



WE BELIEVE IN EQUALITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL.

**2020 WINTER STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Saturday February 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 | McKnight Theater, UNC-Charlotte**

**Special Rules of The State Executive Committee Meeting of the North Carolina Democratic Party**

**RULE 1. *Chair.*** The State Chair shall have general direction of the meeting and shall be authorized to take such action as is necessary to maintain order. The Chair, with the guidance of the Parliamentarian, designated at the convening of the meeting by the Chair, shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any member. The order of priority of Rules shall be (a) the Plan of Organization, (b) the Rules of the Day adopted by the State Executive Committee, and (3) Robert’s Rules of Order (Newly Revised, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition). As may be necessary at appropriate times, the State Chair may temporarily designate one of the other State officers to preside. Courteous respect for one another will be the standing order of the day.

**RULE 2. *Obtaining Recognition.*** Except in the case of physical challenge (when a microphone will be brought to the member), any member who is about to address the Chair, shall rise and approach a microphone and await recognition by the Chair. The Chair shall inquire the purpose for which the member rises. If the member’s purpose is in order, the Chair will recognize the member. Upon recognition, the member shall state that member’s name and county or, where appropriate, that member’s position in the party.

**RULE 3. *Limitations on Debate.*** No member shall speak in debate more than once on the same question, or longer than one (1) minute, without a motion by a member, seconded and passed 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.

**RULE 4. *Credentialed Voting.*** Credentialed members or proxies may vote, only if present in the room and physically casting a ballot prior **to** the time when ballots are collected by the election marshals. No member or proxy may vote *in absentia* and such practice or attempt to engage in such practice shall be grounds for discipline by the State Executive Committee (hereinafter “SEC”), which may include removal by the Council of Review. The Chair may take voice votes, standing votes, or ballot votes for any or all votes, unless specified in the Party Plan of Organization.

**RULE 5. *Agenda Modifications and Rules Modifications.*** The Agenda shall be followed as adopted by the SEC. While pending, the Agenda may be amended by majority vote. After adoption, the Agenda may be amended by a two-thirds vote. As for the Rules of the Day governing the SEC meeting, while pending, they may be amended by majority vote. After adoption, the Rules may be amended by a two-thirds vote.

**RULE 6. *Plan of Organization (“PoO”) Review Committee Report.***

(a) The Chair of the Plan of Organization Committee shall briefly summarize the Committee’s report and recommendations regarding proposed amendments for consideration by the SEC. A motion to approve an amendment is made by the Chair of the Plan of Organization Committee and does not require a second. The body shall consider one amendment at a time. When the amendment is presented, it shall be displayed to the body.



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(b) After the motion is made to approve the amendment, the floor shall be open for debate on that amendment, with the State Chair presiding. The PoO Review Committee Chair has the right to the floor first in debate.

(c) The total time to debate each amendment is five (5) minutes. During this time, the Chair shall alternate between members in favor and members opposed to that amendment. Debate shall be timed and when it expires, the State Chair will move to a vote on the amendment. Once the amendment is adopted or rejected, the PoO Review Committee Chair will proceed to the next recommendation of the Committee.

(d) All approved amendments shall be immediately effective upon the adjournment of the February 29, 2020 meeting unless otherwise specified as provided by Section 12.01 of the Plan of Organization. (e) In the Special Order of Business, the Resolutions and Platform Chair shall present the Code of Conduct Resolution requested and adopted by the State Executive Council. If the State Executive Committee adopts that resolution, then the PoO Review Committee Chair shall then present first the PoO Committee's report on the proposed amendments to the Plan relevant to the resolution and the Council's Code of Conduct. Upon completion of action by the SEC on that specific matter, then the PoO Review Chair will then present any other proposed amendments on other matters, if any, for consideration by the SEC, subject to the order of the approved Agenda.

#### **RULE 7. Resolutions.**

a. The Resolutions and Platform Chair will report out of the Resolutions and Platform Committee (RPC) those proposed resolutions for consideration by the SEC.

b. Resolutions referred to the SEC by the District Conventions shall be considered first, along with the proposed amended language by the RPC. Amendments shall only be allowed by a two-thirds of the SEC present and voting.

c. Upon reporting a resolution, the floor shall be open for debate on that resolution. When the resolution is presented, it shall be displayed to the body.

d. The debate period for a resolution shall be five (5) minutes and equally divided between pro and con. After the time for debate has ended for a resolution, the State Chair will entertain a motion for a vote on the resolution. Once the resolution is voted up or down, the RPC Chair will proceed to the next resolution.

e. The Code of Conduct Resolution requested by the State Executive Council shall be presented in a special order of business immediately prior to consideration of the relevant amendment proposals from the Plan of Organization Review Committee. All remaining resolutions shall be presented during the normal designated place on the agenda.

**RULE 8. Pursuant to the Party Plan of Organization Section 11.03**, forty percent (40%) of the persons constituting the voting membership of the SEC shall constitute a quorum. Once quorum has been established, the continued presence of a quorum is presumed to exist. If a lack of a quorum is suggested by a member, (i.e., a quorum call), and after a standing count, the Chair is unable to determine if there is a quorum, each SEC Member will sign and submit a pre-printed form for a quorum count. Proxies will print and sign their own name, as well as print the name of the SEC Member for whom they have a proxy. The pre-printed forms shall be forwarded to the Chair. The time the Chair rules that quorum is present shall be noted and no quorum call may be made by a member for one (1) hour after that time. Time spent by guest speakers or elected officials,



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unless part of actual debate on motions or reported matters or other official business, shall not be included in calculating the one (1) hour limitation.

### **ELECTION OF DNC MEMBERS (9,10,11,12)**

*[Note: these DNC Member election Rules are based on the large number of DNC candidates anticipated.]*

**RULE 9. Majority Vote.** DNC members shall be elected by majority vote. If a nominee fails to receive a majority of votes another ballot shall be cast.

**RULE 10. Nominations.** Nominations for DNC Member shall come from the floor, may be made by the candidate themselves, and may be seconded. In any event, the total time speaking for any candidate, including the nomination, seconding and candidate's speech shall not exceed two (2) minutes in the discretion of the candidate, which limitation shall be enforced by the Chair or his designee. Candidates may have someone make remarks on their behalf; logistically, all candidates and their speakers will stand in line for nominations in the interest of time.

*Example: if there are 18 candidates for DNC, the total time for all the speeches will be thirty-six (36) minutes, exclusive of the time for the next speaker or set of speakers to come to the microphone.*

**RULE 11. Reduction in Candidates in Sequential elections.** After each balloting, the top one third (1/3) of nominated DNC Member Candidates, rounding up, will move to the next ballot until a final ballot with two nominees is voted with the winner thereof being elected, provided that enough candidates remain to fill the DNC gender or open seat requirements. If a candidate withdraws, such withdrawal shall not count in the calculation of the one third.

*Example: if there are 18 candidates for DNC on the first ballot, 6 would be in the second ballot runoff. If one withdraws, 5 would be on the ballot. After the second ballot, 2 candidates would remain for the third ballot. The winner of the third ballot would be elected.*

**RULE 12. Democratic National Committee ("DNC") Elections.** There being five (5) SEC elected DNC positions for North Carolina, at least two of whom shall be women and at least two of whom shall be men, and a majority vote required for the election of each, separate elections shall be held of men and women until two of each are elected by majority vote, at which point an election shall be held for the fifth non-gender specific DNC seat.

Each Member shall be entitled to vote from among the DNC nominees for the smaller of two (2) or the number of open DNC seats remaining to be filled according to the unfilled gender or non-gender specific seats up for election.

The top two losing women and top two losing men for the gender specific DNC elections shall be placed on the ballot for the fifth non-gender specific DNC election.



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*Example: Assuming that there are 300 credentialed SEC Members or Proxies voting on the women’s DNC position ballot. If on the first ballot, each SEC Member or Proxy voting for two nominees, 1 woman out of the 15 nominated receives more than 150 votes, she is elected.*

*On the second ballot, only 5 of the nominated women will remain on the ballot and SEC Members may vote for only 1. If none of the 5 candidates receives more than 150 votes, a third ballot is cast, but the field is limited to 2 candidates, they being the top one third of the second ballot results.*

*The third ballot will determine the remaining woman’s DNC seat. The remaining woman candidate who failed to win on the third woman ballot and the top woman vote getter eliminated on the second ballot will be the candidates for the non-gender specific DNC position and will run against the remaining male DNC candidate along with the top two losing men in the male DNC elections. If one of the four candidates receives a majority of the ballots cast, each Member casting a ballot for the one seat, that candidate shall win the seat. If no candidate receives a majority, the top two candidates shall be on the final ballot for the fifth DNC seat.*

**RULE 13. Candidates.** All statewide Democratic candidates *present* (U.S. Senate, NC Executive Branch, NC Judicial Branch) present will be afforded a time no longer than two (2) minutes each to state their names, office sought, and a brief summary about their candidacy. They will speak from the stage. **All Democratic Congressional candidates *present*** will be afforded a time no longer than one (1) minute each to state their names, office sought, and a brief summary about their candidacy. They will speak from the stage. **All Democratic candidates for the legislature *present*** will be afforded only the opportunity to state their name, office sought, and counties in that district and only from a microphone on the floor. **Other Democratic candidates *present*** will be asked to stand from their seats as groups as their categories of office are announced; they will not be afforded any speaking time.

For efficiency and planning purposes and so as not to unduly interrupt the flow of the official business of the SEC, the time for Candidate speeches (statewide and Congressional) will be divided over three approximate time blocks on the proposed Agenda. **11:30AM - 12 NOON (prior to convening of the SEC) (1:30PM - 2:15PM, 3:15PM - 4:00PM)**

The Chair will allow as many applicable candidates to speak within the designated time blocks as possible. If the end of the day nears and additional time is needed for remaining candidates who have not yet spoken, then the Chair reserves the right to equitably reduce the speaking time for each candidate.

**RULE 14. Adjournment.** If the SEC continues to meet approaching 5PM, then at the conclusion of any pending vote and the announcement of the outcome of that vote, at 5PM or immediately thereafter the State Executive Committee will adjourn its business and proceed immediately to brief announcements. All business and announcements from the stage or floor shall conclude no later than 5:15PM, at which time the State Chair or presiding officer shall declare the meeting adjourned.