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# Election Rules

## 49<sup>th</sup> Convention of the MPFFU

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1. The reading and the adoption of these Election Rules shall be the first order of business on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 5, 2010 and will be 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. Candidates for the office of President and Secretary-Treasurer will be allowed ten (10) minutes for an acceptance speech immediately after the nominations are concluded. Candidates must notify the Secretary-Treasurer, in writing, by 7:00pm on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 if they wish to withdraw from the election process.
3. The election shall be conducted by a secret ballot vote of duly accredited delegates, or alternates replacing delegates, whose names appear on the Credentials Committee's list certified by the Election Committee and accepted by the convention delegates.
4. The official voting place will be in an area designated by the Election Committee. THERE SHALL BE NO CAMPAIGNING WITHIN 50 FEET OF THE ELECTION AREA.
5. After 7:00pm on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 the ballots will be printed with the names of all duly nominated candidates appearing thereon, with a box next to the name of each candidate.
6. 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.
7. 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.

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- 43 8. Only valid ballots shall be counted as ballots cast. A majority of all valid ballots cast
- 44 shall be necessary for election to office.
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- 47 9. If no candidate receives a majority of valid ballots cast on the first ballot, all but the
- 48 three leading candidates shall be dropped and the balloting shall continue. If there
- 49 were only three candidates on the first ballot and none received a majority of the
- 50 ballots cast, the lowest candidate shall be dropped and the balloting will continue until
- 51 one (1) candidate receives a majority of valid ballots cast.
- 52
- 53 10. The Election shall proceed under the direction of the Election Committee. Other
- 54 delegates may be designated by the President to serve as tellers.
- 55
- 56 11. Candidates for a contested office shall be permitted to appoint an observer to witness
- 57 the balloting and also an observer to witness the tabulation of ballots. The names of
- 58 the observers shall be submitted, in writing, to the Chairman of the Election
- 59 Committee by 12pm on Thursday, May 6, 2010 in the Convention office.
- 60
- 61 12. Voting dates and times: Election of all Officers shall be conducted on Thursday, May
- 62 6, 2010 commencing at 4:00pm and continuing until 4:30pm. Those standing in line at
- 63 4:30pm will be permitted to vote.
- 64
- 65 13. Each delegate must identify him/herself with his/her convention badge to receive a
- 66 ballot from a member of the Election Committee. As each delegate is given their
- 67 ballot, his/her name shall be checked on the list of authorized delegates maintained by
- 68 the Election Committee. Voting by proxy will only be permitted in accordance with
- 69 Article 5, Section 5 of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Constitution and
- 70 By-laws.
- 71
- 72 14. After each delegate has been handed his/her ballot, they shall mark it in private by
- 73 placing a mark in the box next to the name of the candidate of his/her choice for that
- 74 office. A delegate may vote for not more than one (1) nominee for each office. Only
- 75 duly nominated candidates printed on the ballot may be voted for. Any write-in
- 76 candidate will invalidate the vote of such delegate for the office under which the write-
- 77 in candidate's name appears.
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- 79 15. After marking his/her ballot, the delegate shall deposit their ballot in the ballot box.
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- 81 16. Immediately upon the closing of the balloting, the Chairman of the Election
- 82 Committee shall inquire from the observers present whether there is any objection or
- 83 claimed irregularity occurring prior to or during the balloting. If any such claim is
- 84 made, it shall immediately be presented to and ruled upon by the Election Committee
- 85 **prior** to the tabulation of the ballots. **Any objection or claim of irregularity**
- 86 **prior to or during the balloting must be raised at that time.**
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- 89 17. Upon the closing of the balloting and having ruled on all objections, if any, the  
90 Election Committee will proceed with tabulation of the ballots.  
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- 92 18. The Election Committee shall have exclusive control over the tabulation of ballots and  
93 only the Election Committee and appointed observers shall be permitted to be present  
94 while the tabulation is taking place. All Election Committee members and observers  
95 shall remain in the room until the time of the announcement of the results of the  
96 election to the delegates.  
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- 98 19. Ballots which are clearly void, or are questionable, shall not be tabulated and shall be  
99 placed in a separate receptacle for consideration and decision by the Election  
100 Committee. Ballots which are finally declared void shall be kept separate from the  
101 valid ballots and shall be tabulated separately as invalid ballots.  
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- 103 20. Upon completion of the tabulation, the total vote for each candidate shall be placed  
104 next to his/her name.  
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- 106 21. Any objection or claim of irregularity following tabulation of the ballots shall be made  
107 to the Chairman of the Election Committee and ruled upon prior to the  
108 announcement of the results of the election.  
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- 110 22. The Chairman of the Election Committee shall make his/her report on the election  
111 and its results and any objections or claims of irregularity which have been raised to  
112 the presiding officer of the Convention who shall announce the results as official  
113 which shall be final and conclusive only after all objections have been heard and  
114 considered.  
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- 116 23. The Chairman of the Election Committee shall give all ballots and other election  
117 records to the MPFFU Secretary-Treasurer who shall retain them for one year and  
118 then destroy them by shredding them.  
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123 Submitted by: Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Executive Board

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126 Presented by: Chairman of the Election Committee

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129 Convention Action: