

## IMPORTANT TASKS AND DEADLINES FOR THE 236<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

Annual Convention, beginning November 20, 2020, may still feel like it is a long way off but there are a number of important deadlines that are much closer and which need to be met:

### **CERTIFICATION OF VOTERS (Lay and Clergy) - Deadline: September 21**

Certification ensures that persons entitled to speak and vote at convention are able to do so. This year, our annual convention will use secure, electronic voting instead of paper ballots for the very first time. **Thus, all voters – lay and clergy – must certify their eligibility by the deadline to receive access to the voting system and training well before convention.** There is no fee to certify delegates.

**IMPORTANT:** All voters – including alternates who might substitute for another delegate during convention--must have access to an internet-capable device (computer, tablet, or phone), the internet, and their email account in order to vote.

**Lay voters.** Your parish delegation is selected by your vestry (Canon 2). Certification of your delegates and alternates must be completed by the senior or junior warden or, if the senior or junior warden is not available, the secretary of the vestry. The following link goes directly to the Certification of Delegation form: [Certification of Delegation Form](#).

**Clergy voters.** (Article IV, Section 2). For past conventions when voting only required printed ballots, canonical clergy were certified to vote when they checked in at the convention site. However, with the move to electronic voting, certification must be done by September 21 to ensure voting clergy receive the same training as lay delegates well before the convention. [Certification of Canonical Clergy Form](#)

Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution and Canons state that those members of the clergy who fit the following criteria are eligible to vote:

“Every Bishop, Priest or Deacon of the Protestant Episcopal Church who is canonically resident in this Diocese shall have a seat in Convention. Every Bishop, Priest or Deacon of the Protestant Episcopal Church who is canonically resident in this Diocese and (a) holds a cure or office in this Diocese, (b) who shall have resigned a cure or office on account of age or physical incapacity, or (c) who holds neither a cure nor an office in

this Diocese nor has resigned a cure or office on account of age or physical incapacity but is in good standing and has reported, in writing, to the Bishop each January or (d) whose ecclesiastical duty, for which the approval and the certification by the Ecclesiastical Authority are necessary, requires residence outside the jurisdiction of this Diocese (including, but not limited to, a chaplain in the Armed Forces of the United States), shall have a vote in Convention.”

## **AUDITED PARISH FINANCES – Deadline: September 1st**

A parish’s last **two** annual audits must be filed by **September 1** (Canon 14). This deadline if missed, will prevent a parish’s lay representatives from voting at convention. The deadline for filing audits is set by Episcopal Church canons (I.7.1(g)) as “not later than 30 days following the date of such report, and in no event, not later than September 1 of each year.”

## **RESOLUTIONS – Deadline: September 21st**

Further, **anyone who plans to submit a resolution to convention is invited to do so on time--that is, by September 21.** This deadline allows voters the time to properly review and discuss each idea well in advance. While our rules of order technically permit late resolutions to be submitted up to convention day, these are only considered when a super-majority of voters approves hearing them. Late resolutions (often referred to as floor resolutions) are any debatable resolutions received *after* the 60-day deadline. These may only be introduced at the convention if a supermajority (two-thirds) agrees to receive them. **Late resolutions are strongly discouraged especially this year given the fact that this convention is only able to meet and debate online.** *Therefore, convention will be urged to reject consideration of any late resolution that could have been submitted on time and instead resolution writers are urged to submit any late resolutions (on time) for the next convention.* Having our collective business organized on time is a major way to help keep our large, online gathering stay focused on mission and ministry and not get bogged down in late legislation.

## **NOMINATIONS – Deadline: August 21st**

As members of the Episcopal Church, we all share in its leadership and oversight, often by serving on parish and diocesan teams and committees. **Any active Episcopalian in the Episcopal Church in Delaware may nominate someone to serve on a diocesan-wide body. You may nominate yourself as well. Please prayerfully consider a person you know who might be ready to serve at the diocesan level.**

If you have questions, feel free to contact [John Michael Sophos](mailto:JohnMichaelSophos@delaware.church), Nominations Chairperson, [nominations@delaware.church](mailto:nominations@delaware.church) or [D-L Casson](mailto:D-L Casson@delaware.church), Secretary of Convention, [convention@delaware.church](mailto:convention@delaware.church). The following is the link to the [Nomination Form](#). Below are Diocesan Offices to be filled.

## CONSTITUTIONS AND CANONS

### To Be Elected

Clergy \_\_\_\_\_

One clergy for a five-year term

## DIOCESAN COUNCIL

### To Be Elected

Clergy \_\_\_\_\_

Two clergy for a three-year term

Lay \_\_\_\_\_

Two lay-at-large for three-year term

One lay for three-year term - Area III

One lay for three-year term - Area IV

## DISCIPLINARY BOARD

### To Be Elected

Clergy \_\_\_\_\_

One clergy for a four-year term

Lay \_\_\_\_\_

One lay for four-year term

## STANDING COMMITTEE

### To Be Elected

Clergy \_\_\_\_\_

One clergy for a four-year term

Lay \_\_\_\_\_

One lay for four-year term

## TRUSTEES

### To Be Elected

Clergy or Lay \_\_\_\_\_

One clergy or one lay for a six-year term

## ELECTIONS

Since this convention will be entirely online, all voting will also take place online. *It is essential that all eligible convention voters (delegates, alternates, and voting clergy) have ready access to the internet, an email account, and a zoom-capable computer or device throughout the entire convention.* For example, online voting will use your email

account to send you your ballot for each vote, and you will then need an internet-connected web browser to place your vote.

Multiple training sessions will be offered on the new voting system via Zoom during October 2020. **All voters are required to attend one training session.** The voting system is simple and easy to learn. *No voting training will be offered during the convention;* we'll jump right in and start voting when the time comes. **Thus, all voters are expected to have committed themselves to learn the system in advance.**

## REGISTRATION

Registering for convention means the enrollment of all people who plan to attend – lay delegations, clergy, volunteers, vendors, guests, seminarians, diocesan leadership, and visitors. This year there is no fee to register since convention will be exclusively online. **Certifying a lay delegation or a canonical clergy person** is separate from **registering for convention.**

There is a new wrinkle for the 236<sup>th</sup> Convention. *Since all voting will take place online, and since all voters need to be trained, canonical clergy eligible to vote will need to certify attendance at convention by September 21, 2020.* This information is needed so that we can coordinate voter-training beginning in October with the elections vendor. The elections vendor will register all certified delegates, alternates, and canonical clergy who are planning to attend. **Registration for non-voters will begin September 21, 2020.**