

LCMS 2026 CONVENTION

LCMS Convention Amendment Guide for a First-Time Delegate

Plain-English summary

If you want to change a resolution at the 2026 LCMS convention, the first question is not, “How do I amend it?” The first question is, “What kind of change is this?” In LCMS practice, an overture submitted before convention, a written comment to a floor committee, a floor amendment to a pending resolution, a bylaw amendment, a constitutional amendment, a substitute resolution, and an election-related nomination or motion are not the same thing, and they do not follow the same rules. The official LCMS sources place the convention’s main business in reports and overtures, route them to floor committees, publish committee-made proposed resolutions in *Today’s Business*, and then allow delegates and others to respond before the convention opens. The Synod President conducts the convention under accepted parliamentary rules, but only after the Constitution, Bylaws, and any adopted convention standing rules have done their work. ¹

For a first-time delegate, the safest path is this. If your idea is still pre-convention, try to shape it through the floor committee process before it reaches the floor. The 2026 official notice says Workbook comments were due May 16, 2026, and written reactions to the first issue of *Today’s Business* are due to the appropriate floor committee chair by July 11, 2026, with open floor committee hearings on July 18. If your concern can be solved there, that is usually cleaner than trying to fix it live from the floor while everyone is staring at microphones and screens and wondering whether the coffee was a mistake. ²

If the resolution is already on the floor, then an ordinary floor amendment is usually the parliamentary tool. In default parliamentary usage, an amendment changes a pending motion by inserting, striking, or substituting language, it must be germane, it is ordinarily seconded, it is stated by the chair, debated, voted, and then the convention returns to the main resolution as amended or unamended. LCMS’s current official materials do not spell out that whole sequence in detail, but they do say the President conducts convention sessions according to accepted parliamentary rules, and 2023 LCMS convention minutes show exactly that kind of process in action. ³

The biggest trap is trying to use an ordinary floor amendment when your proposed change is really a bylaw amendment or a constitutional amendment. Bylaw amendments must be presented in writing, identified as bylaw amendments, considered by a floor committee, and reviewed before presentation by the Commission on Constitutional Matters and the Commission on Handbook; they pass by a majority of delegates present and voting. Constitutional amendments must be submitted in writing to the convention, voted on separately, adopted by a two-thirds convention vote, and then ratified by a two-thirds vote of congregations voting by official ballot. If your “small tweak” actually changes Handbook text, it is no longer a simple floor fix. It is a different species of animal, and you do not want to discover that in front of 1,000 delegates. ⁴

Source hierarchy and the key governing documents

What controls

The official hierarchy for this guide is straightforward. The governing authority is the LCMS Constitution and Bylaws in the 2023 Handbook, together with official 2026 convention publications and notices, especially the Convention Workbook, *Today's Business* when published, forms, election procedures, and convention notices from LCMS or official LCMS publications. The 2026 Convention Field Guide is explicitly not official LCMS interpretation and tells readers to verify all procedures and requirements against the official Handbook and convention resources. Parliamentary authorities fill gaps only where LCMS rules are silent or incomplete, because the President conducts the convention according to accepted parliamentary rules. ⁵

What is available now, and what is not

As of the official notice dated Apr. 30, 2026, the 2026 Convention Workbook had been posted or was to be posted by Apr. 25, comments on Workbook material were due May 16, the first issue of *Today's Business* would be posted in June, written reactions to that first issue would be due July 11, and open floor committee hearings would be held July 18. That means the first 2026 issue of *Today's Business*, and whatever 2026 special standing rules or floor instructions it may contain, were not yet available in the official sources I could verify from the materials presently online. Where those unavailable 2026 materials would matter, I flag the point for confirmation. ⁶

The documents that matter most for your question

Bylaw 3.1 is the main convention-process section. It covers who may submit reports and overtures, how floor committees receive work, when the Workbook and *Today's Business* are published, who may submit pre-convention comments, and the President's responsibility to conduct sessions under accepted parliamentary rules. Chapter 7 governs bylaw amendments. Constitution Article XV governs constitutional amendments. The official elections pages govern nomination and election matters, including where floor nominations are allowed and where they are not. The 2026 official notice adds practical deadlines, hearing times, the all-delegate orientation, and the *Today's Business* office submission schedule. ⁷

The different processes you must not confuse

Overture before convention

An overture is a pre-convention submission requesting convention action. Bylaw 3.1.6.2 limits who may submit overtures. The official overture instructions say overtures may be submitted only by a member congregation, a district convention or district board of directors, an official district conference of ordained and/or commissioned ministers, a Synod educational institution faculty, the Synod Board of Directors, certain Synod boards and commissions, a committee established by a prior convention, or a circuit forum. For 2026, overtures and reports were due by Feb. 28, 2026, preferably by Feb. 1 for easier Workbook processing. ⁸

So, to answer your direct questions, who may submit an overture before convention, only the persons and bodies listed in Bylaw 3.1.6.2. A first-time voting delegate, as an individual delegate, is not on that list unless acting through one of those authorized bodies. ⁹

Comment or response to a floor committee before convention

This is not an overture and not a floor amendment. It is written input to a floor committee about material already in the Workbook or in the first issue of *Today's Business*. For Workbook material, Bylaw 3.1.8(c), as reproduced in the Field Guide and reflected in the 2026 Workbook preface and official notice, allows any member of the Synod and any lay delegate to submit comments to the Secretary of the Synod at least nine weeks before convention, which for 2026 was May 16. The Workbook preface gives the submission route, email with "ATTN Floor Committee N" to lcmssecretary@lcms.org, or postal mail to the Office of the Secretary. ¹⁰

For the first issue of *Today's Business*, Bylaw 3.1.8.1(a), again reflected in the official notice, requires written responses to the chair of the appropriate floor committee at least one week before the convention, which for 2026 was July 11. The official notice also states that anyone, including non-delegates, may appear personally at the July 18 open hearings. ¹¹

Written amendment to a proposed floor committee resolution

Here the official 2026 materials draw an important line. They tell you when and where to send *responses* to proposed floor committee resolutions before convention, and they tell you when material must reach the *Today's Business* office if you want it published in a daily issue. They do **not**, in the official 2026 materials presently available, state a separate universal rule saying an ordinary floor amendment to a pending non-Handbook resolution must be filed with the chair, secretary, or *Today's Business* office by a certain pre-floor deadline in order to be moved. What is clearly required is this: written responses to proposed resolutions go to the committee chairs by July 11, and materials for inclusion in a daily issue of *Today's Business* go to the *Today's Business* office by 3:30 p.m. the day before desired publication, with approval by 6:30 p.m. ⁶

Needs confirmation from convention officials: whether 2026 *Today's Business* or adopted 2026 special standing rules will require a floor amendment to be handed first to the secretary, chair, parliamentarian, or *Today's Business* office before being offered on the floor. The official sources available now do not answer that point directly. ¹²

Amendment offered from the convention floor

A floor amendment is the parliamentary motion to change language in the pending resolution being debated by the convention. The LCMS materials now available do not define the word "amendment" in detail, so default parliamentary meaning applies because the President conducts the sessions according to accepted parliamentary rules. Under ordinary parliamentary practice, a delegate moves the amendment after recognition, another delegate seconds it if required, the chair states it, debate occurs on the amendment, and the convention votes on the amendment before returning to the main question. The 2023 LCMS convention minutes show exactly that structure in practice, including amendments being offered, seconded, debated, subjected to previous question, adopted or defeated, and then followed by further action on the main resolution. ³

Who may offer such an amendment during convention debate? The best reading of the present sources is, voting delegates. Bylaw 3.1.5 gives advisory delegates and representatives voice but no vote, and the 2023 convention chair ruled an advisory delegate out of order because advisory delegates may not make

motions. That is strong LCMS evidence that advisory delegates may speak but not move amendments on the convention floor. ¹³

Amendment to a bylaw

A bylaw amendment is not just “an amendment.” Chapter 7 makes it a formal Handbook amendment. The reproduced 2023 Handbook text, used here only as a locating aid and matched by official LCMS Handbook search snippets, says bylaw amendments at a Synod convention must be in writing, identified as bylaw amendments, considered by a convention floor committee, examined by the Commission on Constitutional Matters for conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws, examined by the Commission on Handbook for terminology consistency, and adopted by a majority of delegates present and voting. The official LCMS handbook search results also confirm that bylaws may be adopted, revised, or eliminated by a simple majority vote of a national convention. ¹⁴

This matters tremendously. A floor change that would modify Handbook bylaw language is not just an ordinary edit to a resolution unless the bylaw-amendment machinery has already been satisfied.

Amendment to the LCMS Constitution

Constitution Article XV is even stricter. The reproduced Handbook text on the Field Guide states, and official LCMS handbook search results corroborate, that constitutional changes must be submitted in writing to the convention, each proposed change must be voted on separately, and adoption requires a two-thirds convention vote. After convention adoption, the amendment must be submitted to congregations on official ballot, and it becomes effective only if two-thirds of votes cast within the six-month period favor it. LCMS reporting on 2023 debate also states that constitutional change requires a two-thirds vote among delegates and then ratification by a two-thirds vote of congregations. ¹⁵

Substitute resolution

The official 2026 sources presently available do not define “substitute resolution” in detail. Under ordinary parliamentary usage, and in historical LCMS convention materials, a substitute is essentially a strike-and-insert amendment that replaces a paragraph or an entire pending text with new language, as long as it remains germane. Historical LCMS proceedings note that amendments to proposed floor committee resolutions or substitute resolutions were often submitted for advance publication in *Today's Business*. That is useful as background, but it is historical practice, not a verified 2026 rule. ¹⁶

Needs confirmation from convention officials: whether 2026 special standing rules or *Today's Business* will define substitute resolutions or impose extra filing requirements.

Election-related motion or amendment

Election matters are their own lane. They are not handled like ordinary resolution amendments. The official elections page says the Synod President is elected before the convention by electronic vote, with no floor nominations. The First Vice-President and regional vice-presidents are elected at convention from pre-existing slates, and again there is no opportunity for floor nominations. The Secretary and members of boards and commissions are elected at convention from Committee for Convention Nominations slates, and there **is** opportunity for floor nomination. The official publications page provides floor nomination and

consent forms and says the saved form should be emailed to ccn@lcms.org and the signed hard copy mailed. ¹⁷

So if you are trying to change an election slate, you are not amending a resolution. You are using the nomination and election rules, forms, and floor-nomination procedures that govern that office. ¹⁸

Timeline for the amendment path

Before convention

For 2026, overtures and reports were due by Feb. 28, 2026, preferably by Feb. 1. The official deadline was 20 weeks before the opening date of the convention. Floor committee rosters were to be published at least 10 weeks before convention, and committee members were to be notified no later than 16 weeks before the convention. ¹⁹

If your concern was about reports or overtures printed in the Workbook, comments were due to the Secretary by May 16. The Workbook preface and the official notice both say comments could be sent to the Office of the Secretary, and the Workbook preface gives the “ATTN Floor Committee N” email line and mailing address. Floor committees then met May 29 to June 1 to review overtures and draft proposed resolutions. ²⁰

After the Convention Workbook is published

The Workbook is the big pre-convention book of reports, overtures, delegates, and convention-manual material. Bylaw 3.1.8 says it is to be published under the Secretary’s editorship and posted not later than 12 weeks before the convention. The official notice says the 2026 Workbook would be posted by Apr. 25. The Workbook itself tells delegates to bring all convention publications to all sessions. ²¹

For you as a delegate, this is the stage to identify whether your concern is better handled as a comment to the floor committee rather than an eventual floor amendment. That is often the cleaner route, because committees can redraft resolutions before delegates ever hit the floor microphones. ²²

After the first issue of Today’s Business is published

Bylaw 3.1.8.1 says the first issue of *Today’s Business* contains the proposed floor committee resolutions and other convention business. For 2026, the official notice says that issue would be posted in June. Written reactions to those proposed resolutions were due to the appropriate floor committee chair by July 11, and the committee would review them at the convention site before business began. ¹¹

This is the best moment to turn your concerns into precise language. If you want a committee to adopt your idea so you do not have to fight for it from the floor, this is your window. ⁶

Before a resolution reaches the floor

On July 18, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, open hearings are available for anyone to address floor committees in person. The official notice specifically says committees may make changes to proposed resolutions at that

point, and any changes will appear in later daily issues of *Today's Business*. The same official notice also announces a delegate orientation session from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on July 18 to review participation instructions.

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That orientation matters. The official materials available now do not provide the exact floor script, queuing instructions, or any 2026 special standing rules. The orientation is where those practical “how do I actually do this without setting my hair on fire” details are likely to be explained. ¹²

During floor debate

Once a resolution is pending on the floor, an ordinary floor amendment becomes possible, subject to recognition by the chair, the convention's adopted rules, and the limits of germane amendment. The 2023 minutes show delegates moving and seconding amendments, the chair ruling on germaneness, motions to close debate, and votes on amendments before returning to the main resolution. ²³

After the amendment vote

If the amendment passes, the main resolution is changed and the convention proceeds on the resolution as amended, unless some other motion intervenes, such as a motion to refer it back to committee. If the amendment fails, debate returns to the main resolution in its prior form. The 2023 minutes show both patterns, including a resolution amended, then referred back to committee. ²⁴

Step-by-step process for offering a floor amendment

First, classify the change before you draft anything

Ask these questions in order.

If the change is a new request for convention action not yet before the convention, it is an overture, not a floor amendment. If it is feedback on Workbook material or proposed committee resolutions before the convention opens, it is a comment or response to a floor committee. If it changes bylaw or constitutional text, it is a Chapter 7 or Article XV matter, not an ordinary floor amendment. If it changes an election slate, it is a nomination or election matter. Only after ruling those out should you treat the change as an ordinary amendment to a pending resolution. ²⁵

Prepare the amendment text

For an ordinary floor amendment, the official 2026 materials now available do not impose a verified blanket writing requirement. But the moment the change is lengthy, technical, or affects Handbook language, you should have it in writing. Constitution amendments must be in writing by rule, and bylaw amendments must be in writing by rule. Publication in a daily issue of *Today's Business* also requires submission to the *Today's Business* office by the stated deadline. ²⁶

A practical delegate habit is to write the amendment in “strike/insert” form. That keeps you from making a speech disguised as a motion, which is a very human temptation and, like eating bullpen sunflower seeds for supper, almost never ends well. The 2023 minutes show delegates offering specific added whereases and resolved clauses, not vague emotional weather reports. ²⁴

If possible, send it to the committee before floor debate

If your amendment can still be sent as a written reaction to the floor committee chair by July 11, do that. If not, use the July 18 open hearing if the resolution has not yet been taken up. That route gives the committee a chance to own the change, which often means a cleaner floor process and a better explanation to the convention. ⁶

Get recognized properly

The official 2026 materials currently available do not prescribe an exact formula for seeking recognition. They do say the President conducts the sessions, and the orientation session will provide participation instructions. Under standard parliamentary practice, you wait for recognition before speaking or moving an amendment. The 2023 minutes show a highly structured queueing system with microphones and chair recognition. ²⁷

Make the amendment

When recognized, make the amendment as a motion to amend the pending resolution. In normal parliamentary form, that means you move to strike, insert, or substitute specific language. In 2023 LCMS practice, amendments were expressly offered and seconded. ²⁴

Get the second, if required

Current 2026 official convention materials presently available do not separately state whether an ordinary floor amendment requires a second. Default parliamentary practice is yes, and the 2023 convention minutes repeatedly record floor amendments as “moved and seconded.” Treat a second as required unless convention officers instruct otherwise. ²⁴

Let the chair state the amendment

The chair’s statement of the amendment is what puts it formally before the assembly. Until then, you have proposed it, but the convention is not yet debating the exact text as the pending question. The 2023 minutes reflect formal handling of amendments after introduction and second. ²⁴

Debate the amendment, not the universe

Debate at this stage is on the amendment itself, not on every grievance you have carried since district convention season. The amendment must be germane. The 2023 minutes show the chair ruling one amendment not germane and therefore out of order. ²⁸

If the amendment passes, then debate returns to the main resolution as amended. If it fails, debate returns to the original pending resolution. ²⁴

Amending the amendment

LCMS’s currently available official materials do not spell out the nesting limit on amendments. Default parliamentary practice allows a primary amendment and a secondary amendment, but not amendment

piled on amendment piled on amendment like theological lasagna. If you get to that point, ask a parliamentary inquiry before proceeding. ²⁹

Closing or limiting debate

LCMS's currently available official materials do not give a separate 2026 numerical threshold chart for previous question or debate limits. Because the President conducts according to accepted parliamentary rules, the default rule applies unless 2026 special standing rules provide otherwise. In standard parliamentary practice, moving the previous question or closing debate requires a two-thirds vote. The 2023 LCMS minutes show both "previous question" on an amendment and motions "to close debate on the amendment." ³⁰

Vote on the amendment, then return to the main resolution

For an ordinary amendment to an ordinary resolution, the default parliamentary threshold is majority, absent some special rule. For bylaw amendments, Chapter 7 requires a majority of delegates present and voting. For constitutional amendments, Article XV requires a two-thirds vote of all votes cast at convention, followed by congregational ratification. After the amendment vote, the convention returns to the main resolution in whatever form now exists. ⁴

Sample scripts and vote thresholds

Scripts you can actually say

The official 2026 materials now online do **not** prescribe exact magic words. These are safe, standard scripts, consistent with parliamentary practice and LCMS convention practice, but you should follow any more specific instructions given at the July 18 orientation or in 2026 *Today's Business*. ¹²

For recognition, a safe opening is: "Mr. President." If the queueing system uses microphones or delegate identification, add what convention staff instructs you to add at orientation. In 2023, the LCMS convention used electronic queueing and microphone recognition. ³¹

For a parliamentary inquiry, say: "Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry. Is the amendment I propose germane to the pending resolution?" If the issue is Handbook text, a sharper inquiry is: "Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry. Would this amendment need to be treated as a bylaw amendment under Chapter 7?" That second question is especially wise if your amendment touches actual bylaw wording. ³²

For moving an amendment, say: "Mr. President, I move to amend Resolution [number] by striking the words "**and inserting the words** ." If adding material, say: "I move to amend Resolution [number] by inserting the following after the [whereas/resolved] clause..." That form keeps the chair, secretary, and delegates clear on what actually changes. ²⁴

For handing in written text, say: "Mr. President, I have the amendment in writing." Then follow the instructions of the chair, secretary, or floor staff. Current official 2026 materials do not yet verify the exact officer who must receive a floor amendment before motion, but they do verify where publication materials for *Today's Business* go. ⁶

For speaking in favor, say: “I speak in favor of the amendment because it clarifies the committee’s intent without changing the resolution’s basic purpose.” For speaking against, say: “I speak against the amendment because it changes the committee’s recommendation in a way that should first be reviewed by the floor committee.” The most persuasive speeches at convention are usually short, text-based, and actually about the pending words. Shocking, I know. ³³

For challenging germaneness, use either, “Point of order, the amendment is not germane,” or, if you want guidance before moving, “Parliamentary inquiry, is the proposed amendment germane?” The 2023 minutes confirm the chair ruled on germaneness. ²⁸

For closing debate, say: “I move the previous question on the amendment,” or “I move to close debate on the amendment.” LCMS used both kinds of language in 2023 convention handling. ²⁴

Vote thresholds by step

For recognition by the chair, there is no assembly vote. The chair recognizes speakers under the convention’s procedures. ²⁹

For an ordinary floor amendment to an ordinary resolution, the safest default is, second required unless the chair rules otherwise, then majority vote for adoption. That is standard parliamentary practice, and LCMS 2023 practice repeatedly shows amendments moved and seconded. ²⁴

For limiting debate or moving the previous question on the amendment, use the default parliamentary threshold of two-thirds unless 2026 special standing rules say otherwise. ³⁴

For a bylaw amendment, the threshold is majority of delegates present and voting, but only after the Chapter 7 procedural requirements have been met. ¹⁴

For a constitutional amendment, the threshold is two-thirds of all votes cast at the convention, followed by two-thirds ratification of congregational votes cast on official ballot. ¹⁵

For the Synod President election before convention, a majority is required, with runoff ballots if necessary. For First Vice-President and regional vice-presidents, elections are from set slates with no floor nominations. For Secretary and boards/commissions, floor nominations are allowed, but those are election procedures, not resolution amendments. ³⁵

Robert’s Rules and LCMS rules, common mistakes, and the quick card

How Robert’s Rules and LCMS rules interact

When LCMS rules speak, LCMS rules govern. When LCMS rules are silent or incomplete, the President conducts under accepted parliamentary rules. That means the order is, LCMS Constitution first, then LCMS Bylaws and adopted convention rules, then parliamentary procedure for the gaps. The Field Guide itself says it is not official authority and points delegates back to the Handbook and official convention officers.

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This is why bylaw and constitutional amendments are the danger zone for floor creativity. A 2004 Commission on Constitutional Matters opinion held that a proposed resolution that would require a bylaw amendment was not in order when it was not identified as a bylaw amendment, had not been presented to a floor committee for that purpose, and had not been reviewed by CCM beforehand. That historical opinion is not the 2026 convention manual, but it is an official LCMS procedural warning light, flashing bright red.

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Common mistakes and how to avoid them

The first mistake is confusing your tool. If you need a new item of business, use an overture before convention. If you want to persuade a committee, use the May 16 and July 11 written response routes or the July 18 open hearings. If you need to change words in a pending floor resolution, use an amendment. If the words are Handbook text, slow down and check Chapter 7 or Article XV. 38

The second mistake is waiting too long. Official deadlines were Feb. 28 for reports and overtures, May 16 for Workbook comments, and July 11 for written reactions to the first issue of *Today's Business*. Miss those, and your idea becomes much harder to move through the system. 39

The third mistake is trying to amend a bylaw or the Constitution from the floor as though you are merely polishing punctuation. If your amendment changes Handbook language, you may be walking into Chapter 7 or Article XV territory, and the official review requirements matter. 40

The fourth mistake is speaking before being recognized, or making a speech when what the convention needs is a motion. The 2023 minutes show a point of order raised over a delegate speaking and then making a motion, and the convention also shows structured queueing and formal motion handling. Respect the order. It is not glamorous, but neither is a parking brake, and both are lovely when needed. 24

The fifth mistake is forgetting who can make motions. Advisory delegates and representatives have voice, but the 2023 convention chair ruled advisory delegates may not make motions. So, if you are an advisory delegate, work through a voting delegate if you want amendment language moved. 13

The sixth mistake is offering a sprawling, non-germane amendment. The chair ruled one 2023 amendment not germane and out of order. A good amendment is tightly connected to the pending resolution's subject and structure. 28

The seventh mistake is failing to bring the books. The Workbook reminds delegates to bring all convention publications to all sessions, and the official notice says later changes will appear in daily *Today's Business*. If you are arguing over wording, you need the wording in front of you. 41

Checklist for preparing a written amendment

Before convention, decide whether the change is really an overture, a committee response, or a floor amendment. If it belongs at committee level, send it early. If it might affect bylaw or constitutional text, compare it against Chapter 7 or Article XV before you ever approach the microphone. 42

When drafting, write the amendment in exact text, preferably in strike/insert form. Identify the resolution number, the clause affected, and what words are changing. Ask whether the amendment is germane,

whether it affects expenditures, and whether it changes Handbook language. If it involves expenses, remember that proposed resolutions involving expenditures must go through the floor committee on financial matters before convention consideration. ⁴³

At the convention, attend the July 18 orientation, carry printed or electronic copies of the Workbook and *Today's Business*, and if you want publication in a daily issue, observe the 3:30 p.m. previous-day submission deadline for the *Today's Business* office. ⁴⁴

Items that must be confirmed with convention officials

The following points are not fully answered in the presently available official 2026 materials and should be confirmed with the Secretary, the parliamentarian, the chair, or the adopted 2026 special standing rules once issued.

Whether an ordinary floor amendment to a pending non-Handbook resolution must be filed in writing with the chair, secretary, parliamentarian, or *Today's Business* office before the delegate may move it from the floor. Official materials now verify publication deadlines, but not a universal motion-filing deadline. ⁶

Whether 2026 special standing rules alter the default parliamentary rules on seconds, time limits, queueing, or closing debate. The 2023 convention had special standing rules adopted at the start, and 2026 likely will as well, but they were not yet available in the official sources I could verify. ⁴⁵

Whether any special protocol applies to handing proposed amendment text to floor staff during debate, especially where electronic publication in *Today's Business* is desired. ⁶

Whether a proposed floor change that touches already-reviewed bylaw wording may be entertained as an amendment, or would need to be referred back because Chapter 7 review has not been satisfied in the form now proposed. ⁴⁶

One-page quick reference card

If it is before convention and not yet pending, it is probably an overture or a committee response, not a floor amendment. Overtures and reports were due Feb. 28, 2026. Workbook comments were due May 16. Written reactions to the first issue of *Today's Business* are due July 11. Open floor committee hearings are July 18, 8:30 a.m. to noon. ³⁹

If it is on the floor and you want to change the pending resolution, use an amendment. Wait for recognition, move the amendment in exact words, expect a second unless told otherwise, let the chair state it, debate the amendment, vote on it, then return to the main resolution. ³⁴

If the amendment changes Handbook bylaw text, stop and reclassify it. Chapter 7 requires writing, floor committee consideration, CCM review, COH review, and majority vote. ¹⁴

If the amendment changes constitutional text, it is Article XV territory. It must be in writing, separately voted, pass by two-thirds at convention, then pass by two-thirds ratification vote of congregations. ⁴⁷

If the matter is election-related, do not use the resolution-amendment playbook. President and vice-presidents have no floor nominations. Secretary and certain boards and commissions do allow floor nominations, using the nomination process and forms. ⁴⁸

If you are an advisory delegate or advisory representative, you may speak, but current LCMS evidence says you may not make motions. Work with a voting delegate. ¹³

If you want something printed in the next day's Today's Business, submit it to the Today's Business office by 3:30 p.m. the day before, then return by 6:30 p.m. to approve it. That is a publication deadline, not clearly a universal motion deadline. ⁶

Attend orientation, bring your books, and keep the amendment text tight and germane. The convention will move more smoothly, and so will your pulse. ⁴⁹

¹ ⁷ ⁸ ⁹ ¹⁰ ¹¹ ²¹ ²⁵ ⁴² ⁴³ <https://2026conventionguide.com/handbook/bylaws/3-1-national-conventions>

<https://2026conventionguide.com/handbook/bylaws/3-1-national-conventions>

² ⁶ ¹² ²⁰ ²² ³¹ ³⁸ ⁴⁴ ⁴⁹ <https://reporter.lcms.org/2026/official-notice-69th-regular-convention-of-the-lutheran-church-missouri-synod/>

<https://reporter.lcms.org/2026/official-notice-69th-regular-convention-of-the-lutheran-church-missouri-synod/>

³ ²⁷ ²⁹ ³⁰ ³⁴ ³⁶ <https://files.lcms.org/dl/f/5BC7A1F6-C8EC-449D-9995-EB17FE90DF36>

<https://files.lcms.org/dl/f/5BC7A1F6-C8EC-449D-9995-EB17FE90DF36>

⁴ ¹⁴ ²⁶ ³² ⁴⁰ ⁴⁶ <https://2026conventionguide.com/handbook/bylaws/7-amendments-to-bylaws>

<https://2026conventionguide.com/handbook/bylaws/7-amendments-to-bylaws>

⁵ <https://2026conventionguide.com/handbook/convention-process>

<https://2026conventionguide.com/handbook/convention-process>

¹³ <https://files.lcms.org/dl/f/AA97F9FE-CF1D-4705-A682-E42F452AC433>

<https://files.lcms.org/dl/f/AA97F9FE-CF1D-4705-A682-E42F452AC433>

¹⁵ ⁴⁷ <https://2026conventionguide.com/handbook/constitution/article-xv-changes-and-amendments>

<https://2026conventionguide.com/handbook/constitution/article-xv-changes-and-amendments>

¹⁶ <https://files.lcms.org/dl/f/FF24D053-6A77-45E8-9C1F-3A51CCE70EDB>

<https://files.lcms.org/dl/f/FF24D053-6A77-45E8-9C1F-3A51CCE70EDB>

¹⁷ ¹⁸ ³⁵ ⁴⁸ <https://www.lcms.org/convention/governance/elections>

<https://www.lcms.org/convention/governance/elections>

¹⁹ ³⁹ <https://www.lcms.org/convention/timeline>

<https://www.lcms.org/convention/timeline>

²³ ²⁸ <https://files.lcms.org/dl/f/2023-convention-minutes-july-31>

<https://files.lcms.org/dl/f/2023-convention-minutes-july-31>

²⁴ ³³ ⁴⁵ <https://files.lcms.org/api/file/preview/2023-convention-minutes-july-29-30>

<https://files.lcms.org/api/file/preview/2023-convention-minutes-july-29-30>

37 <https://files.lcms.org/api/file/preview/61BEB698-A0AE-4D6A-8F5E-05C020B5FC0F>
<https://files.lcms.org/api/file/preview/61BEB698-A0AE-4D6A-8F5E-05C020B5FC0F>

41 <https://files.lcms.org/api/file/preview/2026-convention-workbook>
<https://files.lcms.org/api/file/preview/2026-convention-workbook>