in its deliberations;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Diocesan Council, meeting on November 27, 2023 approved and recommends for ratification by the 156<sup>th</sup> Convention, the following Rules of Order:

**Rules of Order for 2024 Only**

1. Title II of the Canons of the Diocese of Easton and, for parliamentary guidance “Robert’s Rules of Order,” shall govern the proceedings of the Convention in all cases not provided for in these Rules of Order.
2. The Convention’s Business Session 1 shall be conducted via zoom meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2024. Only those registered individuals canonically given voice or voice and vote at convention are admitted as participants in the zoom meeting. Other individuals may observe the March 7 convention meeting on the livestream from the Diocesan Website.
3. The first business after Convention is called to order by the Chair shall be the election of a Secretary, and then the determination of a quorum. The Chair shall then call for the Ratification of the Rules of Order.
4. Clarity: All documents to be considered during Convention shall be provided to each member of the body before the Convention
5. The Chair of the Committee on Nominations shall complete and electronically publish on the Diocesan website the first ballot of candidates properly nominated for elections by February 5, 2024 so that this ballot is available to all voting members of Convention for the second convocation meeting on February 6, 2024; the Nominations Committee Chair shall attest in writing on the ballot itself that the first ballot is accurate and complete.
6. As stated in Canon 202.3(b) for a majority to prevail on a question before Convention it must be a majority of those in attendance and entitled to vote at Convention.

7. For Resolutions for Debate the following debate rules apply:
  - a. Any member of Convention given seat and voice on the floor of Convention may participate in debate
  - b. A total of 30 minutes is the maximum time allowed to debate on a resolution and all motions related to that resolution
  - c. If a person is recognized by the Chair to speak during the first six minutes of debate on a resolution, no member with voice and vote may move the following unless no person seeks to debate on the resolution
    - i. Amend the Resolution;
    - ii. Move a substitute;
    - iii. End debate.
  - d. During a debate on any motion or other matter, a member may:
    - i. Speak up to two (2) minutes, after being recognized by the Chair
    - ii. Speak twice
  - e. Debate will end following:
    - i. A successful vote to end debate;
    - ii. By ruling of the Chair if:
      1. At least 3 members of Convention have spoken in favor of the matter before the Convention and no one gains the attention of the Chair to speak against it; or
      2. At least 3 members of Convention have spoken against the matter before Convention and no one gains the attention of the Chair to speak in favor of it; or
      3. No one gains the attention of the Chair to speak against it.
8. Business Session 2 and Business Session 3 shall be conducted at an in-person meeting of convention on March 9, 2024 at Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland.
  - a. There is no proxy voting or on-line participation for these business sessions. Those with voice or with voice and vote must be physically present to speak and vote at these sessions.
  - b. For the Session 3 Plenary session the following debate rules apply:
    - i. Any member of Convention given seat and voice on the floor of Convention may participate in debate
    - ii. The plenary session begins with a verbal report to convention from the appointed representative of each break out group; each verbal report shall take no more than 5 minutes.
    - iii. After reports are given, a break-out group representative may move a resolution for consideration by convention that pertains to the topic of the group discussion; a second is required.
    - iv. A total of 20 minutes is the maximum time allowed to debate on such a resolution and all motions related to that resolution.

- v. During a debate on any motion or other matter, a member may:
    - 1. Speak up to two (2) minutes, after being recognized by the Chair
    - 2. Speak twice
  - vi. Debate will end following:
    - 1. A successful vote to end debate;
    - 2. By ruling of the Chair if:
      - a. At least 3 members of Convention have spoken in favor of the matter before the Convention and no one gains the attention of the Chair to speak against it; or
      - b. At least 3 members of Convention have spoken against the matter before Convention and no one gains the attention of the Chair to speak in favor of it; or
      - c. No one gains the attention of the Chair to speak against it.
9. The foregoing Rules of Order are temporary and shall not be deemed the Rules of Order for all future Conventions and the same shall be published in the Journal of the Convention.