

North Carolina Democratic Party State Convention Saturday June 6, 2020 | SPECIAL RULES

RULE 1. Chair. The State Chair shall have general direction of the Convention 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 convention by the Chair, shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any delegate. Priority of meeting rules shall be (a) the Plan of Organization, (b) Special Rules of the Day adopted by the State Convention, and (3) Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised, 11th Edition).

RULE 2. Obtaining Recognition. This virtual meeting will be conducted using a Zoom platform. A delegate who wishes to address the Chair and is using the Zoom Application shall use the "raise hand" feature to obtain recognition. A delegate using the "dial-in number" method shall choose *9, (star 9) to obtain recognition. Delegates shall not speak until recognized by the Chair. The Chair shall inquire the purpose for which the delegate desires recognition. If the delegate's purpose is in order, the Chair will recognize the delegate. Upon recognition, the delegate shall state that delegate's name and county or, where appropriate, that delegate's position in the party.

RULE 3. Limitations on Debate. No delegate shall speak in debate more than once on the same question, or longer than one (1) minute, without a motion by a delegate, 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 delegates may vote, only if they are attending the virtual meeting and if they have previously registered. The Chair may take votes using Zoom's "raise hands" or "*9" feature, unless specified in the Party Plan of Organization.

RULE 5. Agenda Modifications and Rules Modifications. The Agenda shall be followed as adopted by the Convention. While pending, the Agenda may be amended by majority vote. After adoption, the Agenda may be amended by two-thirds vote. While pending, the Rules of the Day may be amended by majority vote. After adoption, the Rules may be amended by two-thirds vote.

RULE 6. Quorum. Section 6.02 of the Plan of Organization establishes quorum one (1) official delegate from fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the organized counties. Once quorum is established, the continued presence of a quorum is presumed to exist. If a lack of a quorum is suggested by a delegate, (i.e., a quorum call), the Chair shall use the “raise hands” or “*9” functions to determine quorum. The Chair will note the time a quorum is present and no inquiry as to quorum may be made for one (1) hour after that time. Time spent by guest speakers or elected officials, unless part of official business or debate on motions, shall not be included in calculating the one (1) hour limitation.

RULE 7. Adjournment. The time set for adjournment is 5:15 p.m. At 5:00 p.m., or immediately after the conclusion of a pending vote, the Chair will proceed immediately to brief announcements. At 5:15 p.m., the Chair shall declare the meeting adjourned.

PLATFORM, RESOLUTIONS, AND AMENDMENTS

RULE 8. Platform. The Chair of the Resolutions and Platform Committee (“PRC”) shall report the Platform as reported out of the RPC for vote by the Convention. Such report shall automatically be deemed a Motion to approve the entire Platform not requiring a second.

RULE 9. Resolutions. The Chair of the Resolutions & Platform Committee (“RPC”) shall report the Resolutions Package, as reported out of the RPC, for vote by the Convention. Such report shall be deemed a “Motion to Accept the Committee’s Report,” not requiring a second. The convention shall take up those resolutions reported by the RPC in the order presented by the RPC. The RPC may, in its discretion, submit resolutions to the Convention for adoption without debate (“Consent Resolutions”). In the event that more than twenty-five (25%) of the Convention, determined by the State Chair by the polling or raised hands feature estimating weighted vote, desires to debate such submitted Consent Resolution, the Chair shall “pull” the Resolution from the Consent Agenda for debate.

The “pulled resolutions” shall be considered after the Consent Resolutions have been adopted.

RULE 10. Debate. On any Platform plank, and on those Resolutions “pulled” for debate, a speaker must be recognized by the Chair for debate and identify themselves by name and county. Proponents and opponents for each resolution shall have a total of three (3) minutes. After the time for debate has ended for a resolution, the State Chair will entertain a vote on the resolution. Once the resolution is voted up or down, the RPC Chair will proceed to the next resolution.

Any resolution may be referred to the State Executive Committee or to the State Executive Council for further study by majority vote of the convention.

RULE 11. Amendments and Additional Resolutions. Amendments to the Platform and Resolutions Reports will only be considered if they have been submitted to the Chair or the Chair's designee in electronic format suitable for use to lorenzo@ncdp.org. Any amendment must include the title of the resolution to be amended and show the amendment using strikeouts for deletions and red text for additions. Delegates are encouraged to read the Platforms and Resolutions Reports prior to the convention, and to submit any amendments within 24 hours of the convention to allow for timely receipt and availability for the convention.

Additional Resolutions from the floor not submitted to the RPC may be considered after all items submitted by the Platform and Resolutions Committee have been considered and requires a 2/3-majority vote of the body for consideration and debate. New resolutions items from the floor must be submitted to the Chair or the Chair's designee in electronic format suitable for use to lorenzo@ncdp.org. Delegates are encouraged to submit new resolutions within 24 hours of the convention to allow for timely receipt and availability for the convention.

ELECTION OF NATIONAL DELEGATES

RULE 12. Automatic Selection of Unpledged Delegates. Under the Delegate Selection Plan, the following individuals shall constitute the unpledged delegate positions:

1. North Carolina DNC members; and
2. The Democratic Governor; and
3. All former Democratic Presidents, Vice Presidents, Democratic Majority Leaders of the US Senate, and Democratic Speakers of the U. S. House of Representatives

- and all former chairs of the Democratic National Committee that legally reside in the North Carolina; and
4. All Democratic Delegates of the US House of Representatives and the US Senate; and
 5. All former Democratic leaders of the U.S. Senate and all former Democratic Minority Leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives.

RULE 13. Election of Candidates for National Convention Delegate. The State's fourteen (14) pledged Party Leader/Elected Official delegates, its twenty-four (24) At-large delegates and its nine (9) At-large alternates shall be selected by the State Convention. Pursuant to the Delegate Selection Plan, one nominee for each National Delegate position will be reported to the Convention as candidates for National Delegate and presented for election. Any candidate for delegate in each election who receives more than 50% of the vote for each Delegate or Alternate position shall be declared elected as a national convention delegate. Per Robert's Rules abstentions will not count against nominees.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

RULE 14. Election of Two (2) At-Large Presidential Electors. The State Convention shall elect two (2) At-Large Presidential Electors. There are no demographic requirements for such Elector provided that they are an active registered Democrat. Nominations are made by the Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Committee and additional nominations from the floor are not permitted. Any candidate may submit a biography not to exceed fifty (50) words to be read by the State Chair.

Ballot. Each Delegate shall be entitled to vote from among the At-Large Elector nominees. Voting will be conducted using online ballots provided to all delegates participating via compatible devices; voting for delegates participating via audio-only devices will be called upon to identify themselves and cast their vote verbally.

If an Elector candidate receives a weighted majority vote on the ballot, such person shall be elected as a Presidential Elector. The runner up in each election shall be elected as the State Party's the official alternate.