

Behind the Rules of the National Convention

Representative: Benjamin Gomez Jr.

National Assignment: Credentials and Rules Committee Representative

National Convention: August 28–September 3, 2026 | Louisville, Kentucky

Editor's Note: This story is based on the representative's submitted report and has been edited for clarity, organization, and factual completeness while preserving the author's voice and observations.

Why Arizona Was There

The Credentials and Rules Committee helps establish the procedures and delegate voting strength for The American Legion National Convention. Benjamin Gomez Jr. submitted an account of the committee's August 30 meeting, documenting the decisions that supported the convention's formal proceedings.

From the Representative

I attended the Committee on Credentials and Rules meeting on August 30 at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville. Forty delegates were present, and a quorum was declared. Terry Abdelnour of Illinois was elected chairman, and Jodie Pajak of Massachusetts was elected secretary.

The committee unanimously approved the Rules of the Convention as presented in the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions, approved by the National Executive Committee in May 2024 and printed in the convention guidebook. We also considered the delegate strength report certified by the National Adjutant, based on membership figures from 30 days before the convention and the National Constitution. The total voting strength was reported as 1,741 delegates across 55 departments, together with the National Commander. No resolutions were received for committee consideration or action.

Convention Snapshot

- Met August 30, 2026, with 40 delegates present and a quorum declared.
- Unanimously approved the convention rules presented in the official guidebook.
- Reviewed the certified delegate strength report and the stated voting strength of 1,741.
- Received no resolutions; authorized the chairman and secretary to sign the committee report.

Looking Ahead

The committee concluded its business and recessed at 8:45 a.m. This report records the procedural decisions and delegate credentials information presented at the meeting.