



Conference Rules



2020 NOW Conference

I. Admission

- A. The Conference shall be open to all persons properly registered. Registration badges (in the form of virtual conference platform login credentials) shall be issued to identified members, visitors, special guests and press, and shall be required for admittance to any segment or function of the Conference.
1. "Members" shall be defined as persons having an expiration date of **March 31, 2020** or later and whose dues were paid to the National Organization for Women prior to the opening of on-site registration for the Conference. The membership of persons who join NOW by registering for the Conference shall take effect on September 26, 2020.
 2. "Visitors" shall be defined as persons who are not members of NOW. "Special guests" shall include speakers, entertainers and others designated by the President.
 3. "Press" shall be defined as persons who may report on the Conference to the public through any media other than NOW publications or platforms.
- B. Press shall be required to register by emailing press@now.org and receiving press badges and relevant information.
- C. Members who are also press, upon completing their registration for the Conference, shall be required to sign a statement that, in the event the Conference or any segment or function thereof votes at any time to exclude press, members with press identification who choose to remain in such session(s), pledge by their continuing presence therein, not to report on the general substance or the details of such session(s) through any media other than NOW publications or platforms.

II. Voting



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- A. The Credentials Committee shall oversee the issuance of voting credentials at the Conference. Only those who have been NOW members in good standing throughout the 90-day period prior to September 26, 2020 may vote.
- B. The Chair of the Credentials Committee shall report at the opening of voting plenary sessions the number of people credentialed and the number of people registered as of 30 minutes prior to the plenary session start time.
- C. Challenges to voting rights shall be referred to the Credentials Committee. The Committee shall report to the Conference on any credentials challenges and their disposition at the opening of the voting plenary sessions.

III. Accessibility

- A. NOW is committed to making its meeting as accessible as possible.
- B. For anyone seeking ASL Interpretation or any other accommodation, requests must be sent to now@scottcircle.com by September 18th at 4 p.m. EDT.
- C. If you are in need of assistance with large print while navigating the conference platform, please contact now@scottcircle.com
- D. Should you become aware of an unexpected, but needed accommodation during the conference, please email now@scottcircle.com; we will do our best to help obtain the requested accommodation, but cannot guarantee success.

IV. Plenary Sessions

- A. Debate
 - 1. When their services are required, the presiding officer shall appoint one or more Timekeepers, Chat Monitors and Plenary Advisors to assist the Rules Committee in:
 - a) Providing assistance with parliamentary inquiries and other "red" card items.



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- b) Reading aloud the live chat, maintaining order in plenary sessions and implementing the decisions of the body pertaining thereto. Upon request, they shall assist workshop coordinators in facilitating orderly proceedings.
 2. All prepared motions relating to conference business and proposed bylaws amendments will be posted for debate on the Conference message board. Upon logging into the Conference platform, all NOW members may voice their position, pro or con, for each motion using the message board reply feature.
 3. During voting sessions, all NOW members are entitled to speak to motions through the live chat. For each motion, the moderator will read aloud two pro statements and two con statements from either the live chat or the message board. The name and chapter affiliation of the NOW member who wrote each statement will also be read aloud. Visitors may participate in floor discussion only upon invitation of the presiding officer, the National Board or the Conference body.
 4. Debate on each proposed bylaw amendment four (4) minutes.
- B. Voting in Plenary Session
 1. When questions are put to a vote, the moderator will stop reading debate and credentialed members will have one minute to vote on the motion.
 2. Voting shall be accomplished by credentialed members selecting a multiple choice answer in the conference platform.
 3. After the time period for the vote has ended, the poll will close and the chair shall announce the results of the vote.

V. Workshops

- A. Workshops shall be open to all Conference registrants. In the event that any session must have a limit on attendance, the conference platform will automatically close that session once the limit of registered attendees have selected that workshop for their schedule.
- B. Participation in discussion will happen through the Chat feature.



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C. Workshops may exclude press, camera and/or video recorders.

VI. Materials

A. Distribution, sale and/or display of materials and/or literature shall be confined to the Conference platform library.

B. No political party, group or candidate, with the exception of NOW PAC endorsed or supported candidates, shall distribute materials and/or literature except in the Conference platform library; hold forums, workshops, caucuses or seminars; collect or attempt to raise funds; or otherwise use the National NOW Conference and/or its members for partisan political purposes.

VII. Fundraising

A. Fundraising is not permitted by any entity, including NOW sub-units, without the express permission of the Executive Committee. Chapters may raise funds at designated exhibit spaces purchased through the national office.

VIII. Authority

A. This conference shall be governed by the Bylaws of the National Organization for Women, Inc.; the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*; and these conference rules.

B. As suggested in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, the Board is authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross-references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the delegates at **this** NOW Conference.