SEIU Local 503, Oregon Public Employees Union
2026 General Council Rules Committee Report
Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon
August 20-23, 2026

Rule I

Adoption. The adoption of this report by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the delegates present and voting provides the rules under which the business of this General Council shall be conducted. After adoption, these rules can be amended or suspended only by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote.

Rule II

Procedural Authorities. The supreme authority for General Council procedures are the Bylaws of the Union and the SEIU International Constitution and Bylaws, as provided in Local 503's affiliation agreement. These rules and the Administrative Procedures and Policies (AP&P) of the Union adopted by General Council constitute the secondary authorities. These rules are followed by the procedures found in Robert's Newly Revised Rules of Order insofar as Robert's Rules are not in conflict with the Bylaws, the AP&P, or these rules.

Rule III

Order of the Day. These rules include the published agenda as submitted to the General Council. This agenda shall constitute the Order of the Day. The Order of the Day can be amended or suspended only by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the delegates present and voting.

Rule IV

Admission to Council. For security purposes and to facilitate identification and seating, delegates, alternates, staff, and others shall be required to wear an issued badge at all times while at General Council. Delegates are required to show their badges upon entry to or departure from the floor of General Council when it is in session.

Rule V

Credentials Report. The Credentials Committee, directly after the opening of the Council, shall report the number of delegates and Locals registered to attend.

Rule VI

Resolutions Debate.

Section 1. The author or a delegate from the sponsoring group shall be given the opportunity to open debate and to close in rebuttal. The delegate opening or closing debate on a resolution or on a motion may speak for one and one-half (1 ½) minutes each time. Delegates needing interpretation which is not simultaneous or other accommodation to speak on a resolution may speak up to three (3) minutes. These opening and closing statements shall not be counted against the total time limit for debate on the resolution.

Section 2(a) Other delegates wishing to speak in **FAVOR** of a resolution or motion on the floor shall seek the chairperson's recognition by going to a mic designated as **"PRO"** (**GREEN**). Delegates wishing to speak in **OPPOSITION** to a resolution or motion on the floor shall seek the chairperson's recognition by going to a mic designated as **"CON"** (**RED)**. The chairperson shall try to alternate recognition, as far as possible, between those favoring the resolution or motion and those opposed. Delegates wishing to **MAKE A MOTION** shall seek the chairperson's recognition by going to any mic and holding up a **BLUE CARD** and shall be recognized in the order by which they sought the floor. To make a point of order (breach of rules), request for information (limited to a question about business or about rules), or question of privilege (can't hear, accommodation, safety, etc.), delegates may bypass the line and hold up a **YELLOW CARD** and the Chair shall recognize the **YELLOW CARD** before continuing. Delegates who are unable to easily move to the microphone shall be given an **ORANGE CARD** at the registration desk. Delegates who wish to speak shall hold up the **ORANGE CARD** and a Page shall go to the delegate to determine whether they wish to speak in favor, in opposition, raise a **YELLOW CARD**, or make a motion, and shall go to the microphone on that delegate's behalf. When the Page is at the front of the queue, they shall bring the microphone to the delegate.

(b) Delegates may speak up to one and one-half (1 ½) minutes (90 seconds) on resolutions or debatable motions. Delegates needing interpretation which is not simultaneous or other accommodation to speak on a resolution or debatable motion may speak up to three (3) minutes.

(c) If three delegates consecutively speak in favor because no delegate has risen to speak in opposition for the first time, or three delegates consecutively speak in opposition because no delegate has risen to speak in favor for the first time, and no delegate is holding a blue or yellow card or otherwise indicated they wish to make a motion, then debate on the resolution shall close and the resolution shall proceed to a vote of the delegates after the author is offered the opportunity to give a closing statement.

Section 3. Delegates shall only be entitled to speak again on a resolution or motion after any delegates that wish to speak for the first time have been heard. No speaker shall be entitled to hold the floor for longer than one and one-half (1 ½) minutes, except as outlined in Sections 1 and 2 with regard to interpretation or accommodation requirements. Total debate on any resolution, and main motion and pending secondary motions, including amendments, shall not exceed a total of 15 minutes, extended to allow a speaker to finish their allotted time, unless extended by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates, or at the discretion of the chair with unanimous consent. When the time for debate has elapsed, the Chair may offer to entertain a motion to extend debate. Extensions shall be in 10-minute increments. Debate shall be limited to delegates unless a person named and present has permission to speak through a majority vote.

Section 4. No delegate may speak more than twice on any question unless granted an exception by the Chairperson/President.

Section 5. No delegate may call the question if there is less than one and one-half (1 ½) minutes of time left to debate on the resolution or motion or if there are no delegates waiting to speak.

Section 6. If any resolution not held in committee does not come for a valid vote before the General Council due to a lack of time, a lack of quorum, or another emergent reason, the resolution shall be referred for an out-of-session vote by the General Council delegates. The Committee reports, impact statements, and pro/con statements submitted by delegates shall be transmitted to the delegates concurrently with voting instructions. The vote shall be completed no later than November 5, 2026.

Rule VII

Committee Process. (Chairperson Voting.)

Section 1. The chairperson or co-chairs of a General Council Committee have the right to vote only when their vote will affect the outcome. If the chairperson or co-chairs cannot break a tie, the President shall be notified and shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 2. The author or a delegate from the sponsoring group shall be given the opportunity to open debate and to close in rebuttal. Committee debate shall observe the same time limits for debate as set out in these Rules for floor debate. However, the Chair(s) of each committee may, on their own authority, decide to change these time limits on debate and the frequency with which a delegate may speak in order to accommodate Committee needs.

Section 3. Committee chairs shall recognize -- delegates who wish to speak to a resolution based on the sign-up list available to delegates. Committee chairs shall alternate between pro and con statements. If a delegate is not available to speak when called on, their name will be moved to the end of the sign-up list. Authors or delegates may request someone to read their statement into the record as an accommodation.

Rule VIII

Eligible Voters.

Section 1. Voting delegates of the General Council shall be those members for whom proof of their election has been received and accepted by the Credentials Committee. Members elected or appointed midterm to an office that requires them to serve as a delegate to the General Council shall succeed the delegate accredited for that office during the regular session. Members who became entitled to delegate accreditation in the interim between regular sessions shall be entitled to vote upon certification of their election.

Section 2. Staff advisors are non-voting members of the General Council Committees.

Section 3. Non-Voting Delegates. Non-voting delegates, including past presidents of SEIU 503 who are non-voting delegates under the Bylaws, may not vote on resolutions or motions, or make or second motions. They may speak to resolutions and motions or make a point of order, request for information, or question of privilege.

Rule IX

Section 1. Conduct. Attendees shall observe the right of Union members to have opinions heard and respected, and the responsibility of members to treat all workers and members fairly, as provided in the Union's Bylaws and Code of Conduct. Disrespectful or disorderly conduct shall be handled by the General Council and committee chairpersons as provided in Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2. Video Recording. Delegates consent to official recordings made by SEIU Local 503 by attending the event. Delegates shall not make their own recordings of any delegates without permission of the persons being recorded.

Section 3. Display of Union Election Campaign Material. Attendees shall not display buttons, stickers, or other Union election campaign material when they are on any stage, acting as a committee member, presenting in a workshop, or otherwise addressing General Council or a committee.

Section 4. Facility Rules. Animals: Only service animals, which must be identified as service animals, are permitted within the event space. Safety: For the safety of all, no firearms or weapons are allowed on the premises.

Section 5. No Smoking Rule. There shall be no smoking in the facility. This includes e-cigarettes, vaporizers, and all smokable substances. Smoking is allowed outside the facility only in designated areas.

Section 6. Alcohol restrictions. At the Oregon Convention Center, an alcoholic beverage may only be consumed or open in the area where it was purchased. Alcohol is never allowed on the convention floor or in committee meetings.

Section 6. Violations. Deliberate violations of any of the Conduct Rules prescribed above in Sections 1-6 are a violation of the ethical duties of delegates and may result in charges of misconduct under the Union's Bylaws.

Rule X

Voting System. Voting by voice (aye or no) shall be the normal system used. However, the chairperson may elect to vote by having delegates raise their hand. A quorum being present, resolutions affecting the Bylaws are adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present. Any delegate may call upon the chair for a hand raise either before or

after the chairperson has announced the results of the voting. Hand raise votes shall be used in any appeal of a decision from the chair.

A quorum for a voice vote shall be met if a majority of the registered delegates are present. Any delegate questioning the presence of quorum may request a quorum report.. A quorum being present, resolutions affecting the Bylaws are adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates voting, not counting abstentions.

Rule XI

Resolutions Withdrawal. Any resolutions submitted to the General Council can be withdrawn only by a majority vote of the delegates voting.

Rule XII

Resolutions in Committee. No committee shall change the subject of a resolution. These committees are given the responsibility and authority to modify, hold in committee, combine, divide, and subsequently present resolutions to the General Council in the form of recommended amendments.

Rule XIII

Resolution Transfer. The chairpersons of the involved committees must advise the President of recommendations to move a resolution from one committee to another prior to the next convening of the general assembly. The President shall approve all transfers and shall report the transfers as the first order of business.

Rule XIV

Committee Reports.
Section 1. The Committee shall make a report recommending adoption or rejection of each resolution except those held in committee. Each resolution as presented by the committee shall be regarded as the main motion under consideration. A second is not required.

Section 2. The chair of the committee that reports the resolution may speak for five (5) minutes on the adoption of a resolution as presented. Debate limits shall be as set out in

Rule VI. The chair's opening report shall not be counted against the total time limit for debate on the resolution.

Rule XV

Section 1. Amendments. Amendments in committee or on the floor are limited to the subject of the resolution(s). Amendments to modify style or grammar may be offered in committee but are out of order on the floor unless necessary to clarify the resolution. Amendments on the floor of General Council may only be offered to the "Be it Resolved" portion of the resolution directing the action of the resolution and may not be offered to amend the "Whereas" clauses of the resolution, which provide the reason(s) the resolution is proposed. Amendments that exceed ten words are encouraged to be offered in writing and to be prepared prior to presenting to the body.

Section 2. If an amendment is offered on the floor which is substantially similar to an amendment considered in committee, the Committee Chair may offer a point of order to explain the reason why the amendment was rejected by the Committee.

Rule XVI

Held in Committee Action. Any resolution "held in committee" by a two-thirds vote of the committee may be brought before the General Council by simple majority vote of the delegates on a motion to do so. Such a motion shall be regarded as the main motion under consideration and must be done before the next committee report begins.

Rule XVII

Motion to Postpone or Table. A motion to postpone or table is in order but only if the motion is to postpone or table to a specific time during the proceedings of this General Council.

Rule XVIII

Reconsideration. A motion to reconsider earlier action is in order if the delegate making the motion voted for the prevailing outcome, but only once per issue and must be done before the next committee report begins.

Rule XIX

Section 1. Electronic Devices. Mobile devices shall be made silent in both the general assembly and the committee meeting rooms.

Section 2. Sidebar Conversations. In that sidebar conversations can be disruptive to the business at hand, delegates and staff are encouraged to move these conversations off of the council floor, and outside committee rooms. Pages and Sergeants-at-Arms are authorized to ask delegates and staff to take disruptive sidebar conversations off the floor.

Section 3. Wheelchair/scooter courtesy. In recognition of the Union's support of ADA/accessibility accommodations, courtesy will be extended to people using mobility devices in moving on the council floor. Delegates are asked to allow people using mobility devices and their assistants to move ahead of the line for services/elevators/ food.

Section 4. Signs or Banners. No signs or banners, other than official Council signs and banners shall be permitted on the Council floor. Signs and banners will be permitted in the gallery/observer seating area except as restricted by Rule IX regarding the display of Union election campaign material. This prohibition does not apply to campaign literature distributed for all statewide officer candidates who choose to have campaign literature distributed at the designated time.

Rule XX

The Standing Rules Committee. The Standing Rules Committee is authorized to edit all adopted amendments to the Bylaws to ensure these amendments conform to existing language; such editing shall be non-substantive in nature. The committee shall report any such editing to the Board of Directors within ninety (90) days of the adjournment of the General Council.

Rule XXI

Rules Committee Report. This report of the General Council Rules Committee shall be presented to the General Council for appropriate action by motion of the chairperson of said committee.