

MINUTES FOR THE

Washington State Republican Party Convention
Spokane, Washington
Friday, April 19, 2024

Officers:

Chairman: Jim Walsh *Present
Vice Chairman: Lisa Evans *Present
Natl. Committeeman: Jeff Kent Present
Natl. Committeewoman: Marlene Pfeifer *Present
Bylaws Article 4 Designated Rep: Tom Dent Absent
Executive Director: Brady Batt Present
**signifies voting member*

Convention is called to Order: Chairman Walsh called the convention to order at 9:50 a.m. He announced that he would serve as the temporary Chair for this portion of the convention. Kelley Payne was appointed as the temporary secretary by the Chair. Walsh provided an overview of the convention processes, including specific announcements related to voting matters, delegates, alternate delegates, and seating arrangements. He noted that guests were seated at the back of the convention hall according to established protocols.

Opening ceremonies: Jeff Hastings, Snohomish County, invocation; Tim Hazelo, Island County, pledge; Kerry French, King County, national anthem.

Remarks: Walsh appoints Jeff Kent as temporary parliamentarian and Bill Cooper as temporary Sergeant-at-Arms.

- Diane Tebelius is not ready with the credentials report, resulting in an estimated delay of 20-30 minutes. The report is essential to verify the number of delegates. Chair announces that this delay necessitates an adjustment to the agenda.

Agenda adjusted to hear statewide candidate speeches: The following candidates addressed the delegates:

Raul Garcia, US Senate; Isaac Holyk, US Senate; Pete Serrano, Attorney General; Sue Kuehl Pederson, Commissioner of Public Lands; Jaime Herrera Beutler, Commissioner of Public Lands; Phil Fortunato, Secretary of State; Bob Hagglund, Secretary of State; Dale Whitaker, Secretary of State; Matt Hawkins, Auditor; Brad Klippert, Superintendent of Public Instruction; David Spring, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Chad Magendanz, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Credential Report update, remarks: Diane Tebelius announced several names of delegates that need to get their new badge.

Candidate speeches continued: David Olson, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Dave Larson, State Supreme Court.

Other speeches: National Committeeman Jeff Kent shares remarks on his tenure and upcoming election cycle. Recently elected National Committeeman Matthew Patrick Thomas shares remarks.

Credentials Report and adoption: Diane Tebelius, credentials chair, reporting. There are a total of 1829 delegates. Moves adoption of credentials report. Seconded.

- Juliana McMann, Skagit County, makes a motion to amend the credentials report to include delayed delegate Janelle Hulst. Seconded. Motion approved.
- Phil Wilson, Mason County, moves to amend the credentials report to recognize Grant County delegates elected on March 16, rather than the March 9 group, which also includes one slot for the newly elected Grant County chair. Motion seconded.
- Diane Tebelius briefly reviews Grant County delegate issues for the convention, including delegate elections on March 9 and the automatic delegate position for the newly elected Grant County chair, as well as the group chosen on March 16. After consulting the credentials committee, which includes representatives from each county, only the March 9 group of delegates was deemed valid. Discussion follows. Call the question. Approved. Main motion vote. Fails.
- Larry Albrick, Benton County, motion to amend the credentials report to include unseated Benton County delegates. Seconded.
- Diane Tebelius briefly reviews the Benton County delegate election and credentials process. Discussion follows. Call the question. Approval received. Vote on the motion. Fails.
- Kirk Robbins, King County, motion to amend credentials report to include Jason Snow as a delegate. Seconded. Motion withdrawn.

Steve Cook, Pierce County, motion for the “orders of the day” to move up in the agenda to information on Congressional District Caucuses. Julianne McMann explains agenda needs to proceed as published with the credentials and rules report prior to that information being given. Motion withdrawn.

Discussion on credentials report continues.

- Greg Roar, Lewis County, requests that two alternate delegates be seated. Diane Tebulius asks that he confirm with county credentials chair. No motion made.
- Cathy Colley, Greys Harbor County, calls the question. Approved. Motion to accept credentials report voted on. Approved.
- Point of order, guests need to sit at the back and not take part in voting. Chair announces again that only delegates are to participate and guests must be seated at the back of the hall.
- Matt Brown, Yakima County, point of personal privilege: Request for more microphones in the back of convention hall.
- Larry Albrick, point of inquiry: One delegate still needs to be seated. Credentials report has already been accepted. Referred to credentials chair to address the issue.

Rules Report: Paul Hess reporting. Shares overview of the rules and order of business, including those for the breakout sessions and endorsements.

- Paul Hess moves to adopt the rules and order of business report. Motion is seconded.
- Juliana McMann from Skagit County moves to amend the motion to include standard voting by hand vote instead of voice vote. Motion seconded. Call the question. Approved. Vote on the motion. Approved.

- Jeannette Burrage moves to amend the rules report Article V Section IV to include the phrase 'all candidates... by these rules.' The motion is seconded. Paul Hess shares remarks. Discussion follows. Call the question. Seconded. Approved. The motion to add the language 'by these rules' is then discussed further. Call the question. Approved. Vote on the motion to add the phrase 'by these rules.' Motion fails.
- Call the question to accept rules report. Seconded. Approved. Motion to accept the rules report. Approved.

Motion to make temporary chair the permanent chair. Discussion follows. Vote on the motion. Approved.

Julianna McMann from Skagit County moves to make all temporary officers permanent officers of the convention. Discussion follows. Call the question. Approved. Vote on the motion. Approved.

Miller Freeman, point of order: Request recognition of speakers making motions and those seconding the motions.

Candidate Committee Report and adoption: Lisa Evans, candidate chair, reporting. Remarks on the work on the candidate vetting committee. Committee voted to “not pass” Semi Bird as a gubernatorial candidate. Remarks interrupted. Motion to accept report. Seconded.

- Point of order. Speakers must identify themselves at the microphone. Request chair enforce that rule.
- Discussion follows on motion.
- Matt Bumala, Yakima County, motion to amend the candidate report to override committee’s vote for “do not pass” of candidate Semi Bird. Seconded. Discussion follows.
- Chris Roar, King County, point of order: candidate committee report was due on April 12. Lisa Evans provides remarks that newly available information on candidate violated the committee vetting standards.
- CJ Meyer from Spokane County calls the question on the motion to amend the report. Seconded. Motion approved.
- Vote on the amendment to amend the candidate report to override committee’s failure of Semi Bird. Approved.
- Elizabeth Doll raises a point of information: “What information violated vetting standards?” The chair rules that the information is immaterial. This ruling is challenged. A hand vote is conducted. A hand count is requested, requiring a 2/3 majority. 855 votes supporting the chair’s ruling. The challenge fails.
- Call the question on accepting the amended report. Seconded. Approved.
- Motion to accept the candidate committee report as amended. Approved.

Remarks for afternoon’s business: Remarks from chair on Congressional District Caucus instructions.

Break for Lunch