

# CAGOP Platform Committee Rules, Guidelines & Voting Procedures

The Draft Platform and amendments are available online at:

<https://cagop.org/s/platform>

## 1. General Rules for the CAGOP Platform Committee.

a. **RULES:** The CAGOP Platform Committee will convene at 10:15 a.m., September 30, 2023. Member Check-in and voting device pick-up will begin at 10:00 a.m. Convention attendees may observe the proceedings from an established guest area.

i. The platform drafting committee's draft platform shall be the CAGOP draft platform. CAGOP Bylaws §2.06.06(F)(5).

ii. No proposed amendment except those timely submitted shall be considered by the Platform Committee. CAGOP Bylaws §2.06.06(F)(6) and (7).

iii. "The Platform Committee shall vote upon on such proposed amendments at the next meeting of the Platform Committee." CAGOP Bylaws §2.06.06(F)(7) [Emphasis added].

iv. "Amendments shall be voted upon exactly as written with no changes." CAGOP Bylaws §2.06.06(F)(7) [Emphasis added].

b. **QUORUM:** "The presence in person of fifty (50) members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business of the Platform Committee. After establishment of a quorum, a quorum shall be a majority of the number of members of the Platform Committee present when the quorum was established." CAGOP Bylaws §2.06.06(F)(4).

## 2. MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE.

### a. Organization of Amendment Proposals:

i. All timely submitted Amendments to the Draft Platform were numbered in the chronological order in which they were received.

ii. Each Amendment proposal will be considered by the SUBJECT/SECTION to which the Amendment applies using the Draft Platform as the standard.

iii. All multiple subject Amendment proposals are separated and reorganized by SUBJECT/SECTIONS to permit consideration of similar proposals.

iv. Amendment proposals to add a new plank to the Platform will be considered after completion of voting on Amendments to the Draft Platform.

v. The Draft Platform and all Amendment proposals are included in a digital .pdf "booklet." The booklet reorganizes and consolidates Amendment proposals by SUBJECT/SECTION (rather than chronology) order. This eliminates duplication of identical proposals (removing

almost 100 pages of duplication) and allows voting consideration of all Amendments. This booklet incorporates the exact language of every Amendment proposal.

vi. The SUBJECT/SECTION digital booklet contains a Table of Contents, the Draft Platform, and each Amendment proposal arranged by SUBJECT/SECTION, including the proposer (author) and topic. The chronologically ordered Platform Amendment submissions are available on the CAGOP website for reference.

vii. The SUBJECT/SECTION digital booklet will be sent electronically either as a file or link to all Platform Committee members. This booklet is available for delegate and public access on the CAGOP website.

viii. The SUBJECT/SECTION digital booklet will be the working document during the Platform Committee meeting.

**b. The Committee Will Use Digital Documents Only.**

i. *The Amendment booklets will be presented in digital form only.* If a member desires a printed paper copy, that should be printed locally, by the member, prior to arrival at the convention.

ii. **If you want a printed paper copy for the meeting—PRINT ONE OUT.**

c. **Observers.** Two appointed CAGOP observers will be monitoring the voting process to ensure the integrity of the voting system.

**3. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**

a. The committee will use the SUBJECT/SECTION booklet as the working document.

b. Members are encouraged to bring their own laptops, tablets, or smart phones to participate digitally.

c. **DO YOUR HOMEWORK.** Be fully PREPARED! Read the proposals BEFORE the meeting. Be familiar with all proposals and prepared to vote for the planks or Amendment(s) you support.

d. *It is possible there may NOT be enough time during the meeting to re-read individual amendments. Know them before you go!* Due to the volume of materials submitted, expect voting and re-voting to go quickly.

e. Generally, know the differences between each Platform SUBJECT/SECTION and the proposed Amendment prior to arriving. Know your favorites early and have secondary or other back-up choice(s) in mind should your first choice not advance. Read and consider any public comment posted on the CAGOP website.

f. You will have the opportunity to consider comments by the Amendment proposer (author) and any other arguments of other Platform Committee members, prior to making a final decision.

#### **4. VOTING PROCEDURES.**

- a.** Voting will be completed using hand-held digital voting devices from CAGOP.
- b.** To facilitate voting by voting device, a “Voting Item” number has been assigned to each plank or Amendment proposal in the format: “(Voting Item ###).” If there are less than seven (7) Amendment proposals, the Voting Item number will be a single-digit code. For items that have eight (8) or more Amendment proposals, the Voting Item number will be a three-digit code.
- c.** The number code following the term “Voting Item” will be the entry to support that plank or Amendment proposal when that subject is brought to the floor for consideration. A voting option to remove/delete a proposed plank, or Amendment, will be included.
- d.** The platform will be considered on a plank-by-plank basis in the order presented by the Draft Platform. The Draft Platform plank under current consideration will be projected onto a large screen.
- e.** Commencing with the Preamble, the Committee will address and vote on Amendments to each Draft Platform plank, in order.
- f.** Each Amendment proposer (author) [or if there are multiple proposers for the same language, then only one may comment], may have up to 1-minute to address the Committee on why their Amendment should be adopted. Comments are optional and not required. All Amendments will be considered for vote.
- g.** Following Amendment proposer (author) comments, Committee members (other than the proposer) may comment on the version they support. Up to two speakers, for 1-minute each, may comment FOR the adoption of a particular plank or amendment. Each member will announce at the beginning of their comments which plank or Amendment they support. This process will continue until no further comment is requested or each proposed amendment has had two speakers.
- h.** Committee members will then vote to approve the Draft Platform plank, or instead, one of the other Amendment proposals. The “Voting Item” number corresponding to a desired plank or Amendments proposal shall be entered into the voting device. The results will be tallied and announced by the Chairman.
- i.** If any proposed plank or Amendment receives over 50% of the vote, that option shall be adopted as the Platform Committee’s report on the plank subject. If no Voting Item receives over 50% on the initial vote, then all proposals other than the three top vote items, shall be eliminated from consideration. A re-vote on the remaining Voting Items shall be taken.

**j.** If no Voting Item still receives over 50% of the vote, then the lowest vote getting item shall be eliminated from further consideration. A re-vote on the remaining two items shall be taken. The Voting Item receiving over 50%, shall be deemed adopted as the Platform Committee's report recommendation on that plank subject.

**k.** In the event of a tie, the Draft Platform language on the particular plank under consideration, shall be deemed to prevail.

**l.** The voting and re-voting process described above will be repeated until all Draft Platform planks, and Amendment proposals, have been considered for voting.

**m.** After the conclusion of initial Draft Platform votes, any new proposed platform planks will be considered. The Committee will consider if the new proposed plank should be adopted, and if so, which version to adopt.

**n.** Those Draft Platform and/or Amendment proposals, having received over 50% of the vote on that item shall be deemed incorporated as the final report of the Platform Committee. The final report of the Platform Committee will be submitted to the CAGOP Chairman, for submission to and approval by the Convention Delegation.

## **5. Public Comment.**

While there is no provision in the CAGOP Bylaws providing for Public or non-Platform Member Delegates to comment on matters during the Platform Committee meeting, public comment is encouraged.

Due to very limited time constraints at the live meeting portion of the Platform Committee during the convention, comments on the Draft Platform, and Amendment proposals, should be made in advance of the meeting, through the use of the online comment form available at <https://cagop.tfaforms.net/614>.

Comments submitted prior to the start of the Convention will be made public and available to members of the Platform Committee for consideration.

Comments must include the writer's name and Delegate status. Comments must note the Amendment number, Topic, Author, and be germane to the Draft Platform and Amendment proposals under consideration.