B2026-10 Bylaw 6.D.2.f.ii –
Convention Balloting: Multi-Candidate Elimination

Sponsor: Charles Wood, UCRP Vice Chair

Constitution & Bylaws Committee: 5-0 Favorable

Executive Committee:

Central Committee:

Purpose: Disambiguate the process for eliminating candidates during a multi-round convention nomination process.

Legend: Changes with additions underlined and deletions having a ~~strikethrough~~, all in **bold.**

Bylaw 6.D.2.f.ii – Convention Balloting: Multi-Candidate Elimination

- **~~More than one candidate must be eliminated between rounds of voting if the number of votes received by the candidates being eliminated is less than the number of votes received by the next highest vote-getter who will advance to the subsequent ballot. If one Candidate then receives sixty percent or more of the votes cast, he or she shall become the party's Candidate in the General Election without running in the Primary Election.~~ If no Candidate receives sixty percent or more of the votes cast, beginning with the candidate receiving the highest number of votes and proceeding in descending order, if the combined votes of all candidates ranked below a given candidate are less than that candidate's vote total, all candidates ranked below that candidate shall be eliminated, provided that no such elimination may reduce the field to fewer than two candidates. If no such candidate is found, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated.**

Justification:

The current bylaw language is circular: it says elimination applies "if the number of votes received by the candidates being eliminated is less than the number of votes received by the next highest vote-getter," without saying how many candidates that is or where the cutoff falls. This surfaced at the last nominating convention, where the chair and Credentials had no clear standard for how many trailing candidates to eliminate between ballots and had to interpret the rule on the spot. The text also never specifies whether to eliminate the largest possible group, the smallest, or some other number — any reading is arguably consistent with the current wording.

The proposed language fixes this with a mathematical elimination test: starting from the top vote-getter and moving down, if the combined votes of all candidates ranked below a given candidate fall short of that candidate's own total, none of them can realistically catch up — doing so would require their supporters to swing enough votes to overtake everyone above them, not just the candidate directly ahead. Where that threshold is met, all candidates below it are eliminated at once, not just the lowest one. This removes the largest mathematically-justified group each round without cutting anyone who still has a realistic path forward. The field can never drop below two candidates, and if no clear cutoff exists on a given ballot, the rule falls back to eliminating just the lowest vote-getter — so the outcome is always well-defined.