

County Convention Rules on Realignment

A Quick Guide

by

Mike Moore

Pottawattamie County Convention Rules Chair

As there have been a number of questions regarding the new realignment process for this year's convention, I thought it would be good to give out a solid explanation of what to expect.

In the past delegates were able to realign at county convention for any reason. This has changed. The rules, first as approved by the National Rules and Bylaws Committee, and adopted into the Delegate Selection Plan(DSP) of the Iowa Democratic Party (IDP), provide a different path forward. One change is that the allocation of our National Delegates is now locked onto the results of the February 3 precinct caucuses. They are awarded at the District level to all viable preference groups in proportion to the number of State Delegate Equivalents(SDE) each received, divided by the sum of SDE awarded to all viable preference groups. At the State level, National Delegates are awarded to all viable candidates still in the race at the time of the State Convention using the same proportion rules.

Another change, and one that is most important to our County Convention is that **viability of preference groups is based only on the outcome of the precinct caucuses.** In the past, viability of preference groups could be affected by delegation attendance at the Convention, but that is no longer the case. **Regardless of turnout, any preference group that received at least 15% of the county allocation of SDE at the precinct caucuses will be considered viable at County Convention. All preference groups failing to obtain at least 15% of the county allocation of SDE at the precinct caucuses will be considered unviable.** Again, the number of people who turn out for each preference group will not affect the viability of that preference group at County Convention. As well, **the assignment of delegates to be elected to the District and State Conventions has already been set, based on the outcome of the precinct caucuses.** Delegates to be elected were awarded to viable preference groups in proportion to the number of SDE each received at the precinct caucuses in our county, divided by the sum of all SDE received by all viable preference groups in our county.

A third change is how realignment is handled at Convention. **At County and District Conventions, only delegates of preference groups that did not obtain**

viability will be given an opportunity to realign. This will not affect delegate apportionment in any way, but will simply allow delegates in unviable preference groups an opportunity to participate in the election of delegates to the next level, if they so desire. Delegates of viable preference groups, even of those whose candidate has since ended their campaign, will not realign and will elect their assigned number of delegates to the next level. Only at State Convention will delegates of viable preference groups representing dropped candidates be allowed the opportunity to realign.

Quick Summary:

1. Viability and allocation of delegates to be elected to District and State Convention has already been determined by the outcome of the precinct caucuses in our county on February 3.
2. Viability means that a preference group obtained at least 15% of the State Delegate Equivalents allocated to our county.
3. Delegates to County Convention within a preference group that obtained viability at the county level (Buttigieg, Sanders, Warren) will remain in the preference group to which they were elected at their precinct caucus. This is the case even if their candidate has since ended their campaign.
4. Delegates to County Convention within all other preference groups will be given 1 hour to choose to either align with one of the three viable preference groups, or to choose not to realign.
5. If a delegate allowed to realign chooses to do so, they will sign a statement of preference and, from thereon, be considered a delegate of the viable candidate to which they realigned.
6. If a delegate allowed to realign chooses not to realign, they will not be able to participate in the election of delegates to District and State Convention, but may participate in any matter considered by the whole Convention (such as the platform, or election of the County Affirmative Action Chair.)