

Rules for Smyth County Republican Party Canvass – Saturday, January 11, 2020

The Smyth County Republican Committee of the Republican Party of Virginia, pursuant to the Plan of Organization of the Republican Party of Virginia, hereby adopts these Rules for the conduct of the Party Canvass to be held on January 11, 2020 in accordance with the duly adopted Call for a Party Canvass adopted on November 25, 2019.

1. The party canvass shall, to the extent applicable, be governed by and conducted in accordance with the following (giving precedence as listed): the State Party Plan, the Unit Plan of Organization, these rules, and otherwise in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
2. Only eligible voters duly registered by the Credentials Committee may vote. No proxies are allowed at any time.
3. All voters shall meet the requirements as specified in the Call of the Party Canvass.
 - a. All voters must sign a statement of intent to support the nominees of the Republican Party in the ensuing General Election.
4. The Chairman of the Smyth County Republican Committee shall appoint a Credentials Committee to register those persons who offer to vote and to count the ballots once the polls are closed. A majority of the members of the Credentials Committee shall remain inside the room in which voting is conducted during the period in which voting takes place and until the ballots are counted.
5. The Credentials Committee shall decide any question that may arise concerning the qualifications of a candidate or eligibility to vote.
6. No one will be allowed in the voting area without proper authorization. Candidates or campaigners shall not loiter or campaign in the room in which voting will take place or within forty (40) feet of the entrance to the voting room.
 - a. Each candidate on the ballot at the canvass may appoint up to two persons to serve as authorized representatives of the candidate in the voting room before the canvass opens, during the canvass, and after the canvass concludes and proceeds to ascertain the vote. A candidate may make substitutions of their authorized representatives, if needed, throughout the process. All representatives must have a signed statement of appointment from the candidate and present such statement to the Credentials Committee. Representatives may not actively campaign for a candidate or display any campaign material while serving as an authorized representative in the voting area.
7. The Credentials Committee shall prepare ballots listing the names of all qualified candidates for contested nominations or elections, who have properly filed, as required in the Call of the Party Canvass.
 - a. The name of each candidate who has filed for an office shall appear on the ballot using the order of filing as the method for determining ballot listing order.
8. As soon as the polls are closed, the Credentials Committee shall immediately proceed to ascertain the vote given at the Canvass and shall continue without adjournment until they declare the results of the canvass. Only the members of the Credentials Committee and authorized representatives of each candidate shall be permitted to remain in the room once the polls have closed and until the ballots are counted. Ballots shall then be placed in a sealed envelope and preserved and secured by the Credentials Committee for at least thirty (30) days in the event of any challenge to the results.
9. Candidates shall be elected on the basis of plurality of votes received. If two or more persons have an equal number of votes and a higher number than any other person, the Smyth County Republican Committee shall proceed publicly to determine by lot which of the persons shall be declared elected, after those persons have been notified and are allowed an opportunity to be present.
10. The Chairman of the Smyth County Republican Committee and officials appointed by him shall preserve order inside and outside the polling place. No person shall hinder, intimidate, or interfere with any qualified voter so as to prevent the voter from casting a secret ballot. The Smyth County Republican Committee may order a person violating this Rule to cease such action and, if such action continues, may remove such person from the polling place.