

MINUTES
STATE CONVENTION – NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
JUNE 18, 2022

THIS IS THE FIRST AND ONLY OFFICIAL SET OF MINUTES
FOR THIS CONVENTION

NCDP State Chair Dr. Bobbie Richardson called the Convention to order at 1:16PM.

Durham County Commissioner Brenda Howerton and NC Central Chancellor Dr. Johnson Akinleye welcomed the Convention.

NCDP Parliamentarian Sybil Mann read the Party’s Statement of Inclusion.

NCDP First Vice Chair Floyd McKissick led the Convention through a period of silent meditation after he had invited everyone to focus on remembering deceased Democrats and worldwide suffering. Then he delivered an uplifting and motivational speech. Sixth Congressional District Chair Saleeta Urena led the Convention in the Pledge of Allegiance and in the Salute to North Carolina.

Curtis Owens spoke to the Convention urging Delegates to join in a dynamic campaign to elect his wife, the Honorable Cheri Beasley, to the United States Senate.

Secretary Melvin Williams delivered the Quorum Report. He explained that a Quorum for the State Convention consists of the presence of Delegates from “a majority plus one of the counties which are organized.” Currently 97 counties are organized. Therefore, Delegates from 49 counties must be present to constitute a Quorum. Williams happily reported that Delegates from 62 counties were present and, therefore, a Quorum was present.

The Convention moved to discuss approval of the Agenda. Soren Pederson moved to strike the Platform and Resolutions from the Agenda. Matthew Sadinsky seconded the motion. NCDP Second Vice Chair Matt Hughes spoke against this motion.

Parliamentarian Sybil Mann advised the Convention that Soren Pederson's motion was out of order. Then the State Chair ruled that his motion was out of order.

Eva Lee made a motion to strike the Platform & Resolutions from the Agenda. The State Chair ruled that her motion was also out of order.

Chris Hardee made a motion to approve the Agenda. Ben Spencer seconded the motion. This motion to approve the Agenda was approved by a voice vote.

The next item on the Agenda was voting on the Rules of the Day. Betsy Wells introduced an amendment to the Rules. Her amendment was to add a Subsection E to Rule 6. This subsection would require that Delegates must adopt, reject or send back to the Committee each part of the Rules that will be voted upon. The Chair ruled that Betsy's amendment was out of order.

Betsy Wells then made a motion to adopt the Rules. Jesse Goslen seconded her motion.

Randell Herson spoke against this amendment.

Matt Hughes asked everyone to approve Betsy's amendment.

Darek McCullers spoke against the amendment because he said the Convention must be able to debate democratically.

Nazim Uddin urged the Convention to adopt the amendment.

State Senator Joyce Waddell called for the question. Surlutta Anthony seconded the motion.

A man who did not give his name objected to the motion to call for the question.

Armin Jancis who has been on the SEC for 30 years pointed out to the Chair that a man had been recognized but that man had never been allowed to say anything. The Chair did not allow that man to speak.

With a voice vote the Convention approved Senator Waddell's motion to call for the question

The Convention went back to Betsy Wells' amendment that the Delegates must either vote to pass, vote to defeat, or vote to return an item to the Platform & Resolutions Committee – with no modification of items allowed.

Betsy's amendment was approved on a voice vote.

Ryan Jenkins made a motion to adopt the Minutes of the January 29, 2022 meeting. Surlatta Anthony seconded the motion. A discussion ensued during which it was determined that the minutes that needed to be approved were actually the minutes of the last State Convention which was held on June 6, 2020.

Chris Telesca made a motion to adopt the Minutes of the June 6, 2020 State Convention. Ben Spencer seconded the motion.

The motion to adopt the Minutes was unanimously passed by a voice vote.

Matt Hughes, Chair of the Platform and Resolutions Committee, came to the podium to begin giving his committee's report on Resolutions. Matt said the committee met for about 20 hours over two days. He told the Convention that the committee had received and discussed about 150 Resolutions.

Matt made a motion to adoption the Resolutions which had been approved by the Platform and Resolutions Committee

Soren Peterson made a motion that the Convention take a 30 minute recess so Delegates could read and study the Resolutions Committee's report. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Jerry Makatos who has been on the SEC for more than three decades addressed the Convention about the Resolutions Committee report. He was ruled out of order.

Randy Henson of Madison County made a Point of Order saying people need time to read the Resolutions. He said Delegates had not been able to even see the Resolutions yet. He was ruled out of order.

A Delegate who did not identify himself said the Resolutions had not been on the party website and the Delegates need to have a

chance to read them before they are called on to vote. He was ruled out of order.

At this point the resolutions were displayed on screen.

Matt Hughes made a motion to adopt the Resolutions and the Chair ruled that the Resolutions had been adopted.

Matt Sadinsky made a motion to pull all three resolutions dealing with Israel and Palestine. The motion to pull means the resolutions will be pulled for discussion or returned to the Resolution Committee. 25% of the Delegates present and voting must vote to pull a resolution in order for a resolution to be pulled. The Chair ruled that Matt Sadinsky's motion was out of order. She ruled that each resolution must be considered individually.

The Chair announced that the three Resolutions about Israel and Palestine will be numbered as follows:

- #1 – Resolution in Support of Human Rights in Israel/Palestine**
- #2 – Resolution to Commemorate May 15th as NAKBA Remembrance Day**
- #3 – Resolution for an Independent Investigation of the Killing of Shireen Abu Akleh.**

The Chair called for everyone who wanted Resolution #1 pulled to vote by a voice vote. After the voice vote was taken she stated she could not determine if 25% wanted this Resolution pulled.

Therefore, she called for a standing vote. After the standing vote, the Chair ruled that 25% did not stand.

This ruling by the Chair was challenged by Eileen Paroff. Her motion to have another count was seconded by a Delegate who did not say their name clearly.

Then the Convention had a debate about how many people would be needed to constitute 25%. Many people expressed their viewpoints on this matter without giving their names.

The Parliamentarian reported that 332 people had registered

for the Convention. A man who did not give his name said that many people had registered for the Convention in advance but not all of them had come to the Convention. He said there definitely were not 332 Delegates present in the room at this time.

After a long recess, the Chair announced that there were 278 Delegates present at this time. Since 85 (31%) of those Delegates had stood to vote for pulling this resolution, Resolution #1 was pulled.

Second District Congresswoman Deborah Ross and 13th District congressional candidate Wiley Ross addressed the Convention.

Chris Telesca asked that the Resolution on Ranked Choice voting be pulled. A Delegate from Madison County seconded the motion.

Only 47 Delegates voted to pull this motion, so it was not pulled .

Matt Sadinsky made a motion to pull Resolution #2 “Resolution to Commemorate May 15th as NAKBA Remembrance Day.” Betsy Fox seconded this motion.

Paul McCallister said there needs to be justice for Jews and Arabs.

David Hammond spoke in favor of sending this Resolution back to committee.

Nazim Uddin spoke against returning this Resolution back to committee.

Mike Schaul spoke against this Resolution.

84 Delegates (33%) voted in favor of pulling this resolution. Therefore, Resolution #2 was pulled and sent back to Platform and Resolutions Committee. It was never passed during the Convention.

Chris Telesca made a motion to pull the Resolution about the reallocation of Democratic Primaries for study by the State Executive Council. His motion was seconded by Jesse Goslen.

Only 7 Delegates voted to pull this Resolution so it was not pulled.

Then an unidentified lady stated that this Resolution was not on the big screen nor in Delegate packets.

Paul McCallister, President of the Inter-Faith Caucus, said his caucus would be willing to facilitate discussions between the supporters of Palestine and the supporters of Israel.

Supreme Court Justice Sam J. Ervin IV and Supreme Court Justice candidate Lucy Inman addressed the Convention.

Fifth Congressional candidate Kyle Parrish spoke to the Delegates.

Eileen Paroff tried to speak about her feelings but the Chair ruled her out of order.

Cliff Moone spoke to the Convention giving some parliamentary advice.

A lady asked for a Quorum Call but her call was denied.

The Delegates then took up Resolution #3 which was entitled "Resolution for an Independent Investigation of the Killing of Shireen Abu Akleh."

David Hammond made a motion to pull this Resolution. Betsy Fox seconded his motion.

Only 44 voted to pull this Resolution. Therefore, the Resolution was not pulled. It continued to be part of the Resolution packet.

Platform and Resolutions Chair Matt Hughes made a motion to approve all Resolutions which were still in the package. By a voice vote the Convention voted to approve all Resolutions which were still in the package.

The Convention then moved to consider the two Resolutions which had been pulled which were Resolutions #1 and #2.

The Convention moved back to consider Resolution #1 which was entitled "Resolution in Support of Human Rights in Israel/Palestine."

Matthew Sadinsky urged the Delegates not to be divisive. 7
because it would hurt the Democratic ticket in the November
election.

Soren Petersen said the Party needs to support this resolution.

Eileen Paroff spoke against this Resolution.

Nazim Uddin asked the Delegates to support this resolution.

Tyler Beale spoke about this Resolution.

Leslie Cohen made a motion to pull Resolutions #1 and #2 for
later consideration. The Chair ruled that she was out of order.

The Convention then voted on Resolution #1. 175 of the 278
Delegates voted to approve Resolution #1. The Chair ruled that it was
adopted.

The Chair then recognized Dr. Lavonia Allison who had entered
the Convention and was sitting on the front row (as she always did at
every state Democratic meeting for several decades.)

The Convention went back to consideration of Resolution #2
which was entitled “Resolution To Commemorate May 15th as NAKBA
Day of Remembrance.”

Paul McAllister said there is a need for justice for Arabs and
Jews.

David Hammond called for the Convention to send this Resolution
back to committee to take out inflammatory language.

Matt Sadinsky said this Resolution should be moved back to
Resolutions Committee.

Mike Schaul spoke against passage of this Resolution.

The Convention voted on Resolution #2. 147 Delegates voted
to voted to send Resolution #2 back to committee which was more
than 25%. Therefore, Resolution #2 was referred back to the
Resolutions Committee.

Paul McAllister said the Interfaith Caucus is willing to facilitate
discussion between supporters of Palestine and supporters of Israel.

Platform Committee Chair Matt Hughes came to the microphone
to present the Platform Committee Report. He moved for the adoption
of the report.

A lady who did not say her name clearly moved to adopt the Platform and adjourn. 8

Randy Henson of Madison County said that Delegates can't see the platform.

Ryan Jenkins moved to adopt the Platform Committee Report.

Randy Voller said that the Platform should include a plank about income inequality. Matt Hughes said that income inequality is covered in the Resolutions. Jerry Markatos spoke about the need to combat structural racism.

Soren Pederson said the 2022 Platform is on the NCDP website.

Ted Benson said that income inequality is in the Platform.

Dr. Tobias LaGrone spoke to inform people about his pro-life views and said that abortion should not be codified into law.

The Convention then voted to approve the 2022 Platform.

The Convention was then addressed by:

Congressman G. K. Butterfield

Senator Natalie Murdock

State Representative Vernetta Alston

Secretary of State Elaine Marshall

NCDP First Vice Chair Floyd McKissick then took over presiding for the rest of the Convention so Chair Dr. Bobbie Richardson could make last minute preparations for the Unity Banquet.

He invited Julia Buckner to speak about the Building Blue organizing program and the work she does as Training Director.

Everyone was encouraged to buy a brick.

Carolyn Smith, who is the Director of the 2022 Coordinated Campaign, addressed the Convention.

Floyd McKissick closed the event by giving an uplifting speech after which he adjourned the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Melvin Williams, State Secretary

North Carolina Democratic Party