

Internal Memorandum—Nov. 11, 2024

Additional Guidance for the Emergency Conference: Delegate Elections Guidelines, Logistic Clarifications

How to Elect Delegates to the Emergency Internal FRSO Conference

A number of Districts have asked about the process for electing delegates, so we are providing more detailed guidance on how to do this.

Usually, the District Committee will discuss and unite on a slate of comrades who they think would be good delegates for the District. Delegates will have a real say in decisions that the conference makes, so they should be people who understand our line very well and have a firm grasp of Marxism-Leninism. Often, delegates are leaders in their Districts, like Unit Chairs or District Organizers. The deliberation over who should be on a slate of delegates also takes into consideration issues of composition—its a good thing if the most important struggles that a District is engaged in have a delegate involved with that area of work, and if the delegates reflect the gender and oppressed nationality composition of the District. For example, stating this principle in the negative, a District with three delegates probably wouldn't have all three delegates be comrades who do student work, when the District is also heavily involved in labor work; a District with many Black cadre probably wouldn't select a slate of only white delegates, etc.

The District Committee will then present this slate to the whole district, and the slate is voted up or down. Most of the time, the district unites around the carefully considered slate presented by the District Committee, and votes it through.

Example: The Topeka, KS District has 12 cadre members, and therefore are entitled to send 2 delegates to the conference (1 for every 7 cadre, rounding up). The District Committee meets and decides that the District Organizer and the Unit Head of the Police Crimes Unit make the most sense to send as delegates. At the next District Meeting, they present this slate to the whole cadre membership. Before voting, they call for any other nominations. Nobody else wants to make a nomination. The District then votes, with 9 cadre voting yes and 3 voting no. The yes votes are in the majority, and the slate is elected as the District's delegates.

However, it is the right of any cadre member in good standing to run for election as a delegate, or to nominate another comrade who they think should be a delegate. If this happens, the manner of voting changes—the district members vote for each individual by secret ballot rather than for a whole slate. Cadre cast a number of votes equal to the number of delegates that the District gets, and may cast no more than one vote for each candidate. The candidates who receive the most votes are elected as the delegates for the District.

Example: The Pittsburgh, PA District has 25 cadre members, and therefore is entitled to send 4 delegates to the conference (1 for every 7 cadre, rounding up). The District Committee meets and unites around a slate of comrades A, B, C, and D. This is presented to the whole District at the next meeting, and the chair of the meeting calls for any other nominations. Comrade X nominates comrade Y, who accepts the nomination. There are no other nominations. All cadre now cast ballots, assigning their 4 votes (one for each delegate slot the district has) among the 5 candidates. The ballots are tallied, and the top 4 vote-getters are comrades B, D, Y, and C. These are the elected delegates for the District.

Clarification on Central Committee Members

All Central Committee members are automatically invited to attend the Emergency Conference as "super-delegates," meaning they will attend the conference and vote like delegates, but they are not part of a District's delegate count. They do not need to be elected as a District's delegate to attend the conference.

Districts with CC members will send their elected delegates, and in addition they will send their CC member super-delegate(s).

Example: The Boston, MA District has 21 cadre. The DO is a member of the Central Committee. The District gets 3 delegates (1 for every 7 cadre). The Boston District is going to send 3 elected delegates, and also the super-delegate Central Committee member, to the Emergency Conference.

How many Delegates does our District get to send to the Conference?

Districts send one (1) elected delegate for each seven (7) cadre, rounding up. Here is the breakdown of how that works:

Number of Cadre in District	Number of Delegates District Sends to Conference
7 or less	1
8 to 14	2
15 to 21	3
22 to 28	4
29 to 35	5
36 to 42	6
43 to 49	7
50 to 56	8
57 to 63	9
64 to 70	10

When should delegates arrive?

Delegates should arrive in Minneapolis on the evening of Friday, December 13. The conference will meet all day Saturday, December 14, and until about 1 or 2pm on Sunday, December 15. So, delegates should make travel plans to depart Minneapolis on the evening of Sunday, December 15.

When should the district tell the center who their delegates are?

What info should be included?

The Districts should tell the Center who their delegates are by Saturday, December 1, 2024.

Information that should be included about the delegates:

- Name
- Phone Number
- Arrival and Departure times
- Dietary Restrictions
- Pet allergies
- Mobility needs (e.g., can't climb stairs, etc.)