

INTRODUCTION  
TO THE  
**2021**  
**Delegate**  
**Session**

## **Parliamentary Procedure for MFB Annual Meeting**

Michigan Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting is run according to *Robert's Rules of Order*, as well as certain specific rules adopted by the delegates. *Robert's Rules* are the most commonly used rules of order used by organizations to provide a process and structure for their meetings.

### **Common Motions at MFB's Annual Meeting:**

- **Motion to Adopt a Policy:** During delegate session, members of the State Policy Development Committee will typically read a policy, and then state: "Mr. Chairman, I move for the adoption of this policy." The Chairman will ask if a delegate seconds (or supports) that motion, and then will ask if there is any discussion. It is at this time that delegates have an opportunity to present their comments on the proposed policy.
- **Motion to Amend:** A delegate may want to change words in a proposed policy. This can be accomplished in three different ways, depending on the length of the change:
  - a. If it is simply one or two words, the delegate may simply state: "I move to amend the proposed policy on line 13 to change the word "and" to "or." This motion will require a "second" from another delegate, discussion, and then a vote of the delegates. After it is decided, the delegates will return to discussion of the proposed policy, either amended or unamended.
  - b. If an amendment is lengthier than 5 words, a delegate needs to provide it in writing before making the motion to amend, so the proposed amendment can be quickly and fully displayed on the screen to the delegate body. In 2021, this can be done in various ways, depending on the room situation at the time of the meeting.
  - c. If a longer amendment cannot be shown completely on the viewing screen, MFB's Annual Meeting rules require that the amendment be provided in writing, on paper, to all delegates. In 2021, there will be flexibility in the rules as to how we accomplish this.
- **Motion to End Debate ("Move the previous question"):** During any discussion of a motion or amendment, a delegate may try to end the discussion. The proper statement is "I move the previous question." (Some will use the phrase "I call the question"). This motion requires a second, and no discussion is allowed. This motion requires a 2/3 majority in order to pass. If this motion passes, a vote is taken immediately on the question that was called.
- **Motion for Reconsideration:** A delegate may move to reconsider a prior decision. However, only a delegate who voted in favor of the prior decision can make this motion.
- **Motion for a Division of the House:** In the event that a voice vote is not conclusive, either the chair or a delegate can ask for a "division of the house." Normally, the chair will ask for a show of hands or for delegates to rise to indicate their votes and may ask for tellers to count votes. In 2021, these votes will be handled electronically.
- **Motion to Lay on the Table (a/k/a "Table the Motion"):** A delegate may move to temporarily stop discussion of a pending motion. The motion requires a second, and a vote. No discussion is held. The motion must be taken up at a later time during the same meeting. If you are uncertain about the proper parliamentary procedure to deal with an issue, you can always make a parliamentary inquiry and the parliamentarian for the meeting will give clarity.



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October 26, 2021

Dear Annual Meeting Voting Delegates:

Here is your copy of the proposed 2021 Michigan Farm Bureau policy resolutions book. I encourage your county Farm Bureau voting delegates to review the book before participating in the MFB Annual Meeting delegate sessions on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Amendment forms will be available at the district meetings (Nov. 9-10) and during the annual meeting delegate sessions. They are also online at <http://mfbfoc.com/policyform>.

**This book includes the policy schedule, with those scheduled for discussion located in the yellow section.** This will help delegates plan for discussion on issues receiving significant input from county Farm Bureaus. All other state and MFB policies (amended and reaffirmed) will be voted on by title only, five at a time. Like the reaffirmation process in prior years, delegates may request to withdraw a policy from the group, to be discussed and voted on separately. AFBF policy recommendations will be reviewed individually.

#### **New Policy Issues**

The MFB Policy Development Committee will also consider issues or changes to policy if they are *new and have surfaced since your county annual meeting or were not covered or discussed at your county annual meeting.*

Additionally, members wanting to *present a new resolution on a topic not included in the proposed resolutions book* may share ideas for consideration by the Committee.

Members with ideas, amendments or new policies that fall into the above category may submit them at district meetings (Nov. 9-10) or online at <http://mfbfoc.com/policyform> no later than Monday, Nov. 22 at 3 p.m.

#### **Policy Amendments**

Amendments to an existing policy will be accepted until the close of delegate session on Dec. 1. Delegates can submit an amendment by:

- Filling out a paper form (available at the district meetings and delegate sessions) and giving it to an MFB staff member, or
- Filling out an online form at <http://mfbfoc.com/policyform>

If you have questions, please contact your MFB regional manager, or call me at 517-679-5342 (or evenings at 517-230-1511) and I am glad to assist.

Thank you for your participation and we look forward to another excellent policy discussion!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matthew G. Smego'.

Matthew G. Smego, Director  
Public Policy and Commodity Division

cc: MFB Policy Development Committee  
MFB Board of Directors  
County Farm Bureau Administrative Managers  
MFB Staff

## **REPORT OF RULES COMMITTEE**

### **Annual Meeting of Delegates - Michigan Farm Bureau**

November 3 – December 1, 2021

Officers and directors of Michigan Farm Bureau, and such other persons who are not delegates to this meeting but who are recognized by the Chair, shall have equal rights to the floor with voting delegates in the discussion of questions, subject to time limitations imposed by the Chair. Such persons shall not, however, have the right to make or second motions, make or second nominations, or vote, except that directors and members of the Policy Development, Rules, and Credentials Committees may make and second motions and nominations, but shall not vote unless they are also duly elected delegates.

Upon being recognized by the Chair, the person shall upon all occasions, except when seconding a motion, first state his or her name and the County he or she represents. Each person, upon officially being granted the floor, shall be limited to two minutes for the discussion of any question, and shall not be entitled to recognition a second time on the same question until all who are entitled to the privilege shall have had the opportunity to be heard. Upon request, the time limitation may be extended in any particular case by two thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates. Whenever any delegate, upon being recognized by the Chair, discusses any question, such delegate may not, while still maintaining the floor, move the previous question for the purpose of closing debate.

Any delegate who desires to offer a resolution on a topic not included in the report of the Policy Development Committee shall present the same to the Policy Development Committee, in legible writing, not later than 3:00 p.m. on Monday, November 22. The Policy Development Committee shall review each such resolution to determine whether it will recommend the resolution to the delegates, and copies of any resolution recommended by the Committee shall be distributed to each delegate by 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30. Any such resolution not recommended by the Committee shall be returned to the delegate and to the Chairperson of the delegation offering the resolution, who may present it from the floor after all resolutions recommended by the Policy Development Committee have been considered. The person presenting the resolution from the floor shall be responsible for providing a copy of such resolution to each delegate who is attending in person, and shall notify the Policy Development Committee who will distribute the resolution to the remote attendees electronically.

Call to order for the opening of the business meeting shall be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3. The meeting shall be recessed at 8 p.m. on that day. District meetings will take place November 9 – 10 for district caucuses. The meeting shall be reconvened at 2:30 p.m. on November 30 and adjourned at 5:30 p.m. on December 1.

For 2021, delegates may participate in person or remotely through an electronic device, however, if a remotely participating delegate encounters technical difficulties with participation, the Chair may choose to proceed with the Annual Meeting at his or her discretion. In the event of a loss of internet connectivity, delegates may submit an email to [SAMVoting@michfb.com](mailto:SAMVoting@michfb.com) to provide a comment, make a motion, or vote. Such email will be considered in the order received and only if submitted during the relevant topic discussion.

Also, delegates may substitute with a credentialed alternate delegate; however, registration for each delegate session will be locked after the following timeframes:

For the November 30 – 2:30-5:30 Delegate Session, delegate seating registration will close November 22 at 3:00 p.m.; for the December 1 – 9:00 – 12:30 and 2:30 – 5:30 Delegate Sessions, delegate seating registration will close November 29 at 3:00 p.m.

The following order of business is approved:

1. Call to order.
2. Proof of Service of Notice.
3. Report of Credentials Committee.
4. Report of Rules Committee.
5. Minutes of 2020 annual meeting.
6. Chief Operating Officer's Report.
7. Treasurer's Report.
8. Report of Policy Development Committee.
9. President's Address.
10. Nomination of directors by odd-numbered districts, and any district with a director vacancy to be made in district caucuses.
11. Election of directors to be held on Wednesday morning, December 1--election of directors representing odd-numbered districts, two at-large directors, and any district with a director vacancy, the Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee, and the Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee.
12. New business.

The Chair is empowered to vary the order of business as necessity may require.

The business of the meeting shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order except as provided in these rules. A motion approved during the meeting may be reconsidered if a motion to reconsider is approved by majority vote. Reconsideration shall take place after all other policy resolutions in the Policy Development Committee report have been considered, but prior to any new policies or business. The Chair may appoint one or more parliamentarians.

Rules for Electing Directors:

1. Nominees for director positions must meet the qualifications established by the Bylaws. In addition, the Bylaws provide that no more than one person from the same immediate family or farming operation and, except in the case of the President who may be from the same district as another director-at-large, no more than one director-at-large from a particular district may serve on the Board of Directors at any one time. Each candidate for director shall provide in writing, on the first day of State Annual Meeting, a statement describing how they meet the bylaw qualifications for directors to be “directly and actively engaged in farming as owners and/or operators of farms whose primary interest is in farming” and attesting that they are not employed full-time in an occupation other than farming nor serving in a county, state or national elective office. This statement must be provided to the Secretary of Michigan Farm Bureau who will provide it to the delegates.
  
2. District, Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee and Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee Directors.
  1. Nominations for district directors for two-year terms shall be made by delegates from the odd-numbered districts at their respective caucuses. Nomination of one director from each odd-numbered district shall be made from the floor during the election process, and there shall be no other nominations from the floor for district directors.
  
  2. Nominations for one-year terms for a director representing the Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee and a director representing the Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee shall be made from the floor by the duly authorized representatives of such committees. There shall be no other nominations from the floor for directors representing these committees.
  
  3. Nominating speeches for district directors and the directors representing the Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee and the Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee shall not exceed two minutes each. There shall be a limit of one speech not to exceed two minutes to second a nomination for such directors, and their election may be by acclamation.
  
- B. Director-At-Large.
  1. Nominations for two director-at-large positions for two-year terms shall be made from the floor. The nomination and election process for each position will proceed separately and sequentially. A nomination for the second of the two at-large positions shall be out of order in any case where the nominee is from the same district as the director-at-large elected in the first election. If only one nomination for director-at-large for either position is made from the floor, such nominee shall be elected by acclamation. If more than one nomination is made, the election shall be by electronic ballot and each delegate shall be entitled to vote for one candidate. The election to office shall be by majority vote of the votes cast for each office. In the event that there are more than two nominees for director-at-large and no election results with respect to such position on the first ballot, the nominee

receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped from the list of nominees on each of the following ballots until one person is duly elected in to each position of director-at-large.

2. Nominating speeches for director-at-large nominees shall be limited to two minutes each. There shall be a limit of one official speech not to exceed two minutes to second a nomination for director-at-large. Other supporting speeches for director-at-large nominees shall be limited to two minutes each. If a director-at-large nominee was nominated for the first director-at-large position and was not elected to that position, he or she may be nominated for the second director-at-large position as well. In such case, the delegate making the nomination in the second election shall be entitled to make a nominating speech for such nominee of not more than two minutes.

#### General Rules:

When resolutions that constitute changes to present policies are presented by the Policy Development Committee, only the additions or deletions shall be noted or summarized. Resolutions that constitute new policies shall be read in their entirety.

Any person offering an amendment or substitute motion from the floor that affects more than 10 lines of text in the preprinted proposed policy resolutions book (the amount of text that can be shown at one time on the screen in the meeting room) shall be responsible for providing a copy of such amendment or substitute motion to each delegate who is present in person and shall notify the Policy Development Committee who will distribute the amendment to the remote attendees electronically. Any person offering an amendment adding more than 5 words to a main motion shall submit the amendment in writing to the policy development administrative staff so that the amendment can be accurately displayed on the meeting room monitors in a timely fashion.

Electronic Voting Devices may be utilized when determined by the Chair on any motion or matter, unless there is an objection and the delegates choose otherwise by a majority vote. The final result will be displayed to the delegates. Electronic votes of individual delegates will be kept confidential and destroyed after Annual Meeting. Overall participation will be tracked by county, solely to evaluate participation in using the electronic voting devices.

In the event a resolution has been discussed for fifteen (15) minutes and not resolved, it shall be moved to the end of the agenda. A two minute warning shall be given.

In cases where written ballots are used, ballots shall be distributed only to those persons wearing an official delegate badge, and tellers shall be selected from the delegate body with a Chairperson designated.

Handing out or distributing literature produced by organizations other than Michigan Farm Bureau or its affiliated companies within the convention hall during the period of the convention shall be prohibited unless prior permission is granted by the Rules Committee, and access to the delegate floor during delegate sessions shall be restricted to qualified delegates, members of annual meeting committees, members of the Board of Directors, and designated staff members of Michigan Farm Bureau.

Cell phones shall be set to silent mode during all delegate sessions.

SIGNED BY THE COMMITTEE:

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Lisa Russcher, Chair  
President, Allegan County

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Tom Van Wagner  
President, Lenawee County

---

Sarah Zastrow  
President, Midland County

# 2021 State Policy Development Committee



**Matt Nilson**  
*Van Buren*  
District 1



**John Sackrider**  
*Calhoun*  
District 2



**Michael Genovese**  
*Oakland*  
District 3



**Paul Pyle**  
*Ottawa*  
District 4



**Robert Carlin**  
*Shiawassee*  
District 5



**John Bowsky, Vice Chair**  
*Sanilac*  
District 6



**Greg Heinze**  
*Montcalm*  
District 7



**Abe Pasch**  
*Isabella*  
District 8



**Isaiah Wunsch**  
*Northwest Michigan*  
District 9



**Eldon Barclay**  
*Iosco*  
District 10



**Jarris Rubingh**  
*Antrim*  
District 11



**Dean Shepeck**  
*Menominee*  
District 12



**Kyle McCarty**  
*St. Clair*  
Young Farmer



**Travis Fusilier**  
*Washtenaw*  
Young Farmer



**Kristi Keilen**  
*Clinton*  
Young Farmer



**Cathy McCune**  
*Isabella*  
Promotion & Education



**Chris Donbrock**  
*Branch*  
At-Large



**Melissa Morlock**  
*Berrien*  
At-Large



**Andrew Hagenow, Chair**  
*Kent*  
MFB Board



**Michael DeRuiter**  
*Oceana*  
MFB Board



**Stephanie Schafer**  
*Clinton*  
MFB Board

# 2021 Board of Directors



**Brigette Leach**  
*Kalamazoo*  
District 1



**Jennifer Lewis**  
*Hillsdale*  
District 2



**Mike Fusilier**  
*Washtenaw*  
District 3



**Jeff Sandborn**  
*Ionia*  
District 4



**Stephanie Schafer**  
*Clinton*  
District 5



**Travis Fahley**  
*St. Clair*  
District 6



**Michael DeRuiter**  
*Oceana*  
District 7



**Michael Mulders**  
*Bay*  
District 8



**Ben LaCross**  
*Northwest Michigan*  
District 9



**Leona Daniels**  
*Arenac*  
District 10



**Patrick McGuire**  
*Antrim*  
District 11



**Dave Bahrman**  
*Hiawathaland*  
District 12



**Julie Stephenson**  
*St. Joseph*  
P&E Representative



**Paul Pridgeon**  
*Branch*  
YF Representative



**Carl Bednarski**  
*Tuscola*  
At-Large  
President



**Andrew Hagenow**  
*Kent*  
At-Large  
Vice President



**Doug Darling**  
*Monroe*  
At-Large

# Public Policy & Commodity Division Team



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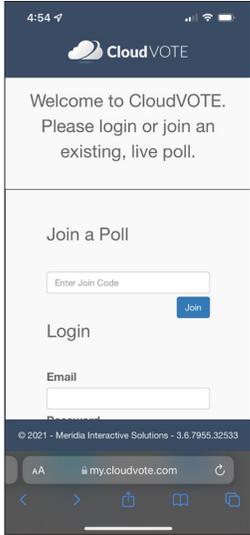
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 Regulatory Assistance

**For more than 100 years, Michigan Farm Bureau  
 has been the voice of Michigan agriculture.  
 Our advocacy team understands that policy and  
 politics play a key role in protecting the interests,  
 passions and livelihoods of members.**

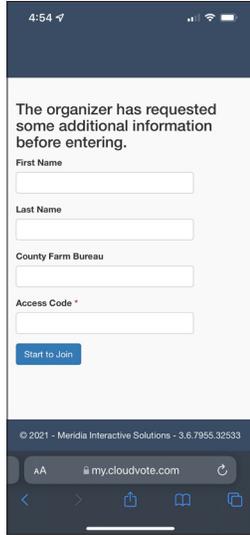
# CloudVOTE Instructions

To login to CloudVOTE, go to [my.cloudvote.com](https://my.cloudvote.com) on your device's web browser or scan the QR code with your device's camera.

SCAN ME →



Enter the **Join Code** for your meeting. This will be provided to you as a delegate.



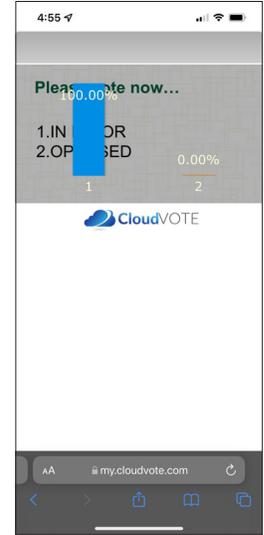
Enter your credentials to validate your voting privileges.



When the chairperson prompts you to vote, please select **1. In Favor** or **2. Opposed**.

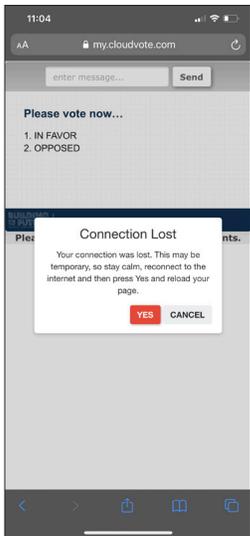


Your selected vote will be highlighted in blue and you will see the "Vote has been received successfully" prompt.

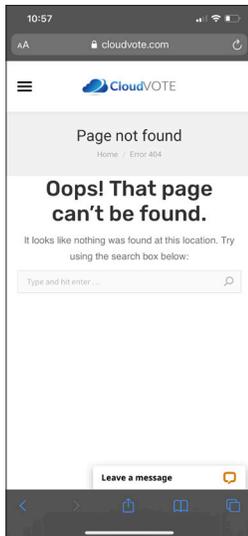


When voting is closed, the results from the vote will be displayed on your device.

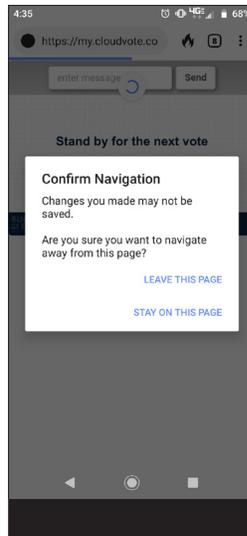
## Common Prompts and What To Do



**Connection Lost/ Timed Out**  
If you receive this prompt, select "YES" to reload the page.



**Page Can't Be Found**  
If you receive this prompt, refresh the webpage. You may need to re-enter the Join Code and your credentials.



**Confirm Navigation**  
If you receive this prompt, select "STAY ON THIS PAGE" to reload the page.

# Farmer

**(noun)** Steward of the land, water and air. Caretaker of plants and animals. Provider to the world.

## Let's be social



**Facebook:** *Michigan Farm Bureau*

**Twitter:** *@michfarmbureau*

**YouTube:** *Michigan Farm Bureau*

**Instagram:** *@michiganfarmbureau*

## Join the Farm Feed

Receive a text when Farm Bureau needs you to contact legislators or regulators!

**Text MIACT to the number 52886**

## We're in this together.

A healthy farm is nothing without a healthy you. If you or someone you know is struggling with anxiety, depression or another mental health challenge, you are not alone. Check out the following resources:

- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 1-800-273-8255
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text HOME to 741741
- **Farm Aid Hotline:** 1-800-327-6243
- **MFB Resources:** [michfb.com/FarmStress](http://michfb.com/FarmStress)
- **AFBF Resources:** [farmstateofmind.org](http://farmstateofmind.org)
- **MSU Extension Resources:** [bit.ly/msuefarmstress](http://bit.ly/msuefarmstress)

