Method of Selecting Delegates to the 2026 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention

1. The Massachusetts Democratic State Committee shall convene local caucuses in each ward and town for the purpose of electing the apportioned number of Delegates and Alternates to the Convention. In the case of cities, a waiver may be granted by the Democratic State Committee Chair or designee for a ward or several wards to hold the caucus outside the ward but within the city and provided that the chairpersons of all wards seeking to caucus at the same site must sign a waiver request at least 9 days prior to the requested date. Said waivers shall be granted except in unusual circumstances where failure to grant such a waiver will increase the opportunity for participation by registered Democrats. Should several wards in a city meet together, they must caucus separately by ward for the election of Delegates and Alternates.

2. One Delegate shall be allocated to each ward or town and the remainder on the basis of a formula giving equal weight to Democratic Party registration in accordance with the Charter and to the average vote for Democratic candidates in the last general elections for the offices of Governor and President; provided that the total number of Delegates elected shall be no more than those elected in 2006. Provided however that town and ward committee Chairs shall be ex-officio delegates who shall not be included in the total number of delegates allocated for the caucus**.** The percentage of persons chosen as Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Groups (UREG) Add-Ons shall be no less than the percentage so chosen in 2006.

3. The number of Alternates for wards and towns: 2 or fewer delegates shall have 1 Alternate, except that the number of Alternates shall not exceed the number of Delegates; 3 Delegates shall have 3 Alternates; 4 - 20 Delegates shall have 4 Alternates. For every 10 Delegates or fraction thereof above 20 Delegates there shall be 1 additional Alternate: 21 – 30 shall have 5 Alternates, 31 – 40 shall have 6 Alternates and 41 – 50 shall have 7 Alternates. Said Alternates shall be ranked according to the number of votes each receives. Tie votes shall be decided by lot; if no such election has occurred because the Alternate Candidates are uncontested, then such rank shall be determined by lot. Should the results remitted to the State Party not include a ranking of alternates, party staff will determine alternate ranking by lot immediately upon receipt of the results.

4. It shall be the responsibility of the chairpersons of the Democratic ward and town committees to call and chair a local caucus to be held no earlier than **Thursday, February 19 2026 and no later than Sunday, March 22, 2026.** Caucus start times shall be no earlier than 9 AM on Saturday or Sunday and no earlier than 5 PM on a weekday. Each ward and town committee shall notify the Democratic State Committee of that time and location of said caucus by **5:00 PM on February 12, 2026**. If the chairperson of a ward or town committee is unable to serve as described above, the next highest-ranking officer of the committee shall be responsible for serving in that capacity.

5. On the day of the scheduled caucus, the Chair of the Democratic State Committee or his/her designee may, with the advice and consent of the General Counsel or his/her designee and the Chairperson of the Rules Committee if possible, declare or grant a postponement and rescheduling of a ward or town caucus due to an emergency on the day of the scheduled caucus

that substantially impairs the ability of registered Democrats to participate in the caucus on that day. Any such postponement shall require full and proper public notice for the rescheduled date satisfactory to the Democratic State Committee Chair or his or her designee.

6. It shall be the responsibility of the chairperson of the local committee to make every reasonable effort to notify all registered Democrats no sooner than thirty and at least seven days before the local caucus**. For example, if the caucus is on February 19, 2026 then publication must occur between January 20, 2026 and February 12, 2026.** The minimum notice to the local Democrats shall consist of an announcement indicating date, time, virtual registration link (if applicable), and purpose of the meeting appearing in www.massdems.org and submitted to local newspapers or other online local media with at least one documented communication with the local paper and one newspaper or online newspaper of Affirmative Action and Outreach if available.

a. If a meeting has not been scheduled and announced on www.massdems.org by 5:00 PM on February 12, 2026, any ten registered Democrats, residing within the affected ward or town, may be authorized to call such a meeting, provided that each sign a request for such authority from the Chair of the State Committee to be submitted by February 13, 2026.
b. If a ward or town committee fails to schedule such a caucus and a caucus is not called as outlined above, the State Committee Chair, or his or her designee, in consultation with the district State Committee members, may do so. A caucus called by either of the above methods must be scheduled and held on or by March 22, 2026. A caucus called by either of the above methods must be duly noticed, in the manner prescribed above. If a caucus is called by petition, it shall be the responsibility of the petitioners to publicize the caucus. If a caucus is called by the Chair of the Democratic State Committee, it shall be the responsibility of the Chair, or his or her designee, to publicize the caucus. The Chair of the Democratic State Committee shall appoint a temporary caucus chairperson when a caucus is called by one of the above methods. The temporary caucus chairperson shall bring to the caucus a copy of the official registration of the Democrats in the locale. The first order of business at the caucus will be the election of a caucus chairperson. The caucus chairperson is not an ex-officio delegate by virtue of chairing the caucus.
c. **For the 2026 caucuses, the Party is encouraging towns and wards to hold in-person caucuses.** Towns and wards may hold hybrid caucuses (i.e. an in-person caucus with a technical component that facilitates an option for virtual attendance). Towns and wards shall not hold virtual-only caucuses (i.e. a caucus with no in-person attendance component) except upon written petition to and the written approval of the Chair of the Democratic State Committee. Virtual caucus shall only be approved if circumstances otherwise prevent in-person caucuses, such as communities in rural areas where convening in-person is substantially problematic or if all facilities options are not available.

7. The local chairperson shall bring to the caucus a copy of the most recent official registration of Democrats in the locale. Only registered and pre-registered Democrats from that ward or town shall be allowed to vote on any matter at the local caucus. Pre-registered Democrats must be 16 years old by the start of the caucus window (February 19, 2026) and must be pre-registered by the time of the caucus. Any person not shown on said party registration list

must either provide proof of Democratic Party registration (or pre-registration) or register (or pre-register) prior to the close of the caucus registration period. Registration shall open at least 30 minutes prior to the stated time of the Caucus and remain open until all persons presenting themselves by 15 minutes after the stated time of the Caucus have registered (including any in a virtual waiting room). For example, if a chair publicizes the time of their town's caucus as 5:00 pm, registration must open by 4:30 pm and must accept all registrants who are in line (or the virtual waiting room if applicable) by 5:15 pm. Ballots shall not be distributed until all such persons are registered and registration has been closed. Those voting must be in attendance at the caucus. There will be no absentee or proxy voting at any local caucus for any reason.

The chairperson will call the caucus to order at the time determined for the commencement of the caucus in accordance with Section 4. There shall be only seven items on the agenda. The chair shall recognize questions pertaining to agenda items. (Agenda item (G) must begin within one hour after the caucus is called to order.) No caucus shall have the right to waive the reading of any document or communication included in this agenda.

a. Information concerning the ***2026 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention*** with special emphasis upon the responsibilities of Delegates who will attend.
b. Discussion of "Affirmative Action and Outreach" as outlined in the Party Charter and Statewide Affirmative Action and Outreach Plan. The Chair shall also inform the participants that any candidate who is not elected as a delegate by the caucus and is a person that identifies with one or more of the following constituencies: Disability, Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Groups (UREG), LGBTQ+, Veteran or Youth, is eligible to apply to the Democratic State Committee for selection as an add-on delegate as outlined in Section 31b.
c. Review of ***the "Method of Selecting Delegates to the 2026 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention"*** with an emphasis on the one ballot election procedure.
d. Explaining that certain Democratic Party officials are ex-officio delegates to the convention and that they each automatically attend the convention as full voting delegates. The Chairs of ward and town committees are **not** included in the total allocation for their delegation and **need not seek election as elected delegate** and are equal to all other delegates.
e. Reading of the letter from the Chair.
f. Highlight the Delegate Fee Waiver process.
g. The nomination and election of Delegates and Alternates.

A link to the "Preliminary Call to Convention for the Massachusetts Democratic Party" must be announced at each local caucus.

8. The caucus is an open Democratic Party meeting; no person shall be denied admittance.

9. No persons shall be excluded from any stage of the delegate selection process for failure to pay a cost or fee. There shall be no admission or expense charged at the local caucus. Donations may be solicited as long as the caucus location is not in a public building.

10. There shall be no quorum requirement for the local caucus.

11. No person may vote in more than one Delegate selection caucus.

12. Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic identity, economic status or disability in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is strictly prohibited.

13. Affirmative Action and Outreach, as outlined in the Party Charter and Statewide Affirmative Action plan, shall be a priority concern of the organizers of each local caucus. The caucus location must be fully accessible to persons with disabilities and publicized as being so. A waiver may be granted by the Executive Director of the Party if no accessible facility exists within the ward or town. Ward and town committees shall make every effort to encourage full participation by all Democrats with particular concern for marginalized communities as defined in the Party Charter. The chairpersons of each caucus shall announce to the participants the Affirmative Action and Outreach goals during the caucus before any vote is taken.

14. Delegates and alternates apportioned to each ward and town must be gender balanced (within one, in the case of odd numbers) with non-binary gender delegates and alternates not being counted in either the male or female category.

One open ballot will be used for the initial election of self-identified male, female and non-binary gender candidates. Should only self-identified male and female candidates be nominated, the committee may use separate male and female ballots.

For elections on one ballot, the distribution of seats will be determined by the election results with the candidate receiving the highest vote determining which gender gets the first delegate allocated. If there is a tie at the top between two or three candidates (ie: [male / female] or [male / female / non-binary]), determination of the first delegate allocated will be determined by lot.

The delegate or alternate positions will then be distributed by alternating genders with non-binary candidates not counting towards a gender. If there is a tie at the end, an additional ballot will be used to determine the outcome of the tie.

Towns with 1 elected delegate allocated may elect:

a. Either 1 female, 1 male or 1 non-binary delegate

Towns with 2 elected delegates allocated may elect:

a. 1 female delegate and 1 male delegate OR
b. 1 female delegate and 1 non-binary gender delegate OR
c. 1 male delegate and 1 non-binary gender delegate OR
d. 2 non-binary gender delegates

Towns with 3 elected delegates allocated may elect:

a. 2 female delegates and 1 male delegate OR
b. 2 male delegates and 1 female delegate OR

c. 1 female delegate, 1 male delegate and 1 non-binary gender delegate OR
d. 2 non-binary gender delegates and 1 female delegate OR
e. 2 non-binary gender delegates and 1 male delegate OR
f. 3 non-binary gender delegates

Towns with 4 elected delegates allocated may elect:

a. 2 female delegates and 2 male delegate OR
b. 2 female delegates, 1 male and 1 non-binary gender delegate OR
    i. 2 male delegates, 1 female delegate and 1 non-binary gender delegate OR
c. 2 non-binary gender delegates, 1 female delegate and 1 male delegate OR
d. 3 non-binary gender delegates and 1 female delegate OR
e. 3 non-binary gender delegates and 1 male delegate OR
f. 4 non-binary gender delegates

And following the above examples, if there are enough opposite gender candidates for the slots allocated, the delegates are distributed equally by gender (within one), with non-binary individuals not counting towards the gender totals. If a caucus does not have enough candidates of one gender, then the delegate slots filled can be uneven by more than one, as long as they follow the distribution system described above.

15. Other than those Party and elected officials specified in Sections 31 and 32, no person shall serve as an automatic or ex-officio voting Delegate.

16. Voters must be informed by the chairperson of the caucus of the number of Delegates to be elected.

17. Alternates shall be elected after Delegates by the same method. If an elected Delegate certifies prior to the convention that he or she is unable to serve, or the Ward or Town Chair or State Committee Member so certifies, the Chair of the Democratic State Committee upon verification shall issue credentials to the ranking Alternate of the same sex from that same ward or town (to the extent that there is no Alternate that fits the qualifications for said Delegate position, then there will be no substitution); and if the Ward or Town Chair or that Alternate certifies that the Alternate is unable to serve, then the Chairperson of the Democratic State Committee, upon verification, shall issue credentials to the second ranking Alternate of the same sex from the town or ward in which the Delegate resides. **Delegates and Alternates will receive convention credentials prior to the convention if their payment is received or a fee waiver is accepted no later than May 1, 2026.** Alternates with credentials will be permitted to replace certified elected Delegates of the same sex when possible**,** from their own town or ward, in accordance with the process, procedure and timelines determined in the Rules of the 2026 Convention.

a. The Committee shall not elect alternates for Ex-officio Delegates, UREG, Disabled, LGBTQ+, Veterans and Youth Add-on Delegates. Ex-officio and add-on Delegates will not be replaced by Alternates.

18. Candidates must be registered Democrats at the time of the caucus within the ward or town from which they are running as Delegates. **Only registered Democrats from that ward or town at the time of the caucus shall be allowed to vote on any matter at the local caucus.** For these purposes, a registered Democrat is a duly registered voter who has enrolled in the Democratic Party or a pre-registered Democrat who must be 16 years old as specified in section 7 of this document.

19. A candidate for Delegate at the local caucus must be present and give his or her written consent to nomination. An exception may be made for a person serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who advises his or her ward or town chair of his/her desire to be considered for election prior to the caucus. In such an instance, a caucus participant may move to have that Armed Forces Candidate's name placed in nomination.

20. No person, when registered as a Democrat, who publicly supported and/or endorsed any candidate whose announced intention was/is to oppose a nominee of the Democratic Party, in the current or a previous partisan election may be nominated, elected or seated as a Delegate or Alternate. For previous support, the period of time during which such person will be prohibited from participating as Delegate or Alternate is:

- For U. S. President and statewide offices: four years from the date of the election in question.
- For all other offices: two years from the date of the election in question.

21. Nominations shall be made from the floor and will include the candidate's name and self-identified gender. Nominations must be made and votes cast separately for each candidate for Delegate or Alternate and not for the slate as a whole, although slate-making shall not be prohibited.

22. Use of the Unit Rule is prohibited as required by the State and National Charter, i.e. every vote shall be cast individually and no delegation may bind its members to vote with the majority.

23. Nominations are closed by two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting or by general consent. The names of all candidates for Delegate and Alternate must be posted before balloting begins; however, names of candidates who are unopposed for a position need not be posted.

24. Nominations can be reopened by a majority of those present and eligible to vote.

25. Each candidate will be allowed to make a two-minute speech. The provision allowing each candidate to make a two-minute speech may be waived or amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those present and eligible to vote.

26. Persons eligible to vote may vote for as many person(s) as they wish, up to the maximum number of persons to be elected.

27. Voting shall be by written or electronic ballot and the use of tellers to be appointed by the chairperson of the caucus; except that candidates who are unopposed for a position may be deemed elected and no ballot is required.

28. Election shall be by a plurality of those present and voting; those candidates receiving the greatest number of votes on the first ballot will be elected. A runoff will be conducted in the event of a tie vote. The tally shall be announced.

29. The chairperson of the caucus shall fill out a form certifying the election of local Delegates and Alternates to which must be appended a listing of the voting on each ballot.

a) **The chairperson of the local caucus must submit their complete caucus results to the Massachusetts Democratic Party seven days after the caucus or no later than March 29, 2026.** The results include: delegate and alternate certification forms (with vote tabulation form appended), chair certification forms, and caucus attendee sheets.

The registration fee of **$85.00** per delegate must be mailed or completed by the Delegate/Alternate and received by the Party by May 1, 2026. Disabled, seniors (age 65 or older) and youth (age 16 through 25) delegates may pay a reduced fee of $65.00 and must be mailed or completed by the Delegate/Alternate and received by the Party not later than May 1, 2026 to qualify for the reduced fee rate. If the convention takes place entirely virtually, the registration fee may be reduced. A late fee of **$20.00** will be due with each Delegate/Alternate registration postmarked after the registration deadline**.**

b) Ward and town committees are strongly urged to pay the registration fees for delegates. Delegates seeking a low-income waiver of the registration fee must complete and file a letter of application, using an online form available at massdems.com/convention. Only completed forms will be considered. They may require additional written documentation relating to the delegate's financial circumstances.

c) If the caucus book has not been received by May 1, 2026, no one shall be seated in the Ward or Town Chair's ex-officio delegate position.

30. The State Committee Chair shall appoint a Credentials Committee that will meet prior to and during the Convention to determine any disputes regarding the issuance or validity of credentials. Challenges to the credentials of any Delegate or Alternate shall have been submitted to the Credentials Committee no later than one week prior to the start of the Convention by written challenge submitted to the headquarters of the Democratic State Committee. All those whose credentials are challenged shall be notified and afforded due process. The decision of the Credentials Committee shall be final and not subject to appeal or further challenge. The Credentials Committee shall devise a plan for the distribution of delegate and alternate credentials; the Chair of the Credentials Committee shall be charged with the implementation of such plan.

31. (a.) **The following Massachusetts Democrats shall serve as ex-officio Delegates to the Convention with full voting privileges:** Democratic Members of Congress, Democratic Constitutional Officers, Democratic Members of the State Legislature, Democratic Mayors, Democratic County Elected Officials (from the following list: Clerk of Courts, County Commissioner, County Treasurer, District Attorney, Register of Deeds, Register of Probate, Sheriff), Members of the Democratic State Committee, former Chairs of the Democratic National Committee, former Democratic Constitutional Officers, former Democratic members of Congress, Members of the Judicial Council, and City, Ward and Town Committee Chairs except such office holders or party officials who are not qualified to serve as outlined in Section 20. Ward and Town Committee Chairs shall retain their ex-officio status only if they have called a Caucus, in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section 4 and complied with the filing requirements outlined in Section 29.

The above-named ex-officio Delegates may not run for election as a Delegate at a Caucus, with certain exceptions for City/Ward/Town Chairs.

(b.) The Democratic State Committee shall select a number of additional delegates, who are not disqualified from serving as outlined in Section 20. To ensure adequate representation at the Democratic State Convention, the Democratic State Committee shall survey the delegates elected at the caucuses to determine whether marginalized communities' representation reflects the participation of the marginalized communities in the Party as defined in Article I of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

i) If it does not so reflect the underrepresented ethnic and racial groups population of the Commonwealth, the Democratic State Committee shall establish a target number reflecting the percentage in the most recent Party affirmative plan and shall elect, based upon the recommendation of the Caucus of Democrats from Underrepresented Ethnic and Racial Groups (UREG), formerly known as the Caucus of Minority Democrats at least forty-five days prior to said convention, a number of at-large UREG delegates. The UREG Caucus shall consist of the underrepresented ethnic and racial groups members of the Democratic State Committee and shall utilize a process based upon a lottery and geography and giving first preference to unsuccessful Caucus candidates and approved by the Democratic State Committee.

ii) Further, the State Committee shall select, upon the recommendations of the Disabilities Outreach Sub-Committee, at least forty-five days prior to said convention a number of at-large delegates with disabilities to provide such representation.

iii) Further, the Democratic State Committee shall elect, based upon the recommendation of the LGBTQ+ Outreach Subcommittee at least forty-five days prior to said convention, a number of at-large LGBTQ+ delegates.

iv) Further, the Democratic State Committee shall elect, based upon the recommendation of the Veterans and Military Families Outreach Subcommittee at least forty-five days prior to said convention, a number of at-large Veterans delegates.

v) And, the Democratic State Committee shall appoint, based upon the recommendation of the Youth Services Sub-Committee, following the procedure previously adopted and in effect, by the Youth Services Sub-Committee at least forty-five days prior to the convention, a number of "young" Delegates on an at-large basis equal to the number of Delegates seats left vacant due to the failure of such towns or wards to hold a caucus or fill their delegate allotment, but in no event, fewer than one hundred (100) Delegate seats. These seats shall be equally divided between men and women, and preference shall be given to "young" Democrats residing in towns or wards that failed to hold a caucus.

The Executive Director of the Massachusetts Democratic Party shall institute an application procedure to implement these add-on procedures described above.

No person eligible to be an ex-officio delegate may run in a local caucus, except for City, Ward or Town Committee Chairs or State Committee members whose term may expire before the Convention.

All such aforementioned delegates shall pay a delegate fee and if applicable a late fee after notice of their selection by the State Committee. Fees for add-on delegates are due within 7 days of their election.

32. The Chairperson of each City, Ward and Town Committee at the time of the Convention (as duly recorded with the offices of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Democratic State Committee) shall serve as an ex-officio Delegate to the Convention with full voting privileges. If he/she cannot serve or is a delegate in another capacity, the next highest-ranking officer (vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer and then affirmative action and outreach officer) shall. **If the next highest-ranking officer cannot, a meeting of the full committee shall be called to elect one (1) to serve in this capacity, provided the Chair held a caucus for the most recent convention.** If there are Co-Chairpersons of the Committee, a meeting of the full committee shall be called to elect one (1) to serve in this capacity. The Ward/Town Chairperson's ex-officio Delegate status will not be counted in the number of Delegates allotted to his/her delegation.

33. The Chairperson of the Democratic State Committee shall appoint a Compliance Review Committee, which shall hear and decide all challenges to the results of a caucus.

34. Challenges to the conduct of caucus and or the election of Delegates and Alternates shall be filed separately for each Ward and Town with the Compliance Review Committee by a registered Democrat, residing within the ward or town, and having direct knowledge of the grounds for the challenge. Said challenge shall be postmarked no later than ten days after the caucus. Specific grounds must be addressed in an initial challenge. The Chairperson of the Compliance Review Committee will review the challenges, and shall determine if a hearing is necessary, and shall present all information pertinent to his decision to the full committee, all subject to further review by the full committee if requested by the challenger or otherwise. Information concerning challenges will be available from the Democratic State Committee, 11 Beacon St, Suite 410 Boston, MA 02108; 617-939-0800.

35. **These rules may not be suspended, amended or overruled by any local committee or caucus.**

36. Caucus Chairpersons shall retain all individual voting ballots for at least 30 days, *and shall after challenge forward the same to the State Committee*. Caucus Chairpersons shall furnish the names and addresses of each caucus participant to the Democratic State Committee together with the ballot results no later than Seven (7) days after the caucus or no later than March 29, 2026.