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## **Resolution on 2021 North Carolina Democratic Party Meetings in Response to Ongoing COVID-19 State of Emergency | December 21, 2020**

### **Preface:**

This resolution before the State Executive Council quotes and interprets the language in sections of the Party Plan of Organization outlined below. This resolution is not intended to amend the Party Plan of Organization as only the NCDP State Executive Committee may amend the Party Plan of Organization. The language below is sent as guidance to interpret these certain sections of the Party Plan of Organization during this emergency period.

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Democratic Party continues to prioritize the well-being and safety of North Carolina Democrats and all North Carolina residents as we prepare for our yearly meetings in 2021, and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina remains under a declaration of State of Emergency by Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order 181, dated December 8, 2020, and

**WHEREAS**, compliance with current guidance from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) on indoor and outdoor mass gatherings is vital to preserving the health and safety of North Carolina Democrats and all North Carolina residents, and

**WHEREAS**, current guidance from the NCDHHS on indoor and outdoor mass gatherings may impact the ability of the North Carolina Democratic Party to conduct upcoming precinct, county, district, and State NCDP meetings, and

**WHEREAS**, the State Executive Council of the North Carolina Democratic Party acted twice, on March 12, 2020, and March 18, 2020, to modify conduct of the party business during this emergency to protect the health and safety of North Carolina Democrats and all North Carolina residents, and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization, section 4.06, empowers the State Executive Council to enact emergency provisions to continue to conduct the business of the North Carolina Democratic Party as provided by the Plan of Organization or state law.

### **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that in order to conduct the business of the North Carolina Democratic Party as required by the Plan of Organization, the North Carolina Democratic Party State Executive Council enacts the emergency provisions contained herein; and be it further



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**RESOLVED**, that the State Executive Committee Meeting to be held prior to March 1, 2021 shall take place in a virtual setting, such as Zoom, in consultation with State Party Officers and staff; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that voting for Officers of the State Executive Committee to take place at the State Executive Committee meeting held prior to March 1, 2021 shall use a method of electronic voting approved by majority vote of the State Executive Council, with all candidates permitted to appoint observers to the voting tabulation process; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization sets forth “proxy voting” in Section 12.05, which states:

State Executive Committee. A member of the state executive committee may designate a registered Democrat, from the jurisdiction or organization from which he or she was elected to the SEC, his or her county to serve as his or her alternate for a particular state executive committee meeting by notifying the state chair, secretary, or executive director of such designation in writing, prior to the call to order of such meeting; except, that a member of the state executive committee who represents a county with two (2) or fewer committee members may designate a registered Democrat from any county within his or her congressional district to serve as his or her alternate for a particular state executive meeting by notifying the state chair, secretary, or executive director of such designation in writing, prior to the call to order of such meeting. Any properly designated proxy may vote the full strength of the elected SEC member provided, however, that no one person may serve as an alternate for more than one member at any meeting and no member or alternate may be entitled to more than one vote.

The notification requirement of the designation of a registered Democrat by a member of the state executive committee to serve as his or her alternate is “*in writing, prior to the call to order of such meeting.*” **For the purpose of the State Executive Committee meeting held prior to March 1, 2021**, “in writing, prior to the call to order of such meeting” **shall be interpreted** as “*no later than 48 hours prior to the call of order of such meeting, except that if the alternate designation is submitted within the 48-hour period prior to the call to order of such meeting, that alternate designation shall be subject to approval by the state chair or his designee(s)*”; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization sets out requirements for county precinct meetings in Sections 1.05:

Section 1.05 discusses in paragraph 4, “**When Held.** Annual precinct meetings shall be held on a date designated by the county chair that is within the two (2) week period designated by the state chair pursuant to Section 4.08.” **For the purpose of 2021 precinct meetings**, “*date*” shall be interpreted as “dates designated by the county



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chair that are within the two (2) week period designated by the state chair pursuant to Section 4.08”;

Section 1.05 discusses locations for precinct meetings in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9. Paragraph 7 sets out “**Location.** The annual precinct meetings shall be held at the polling place of each precinct or other facility within the precinct or nearby that is deemed appropriate by the precinct chair an or the county chair. In the event that a precinct polling place should prove *unsuitable, for whatever reason, an alternative meeting location may be used.*” **For the purpose of 2021 precinct meetings,** “*unsuitable*” shall be interpreted to mean when the precinct organizer cannot make a physical location comply with Governor's Executive Order 181, the precinct meeting may be held virtualy. In addition, if a meeting place is suitable, but one or more meeting attendees wish to attend virtually, they may be permitted to do so. If a precinct meeting is held virtualy, Public Notice of said meeting shall provide information so the meeting is accessible and open to all registered Democrats residing in the precinct.; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization Section 1.06 discusses “**Quorum Required to Organize Precinct and to Elect Precinct Officers and Members of the Precinct Committee.**” It states, “By agreement of the county chair and either the precinct chair or the appointed chair of the meeting, as many as two designated, registered Democrats residing in such precinct may attend the precinct meeting by telephone or other telecommunications device and be considered as part of the quorum.” **For the purpose of 2021 precinct meetings,** “*the limit of two designated registered Democrats*” shall be interpreted as applying only to precinct meetings after the expiration of the current state of emergency. All registered Democrats, residing in a precinct and attending the precinct meeting, whether in person or virtualy, shall be considered as part of quorum; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization Section 2.08 **Rules for Precinct Meetings** states, “The county executive committee shall have the power to make any rules with regard to the holding of precinct meetings that it may deem proper, not inconsistent with this Plan of Organization.” **For the purposes of 2021 precinct meetings,** “*not inconsistent with this Plan of Organization*” shall be interpreted as meaning, not inconsistent with this Plan of Organization, as interpreted by the North Carolina Democratic Party State Executive Council in this Resolution; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization Section 6.01 **When and Where Held** states that “An annual congressional district convention shall be held within the geographical boundaries of each congressional district each year, except that meetings may be held in central locations to congressional districts that are outside of their district boundaries by mutual consent of the state and congressional district chairs.” For the purposes of 2021 congressional district conventions, “within the geographical boundaries” shall be interpreted as meeting via teleconference or virtual meeting platform; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the State Executive Council encourages County Chairs, in consultation with



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other officers of their county executive committee, to appoint a County Convention Administration Committee to recommend the appropriate format and procedures by which their 2021 County Conventions shall be conducted, to include means for election of officers and in consideration of health and safety guidance by the NCDHHS, during the county organizing window announced by the State Chair; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the State Executive Council encourages Congressional District Chairs, in consultation with other officers of their congressional district executive committee, to appoint a District Convention Administration Committee to recommend the appropriate format and procedures by which their 2021 Congressional District Conventions shall be conducted, to include means for election of officers and in consideration of health and safety guidance by the NCDHHS, on the congressional district organizing date designated by the State Chair; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the State Executive Council directs the State Chair, in consultation with other State Party Officers, to create an ad-hoc Committee on Virtual Meetings, consisting of Party members experienced in the conduct of virtual meetings, to serve as a resource on, but not to conduct, virtual meetings for precincts, counties, and congressional districts; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the State Executive Council directs the State Chair to work with state Party staff to make available, on the website of the North Carolina Democratic Party, a list of technologies to support virtual meetings and voting, to be maintained by the aforementioned ad-hoc Committee on Virtual Meetings, provided that none of these methods be required for use by any precinct, county, or district, to serve as a resource for precincts, counties, and congressional districts.

**This Resolution Was Presented And Passed By The State Executive Council Of  
The North Carolina Democratic Party on December 21, 2020**