

Proposed Amendment to the Plan of Organization

A proposed amendment to streamline the Resolutions and Platforms process, while allowing for a clearer formulation of the policy priorities of grassroots Democrats.

1.04 PRECINCT MEETINGS

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Order of Business – Odd-Numbered Years. The order of business at the annual precinct meeting held in odd-numbered years shall be:

1. The election of three (3) active Democrats of the precinct as precinct officers;
2. The election of two (2) other active Democrats of the precinct as members of the precinct committee;
3. The election of active Democrats of the precinct as delegates to the county convention;
4. The chair, or presiding officer, and the secretary/treasurer shall certify to the county chair the names, addresses, race, gender, telephone numbers and email addresses of the precinct officers, the members of the precinct committee, and the delegates to the county convention elected at the annual precinct meeting within five (5) days;
5. ~~Other business related to the affairs of the precinct.~~
5. Proposing and adopting resolutions for consideration at the county convention.
6. Other business related to the affairs of the precinct.

Order of Business – Even-Numbered Years. The order of business at the annual precinct meeting held in even-numbered years shall be:

1. The election of active Democrats from the precinct as delegates to the county convention;
2. The chair, or presiding officer, and the secretary/treasurer shall certify to the county chair the names, addresses, race, gender, telephone numbers and email addresses of the delegates elected to the county convention at the annual precinct meeting within five (5) days.
3. Proposing and adopting resolutions for consideration at the county convention.

2.10 METHODS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AT THE COUNTY LEVEL.

1. Resolutions may be proposed, considered and adopted at the annual meeting of any precinct. All resolutions adopted at a precinct meeting shall be forwarded to the county secretary. The

county convention shall in even number years adopt the method for reviewing, editing, consolidating, adopting, and prioritizing, resolutions most appropriate for the local party. Resolutions may be addressed either only at the county convention or initially by a special platform and resolution committee appointed by the county chair. Resolutions that are adopted and are of purely local interest shall be recommended for further action on the local level.

2. If the resolutions are considered by a committee before the county convention, that committee shall have the authority to edit and/or consolidate, resolutions in keeping with their intention and then prioritize up to 10 state and up to 10 national resolutions prior to forwarding them to the county convention.

3. Each county shall forward to the district convention from among the resolutions adopted at the county convention up to 10 state and up to 10 national resolutions that the county convention prioritizes as reflecting the most vital and pressing issues put forward by the county party. The secretary shall forward these prioritized resolutions to the district secretary within ten days. The other adopted resolutions that are not prioritized will be recorded as reflecting local county party policy, and shall be forwarded to the state platforms and resolutions committee for constructing the state biannual platform.

4. The county secretary shall report all adopted resolutions to the county convention, if resolutions are considered by committee before the convention, this committee meeting shall take place at least 14 days before the county convention and shall be publicized to party members at least 14 days before it takes place. Any Democrat residing in the county may propose and speak on such resolutions at this meeting.

5. Resolutions shall be prioritized at the county convention using one of the following methods: 1) the county convention may approve the prioritization of resolutions as recommended by the committee addressing resolutions or 2) the county convention may decide to amend the prioritization recommended by the committee; or 3) regardless of whether the prior committee method is used, the county convention may decide to first vote on which resolutions to approve and then prioritize resolutions by ballot. Each delegate may prioritize up to 10 state and up to 10 national resolutions, but may prioritize fewer than that number if he or she chooses. The county party secretary shall tabulate the ballots, weighted by precinct delegate vote, and report the top 10 state prioritized resolutions and the top 10 national prioritized resolutions to the convention. The secretary shall then forward these results to the District Party Secretary.

3.13 METHODS FOR HANDLING RESOLUTIONS.

1. The district convention shall in even number years adopt the method for reviewing, editing, consolidating, adopting, and prioritizing resolutions most appropriate for the district party that is best suited to district needs. Resolutions may be addressed either only at the district convention or initially by a special resolutions and platforms committee appointed by the district chair. Resolutions that are adopted and are of purely local interest shall be recommended for further action on the local level.

2. If the resolutions are considered by a committee before the district convention, that committee shall have the authority to edit and/or consolidate, resolutions in keeping with their intention and then prioritize up to 10 state and up to 10 national resolutions prior to forwarding them to the district convention.

3. The district convention shall forward to the state Resolutions and Platforms Committee from among the resolutions adopted at the district convention up to 10 state and up to 10 national resolutions that the district convention prioritizes as reflecting the most vital and pressing issues put forward by the district party. The secretary shall forward these prioritized resolutions to the state Resolutions and Platforms Chair within 10 days, and all non prioritized resolutions that have been adopted shall be forwarded to the state Resolutions and Platforms Committee to used in constructing the biannual state platform. The other adopted resolutions that are not prioritized will be recorded as reflecting district party policy.

4. The district secretary shall report all adopted and prioritized resolutions to the district convention if resolutions are considered by committee before the convention. If resolutions are considered by committee before the convention, this committee meeting shall take place at least 5 days before the district convention and shall be publicized to district party members at least 14 days before it takes place. Any Democrat residing in the district may propose and speak on such resolutions at this meeting.

5. Resolutions shall be prioritized at the district convention using one of the following methods: 1) the district convention may approve the prioritization of resolutions as recommended by the committee addressing resolutions or 2) the district convention may decide to amend the prioritization recommended by the committee; or 3) regardless of whether a prior committee method is used, the district convention may decide to first vote on which resolutions to approve and then prioritize resolutions by ballot Each delegate may prioritize up to 10 state and up to 10 national resolutions, but may prioritize fewer than that number if he or she chooses. The district party secretary shall tabulate the ballots, weighted by county delegate vote, and report the top 10 state prioritized resolutions and the top 10 national prioritized resolutions to the convention. The secretary shall then forward these results to the state Resolutions and Platforms Committee.

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4.05 DUTIES OF THE STATE CHAIR AND CERTAIN OFFICERS

State Chair. The duties of the state chair shall include:

1. Serve as the leader of the party organization in North Carolina;
2. Preside at meetings of the state executive committee, the state executive council and at the state convention;

3. Draft, in consultation with the state executive committee, a strategic plan outlining reasonable political goals for the state;
4. Execute the strategic plan for the state as approved by the state executive council;
5. Convene the state executive committee at least twice per year;
6. Convene the state executive council as needed, but at least once every three months;
7. Set the dates for precinct meetings, county conventions, and district conventions pursuant to this Plan of Organization;
8. Set the date for the state convention pursuant to this Plan of Organization;
9. Serve as a spokesperson for the state party;
10. Raise funds necessary for the state party to meet its goals;
11. Encourage communication to all interested persons and organizations relating to party activities and political and policy positions of the state party;
12. Encourage and facilitate the establishment and continuity of state auxiliary organizations;
13. Serve as liaison with Democratic elected officials;
14. Serve as liaison to the officers of the Democratic National Committee;
15. Appoint committees as may be necessary and in the best interests of the state party;
16. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the state executive committee or the state executive council;
17. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office;
18. Appoint two members to serve on Committee for Distribution of State Campaign Fund (tax check off) as provided for in Section 8.03.

19. Disseminate the Policy and Political Action Agenda of the state Democratic Party to the news media and to inform and advocate for this Agenda to North Carolina state and national level Democratic leaders.

20. Inspire and mobilize vigorous grassroots public and party support of all major legislation which reflects and implements the Policy and Political Agenda of the state Democratic Party.

8.01 RESOLUTIONS AND PLATFORMS COMMITTEE

Composition. The one individual elected from each congressional district to the Resolutions and Platforms Committee pursuant to Section 4.08. In addition, the presidents of state chartered auxiliary organizations with constitutions and/or by-laws approved by the state executive committee shall serve as voting members of the Resolutions and Platforms Committee. In addition, the state chair shall appoint seven (7) at-large members, and designate from members of the committee a chair, vice chair and secretary.

Meetings. The committee shall meet at the call of its chair, or from a call petition of a majority of committee members. It shall prepare the proposed platform of the Party for submission to the state convention. In preparing this platform, the committee shall review and consider all resolutions passed at the county, district or state level for the previous 4 years. The Committee's meetings shall be announced to State Executive Committee members and Convention delegates at least 14 days before it meets, and the meeting shall take place at least 14 days before the State Convention or State Executive Committee meetings in odd numbered years.

Matters for Consideration. The Resolutions and Platforms Committee shall consider all resolutions addressed to the biennial state convention or, in odd-numbered years, to each meeting of the State Executive Committee. The committee is encouraged to hold one or more public hearings and to invite testimony from all citizens.

In addition, any state chartered auxiliary organization with constitutions or by-laws approved by the state executive committee, and any Democratic organization, committee or convention established or recognized by this Plan of Organization may submit a proposed platform or resolutions or both to the Resolutions and Platforms Committee.

In odd-numbered years, when a biennial state convention is not held, the Resolutions and Platforms Committee shall meet prior to each meeting of the state executive committee to consider resolutions referred to the state executive committee for consideration.

For a resolution or platform to be considered by the delegates to the biennial state convention or by the members of the state executive committee, said resolution or platform must receive a favorable recommendation from a majority of the members of the Resolutions and Platforms Committee present and voting. A resolution or platform that does not receive a favorable recommendation from the Resolutions and Platforms Committee may be brought to the floor of the biennial state convention or the state executive committee meeting for consideration only after a motion to consider said resolution or platform is adopted by a two-thirds vote of those delegates or members present and voting.

METHODS FOR HANDLING RESOLUTIONS AT THE STATE LEVEL

The Resolutions and Platforms Committee shall have the authority to edit and/or consolidate prioritized resolutions from the district parties in keeping with their intention prior to forwarding them to the State Convention or the State Executive Committee meeting.

Resolutions from the state Resolutions and Platforms Committee sent to the State Convention or the State Executive Committee meeting shall be prioritized using the following method: The State Convention or the State Executive Committee meeting shall first vote on which resolutions to approve and then prioritize resolutions by ballot. Each delegate may prioritize up to 10 state and up to 10 national resolutions, but may prioritize fewer than that number if he or she chooses. The state party secretary shall tabulate the ballots, weighted by district delegate vote, and report the top 10 state prioritized resolutions and the top 10 national prioritized resolutions to the State Convention or the State Executive Committee meeting. The prioritized resolutions shall then constitute the official Political and Policy Action Agenda of the Party. All other resolutions passed by the State Convention or the State Executive Committee meeting shall also be considered official policy of the State Party.

8.02 state legislative policy committee

Composition. The State Legislative Policy Committee shall composed of the following persons or a duly appointed representative of each of them: the Democratic Governor, the Democratic Lt. Governor, the Democratic Speaker of the State House of Representatives, the Democratic President Pro Tem of the Senate, and the state chair. If a Democrat is not the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, then the person designated as Democratic or minority leader of the North Carolina House of Representatives shall be a member of the Committee. If a Democrat is not the President Pro Tem of the North Carolina Senate, then the person designated as Democratic or minority leader of the North Carolina Senate shall be a member of the Committee. The following persons shall also be members of this committee: the three state vice chairs, members of the Democratic National Committee from North Carolina, each congressional district chair, and five persons appointed by the state chair. The state chair or designee shall serve as chair of the Committee.

Meetings. This committee shall meet at least twice each year, one being prior to the convening of the General Assembly for its regular session and at other times upon the call of the chair.

Duties. This Committee shall formulate recommendations for state and national Democratic legislative policy. It shall communicate to state and national legislators grassroots sentiment on legislative issues. It shall assist in sponsoring public forums throughout the state on state and national issues.

8 ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD PRIOR TO MARCH 1

Each year, the state chair shall convene the state executive committee prior to March 1. At such meeting, it shall be the duty of the state chair to publicly announce and enter into the proceedings of that meeting the following as the first order of business:

1. The two week period of time in which all precinct meetings are to be held in accordance with Section 1.04. Except that in a presidential election year, the state chair shall designate the exact date in which precinct meetings are to be held in accordance with Section 1.04.

2. ~~The eight (8) day period in which annual county conventions are to be held in accordance with Section 5.01. Except that in a presidential election year, the state chair shall designate the exact date in which county conventions are to be held in accordance with Section 5.01.~~
3. ~~The exact date at which congressional district conventions are to be held each year in accordance with Section 6.01.~~
4. ~~The exact date, time and place at which the state convention is to be held each even numbered year in accordance with Section 6.02.~~
5. ~~In promulgating the dates for county, district, and state conventions, the state chair shall set the dates for such conventions so as to provide a reasonable time between all such meetings for the resolutions adopted by the various conventions to be presented to and considered by the Resolutions and Platform State Platform and Resolutions Committee at the state convention.~~
6. ~~In each year, the state chair shall announce the number of votes to which each county is entitled at the congressional district conventions and at the biennial state convention.~~
7. ~~The state chair, in odd numbered years, will submit the constitutions and/or by laws of each state auxiliary organization for approval of the state executive committee which shall issue or reaffirm the charters of such organizations upon approval of such by laws and/or constitutions. As a part of the constitution and/or by laws of each state auxiliary organization, there shall be a statement indicating that a primary mission of the organization is the promotion of the Democratic Party, its nominees for elective office, and its elected officials. In addition, the constitution or by laws of each state auxiliary organization must provide a mechanism for dealing with county chapters of state auxiliary organizations that deviate from the mission outlined above.~~
8. ~~In even numbered years, elect one (1) individual from each Congressional District to the Resolutions and Platform state Platform and Resolutions Committee.~~
9. ~~Each year, to receive for information the most recent financial statement of the Party and to approve an annual budget prepared and submitted by the state executive council.~~

~~8.02 STATE LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE~~

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~~**Composition. The following persons shall be members of this committee:**~~

~~The three vice chairs of the state party, members of the Democratic National Committee, and each congressional chair. The state chair shall serve as chair and spokes person for the committee.~~

~~**When and Where Held.** A state legislative agenda committee meeting shall be held prior to the beginning of the long legislative session in odd-numbered years. The state chair shall designate and announce the date, time and location of such meeting as provided in Section 4.08.~~

~~**Presiding Officer.** The state legislative agenda meeting shall be called to order by the state chair, who shall serve as meeting chair, but in his or her absence, the vice chair of the state executive committee in order of succession, the secretary and the treasurer shall, in order of succession, preside over the meeting, and in case none of the foregoing persons shall be present, then any delegate to the meeting may preside and serve as meeting chair until a permanent meeting chair is elected by the meeting.~~

~~**Invited Participants.** All Democratic legislators and other Democratic statewide elected officials shall be specifically invited. as shall all members of the state Party study commissions, members of the state resolutions and platform committee members, county chairs, and members of the state executive committee.~~

~~**DUTIES.** This committee shall communicate grassroots sentiment on state legislative issues to the House and Senate Caucus prior to the convening of the General Assembly. Members of the Democratic National Committee from North Carolina will communicate grassroots sentiment on national issues to the DNC.~~

~~***Quorum.** A quorum at a state legislative agenda meeting shall exist at any time in which there is present on the floor fifty+1 members of the committee.*~~

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~~persons or a duly appointed representative of each of them: the Democratic Governor, the Democratic Lt. Governor, the Democratic Speaker of the State House of Representatives, the Democratic President Pro Tem of the Senate, and the state chair. If a Democrat is not the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, then the person designated as Democratic or minority leader of the North Carolina House of Representatives shall be a member of the Committee. If a Democrat is not the President Pro Tem of the North Carolina Senate, then the person designated as Democratic or minority leader of the North Carolina Senate shall be a member of the Committee. The following persons shall also be members of this committee: the three state vice chairs, members of the Democratic National Committee from North Carolina, each congressional district chair, and five persons appointed by the state chair. The state chair or designee shall serve as chair of the Committee.~~

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