

Election Rules

For the MPFFU's 53rd Biennial Convention

1. The reading and the adoption of these Election Rules shall be done no later than 4 pm on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 8, 2018 and will be immediately followed by the nominations for the office of MPFFU President, Secretary-Treasurer, District Vice Presidents and Trustees.
2. For nominations for the office of President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Trustee, there will be one nominating speech per candidate of no more than three (3) minutes. No second is needed. If there is only one candidate for an office, that candidate will be declared elected and his/her name will not appear on a ballot.
3. Individuals nominated for office must be a member in good standing of a Local Union which itself is an affiliated member in good standing of the MPFFU.
4. All Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union officers who are delegates at large by virtue of their offices are eligible to participate in the nomination of candidates and the election of officers for the positions of President and Secretary-Treasurer and for the positions of Vice President and Trustee for the district or region their home local is located.
5. If competing candidates are nominated for either the MPFFU President and/or the MPFFU Secretary-Treasurer position, each of the candidates will be permitted to address the Convention, at the conclusion of the nomination process, for fifteen (15) minutes with respect to their qualifications. Speaking order will be decided by lot. Candidates for the office of Secretary-Treasurer will speak first.
6. Candidates must notify the Secretary-Treasurer, in writing, by 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 if they wish to withdraw from the election process. After 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, the ballots will be printed with the names of all duly nominated candidates appearing thereon, with a selection box next to the name of each candidate.
7. One (1) ballot will be printed for each office and distributed to all qualified delegates containing the names of all duly nominated candidates who are proposed for each office: President, Secretary-Treasurer, District Vice President, and Trustee.
8. The Election shall proceed under the direction of the Election Committee. The

40 election shall be conducted by a secret ballot vote of duly accredited delegates, or
41 alternates replacing delegates, whose names appear on the list certified by the
42 Credentials Committee's and accepted by the convention delegates.

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- 44 9. Candidates for a contested office shall be permitted to appoint an observer to
45 witness the balloting and also an observer to witness the tabulation of ballots. The
46 names of the observers shall be submitted, in writing, to the Chairman of the
47 Election Committee by 12pm on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 in the Convention office.
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- 49 10. Election of all Officers shall be conducted on Wednesday, May 9, 2018. The exact
50 time the that the polls shall open and close will be announced from the podium by
51 the Election Chairman. It is anticipated that voting will begin at approximately
52 4:00pm and the polls will remain open until the announced closing time. Those
53 standing in line at the announced closing time will be permitted to vote.
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- 55 11. The official voting place will be in an area designated and announced by the
56 Election Committee. THERE SHALL BE NO CAMPAIGNING WITHIN 50 FEET OF THE
57 VOTING AREA.
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- 59 12. Each delegate must identify him/herself with his/her convention badge to receive a
60 ballot from a member of the Election Committee. As each delegate is given their
61 ballot, his/her name shall be checked on the list of authorized delegates that was
62 certified by the Credentials Committee and given to the Elections Committee.
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- 64 13. Voting by proxy will only be permitted in accordance with Article 5, Section 5 of the
65 Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Constitution and By-laws and if they were
66 delivered to the MPFFU office or postmarked by April 27, 2018.
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- 68 14. Proxy votes may only be cast for election of Officers, Convention Site Selection, and
69 any roll call votes taken at the Convention.
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- 71 15. If a local doesn't register the maximum number of delegates that it is entitled to,
72 the delegate registered as the Chairman of the delegation, in addition to his own
73 vote, shall cast the votes of any **unregistered** delegates the local was entitled to.
74 The Chairman of the delegation shall also be allowed to cast the vote of any
75 **registered** member of the delegation that left the convention prior to voting. It is
76 the responsibility of the Chairman of each local's delegation to inform the election
77 committee that he is voting for a registered delegate that has left. Once the ballot
78 for the absent delegate is given to the chairman of the delegation, the absent
79 delegate will not be able to receive a ballot if he/she returns during the time the
80 polls are open. Alternates for a local will not be permitted to receive a ballot
81 unless they have officially replaced a delegate and they present a delegate badge in

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their name to the election committee.

16. After each delegate has been handed his/her ballot, they shall mark it in private by placing a mark in the box next to the name of the candidate of his/her choice for that office. A delegate may vote for not more than one (1) nominee for each office. Only duly nominated candidates printed on the ballot may be voted for. Any write-in candidate will invalidate the vote of such delegate for the office under which the write-in candidate's name appears. After marking his/her ballot, the delegate shall deposit their ballot in the ballot box.
17. Only valid ballots shall be counted as ballots cast. A majority of all valid ballots cast shall be necessary for election to office. Write-in candidates will not be permitted and will void the ballot.
18. Prior to opening the polls, the Chairman of the Election Committee shall inquire from the observers present whether there is any objection or claimed irregularity regarding the election up to this point. If any such claim is made, it shall immediately be presented to and ruled upon by the Election Committee **prior** to opening the polls.
19. If there is any objection or claimed irregularity occurring **during the balloting process**, it must be made directly to the Chairman of the Election Committee who shall immediately suspend the voting process, clear the room, and present the claim to the Election Committee for an immediate ruling. Any challenged ballots shall be placed in a separate ballot box until the election committee rules on their validity. After the committee makes its ruling, voting will then resume.
20. Immediately upon the closing of the balloting, the Chairman of the Election Committee shall inquire from the observers present whether there is any objection or claimed irregularity occurring prior to or during the balloting. If any such claim is made, it shall immediately be presented to and ruled upon by the Election Committee **prior** to the tabulation of the ballots. **Objections or claims of irregularity that occurred prior to or during the balloting will not be considered once the tabulation of the ballots begins.**
21. Upon the closing of the balloting and having ruled on all objections, if any, the Election Committee will proceed with tabulation of the ballots.
22. The Election Committee shall have exclusive control over the tabulation of ballots and only the Election Committee and appointed observers shall be permitted to be present while the tabulation is taking place. All Election Committee members and observers shall remain in the room until the time of the announcement of the

124 results of the election to the delegates.

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126 23. Ballots which are clearly void, or are questionable, shall not be tabulated and shall
127 be placed in a separate receptacle for consideration and decision by the Election
128 Committee. Ballots which are finally declared void shall be kept separate from the
129 valid ballots and shall be tabulated separately as invalid ballots.

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131 24. Upon completion of the tabulation, the total vote for each candidate shall be placed
132 next to his/her name on the pre-printed tabulation form for recording the
133 tabulation of ballots.

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135 25. Any objection or claim of irregularity following tabulation of the ballots shall be
136 made to the Chairman of the Election Committee and ruled upon prior to the
137 announcement of the results of the election.

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139 26. If there is a tie vote or no candidate receives a majority of valid ballots cast on the
140 first ballot, all but the three leading candidates shall be dropped and the balloting
141 shall continue. If there were only three candidates on the first ballot and none
142 received a majority of the ballots cast, the lowest candidate shall be dropped and
143 the balloting will continue until one (1) candidate receives a majority of valid ballots
144 cast. There will be a minimum of thirty-minutes between each balloting. Additional
145 time may be required in order to complete the process of printing and copying new
146 ballots and delegate checkoff lists. If a tie vote occurs in the final ballot for any
147 office, one additional vote will take place. If a tie remains, the winning candidate
148 will be selected by the drawing of lots in the presence of both candidates.

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150 27. Prior to announcing the voting results, the Chairman of the Election Committee
151 shall make his/her report on any objections or claims of irregularity which have
152 been raised. Any appeals to decisions made by the Election Committee must be
153 made at this time. The Chairman of the Elections Committee shall then announce
154 the results of the election. The presiding officer of the Convention shall then
155 announce the results as official, final and conclusive.

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157 28. The Chairman of the Election Committee shall give all ballots and other election
158 records to the MPFFU Secretary-Treasurer who shall retain them for one year and
159 then destroy them by shredding them.

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161 Submitted by: Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Executive Board

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163 Presented by: Chairman of the Election Committee

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165 Convention Action: