

SPECIAL RULES

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE <COUNTY NAME> DEMOCRATIC PARTY

APRIL 25, 2020

RULE 1. Chair. The County Party Chair (Chair) shall have general direction of the meeting and shall be authorized to take such action as necessary to maintain order. The Chair, with the guidance of the appointed Parliamentarian, shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any delegate. Order of priority of Rules shall be (1) the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization, (2) the Rules adopted by the delegates of the Convention, (3) guidelines contained in "Resolution on North Carolina Democratic Party County and District Conventions in Response to COVID-19 State of Emergency" as adopted by the State Executive Council on March 18 (SEC Resolution), and (4) Robert's Rules of Order (11th Edition). Courteous respect for one another will be the standing order of the day.

RULE 2. Obtaining Recognition. When any delegate wants to speak in debate, the delegate shall indicate so electronically via the "raise hand" feature on Zoom, either through Zoom software or by pressing *9 on the phone, and await recognition by the Chair. The Chair shall inquire of the delegate the purpose for which the delegate seeks recognition. If the delegate's purpose in seeking recognition is in order, the Chair will recognize the delegate, and the delegate shall state their name and precinct name or number.

RULE 3. Credentialed Voting. Credentialed delegates are those whose names appear on the official delegates' list submitted by the precincts and who have registered prior to the Convention call to order. Voting shall be conducted in accordance with the SEC Resolution. The Chair may take voice votes, standing votes, or ballots for any and all votes. If a voice vote is used, any call for Division must be sanctioned by delegates from twenty-five (25) percent of the precincts present.

RULE 4. Quorum. A quorum shall exist any time there is at least one credentialed delegate present

from fifty (50) percent plus one of the precincts in the County. If the presence of a quorum is questioned, NCDP Staff, the Party Secretary, and/or assistants shall call the roll of precincts to determine if a quorum exists. Once a quorum has been established, no further quorum call needs be recognized for one (1) hour. If a quorum exists when the body begins debate on a subject, it is presumed to exist until that item is completed.

RULE 5. Limitations on Debate. No delegate shall speak in debate more than once on the same question, or longer than one (1) minute, without permission of the convention, granted by a majority vote without debate. *Ad hominem* arguments will not be tolerated by the Chair who may curtail the remaining time of the speaker. When delegates speak in support and opposition of a matter, the Chair shall attempt to alternate between pro and con speakers.

RULE 6. Nominations. Nominations for office shall be conducted by a nomination committee or taken from the body with nominating speeches limited to two (2) minutes. Nominations do not require a second. In response to the nomination, each candidate may have up to two (2) minutes to respond to the nomination. If only one nomination is made, a motion to elect by acclamation will be in order.

RULE 7. Elections. If two or more nominations are made for an office, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the SEC Resolution and with weighted vote requirements in Section 5.02 of the Plan of Organization.

RULE 8. Election of District Committee Members. Only nominations for state house of representatives, state senatorial, and judicial district executive committees made in accordance with Sections 3.08, 3.09, and 3.10 of the Party Plan for Organization shall be in order.

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RULE 9. *Election of Congressional and State Convention Delegates.* Pursuant to the SEC Resolution, a motion moved by a delegate to empower the County Board to name Congressional District and State Convention Delegates shall be in order.

Any credentialed delegate may place in nomination the name of a registered Democrat as delegate to the Congressional District convention, as appropriate for the nominee's voting address, or to the State Convention. If nominations for delegates to a convention are closed and the number of nominations does not exceed the number of seats, a motion to elect all nominees by acclamation shall be in order.

RULE 10. *Tellers.* If ballots are used in any contested election, votes shall be collected and recorded via Google Forms by NCDP Staff assisting with the convention. In any contested election, each nominee may designate an official observer of this process by indicating to the Chair the name and email address of their designee.