

Legislative Body Rules

The following are the rules, based on WRJ constitutional requirements and experience, for this meeting of the WRJ Legislative Body, which is being held electronically utilizing Zoom technology. Respecting these rules allows the business of WRJ to be conducted in a democratic, impartial and expeditious manner. Acceptance of the rules will be voted upon at the beginning of the Legislative Body meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

Voting:

- Each affiliated sisterhood/women's group, as well as the aggregate of individual members, is eligible for votes within the WRJ Legislative Body in proportion to membership. Registered delegates representing these cohorts has been assigned a number of votes based on this eligibility. The number of assigned votes will be added in front of the voter's screen name for easy counting.
- Only accredited registered delegates and ex-officio delegates are entitled to vote or make motions.
- The electronic raise hand feature will be used for both seeking recognition and voting.
- A vote taken by means of raised hands will allow the presiding officer to quickly assess how many have voted first in favor, and then against the motion. She will then rule which side has it. If the presiding officer is uncertain, she may order a counted vote – or a member may move that a counted vote be taken. The presiding officer will appoint tellers to count the vote.

Quorum: Twenty percent of the registered and accredited delegates present shall constitute a quorum.

Speaking:

- The raise hand feature will be used for both seeking recognition and voting. Those joining on a traditional phone call can raise their virtual hand by entering *9 on their phone's keypad.
- Please only raise your hand electronically to seek recognition or when prompted to vote. Please *do not* lower your own hand. The hosts are responsible for lowering hands. When multiple participants are seeking recognition, once the presiding officer has called on someone, all other hands raised will be lowered. If you have an "interrupting motion" (point of order, a request for preference in recognition, etc.) raise your hand *again* after it has been lowered by a host. If you are not immediately



recognized, you may unmute your microphone and say “Madam President!”

- If you have a motion to make other than a procedural motion, it should be entered in writing into the participant “chat,” after which you should seek recognition. When called upon, you should note that the motion is in the chat and move it. If calling into the meeting on a phone, however, you may offer the motion orally.
- Each member, when recognized, shall identify herself and her voting capacity, that is, whether as a delegate from a sisterhood (and if so, which one), an individual member, a delegate from a WRJ district, a member of the WRJ Board of Directors, an alternate, or an observer.

Debate:

- For proposed constitutional revisions, voting delegates will be invited by the presiding officer to request debate on specific provisions. All other proposed revisions will be considered together in a single motion without debate or amendment.
- For resolutions, only the operative (“therefore”) section will be subject to debate, amendment, and adoption. Comments or suggestions on background sections will be taken under advisement by the Resolutions Committee, which is responsible for the final wording of background sections of resolutions that are adopted.
- When possible, speakers shall alternate, one speaker pro, one con, on subjects under debate. In the interest of conserving time and clarifying complicated subjects, structured debate – whereby one speaker pro and one speaker con are given equal time before opening the floor to additional debate – may be introduced at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- No delegate, alternate, or observer may have the floor for a second time until all delegates desiring to speak on a question have done so.
- No delegates, except by unanimous consent, shall have the privilege of speaking more than twice on the same subject.
- Editorial comments will be noted, not debated.

Time Allotment: No-one shall speak for more than one minute on any one motion or topic of discussion.

Decorum: Please keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking. Please keep your video camera on if possible.

Convening and Adjourning: The sessions of the Women of Reform Judaism shall assemble and adjourn promptly as scheduled in the program or as announced.