

**MINUTES
STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
ASHEVILLE BUNCOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 28, 2025**

(In preparing these minutes, it is assumed that SEC Members have saved their SEC Packets and will use them for reference.)

State Party Chair Anderson Clayton called the meeting to order at 9:30AM and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the flag of North Carolina.

Paula Shelton, President of the Democratic Women of North Carolina, delivered the Native American land acknowledgement.

A Moment of Silence was held.

Secretary of State Elaine Marshall spoke to the SEC.

Judge Toby Hampson addressed the SEC and promoted his 2026 re-election campaign.

Chair Anderson Clayton announced the quorum numbers. She said there are currently 605 SEC Members. 242 Members must be present to establish a quorum. 406 Members had already registered for today's meeting when including Zoom attendees and live attendees. Therefore, a quorum was declared to be present.

The meeting then considered the Rules Of The Day.

Parliamentarian David Parker moved to adopt the Rules including Rule 3-b-ii which says "Those portions of the Resolutions & Platform Report and Affiliated Organization Chartering Committee Consent Agenda Report which are not "Pulled" shall be deemed to have been adopted by the adoption of the Agenda."

Platform & Resolutions Committee Chair Katie Tomberlin of Carteret County made a motion to treat Resolutions the same as POO matters, that is: "If a Resolution is pulled, it can be debated and

amended.” Her motion was seconded by Chase Franklin of Wake County. The State Chair stated that pulled Resolutions will be debated. Therefore, there was no reason to take a vote on Katie Tomberlin’s motion.

Bob Hyman of Wake County informed the meeting that because there were a large number of Resolutions, the committee did not have time to consider more than 250 of the Resolutions

The SEC then passed the main resolution on procedures for dealing with Resolutions. No vote totals were announced.

Parliamentarian David Parker made a motion to adopt the Rules of the Day as amended. His motion was seconded and passed.

Nick Long asked which Agenda was the meeting going by. David Parker said the Agenda we would follow would have the Strategic Plan before lunch and the reports from Affiliated Organizations and Platform and Resolutions committees after lunch.

Cameron Pruette of Mecklenburg County made a motion to adopt the Agenda as revised.

A member who did not state their name clearly made a motion to move the Strategic Plan on the Agenda. Damien Gu of Wake County seconded the motion.

Matt Hughes of Orange County spoke in opposition to this motion. He said we should take care of business before going to Resolutions.

Reim Subai of Wake County asked the Chair to provide Members with the correct Agenda. The Chair said she would.

Kevin Creech of Wake County asked if the Rules of the Day can be posted. The Chair replied: “Yes.”

Kevin Hardwick said the Strategic Plan must come up from the people. Chair Clayton said the Strategic Plan is not a top down process.

The vote was then taken on a motion by Reeves Peeler to move Resolutions to Item # 10 on the Agenda. This motion was defeated by a vote of “Ayes – 156” and “Nays – 176.” Therefore, the report of the Resolutions Committee was not moved from its place on the Agenda.

Chase Franklin made a motion to move the Report of the Resolutions Committee so it would be the first item taken up after lunch. Ben Spencer seconded his motion.

Chair Anderson said “We will get to all items on the Agenda.” Cliff Moone of Catawba pointed out that we will have time for all Agenda items because of the 90-minute limit for discussion on each item.

Ben Spencer reminded the crowd that after today’s meeting, we will not be discussing Resolutions again until next year.

Matt Hughes spoke against moving Resolutions & Platform before the Report of the Affiliated Organization Committee.

Brandi Brown of Wake County said Resolutions should be prioritized.

Someone who did not say their name made a motion to close debate on the motion to move Resolutions to being the first item after lunch. Beaufort County Party Chair Marlene McCabe seconded this motion. This motion to close debate was passed by a show of hands.

The meeting then voted on the main motion to move Resolutions to being the first Agenda item after lunch.

The vote on this motion was “Ayes – 145” and “Nays – 172. Therefore, the motion to move Resolutions to the first item on the Agenda after lunch was defeated.

The SEC then voted on the motion to adopt the Agenda which required a 2/3 vote. It was announced that this motion had passed. No vote totals on this vote were announced.

The State Chair announced that she was going to move the NCDP Officers Reports aside and go directly to the presentation of the Strategic Plan. The Officers were never called to the podium to give their reports during the entire meeting.

NCDP Executive Director Kian Sadjadi and Assistant Executive Director Lillian Taylor presented the Party’s Strategic Overview for the next 4, 6, and 8 years.

Felicia Robinson spoke on the upcoming appellate court judge elections.

Henry Martin of Mecklenburg County expressed concerns about Voter Registration roadblocks.

Chair Anderson Clayton gave recognition to Avery County Party Chair Landon Beavers who is suing the Republican County Commissioners in his county. She also recognized Justin Matthews and Pamela McAfee.

Eileen Paroff of Mecklenburg County congratulated everyone who had developed the Strategic Plans for the coming years. She also called attention to the fact that precincts were not mentioned in the plans.

LUNCH

When the SEC was called back into session after lunch, Judge John Arrowood and attorney James Whalen spoke about their campaigns for seats on the North Carolina Court of Appeals in 2026. They are running for two different seats.

The State Chair announced that State Party Secretary Melvin Williams was attending today's meeting virtually and taking the minutes from his home in Duplin County.

Steve Rawson, Chair of the Plan of Organization Review Committee spoke about some exciting plans.

He reported that his committee is going to spend the next year writing an entirely new Plan of Organization. They will start with nothing and develop an entirely new plan.

Steve said this committee will follow these ideas:

- **Will study the plans of parties in other states**
- **Will get information from State Party Officers**
- **Will invite everyone to contribute ideas**
- **Will have a draft plan to present in February of 2026**
- **Will bring the new plan to the Summer, 2026 SEC meeting**
- **Will be creative and open to change**
- **Will change the name of the PoO**
- **Will invite all SEC Members and other to answer a survey about ideas for this new plan**

Chair Steve Rawson then presented six recommendations for changes today in the Plan of Organization:

- **Recommendation # 1 - Approve alternative plans of organization for counties that submitted plans for the February, 2025 SEC and were tabled at that meeting. These counties are: Avery, Brunswick, Gaston, Madison, Mecklenburg, Rockingham, Stokes, Transylvania, and Watauga.**
- **Recommendation # 2 – Approve alternative plans of Organization submitted by counties since the February, 2025 SEC meeting. These counties are Beaufort, Clay, Davie, Mitchell and Perquimans.**
- **Recommendation # 3 – Allow precinct clusters in the general Plan of Organization without needing to submit an Alternative Plan of Organization solely for that purpose. Allow for CEC and County Chair involvement in the authorization of precinct clusters.**
- **Recommendation # 4 – Clarifies the effective date of Affiliated Organization renewals.**
- **Recommendation # 5 – Add additional County Chairs to the Executive Council.**
- **Elimination of fractional voting for divided precincts for Prosecutorial, State Senatorial, and State House of Representative District Executive Committees.**

After many questions, the SEC voted to adopt all of these PoO recommendations.

Aron Johnson, President of the Affiliated Organizations Approval Committee presented the report of his organization.

The following auxiliaries fully met all requirements and were recommended for approval:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. African American Caucus | 9. Transgender Caucus |
| 2. College Democrats | 10. Young Democrats |
| 3. Democratic Women | 11. Hispanic/Latinx Caucus |
| 4. InterFaith Caucus | 12. NC Assn of Teen Democrats |
| 5. Jewish Caucus | 13. Disability Issues Caucus |
| 6. Labor Caucus | 14. Senior Democrats |
| 7. LGBTQ+ Democrats | 15. Arab Caucus |
| 8. Progressive Caucus | |

New Affiliated Organization Applicants:

- 1. Democratic Men – Have Fully Met Requirements**
- 2. AANHPI Caucus – Conditional Approval**

Auxiliaries Recommended for Approval Pending Specific Changes:

- 1. Muslim Caucus**
- 2. Veterans & Military Affairs Caucus**
- 3. Rural Caucus**

Connie Green Johnson of Mecklenburg County made a motion to pull the Democratic Men from the list of auxiliaries being considered for approval. Her motion was seconded by a Member who did not say their name clearly. The Chair announced that 119 votes would be needed to pull. The voting results showed only 68 Members voted “Yay.” Therefore, the Democratic Men were not pulled.

Cliff Moone of Catawba County made a motion to accept the Democratic Men as a fully authorized AO.

**(THE MEETING WAS SUSPENDED SO MEMBERS
COULD ROLL UP THEIR CAR WINDOWS)**

Cliff Moone’s motion to accept Democratic Men was passed.

Minu Lee of Wake County made a motion to adopt Aron Johnson's report from the Affiliated Organization Committee. Damien Gu of Wake County seconded his motion. This motion was passed by the SEC.

Clayton Brooks, President of the Democratic Men, addressed the SEC emphasizing that men from all walks of life and from all demographic groups are invited and encouraged to join the Democratic Men of North Carolina.

Edward Keohohou of Guilford County spoke about his Hawaiian ancestors.

Eileen Paroff of Mecklenburg was saluted as she celebrated her 80th Birthday on this date.

Katie Tomberlin and Soren Pederson, Chair and Vice Chair of the Platform and Resolutions Committee made their report. They had 41 members on the PRC. Katie reported that the PRC received more than 300 Resolutions and held more than 20 hours of meetings. The committee had been able to discuss and vote on 26 of the Resolutions.

They said the Resolutions which they were presenting had been divided into these three buckets:

BUCKET # 1

Five Honorary Resolutions, Hon.001 – Hon.005

Nine on Democratic Party Matters, Dem.001 – Dem.009

Eight On International Issues, Int.001 – Int.008

Two On General Government, Gen.001 - Gen.002

One on Labor and Economy, Lab.001

One on Rights and Justice, Rig.001

BUCKET #2 – TIME SENSITIVE, UNCONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

BUCKET #3 – UNCONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

The State Chair asked if anyone wanted to pull any of the above Resolutions. Randall Hersom of Davidson County said that he thought only the first bucket of Resolutions should be considered at this meeting.

James Parto of Orange County made a motion to pull all Resolutions except Honorariums so they could be debated. Matt Hughes seconded this motion. The Parliamentarian ruled this motion out of order.

Matt Hughes made a motion to return all Resolutions to the PRC, require the PRC to start having monthly meetings, and begin in August sending monthly reports on their progress to all SEC Members. His motion also would require the PRC to bring the Resolutions to the first SEC meeting in 2026. Matt also expounded on subjects about which no Resolution had been brought forth.

An unidentified Member said Matt was incorrect about the content of the Resolutions. James Porto said all Resolutions should go back to PRC.

Eva Lee spoke in favor of Matt's motion. Kevin Creech spoke against Matt's motion because the PRC had worked hard on their report and no Resolutions were passed by the SEC last year.

The vote total on Matt's motion was:

"Yays – 138" and "Nays – 228"

Therefore, Matt's motion was defeated.

Several unidentified Members spoke but made no motions.

Wake County Party Chair Wesley Knott made a motion to use the remaining 40 minutes to pull Resolutions one at a time and vote on them without debate or any parliamentary delays until adjournment.

A 2/3 majority was needed to pass this motion. 250 Members voted for it and 59 against it. So Wesley's motion was adopted.

Eighth District Chair Michael McCrea made a motion to pull all International Issues Resolutions in Bucket #1 and debate the rest of the Resolutions. The outcome of his motion was not clear.

Michael Almond of Alleghany County said NCDP should focus on winning elections. He said none of these motions would help us win elections.

An unidentified Member made a motion to recess and reconvene in January or February of 2026.

The vote on this motion to recess resulted in a 159 – 159 tie. Therefore, the motion was defeated so the meeting was not recessed at that time.

A Member made a motion to pass all the Resolutions. The Chair ruled his motion out of order.

Nick Long of Wake County made a motion to pull Res #3 in Democratic Affairs so it will not be adopted. This Resolution would limit DNC Members to four 4-year terms. Ben Massey of Ashe County seconded Nick's motion.

The Chair announced that 25% of the votes were needed to pull this Resolution.

After a raised hands vote, the Chair announced that this Resolution was pulled. No vote numbers were announced.

The Chair then called for a vote on approving Resolution #3 in Democratic Affairs which would limit DNC Members to serving four 4-year terms. The voting results were: "Aye – 127" and "Nay – 160." Therefore, this motion to limit the terms of DNC Members was defeated.

Michael Almond of Alleghany County made a motion to pull Resolution #001 International (Int.001) which called for an Arms Embargo on Israel. Jeff Bierer seconded the motion.

The Chair announced that 119 votes would be needed to pull this Resolution. She then announced that 150 had voted in favor of pulling. Therefore, this Resolution was pulled.

The SEC then voted on passage of Resolution #001 International (Int.001) which called for an Arms Embargo on Israel. The vote was:

Yes – 160

No – 151

Therefore, Resolution #100 International was adopted.

A lady who did not say her name wanted to make a motion to pull another Resolution.

However, Parliamentarian David Parker ruled that the 90 minutes for discussion of Resolutions which the SEC adopted earlier in the Rules of the Day had expired. He continued by saying: “Those matters not reached, are adopted.”

SPECIAL INFORMATION FROM THE PARLIAMENTARIAN

After the SEC meeting, Parliamentarian David Parker was asked to state which buckets of Resolutions were affected by his statement that “Those matters not reached, are adopted.”

David Parker wrote that ONLY THE FIRST BUCKET of Resolutions was before the SEC as part of the Consent Agenda when he made that ruling.

He said that the second and third buckets were labeled as being ‘Unconsidered’ by the Platform & Resolutions Committee. Therefore, the second and third buckets of Resolutions were not part of the consent agenda. He said the second and third buckets of Resolutions could have been added to the consent agenda but such would have required a 2/3 vote to do so.

This means that only the first bucket of Resolutions (and the Honorary Resolutions) were adopted at this SEC meeting.

Eileen Paroff of Mecklenburg County made a motion to extend discussion of Resolutions for ten minutes. Stephanie Collins Frempong seconded her motion. A 2/3 majority vote was needed.

After the vote on Eileen’s motion was taken, the Chair announced that her motion did not pass. No numbers were announced.

A SEC Member who did not give her name made a motion to suspend the Rule which was adopted earlier which said that any Resolution not reached before the end of the meeting WILL BE PASSED.

A SEC Member who did not give her name seconded this motion. No action was taken on this motion.

A SEC Member who did not give his name made a motion to adjourn. Parliamentarian David Parker ruled his motion was “out of order.”

The State Chair announced that it was now 5:00PM and that, therefore, “the meeting is over.”

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