Rules – 2020 GPMI Nominating Convention (Saturday, June 20, 2020)

I. Delegates

A. Delegates per county: Each county is entitled to as many voting delegates to the convention as there were GPMI members in good standing living in the county as of sixty (60) days before the convention (Tuesday, April 21, 2020). (Members shall be counted with their counties of residence.)

B. Delegates from counties with caucuses: If a county caucus selects convention delegates for that county, the caucus shall send the Meeting Manager a list of those selected, so the Meeting Manager can verify that they are GPMI members in good standing and pre-credential them as delegates. If anyone selected as a delegate is found not to be a GPMI member in good standing, the Meeting Manager shall notify the caucus officers who sent in the list.

If a selected delegate cannot attend, and/or if the caucus does not select a full delegation, then any GPMI member in good standing on April 21, 2020 who lives in that county and attends the convention is automatically eligible to fill a vacancy in the delegation. Any GPMI member who achieved or regained good standing after April 21, 2020 who lives in that county and attends the convention is eligible to be considered by a credentialing committee (if any) and approved by the convention to fill a vacancy in the delegation.

C. Delegates from counties without caucuses: Any GPMI member in good standing on April 21, 2020 who lives in a county for which no caucus was held and who attends the convention is automatically eligible to be a delegate for that county. Any GPMI member who achieved or regained good standing after April 21, 2020 who lives in such a county and attends the convention is eligible to be considered by a credentialing committee (if any) and approved by the convention to be a delegate for that county.

D. Membership check-in: The Meeting Manager, working with others, shall have a list of members at the convention check-in site. The list shall include the name and county of residence of each GPMI member, and say whether that member was in good standing on April 21, 2020 – and whether the member was selected as a delegate by a valid 2020 nominating caucus for the member’s home county.

E. More attending than delegates: If there are more GPMI members present from a county who are eligible to serve as convention delegates than that county is entitled to have, then:

* those members from that county shall decide among themselves who shall be seated as delegates; or
* the Meeting Manager shall assign delegate spots based on whether or not a member was in good standing on April 21, 2020 and then on the order of registering at the convention.

F. Credentials reports: The convention’s first order of business after approving the rules shall be a report from the Meeting Manager (and a report, if any, from a credentialing committee) on delegate credentials. The report(s) shall cover, as far as possible:

1) how many delegates each county is entitled to, based on GPMI by-laws;
2) the number of GPMI members in good standing from each county, with information on how many joined or renewed since April 21, 2020 and if any members have been expelled or suspended in 2020;
3) the number of GPMI members present from each county who either were pre-selected to serve as delegates or are automatically eligible to fill vacancies and serve as delegates;
4) the number of GPMI members present from each county who can only serve as delegates if they are approved by the convention to fill vacancies, and the number of vacancies remaining for each such potential delegate; and
5) information on any cases where someone’s qualification to serve as a delegate is questioned or disputed, with any recommendation from the credentialing committee.

All of the pre-selected and automatically eligible delegates present shall decide whether to approve this report as is or make any changes. Decisions shall be by consensus or a 2/3 vote, and approval shall have the effect of credentialing as delegates the people described in 4) above and recognizing or revoking the credentials of people described in 5) above (according to the recommendations from the credentialing committee as amended from the floor).

G. County on Credentials: Any credentials for delegates shall indicate the county where they live.

II. Nominations

A. Schedule: The Meeting Manager shall prepare a schedule for consideration at the convention of anyone seeking the GPMI candidacy after the GPMI column on the Tuesday, November 3, 2020 general election ballot as a GPMI candidate for any office or seat for which GPMI is entitled to nominate a candidate at the convention. To the extent practical, this schedule shall allow possible candidates to make brief statements in support of their candidacy (and to answer questions from the convention).

B. Candidate information: The Elections Coordinator shall compile into one document all replies to the GPMI voting questionnaire he/she receives – in hard copy, plain text, or text-based Adobe Acrobat format – at least thirty (30) days before the convention (Tuesday, May 21, 2020) from any candidate who asks to be considered for nomination at the convention. The Elections Coordinator shall make and provide copies of this document for all delegates.

Candidates may bring their own copies of their questionnaire replies, and/or any other campaign materials, to provide to delegates.

C. Nomination for single office, seat, or position: If only one person seeks the GPMI nomination for a single office, seat, or position, that person must be approved by consensus or a 2/3 vote in order to be nominated by GPMI for that office.

If two or more candidates seek the GPMI nomination for a single office, seat, or position, an instant-runoff vote shall be taken by secret ballot to determine the general order of preference between or among the candidates (unless some other method is approved). Once the preference order is determined, the first-choice candidate shall be presented to the convention for approval by consensus or a 2/3 vote. If one candidate is not approved, the next candidate in order of preference shall be presented to the convention for approval in the same way. If no candidate is approved for an office or position, the convention shall decide whether to reconsider any or all not-yet-nominated candidates, invite more nominations and repeat the instant-runoff vote with the new list of candidates, try again later in the convention, or give up on nominating anyone more for the office or position.

D. Nomination for multiple office or position: For offices where more than one seat at a time is to be elected, if there are no more candidates seeking the GPMI nomination than there are seats available, each candidate must be approved by consensus or a 2/3 vote to be nominated. (If there is consensus on all candidates at once, no separate decision need be made.) If there are more candidates for a GPMI nomination for an office or position than there are places on the ballot, an instant-runoff vote shall be taken by secret ballot to determine the order of preference between or among the candidates (unless some other method is approved). Once that order is determined, the first-choice candidate shall be presented to the convention for approval by consensus or 2/3 vote. This shall be done with each candidate in preference order until either enough candidates are nominated to fill all spots on the ballot or all candidates have been considered. If any spots on the ballot remain unfilled, the convention shall decide whether to reconsider any or all not-yet-nominated candidates, invite more nominations and repeat the instant-runoff vote with the new list of candidates, try again later in the convention, or give up on nominating anyone more for the office or position.

E. Taking part in nominations: All delegates shall take part in any decision whether to nominate someone for any statewide office or position. If an office or position would serve a district or constituency crossing county borders which is not statewide, the convention can decide to let only delegates representing all counties wholly or partly in that district take part in that nomination process. Similarly, if an office or position would serve a district or constituency entirely within a county’s borders, that nomination process may be limited to delegates representing only that county.

District or county delegates may choose to caucus separately or with all other delegates at the convention, and to include or exclude all other delegates at the convention in the nomination decision. (But no county or district caucus may be done at the convention if there are no delegates from the affected county or district present.)

F. Nomination for “in-county” offices: If no caucus has been held for a county, then GPMI may nominate someone at the convention (by the whole convention or by a separate caucus) for any partisan office up for election in that county. If a caucus was held for a county, but the caucus did not nominate anyone for any partisan office or position, then (to the extent permitted by law) the convention may consider requests for nomination for any office or position. (This must be done by the convention as a whole, as a caucuses once held and closed cannot be reopened.) However, if the previous county caucus discussed a nomination and made a decision about it (e.g., to not nominate anyone for that office), then the nomination must get approval from both the whole convention and the county delegation by consensus or a 2/3 vote.

III. Endorsements

As by state law, GPMI may not nominate candidates for any non-partisan offices (except the nominally non-partisan Supreme Court Justices). However, it may endorse candidates for non-partisan offices. After all decisions have been made about whether or not to nominate GPMI candidates for office, any GPMI member or other person attending may ask the convention to endorse a candidate for a non-partisan office.

As the convention schedule allows, those who ask GPMI for endorsements may have a brief opportunity to introduce themselves and answer questions from the convention. The convention shall also hear any report from a caucus which has also considered the endorsement. Any decision to endorse must be made by consensus or a 2/3 vote.