



RNC 2012 Rules Changes: Summary and Comparison (1 of 7)

2010 Language

2012 Language

Effect

None – did not exist

(New) Rule 12: Amendments

The Republican National Committee may, by ¾ vote of its entire membership, amend Rules 1-11 and 13-25. Any such amendment shall be considered by the RNC only if it was passed by a majority vote of the Standing Committee on Rules after having been submitted in writing at least 10 days in advance of its consideration by the RNC and shall take effect 30 days after adoption. No such amendment shall be adopted after September 30, 2014.

Until now, the fact that the RNC Chairman must abide by stable party rules has served as the main protection for input by grassroots activists. The new rule adds to the power of the RNC Chairman (or to the White House when there's a Republican President) the ability to change party rules at will.

The RNC consists of 168 people: the GOP Chairman and national committee-man and woman from each state, the District of Columbia, and five territories.

Previously, amendment to the rules was considered every four years by a series of reviews including the Standing Committee on Rules, the RNC, the Convention Committee on Rules, and brought to final vote on the convention floor to approx. 2300 delegates.

This amendment moves away from broad, representative decision making to small, central, top-down decision making.

The RNC Chairman has the immense power of the purse and a large staff to influence the decisions of the RNC; an RNC Chairman can get the votes of a super-majority of the RNC for just about anything he or she desires.

Questions?

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Note:

- Rules 1-12 address the Republican National Committee.
- Rules 13-25 address the convening of the next national convention.
- Rules 26-42 address the proceedings of the national convention.



2010 Language

2012 Language

Effect

Rule 15(a)(1): Election, Selection, Allocation or Binding of Delegates and Alternate Delegates

(a) Order of Precedence

Delegates at large and their alternate delegates, and delegates from their Congressional districts and their alternate delegates to the national convention shall be elected, selected, allocated, or bound in the following manner:

- (1) In accordance with any applicable Republican Party rules of a state, insofar as the same are not inconsistent with these rules;

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Rule 16(a)(1) [renumbered]: Election, Selection, Allocation or Binding of Delegates and Alternate Delegates

(a) Binding and Allocation

(1) Any statewide presidential preference vote that permits a choice among candidates for the Republican nomination for President of the United States in a primary, caucus, or state convention must be used to allocate and bind the state's delegation to the national convention in either a proportional or winner-take-all manner, except for delegates who appear on a ballot in a statewide election and are elected directly by primary voters.

COGOP Bylaws amendments offered in September 2011 by Chairman Ryan Call, introduced pledging to Colorado. It was the precursor step needed to implement this new change at the national level. Our previously non-binding preference poll is now mandated ("must be used") to allocate and bind all delegates, in either proportional OR winner-take-all manner*, beginning at the district assembly/convention and continuing through the state assembly/convention.

(*) District assemblies/conventions and state assemblies/conventions held after April 1 will be winner-take-all.

This change is a mandated "federalization" of our state party rules. It violates the state GOP's ability to determine the allocation and pledging of delegates.

There were no national delegates from Colorado who violated their pledge to a candidate.



RNC 2012 Rules Changes: Summary and Comparison (3 of 7)

2010 Language

Rule 15(a)(2): Election, Selection, Allocation or Binding of Delegates and Alternate Delegates

(a) Order of Precedence

Delegates at large and their alternate delegates, and delegates from their Congressional districts and their alternate delegates to the national convention shall be elected, selected, allocated, or bound in the following manner:

- (2) To the extent not provided for in the applicable Republican Party rules of a state, insofar as the same are not inconsistent with these rules;

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2012 Language

Rule 16(a)(2)[renumbered]: Election, Selection, Allocation or Binding of Delegates and Alternate Delegates

(a) Binding and Allocation

For any manner of binding or allocating delegates under these rules, if a delegate (i) casts a vote for a presidential candidate at the national convention inconsistent with the delegate's obligation under state law or state party rule, (ii) nominates or demonstrates support under Rule 40 for a presidential candidate other than the one to whom the delegate is bound or allocated under state law or state party rule, or (iii) fails in some other way to carry out the delegate's affirmative duty under state law or state party rule to cast a vote at the national convention for a particular presidential candidate, the delegate shall be deemed to have concurrently resigned as a delegate and the delegate's improper vote or nomination shall be null and void. Thereafter, the secretary of the convention shall record the delegate's vote or nomination in accordance with the delegates' obligation under state law or state party rule. This subsection does not apply to delegates who are bound to a candidate who has withdrawn his or her candidacy, suspended or terminated his or her campaign, or publicly released his or her delegates.

Effect

In the 2010 version, a delegate was allowed to sign a plurality form to nominate a candidate, even if that delegate had no intention of voting for that candidate. In other words, if a delegate wanted to stand, in principle, for a more open nominations process, the delegate was free to do so without compromising support for his own candidate.

This change locks delegates into support for their candidate only. It does not allow them to voice support for an objective principle and OPEN CONVENTION PROCESS.

This change was toned down considerably from its original language, which allowed only those delegates **approved by the candidate's campaign** to serve at the national convention, but still hinders a free and open process.

Keeping your word is important. This amendment tells you what your word will be.



RNC 2012 Rules Changes: Summary and Comparison (4 of 7)

2010 Language

Rule 32: Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules shall always be in order, but only when made by authority of a majority of the delegates from any state and seconded by a majority of the delegates from each of five (5) or more states severally.

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2012 Language

Rule 32: Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules shall always be in order, but only when made by authority of a majority of the delegates from any state and seconded by a majority of the delegates from each of seven (7) or more states severally.

Effect

Suspension of the Rules for a convention is a logical, practical, parliamentary tool for the smooth operation of an assembly.

This change was one of four amendments that increased the minimum threshold for motion or action from the floor of the national convention.

Its effect, along with changes in Rules 34, 39, and 40, is to keep delegates to a pre-determined script and discourage any motion/action from the floor of the national convention.

Suspension of the rules of a particular session/assembly/convention is allowed, per Roberts Rules of Order and the Rules of the House of Representatives, in order to accomplish the will of the assembly. A member of the assembly may make a motion from the floor to suspend the rules, specifically adopted for the purpose of the convention proceedings, in order to address an item of business out of its assigned order on the agenda, for example. Since the Order of Business is adopted at the beginning of a convened session, this action **provides logical, practical flexibility** within a convened session **to accomplish the will of the assembly.**



2010 Language

2012 Language

Effect

Rule 34: Minority Reports; Amendments

(a) No resolution or amendment pertaining to the report of the Committee on Resolutions or the Committee on Rules and the Order of Business shall be reported out or made a part of any report of such committee or otherwise read or debated before the convention, unless the same shall have been submitted to the chairman, vice chairman, or secretary of such committee or to the secretary of the convention in writing not later than one hour after the time at which such committee votes on its report to the convention and shall have been accompanied by a petition evidencing the affirmative written support of a minimum of twenty-five (25%) of the membership of such committee.

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It is important to note the amendment to change the minority report threshold from 25% to 40%, was introduced, but DID NOT PASS.

This amendment was designed to increase the minority report threshold so that no minority report would be filed.

The author of the amendment withdrew it, after it became evident that even his own people found it so egregious, they would not support it. He withdrew it so the language would not be part of the record and a losing vote would not be recorded.

It is important to know that all of these amendments came from the same author: Ben Ginsberg, delegate from the District of Columbia, who represented himself as the spokesman for Mitt Romney's Presidential Campaign.



RNC 2012 Rules Changes: Summary and Comparison (6 of 7)

2010 Language

2012 Language

Effect

Rule 39: Record Vote

If a majority of the delegates of any six (6) states severally shall demand a roll call vote, the same shall be taken of the states in the order hereinbefore established.

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Rule 39: Record Vote

If a majority of the delegates of any seven (7) states severally shall demand a roll call vote, the same shall be taken of the states in the order hereinbefore established.

This change was one of four amendments that increased the minimum threshold for motions from the floor.

Increasing the minimum threshold effectively silences the minority voice.

The Preamble to the Rules state:

“It is the intent and purpose of these rules to encourage and allow the broadest possible participation of all voters in Republican Party activities at all levels and to assure that the Republican Party is open and accessible to all Americans.”

Minority voices are important. At the end of the day, when the fair vote is taken, and the winner is declared, we want and need the minority to stay with the Party and work for her principles.

Increasing minimum threshold silences minority voices and disenfranchises those Republicans who might otherwise strengthen and grow our Party in the long-term.



2010 Language

2012 Language

Effect

Rule 40(b): Nominations

(b) Each candidate for nomination for President of the United States and vice President of the United States shall demonstrate the support of a plurality of the delegates from each of five (5) or more states, severally, prior to the presentation of the name of that candidate for nomination.

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Rule 40(b): Nominations

(b) Each candidate for nomination for President of the United States and vice President of the United States shall demonstrate the support of a majority of the delegates from each of eight (8) or more states, severally, prior to the presentation of the name of that candidate for nomination. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules or any Rules of the House of Representatives, to demonstrate the support required of this paragraph a certificate evidencing the affirmative written support of the required number of permanently seated delegates from each of the eight (8) or more states shall have been submitted to the secretary of the convention not later than one (1) hour prior to the placing of the name of candidates for nomination pursuant to this rule and the established order of business.

This change was one of four amendments that increased the minimum threshold for actions from the floor.

Increasing the minimum threshold from a five state plurality to an eight state majority significantly increases the degree of difficulty to simply nominate a candidate and effectively silences the minority voice.

The Preamble to the Rules state:

“It is the intent and purpose of these rules to encourage and allow the broadest possible participation of all voters in Republican Party activities at all levels and to assure that the Republican Party is open and accessible to all Americans.”

Minority voices are important. At the end of the day, when the fair vote is taken, and the winner is declared, we want and need the minority to stay with the Party and work for her principles.

Increasing minimum threshold silences minority voices and disenfranchises those Republicans who might otherwise strengthen and grow our Party in the long-term.