

MINUTES
STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION
1:00PM – 6:25PM, SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2020
VIA ZOOM

As they joined the Zoom meeting, Democrats were entertained by Grammy Award winning bluegrass artists, Marc and Anita Pruett, in Haywood County. Between songs Marc and Anita encouraged everyone to produce a big Democratic voter turnout in November.

State Democratic Party Chair Wayne Goodwin called the Convention to order from his seat in the Goodwin House. Throughout the Convention, he was greatly assisted by a large number of NCDP staff members.

A Minute of Silence was held.

Chair Goodwin read a statement which he was required to read to express the Party's opposition to systematic racism. The statement made it clear that all Democratic Party meetings are open to all Democrats.

The Convention listened to an instrumental presentation of the National Anthem.

Dr. Donna Lake, our State Senate candidate in Wayne and Lenoir counties, led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the flag of North Carolina.

Secretary Melvin Williams said that he had not yet received the official quorum numbers from the registration staff, but that the 1,900 registrations assured that the Convention had achieved a quorum.

Julia Buckner made a motion to approve the Agenda of today's Convention. Eli Klein of New Hanover County seconded the motion.

Angela Bridgman pointed out that Resolutions are not on the Agenda. Matt Hughes said Resolutions should be #16 on the Agenda.

The Agenda was approved.

The Rev. Dr. William Barber addressed the Convention.

Governor Roy Cooper addressed the Convention.

NCDP First Vice Chair Dr. Bobbie Richardson introduced Chief Justice Cheri Beasley who encouraged the Delegates to give strong support to all our Democratic judicial candidates.

Our State Chair recognized: All statewide Democratic candidates, our DNC Members, and our State Party Officers.

Delegates then watched videos from all our Democratic candidates who had bought a video ad: Cal Cunningham for US Senate, Yvonne Lewis Holley for Lt. Governor, Chief Justice Cheri Beasley, Justice Mark Davis, and Judge Lucy Inman.

Wendy May introduced a motion to approve the Rules of the Day. Kathleen Gould of Henderson County seconded the motion.

Benjamin Spencer introduced an amendment which stated that any Resolution not heard today would be moved to the next SEC meeting. Jesse Goslen seconded the motion.

Our Parliamentarian Sybil Mann ruled that his motion was out of order.

Rebekah Whilden made a motion to close debate on the motion to approve the Rules of the Day.

Her motion was approved by a vote of 1061 to 68.

The Convention then voted to approve the Rules of the Day by a vote of 1267 to 44.

Sam Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2018 State Democratic Convention in Raleigh. His motion was seconded by several Delegates.

After some discussion, Rebekah Whilden moved to close the debate on the minutes. Carol Miller seconded the motion.

The Delegates approved the motion to close debate by a vote of 1,061 to 63. The Convention then voted to approve the minutes of the 2018 State Convention by a vote of 1,132 to 30.

The Convention moved to the election of Delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention.

The Delegate Selection Committee first presented the following PLEO (Party Leader or Elected Official) slate:

Pledged to Joe Biden:

Grayson Barnette, Wake County	Drew Kromer, Mecklenburg
Michael Evola, Union County	Tonya McDaniel, Forsyth
Grace Galloway, Cabarrus	Jane Whitley, Mecklenburg
Chris Hardee, Pitt County	Mike Woodard, Durham
Brenda Howerton, Durham	

Pledged To Senator Sanders

Elizabeth Crudup, Harnett County Davie Nelson, Pitt County
Jennifer Marshall, Forsyth William (Sammy) Slade, Orange
Wendy May, Johnston County
Delegates voted to elect this PLEO slate by a vote of 1,261 to 62.

The Delegate Selection Committee presented these nominees for the AT-LARGE DELEGATE positions:

Pledged To Joe Biden

Joseph Alston, Guilford	Ann Robertson, Wake
Alicia Biel, Wake	Matthew Sadinsky, Mecklenburg
DeDreana Freeman, Durham	Phyllis Portie-Ascott, Orange
Ryan McGill, Mecklenburg	Don Vaughan, Guilford
John Morningstar, Orange	Margaret (Betsy) Wells, Cleveland
Janet Nichols, Chatham	Rebekah Whilden, Mecklenburg
Brenda Pollard, Durham	Kennis Wilkins, Pitt County
Albert T. Porter, Jr. Forsyth	

Pledged To Senator Sanders

Adrian Domenech Mercado, Pender County
Narissa Jimenez-Petchumrus, Durham County
Damien Gu, Wake LaTarndra Strong, Orange
Lauren Hill, Orange Nazim Uddin, Mecklenburg
Cristian Nunez, Guilford Elke Weil, Wake
Alan Oliva, Mecklenburg

These two slates of At-Large Delegates were elected by a vote of 1,226 to 55.

Finally, the Delegate Selection Committee presented the following lists of nominees for AT LARGE ALTERNATE positions:

Pledged To Joe Biden

James Edward Ablard, New Hanover	Johnelle Causwell, Mecklenburg
John Balla, Wake	Luz Gaboury, Alamance
Lorna Barnett, Jackson	Edwin Garcia Arzola, Robeson

Pledged To Senator Sanders

Joshua "Fox" Brown, Guilford County
Rebecca Ronesi-Gutierrez, Mecklenburg
Whitney Skillen, Durham County

**These AT-LARGE ALTERNATE candidates were elected 1,117 to 49
The Convention then viewed videos from:
DNC Chair Tom Perez
Vice President Joe Biden**

The Convention moved to Agenda Item 16, Report of the Platform and Resolutions Committee. Committee Chair Matt Hughes recognized the members of the Committee who participated in a SEVEN-HOUR MEETING to produce its report.

Matt explained that beginning on page 81, he would read the titles of Platform Items and Delegates can speak if they want a title pulled for discussion.

Matt made a motion to approve the Platform.

Cliff Moone congratulated the members of the Platform and Resolutions Committee. He asked all Democratic candidates “Will you run on it?”

Lorna Barnett of Jackson County spoke in favor of adopting the entire Platform.

Julia Buckner made a motion to call the question and close debate. Ginger Walker seconded the motion.

The motion to close debate was passed by a vote of 806 to 54.

The Delegates then adopted the Platform by a vote of 840 to 34.

The famous SINGING TEAGUE SISTERS of Forsyth County entertained the Convention with two Democratic songs they had composed. All North Carolina Democrats appreciate Kiki Teague and Mary Laura Teague Austin!

Matt Hughes made a motion to approve the Resolutions submitted by the Platform and Resolutions Committee which he chaired. He announced that if any Delegate wanted to pull a Resolution for debate, it would require a vote of 25% of the Delegates present to pull that Resolution.

Wendy May asked how many Delegates were still on line for the virtual Convention? The NCDP staff replied that 1,342 were still on Zoom.

Julia Buckner made a motion to close debate on the Resolutions. Chris Hardee seconded the motion. The Delegates voted to close debate on all the Resolutions by a vote of 525 to 127. That result provided the 2/3 vote that was needed.

The Convention then voted to pass ALL the Resolutions as recommended by the Platform and Resolutions Committee by a vote of 781 to 64.

Under Agenda Item 18, Other Business, State Senator Don Davis brought forth a resolution about George Floyd. He spoke in favor of his resolution and moved for its adoption. Richard Poole of New Hanover seconded his motion. It was announced that at least 2/3 vote would be needed to bring the George Floyd motion to the Convention floor. Delegates voted to bring it to the floor by a vote of 767 to 28.

Kevyn Creech said the Resolution should include a statement that NCDP supports law enforcement reform.

An unidentified Member stated that we need to add a call for a reconciliation committee to the George Floyd resolution.

Natasha Smith stated that the resolution needs to be cleaned up.

Matt Hughes announced that if the State Convention approves the spirit of the Resolution, then it can be “cleaned up.”

A vote was taken on adding a call for creating a truth and reconciliation commission to the George Floyd resolution. The vote was 547 to 95 in favor of adding this commission to the amendment to the resolution.

Daniel Frybeck made a motion to close the debate on Kevyn Creech’s amendment. Cozzie Watkins seconded his motion. The vote in favor of closing debate on Kevyn Creech’s amendment was passed by a vote of 647 to 28.

The Convention then voted on Kevyn Creech’s amended motion to Senator Davis’ resolution which includes law enforcement reform and a truth and reconciliation commission. Her amendment was approved by a vote of 516 to 64.

Chris Hardee moved to call the question on Senator Don Davis’ resolution about George Floyd as amended. Phylis Russell seconded his motion. The motion to call the question was approved 605 to 24.

The Convention than gave final approval to Sen. Don Davis’s resolution about George Floyd by a vote of 625 to 28.

Ray McKinnon made a motion to consider a resolution prohibiting the use of tear gas and other chemical weapons on peaceful protestors written by Rebekah Whilden. Joshua Brown seconded the motion.

Parliamentarian Sybil Mann explained that it was time to end the Convention at this point. She said the only way to consider the issues of tear gas and other chemical deterrents would be the passage of a motion to extend the Convention for 20 minutes.

Ray McKinnon made a motion to extend the Convention for 20 minutes. Joshua “Fox” Brown seconded the motion. Vinod Thomas spoke in favor of the extension. By a vote of 385 to 173, the Delegates votes to extend the Convention.

The Convention voted 528 to 38 to bring the resolution on tear gas and other chemical deterrents to the floor.

Dr. Grace Galloway introduced an amendment to remove “special circumstances” from the tear gas resolution. She expressed fear that law enforcement would too often claim that “special circumstances” had arisen. Her motion was seconded by several Democrats.

Julia Buckner made a motion to close debate on the issue of tear gas and other deterrents. Jesse Goslen seconded the motion. This motion to close debate was passed by a vote of 417 to 27.

The Convention then voted 385 to 134 to approve Dr. Grace Galloway’s motion to remove “special circumstances” from the amendment on tear gas and other chemical deterrents.

The Delegates then voted on Senator Don Davis’ main motion about adopting a George Floyd resolution including the “tear gas’ issue. Senator Davis’ resolution was approved by a vote of 524 to 32.

At 6:25PM the State Chair announced that the 2020 State Convention was being adjourned in honor of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Arnaud Arberry and other innocent African Americans victims.

**Respectfully submitted,
Melvin Williams, State Secretary
North Carolina Democratic Party**