

**MINUTES
STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
CONFERENCE CALL
MARCH 12, 2020**

State Party Chair Wayne Goodwin called the meeting to order at 8:00PM. After calling the roll, Secretary Melvin Williams announced that a quorum was present on the call.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the resolution entitled “RESOLUTION ON 2020 NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY COUNTY AND DISTRICT CONVENTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY” which had been sent to all Executive Council Members in advance.

THE APPENDIX AT THE END OF THESE MINUTES CONTAINS THE FULL TEXT OF THE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AS PASSED.

Executive Director Meredith Cuomo talked about making arrangements for the upcoming County Conventions, District Conventions, and the State Conventions in accordance with Covid-19 pandemic. She said “No action is not an option.”

She discussed several options:

- 1 – Meetings of more than 100 people must be conducted remotely.**
- 2 – Meetings can be held as conference calls.**
- 3 – Meetings of less than 50 people can be live.**

Meredith said the NCDP Staff will provide the technical support and technical operations for the upcoming meetings.

Matt Hughes suggested that all County Conventions should plan to be held by conference call. He said we can decide the format for District and State Conventions later. He suggested that all Resolutions be transferred from the Precinct level to the District Conventions.

Matt reminded everyone that we still have to follow the DNC Rules in Delegate Selection including holding all meetings on the same day.

Jeff Rose, President of the Association of County Chairs, was recognized as a technical agent who can set up Zoom meetings. He said there is no way to do weighted voting on Zoom. So all meetings must do “up or down voting” with no weighted voting.

Chris Hardee made a motion to introduce an amendment that Resolutions from County Conventions be forwarded to the State Platform and Resolutions Committee within five days after the County Conventions. Several members seconded the motion.

Janice Covington, Jesse Goslen, Wendy May, and Jim Davis spoke in opposition to this amendment.

Cliff Moone made a motion to table Chris Hardee's motion. Cliff's motion to table was passed by a voice vote.

Cliff Moone discussed and explained the parts of the Emergency Resolution that dealt with POO sections 4.06 and 6.01.

Ginger Walker made a motion to adopt the Emergency Resolution. Several members seconded her motion. The Council passed the Emergency Resolution by a voice vote.

Meredith Cuomo said she will send all members a copy of the Emergency Resolution by Friday.

Brenda Pollard asked if the meetings will use Skype. Meredith Cuomo replied that the meetings will use a different vendor.

Ginger Walker asked if the Presidents of the NCDP Auxiliaries can be sent a copy of this Emergency Resolution. Meredith Cuomo said it will be sent to them.

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

**THE APPENDIX BELOW CONTAINS
THE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION
AS PASSED AT THE MARCH 12, 2020
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

RESOLUTION ON NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETINGS
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY
MARCH 12, 2020

PREAMBLE: The North Carolina Democratic Party prioritizes the well-being and safety of North Carolina Democrats and all North Carolina citizens as we prepare for our yearly precinct, county and district conventions that have been scheduled for the 2020 Election Cycle. Due to the rapidly-escalating health concerns related to the spread of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and in accordance with Governor Roy Cooper's State of Emergency declaration for the State of North Carolina, we have developed a Contingency Plan, approved by the NCDP's Executive Council, which addresses issues and concerns that county parties may have as they prepare for their precinct meetings (makeup date) and county conventions which are scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2020.

WHEREAS, Governor Cooper has declared a State of Emergency for the State of North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) has issued recommendations to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 spread in our state, which include canceling, postponing, or modifying events with over 100 participants to offer online streaming services as of March 13, 2020, and

WHEREAS, two key dates in the North Carolina Delegate Selection Plan, the make-up precinct organizing date of March 14, 2020, and the County Convention date of March 28, 2020, fall within the scope of the aforementioned recommendations, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party recognizes our role in safeguarding public health in our state and all of our counties, be it

RESOLVED, by the State Executive Council of the North Carolina Democratic Party, in response to an unprecedented health crisis, that the following measures be taken to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 exposure in our communities:

- 1. For any and all precinct make-up meetings scheduled for March 14, 2020, in accordance with the North Carolina Democratic Party Delegate Selection Plan, the following emergency modifications to the Plan of Organization shall be in effect:**
 - a. Section 1.06 of the Plan of Organization, *Quorum Required to Organize Precinct*, the number of designated, registered Democrats residing in such precinct eligible to participate by telephone or other telecommunications device for consideration as part of the quorum SHALL be unlimited; and**
 - b. Where make-up meetings consisting of multiple precincts expect attendance to exceed 100 persons, those meetings shall take place via North Carolina Democratic Party telecommunications tools.**

- 2. Counties meeting the following criteria, hereafter referred to as “Group A”, SHALL hold their annual County Conventions on March 28, 2020 as Virtual County Conventions, using technology provided by the North Carolina Democratic Party:**
 - a. Counties where recent years’ Convention attendance has exceeded 100 persons**
 - b. Special Rules of the Day for County Conventions in this group SHALL include:**
 - i. Due to the inability to conduct a virtual convention in full compliance of Section 5.02 of the NCDP Plan of Organization, *The Order of Business – Even-Numbered Years* paragraph and the *Resolutions and Platforms* paragraph of Section 5.01 of the NCDP Plan of Organization be hereby suspended from the date of adoption of this resolution until March 31, 2020; and**
 - ii. Vacancies occurring in State Senate, State House, or Judicial executive committees SHALL be filled at a meeting of the County Executive Committee to be held after March 31, 2020 but no later than August 1, 2020; and**
 - iii. All resolutions and platforms received from precincts, without prioritization or recommendation, shall be automatically transmitted to the respective district chair(s) within five (5) days following the convention; and**
 - iv. Voting in Virtual County Conventions shall be conducted and recorded using teleconferencing platform provided by the North Carolina Democratic Party, which supports up or down votes on motions via web interface or telephone.**

- c. Order of Business for County Conventions in this group SHALL consist of:**
- i. Consideration of a resolution allowing the County Executive Board to select, from active Democrats of the county, delegates to the annual congressional district convention and to the biennial state convention in accordance with Sections 6.01 and 6.02 of the NCDP Plan of Organization: OR**
 - ii. Elect, in accordance with the special rules of the day for Virtual County Conventions listed above, from the active Democrats of the county, Delegates to the annual congressional district convention and to the biennial state convention in accordance with Sections 6.01 and 6.02 of the NCDP Plan of Organization; and**
 - iii. Conduct any other business related to the affairs of the county party.**
- 3. Counties not meeting the criteria above, hereafter referred to as “Group B”, SHALL hold their annual County Conventions on March 28, 2020, and MAY CHOOSE to hold their convention in-person or as a Virtual County Convention, using technology provided by the North Carolina Democratic Party:**
- a. Determination of County Convention method shall be made by the Chair of each county in this group, who shall notify NCDP of their chosen method by noon on March 19, 2020;**
 - i. Where a county expects their convention attendance to exceed 100 persons, that county SHALL select the Virtual County Convention Method; and**
 - ii. Counties choosing to hold in-person County Conventions shall follow NCDHHS guidelines for Mass Gatherings or Large Community Event, available at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina/community-events>.**
 - b. Counties choosing to hold Virtual County Conventions shall conduct their county conventions in accordance with the Special Rules and Order of Business in section 2.b and 2.c; and**
 - c. County Conventions held in person shall proceed according to the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization.**

- 4. For the purposes of this resolution, a Virtual County Convention is defined as: An electronic meeting using technology provided by the North Carolina Democratic Party to allow remote attendees to listen in and participate via the internet and telephone.**
- 5. Counties which fail to meet by one of the methods described above on March 28, 2020 will be ineligible to send delegates to Congressional District and State Conventions.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Executive Council hereby authorizes this change to the North Carolina Delegate Selection plan: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Executive Council encourages any and all counties conducting Virtual Conventions to consider a resolution similar to the example resolution below:

WHEREAS, Democrats in <County> met in Virtual Convention on March 28, 2020 pursuant to guidance from the State Executive Council of March 12, 2020, and

WHEREAS, Democrats in <County> desire to have full representation at the upcoming Congressional and State Conventions in April and June, respectively, be it

RESOLVED, the Board of the <County> County Executive Committee is granted the authority to appoint delegates to the Congressional District and State Conventions, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board shall use the following sources of information to make decisions about delegate appointments:

- 1. List of attendees at the virtual convention**
- 2. Individuals from <County> who have filed a Notice of Candidacy seeking election as a National Convention Delegate**
- 3. County members of the State Executive Committee**
- 4. Individuals from <County> who have expressed an interest in serving as a State or District Convention delegate in advance of the County Convention**

This Resolution has been submitted to the DNC for approval.