

MINUTES
NCDP STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
CONFERENCE CALL
8:00PM, MARCH 18, 2020

NCDP State Chair Wayne Goodwin called the meeting to order. The Secretary called the roll and reported that 39 of the 53 Members were present.

Chair Goodwin explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss changes in the DNC Delegate Selection Plan and to consider 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 passed at the March 12, 2020 Executive Council meeting.

Note: The Emergency Resolution as passed at this March 18, 2020 meeting is attached as an Appendix at the end of these Minutes.

The State Chair said that he and the Co-Chairs of the Delegate Selection Plan Committee (Bobbie Richardson and Matt Hughes) were working on changes as needed in face of the pandemic.

Chair Goodwin said he will work with the District Chairs to make changes to the Order of Business at the upcoming District Conventions.

Executive Director Meredith Cuomo said she and the staff will seek acceptable technology which the DNC will approve for the County Conventions and the District Conventions.

Third District Chair Chris Hardee made a motion to accept an amendment (which he had sent to every Council Member in advance) to the Emergency Resolution which had been passed at the March 12, 2020 Council Meeting.

His amendment stated: “Move to insert the following clause in between the 1st and 2nd “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED” clauses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Chair, in consultation

with co-chairs of the NCDP Delegate Selection & Affirmative Action Committee, is authorized to amend the dates for county conventions and congressional district conventions as necessary; and

The motion to accept was seconded by Matt Hughes.

Vinod Thomas made a motion to closed debate on the proposed amendment. Julia Buckner seconded the amendment.

The motion to close debate was passed by a voice vote.

The Council then voted on adopting Chris Hardee's amendment. It was adopted by a voice vote.

The meeting then discussed the main motion (to adopt the Emergency Resolution.)

Diane Roberson asked:

1 – What kind of Beta testing will be done on voting system for County and District Conventions?

2 – What kind of security will be provided for the voting machines?

Jeff Rose replied that the voting machines will be put through the same testing as the NCDP staff will do.

3 – What about ensuring that the voting systems can handle the volumes of votes at District Conventions?

The reply was: All three systems that are being considered have been tested by other state parties who have determined them to be trustworthy.

Jesse Goslen asked some questions about the county and district conventions. Meredith replied that she could provide better answers to his questions after NCDP decides which system to use.

Sixth District Chair Dave Wils asked:

1 – Will District Conventions have to be virtual? Meredith replied that we don't know yet.

2 – Can Forsyth access the voting machines NCDP buys to elect Officers at its County Convention?

3 – Will District Chairs get an agenda for District Conventions soon? Chair Goodwin replied that he and the three Vice Chairs will develop an Agenda for District Conventions.

Brenda Pollard asked: If District Conventions are virtual, how will candidates for Delegate seats campaign? Jeff Rose replied that candidates for Delegates will probably be able to campaign virtually.

Wendy May recommended that the word “technical” be added before the word “change” in Chris Hardee’s amendment which was passed earlier in the meeting. Jeff Rose opposed that addition. Chair Goodwin said the NCDP will notify everyone of any changes. Wendy May then withdrew her motion.

Tenth District Chair Doug Auer said:

- 1 – NCDP needs to provide a public statement about making changes due to Covid-19.**
- 2 - We need to message about why changes are being made.**
- 3 – We need to promote our statewide candidates at the District Conventions.**

Meredith Cuomo said the Party hoped to make a video of all statewide candidates which can be shown at every District Convention.

Meredith also said that all contracts which NCDP is making contain “cancellation” clauses.

Ginger Walker made a motion to call the question on the Emergency Resolution which the Council had been discussing for some time. Several Members seconded her motion. The motion to call for the question was passed by a voice vote.

The Council then voted on the Emergency Resolution. It was adopted by a voice vote with no one expressing opposition.

Vinod Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Several Members seconded his motion. His motion to adjourn was passed on a voice vote. The meeting ended at 9:27PM.

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

APPENDIX

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AS PASSED BY THE MARCH 18, 2020 MEETING OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

RESOLUTION ON 2020 NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY COUNTY AND DISTRICT CONVENTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

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 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, the North Carolina Democratic Party is acting to protect the health and safety of our state.

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party Council of State unanimously adopted a *Resolution on North Carolina Democratic Party Meetings in Response to COVID-19 State of Emergency* in an emergency session on March 12, 2020, and

WHEREAS, guidance from North Carolina's Governor Roy Cooper, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Safety (NCDHHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have been updated further reducing the number of individuals who can safely assemble during this public health crisis since the aforementioned resolution was adopted, and

WHEREAS, two key dates in the North Carolina Delegate Selection Plan, the County Convention date of March 28, 2020 and District Convention date of April 25, 2020, now fall within the scope of the aforementioned recommendations, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party continues to affirm our role in safeguarding public health in our state, be it

RESOLVED, by the State Executive Council of the North Carolina Democratic Party, in response to an ongoing unprecedented health crisis, that the North Carolina Delegate Selection Plan for the 2020 Democratic National Convention be amended as follows, effective upon adoption of this resolution:

- 1. All references to the date of County Conventions as Saturday, March 28, 2020 shall be replaced with the date Saturday, April 25, 2020; and**
- 2. In Section III, paragraph A.2(e), the second sentence shall be stricken and replaced with the following:
“The county chair shall determine, in consultation with the State Party, the starting time of the county convention. County conventions shall take place using state party furnished and approved teleconferencing software to allow remote attendees to listen in and participate via the internet and/or telephone. The time and method of accessing the county conventions shall be as fully publicized by the county chair, 3rd vice chair, or the designee responsible for media, as possible.”**
- 3. All references to the date of District Conventions as Saturday, April 25, 2020 shall be replaced with the date of Saturday, May 16, 2020; and**

4. In Section III, paragraph A.3(a), the second sentence shall be stricken and replaced with the following:

“The congressional district chair shall determine, in consultation with the State Party, the starting time of the congressional district convention. Congressional district conventions shall take place using state party furnished and approved teleconferencing software to allow remote attendees to listen in and participate via the internet and/or telephone.”

5. Counties which fail to meet on April 25, 2020 will be ineligible to send delegates to Congressional District and State Conventions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Chair, in consultation with co-chairs of the NCDP Delegate Selection & Affirmative Action Committee, is authorized to make further changes to the Delegate Selection Plan to support these amendments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Chair, in consultation with co-chairs of the NCDP Delegate Selection & Affirmation Action Committee, is authorized to amend the dates for county conventions and congressional district conventions as necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the order of business and rules of the day for county conventions be set under guidelines passed by the State Executive Council on March 12, 2020 for Group A counties. All counties are now considered to be Group A counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 6.01, paragraph “Order of Business – Even numbered Years” shall be suspended for the 2020 District Conventions, and that the order of business for Congressional District Conventions shall be set by the State Chair, in consultation with the District Chairs.