

2024 Summer SEC Meeting June 1, 2024 | Jamestown, NC & Zoom

SEC Member Packet



ncdp.org/2024-sec

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RULES OF THE DAY JUNE 1, 2024 NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

GENERAL

RULE 1. Chair. The State Chair shall have general direction of the North Carolina Democratic Party State Executive Committee ("SEC") meeting on June 1, 2024 who shall call the SEC Meeting to order and who shall serve as Chair under the Plan of Organization ("PoO") §4.07 and shall be authorized to take such action as is necessary to maintain order.

- a. The Chair, with the guidance of the Parliamentarian designated at the convening of the SEC Meeting by the Chair, shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any SEC Member.
- b. Priority of meeting Rules shall be (a) the Plan of Organization, (b) Rules of the Day adopted by the SEC Meeting, and (c) Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised, 12th Edition).
- c. In the physical or consented to absence of the Chair, the vice chairs of the state executive committee in order of succession, the secretary and the treasurer shall, in order of succession, preside over the SEC Meeting; provided that said officers may consent to being considered "absent" and thereby (i) to the election of a permanent convention chair to be elected from among the SEC Members by the SEC or (ii) to the designation of the Chair of the Plan of Organization Revision Committee ("PoORC") as an SEC Member to serve as Convention Chair in the absence of the officers.

RULE 2. Meeting Setting. The 2024 SEC Meeting is being conducted using a hybrid of the Zoom remote meeting app which will be providing audio, visual, text, and voting capabilities for this meeting. Each SEC Member shall be responsible for their audio and internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of or poor quality of An SEC Member's individual connection prevented participating in this meeting.

RULE 3. Agenda and Rules. The Agenda shall be followed as adopted by the SEC Meeting. To the extent that the Agenda contains times certain for any or all events and Agenda items, such times shall be treated as Special Orders of the Day and may be suspended only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the SEC Meeting.

While pending, the Agenda may be amended by majority vote. After adoption, the Agenda may be amended by two-thirds vote. The rules shall be valid only for the 2024

SEC Meeting. While pending, the Rules of the Day may be amended by majority vote. After adoption, the Rules may only be amended by two-thirds vote, provided that the Chair, in its discretion, may modify the Agenda to allow for speakers, to report votes, to take up items occurring later on the Agenda during vote counting, and for incidental matters.

Consent Agenda. Items before the SEC Meeting on a Consent Agenda will be adopted unless "pulled" by a vote of twenty-five percent (25%) of the SEC Members present, which percentage shall be determined in the discretion of the Chair. Proposed revisions that are "pulled" shall be considered by the SEC as "Pulled Revisions" provided that all debate and action of any kind shall stop pursuant to the Orders of the Day for Adjournment at 11:45 AM.

Rule 4. Credentialed Voting and Voting of Counties. Credentials shall be provided to SEC Members at the time of registration. Credentialed SEC Members may vote if present in the SEC Meeting room and physically casting a vote, or remotely using the procedures of ElectionBuddy.

Proxies are permitted under the PoO §12.05 which "no member or alternate may be entitled to more than one vote." Proxy Members are referred to herein as SEC Members.

The Chair, in its discretion, may take voice votes, standing votes, or ballot votes or remote votes for any or all votes, unless a mode of voting is specified in the Party Plan of Organization or in these Rules. Pursuant to PoO §4.07, nothing herein shall prevent the SEC from adopting temporary rules, making nominations, holding elections, and conducting business by voice vote or by acclamation where a vote of counties is not demanded by twenty-five percent (25%) of the SEC Members present, which percentage shall be determined in the discretion of the Chair.

RULE 5. Quorum. Section 12.03 of the Plan of Organization establishes the quorum for the SEC to be forty percent (40%) of the persons constituting the voting membership of the SEC.

The Chair or its designee shall note the time a quorum is present and no inquiry as to quorum may be made for one (1) hour after that time. Time spent by guest speakers or elected officials, unless part of official business or debate on motions, shall not be included in calculating the one (1) hour limitation.

RULE 6. Orders of the Day and Adjournment. The SEC shall convene at 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 1, 2024 for the purposes set forth in the agenda. The SEC shall adjourn as set forth in the Agenda and Order of the Day at 11:45AM.

RULE 7. Ballot and Vote Counting.

- a. The Chair may take voice votes, use Zoom's "raise hand" feature (*9 if joining on a phone), zoom polling, google forms, or other electronic voting methods or conduct voting by ElectionBuddy. The Chair's announcement of the results of non-voice votes shall include the number of members voting on each side of the question, both on-line and in person. Business may be conducted by unanimous consent and without objection except as set forth herein.
- b. Ballots shall be counted from both in-person SEC Members and Zoom/electronic remote SEC Members using the Election Buddy app as further instructed on the day of the SEC Meeting. Election Buddy will assist in registration, credentialing, providing unique keys for each individual Members, training the Members on voting procedures, running and monitoring vote-casting, providing voting certification, certifying the results of the elections and votes, and working with the Chair and Parliamentarian.

DEBATE

RULE 12. Obtaining Recognition.

- a. SEC Members Present in the Meeting Room. Except in the case of physical challenge (when a microphone will be brought to the SEC Member upon request), any SEC Member who is about to address the Chair, shall rise, approach a microphone, and await recognition by the Chair. The Chair may inquire the purpose for which the SEC Member rises if the purpose is not apparent from the context or if the SEC Member does not state their purpose in rising. If the SEC Member's purpose is in order, the Chair may recognize the SEC Member.
- b. SEC Members Present by Remote Access by Zoom. An SEC Member who wishes to address the Chair and is using the Zoom Application shall use the "raise hand" feature to obtain recognition. An SEC Member using the "dial-in number" method shall choose *9, (star 9) to obtain recognition. The order in which Zoom attendees "raise their hand" shall not determine the order in which they are recognized. SEC Members shall not speak until recognized by the Chair which recognition will be facilitated by the Chair's designees, namely North Carolina Democratic Party staff or officers unless otherwise stated by the Chair. The Chair shall inquire the purpose for which the SEC Member desires recognition. If the SEC Member's purpose is in order, the Chair will recognize the SEC Member.
- c. Upon recognition, the SEC Member shall state that SEC Member's name and county or, where appropriate, that SEC Member's position in the party. The time spent by An SEC Member in identifying themselves and their purpose shall count toward the time limits for debate.

RULE 13. Limitations on Debate. No SEC Member may speak in debate more than once on the same question or for longer than one (1) Minute. The Chair shall use its best efforts to alternate between speakers who support and those who oppose the matter being debated and shall call on Zoom participants to assure on-line participation including, without limitation, calling on every third speaker to be from the Zoom attendees. The Parliamentarian or its appointed Clerk shall keep and call time for each speaker and for the total time of debate.

After five minutes of debate on any matter before the SEC Meeting, debate shall close, except that:

- a. On an issue designated by the Plan of Organization Review Committee ("PORC") as "Extended Debate", the time limit shall be ten (10) Minutes;
- b. The Chair may, in its discretion, extend debate for one (1) Minute to equalize the number of debaters on each side of the issue;
- with the Chair alternating between favorable and opposed, if three speakers speak on one side or the other consecutively in the absence of contrary debate, debate shall cease;
- d. A properly made "Motion for the Previous Question," may, if approved by a two-thirds majority, bring the SEC Meeting to an immediate vote on the pending matter

Upon expiration of debate, or if, the Chair may call the vote without a Motion for the Previous Question.

In the event the Chair requests an extension of time, such extension may be made upon the approval of a simple majority of the SEC Members.

Chat in the Zoom meeting will only be to communicate with on-line moderators as designated by the Chair.

Ad hominem arguments will not be tolerated by the Chair, who may, in its discretion, curtail the remaining time of the speaker.

<u>Privileged motions</u>. Neither "Point of Order" nor "Question or Point of Personal Privilege" shall be used to debate a matter that is before the body.

A "point of order" shall be made only if the PoO, Rules of the Day, or Robert's Rules of Order are not being followed by An SEC Member or by the Chair. AN SEC Member must be prepared to state immediately the point of order being violated when recognized or will be ruled out of order.

A "point of personal privilege" shall be made only if it concerns the rights of the assembly or the individual's ability to hear or otherwise participate and is urgent in nature; otherwise, a "Point of Personal Privilege" will be out of order.

An appeal of the decision of the Chair shall be in order only if demanded by twenty-five percent (25%) of the SEC Members present, which percentage shall be determined in the discretion of the Chair.

RULE 14. Plan of Organization Review Committee. The Chair of the Plan or Organization Review Committee (PORC) shall report on the "Recommendations Package," as recommended by the PORC, for vote by the Meeting; the PORC Chair's Report shall be deemed a "Motion to Approve the RPC's Report," and does not require a second.

- a. <u>Consent Recommendations</u>. The "Recommendations Package" submits all recommended amendments to the Plan of Organization to the Meeting for adoption without debate ("Consent Recommendations") unless more than twenty-five (25%) of delegates, determined by the Chair in its discretion, desire to debate or Amend a "Consent Recommendation," in which event the PORC Chair shall "pull" the resolution from the Consent Recommendations
- b. The "Pulled Recommendations" shall be referred to the Plan of Organizations Review Committee for consideration.

PROPOSED AGENDA JUNE 1, 2024 NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

- I. 9:00 AM Call to Order
- II. Moment of Silence
- **III.** Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the N.C. Flag
- **V.** Declaration of Quorum
- VI. Approval of the 2024 Summer SEC Meeting Agenda
- **VII.** Approval of the 2024 Summer SEC Rules of the Day
- **VIII.** Approval of the 2024 Winter SEC Meeting Minutes
- IX. Plan of Organization Review Committee Report
 - A. Consent Revisions
 - B. Pulled Revisions
- X. Chair Report
- XI. 11:45 AM ORDER OF THE DAY (if not previously adopted) Adjournment

2024 WINTER STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Rocky Mount High School SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024

State Chair Anderson Clayton called the meeting to order at 10:32AM.

State Teen Dems President Daniel Patterson gave an emotional rendition of excerpts from the "I Have A Dream" speech which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. first delivered in Rocky Mount

The meeting's Parliamentarian, David Parker, read from the Democratic Party's Statement of Inclusion

John Coleman of Alamance County read the Land Acknowledgement which acknowledged that the land in much of North Carolina was originally owned and cared for by several Indian nations.

Chair Clayton called for a time of silence during which SEC Members were asked to remember all those whose lives have been impacted by gun violence

Chair Clayton then led the entire body in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the Salute to the flag of North Carolina

The Quorum Report showed that a Quorum had been established by 299 Members attending virtually and 169 attending live for a total attendance of 468.

The Chair introduced Minnesota State Democratic Party Chair Ken Martin who is Chair of the Association of State Democratic Chairs and also is a Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee. His theme was: "Ignore Pollsters, Pundits, and Politico."

Ken Martin also quoted President Joe Biden who said: "Don't compare me to the Almighty. Compare me to the alternative!

The following candidates spoke to the SEC:

- Mike Morgan for Governor
- Satana DeBerry for Attorney General
- Kenon Crumble for Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Gary Foxx for Governor
- Wesley Harris for State Treasurer
- Chuck Hubbard for Congress in Fifth District

- A spokeswoman for Josh Stein for Governor
- Judge Lora Cubbage for the Supreme Court of NC
- Dr. Lorenzo Wilkins for State Representative in HD-25
- Ian Shannon for Natasha Marcus for Insurance Commissioner
- C. R (Katie) Eddings for Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Gabe Esparza for State Treasurer
- Cameron Pruette for Braxton Winston for Labor Commissioner
- Felecia Robinson for Carolyn Thompson for Ct of Appeals
- Aron Johnson for Rachel Hunt for Lt. Governor
- Frank Pierce for Congress in Thirteenth District
- Dante Pittman for State Representative in HD 24
- Lisa Ellsworth for Jeff Jackson for Attorney General
- Mark Osterhout for District Court Judge

Nash County Party Chair Dr. Cassandra Conover welcomed the SEC and led them in a rousing speech during which SEC Members joined her in shouting the words "Unapologetically Blue!

Nash County Commissioner Gwen Wilkins delivered a thoughtful and cheerful welcoming message to the SEC Members.

David Parker presented the Agenda for adoption. He suggested that items 11 and 12 be switched. Keith Thomson of Buncombe County made a motion to adopt the Agenda with 11 and 12 switched. Calvin Stallings seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

The Rules of the Day were brought to the floor. It was pointed out that section 11:03 should be labeled section 12:04.

Phillip Cooper of Wake County made a motion to adopt the Rules of the Day. Diane Tyndall of Craven County seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Minutes of June 24, 2023 were presented. Ryan Jenkins of Durham made a motion to approve these Minutes. His motion was seconded by a person who did not say their name clearly. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

Political Director Ni Lavien explained the ranked voting procedure which she recommended for DNC Member elections.

Jeff Bierer made a motion to adopt the ranked choice voting method. Jeff Marshall seconded his motion. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

Chris Hardee explained the difference between DNC Members and National Democratic Convention Delegates.

Robin Dickerson withdrew her candidacy for a DNC Member position.

Nominations for female DNC Members began. DD Adams spoke for re-election.

Jenny Marshall spoke for re-election.

Shelia Huggins spoke for re-election.

Jeff Bierer and Jane Whitley spoke for Aisha Dew.

Dorian Palmer urged Members to vote for Lainey Edmisten. Diane Tyndall nominated Gloria Goodwin. Gloria then spoke. Chris Hardee made a motion to close nominations for the three female DNC positions. Connie Green-Johnson seconded his motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Nick Long of Wake County told the meeting that speakers can not be recognized unless they are speaking at a microphone according to the Rules of the Day.

The meeting moved to nominations for three male DNC Members.

Montica Talmadge nominated John Verdejo and Kevyn Creech seconded his nomination. Then John addressed the Members.

Lisa Ellsworth nominated Cameron Pruette. Cameron spoke to the SEC.

Paula Shelton nominated Matt Hughes and Charlie Wallin seconded his nomination. Matt addressed the crowd.

Mario Benavente nominated Soren Pederson. Soren spoke to the Members of the SEC.

A break for lunch was announced.

The meeting was called back to session at 1:24PM. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall addressed the SEC. Political Director Ni Lavien explained the ranked voting

Derrick Montgomery nominated Drew Kromer and Kathy Kline seconded his nomination. Then Drew spoke to the SEC. Aron Johnson nominated Vinod Thomas and Diane Snyder seconded his nomination. Vinod spoke to the Members. Jimmy Cochran of Lenoir County made a motion to close the nominations and Samuel Johnson of Onslow County seconded his motion. The SEC voted to close nominations.

The following candidates spoke to the meeting:

- Supreme Court Justice Allison Riggs
- Maurice Green for Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Tim Dunn for Attorney General
- Delano (who didn't say his name clearly) spoke for Ben Clark for Lt. Governor
- Kevin Clark for Senate District 29
- Maurice Holland for Senate District in Moore & Cumberland
- Chris Schultze for HD 15
- Ben Massey for HD 93
- Linda Jean Moore for HD-3 in Craven County.
- LaVon Barnes for HD-64
- Susie Scott for NC-50 which is a R+50 district

NCDP Second Vice Chair Kimberly Harding gave a report on all her exciting activities since the SEC meeting in June of 2023.

State Treasurer Deniese Chaney presented the proposed 2024 State Party budget which had already been approved by the Finance Committee and by the State Executive Council.

The proposed budget included funds for three Regional Organizing Directors who will report to Organizing Director Sarah O'Brian. The proposed budget includes funds to provide Mobilize to all 100 counties.

The proposed budget will change the position of NCDP Chair to a full time position which will pay the Chair a full time salary plus the same benefits which are paid for all full time Headquarters personnel.

After some discussion and questions by several SEC Members. Ryan Jenkins made a motion to close debate. Dorian Palmer seconded his motion.

Cliff Moone spoke up to say that our Treasurer could not preside over the vote to close discussion on the budget. The gavel was turned over to Parliamentarian David Parker.

David called for a vote on the motion to close discussion on the budget. After the vote was taken David ruled that the motion had failed to get the 2/3 majority that was needed to close debate.

Kevyn Creech, Gina Marie Santore, Carl Newman, Minisha Kapel, Cynthia Wallace, Caroline Hall, and Charles McKellum spoke about the budget and the motion to close discussion.

Chris Hardee spoke to agree with others to close debate. Parliamentarian David Parker humorously said: "Melvin Williams, put that in the minutes – Chris Hardee agreed with somebody about something!"

A Member who did not say their name clearly made a motion to extend debate for four minutes. The motion was seconded. The motion failed. Therefore, the debate on the budget was ruled to be closed.

The budget was then adopted with only one objection being registered.

In response to a question from the floor, Treasurer Deniese Chaney replied that the salary for the State Chair would begin on March 1, 2024.

The results of the voting for the three female DNC Members were announced. The three elected were: Shelia Huggins, Jenny Marshall, and DD Adams.

Then it was announced that Matt Hughes and John Verdejo had won two of the male DNC Member positions and that there would be a runoff between Soren Peterson and Vinod Thomas for the remaining male DNC position.

Matt Hughes gave the meeting lots of information about how to run for a Delegate position at the 2024 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

State Treasurer Deniese Chaney announced the completion of many months of work spent developing the Party's first County Treasurer's Handbook. It will remain in online form only so that updates can be made as election laws are changed. Access to the Handbook can be requested at: Treasurer@NCDP.org.

Everyone applauded Deniese and her team for developing this valuable resource.

First Vice Chair Jonah Garson promoted Project 100 and its goal of helping conduct canvasses in all 100 counties. Every county which would like to participate should write to JGarson@NCDP.org.

The State Chair announced that Vinod Thomas had won the runoff for the last male position on the DNC.

The State Chair then followed up on "A Resolution Expressing Our Deepest Thanks To Brenda Pollard" which was passed at the June 24, 2023 SEC meeting as well as by the 2023 NCDP Platform and Resolutions Committee, and the 2023 Durham County Democratic Convention.

The wording of the 2023 Resolution was:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party, Durham County Democratic Party, and Durham County Precinct Nine wish to formally extend our deepest thanks to Brenda Pollard for her decades of selfless, exemplary, and dedicated service to the causes of freedom and human dignity, and for her advancing Democratic values in the Old North State. This Resolution requests that the State Party Chair personally thank Brenda Pollard at the next state SEC Meeting on behalf of all of North Carolina."

Chair Clayton praised and hugged Brenda.

Zack Finley made a motion to adjourn. Ryan Jenkins seconded his motion. The motion was passed and the State Chair declared the meeting to be adjourned at 5:36PM.

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

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT.

NCDP Plan of Organization Review Committee's Report to the NCDP Summer SEC Meeting of June 1st, 2024

Consistent with Section 8.04 the NCDP Plan of Organization the Plan of Organization Review Committee has voted to provide the NCDP's SEC with favorable recommendations for the following proposals.

Formating Key

Deletions: red text with strikethrough
Additions: blue text with underline

Discussion Forum

These topics can be discussed by SEC members using the following forum: <u>Plan of Organization</u>
<u>Review Committee Recommendations Consider.It Forum</u>

RECOMMENDATION 1

Amends the minimum number of delegates a Precinct must elect to receive its full weighted vote at County Convention.

1.10 Delegates To The County Convention

Each precinct shall elect at least one (1) delegate for each vote to which said precinct is entitled at the county convention, and the precinct may elect no more than two (2) delegates for each vote to which said precinct is entitled at the county convention If the precinct elects less than one (1) delegate for each vote to which it is entitled, then the precinct vote at the county convention shall be limited to the number of delegates selected.

5.02 Voting

Allocation of Votes.

Each precinct shall be entitled to cast in the county convention one (1) vote for every one hundred (100) votes, or major fraction thereof, cast by the precinct for the Democratic nominee for Governor in the last preceding gubernatorial election; provided that each precinct shall be entitled to cast at least one vote at the county convention.

Votes Divided Among Delegates Present.

The precinct delegates who attend the county convention shall be entitled to vote the full strength of their precinct upon matters of business which come before the convention, provided the precinct originally elected <u>a minimum of five (5) delegates</u>, or at least one (1) delegate for each vote to which it was entitled, as provided in Section 1.08, whichever number is smaller. Each

such delegate present from a particular precinct shall cast an equal number of the votes to which the precinct is entitled. All votes which the precinct is entitled to cast shall be divided equally among all the delegates representing the precinct who are in attendance.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Allow the simultaneous holding of offices in some circumstances.

10.04 Simultaneous Office Holding Prohibited in Some Circumstances

Should any county executive committee officer, congressional district executive committee officer, or state executive committee officer be elected as an officer of the county executive committee, district executive committee, or state executive committee, he or she they shall be deemed to have automatically vacated their previous office. Should any officer of the state executive committee be elected as an officer of a county party executive committee or district party executive committee they shall be deemed to have vacated their position as an officer of the state executive committee.

No <u>chair elected officer</u> of any county executive committee, <u>chair of any</u> district executive committee, or <u>officer of the</u> state executive committee may simultaneously serve as a President of any state-wide affiliated organization recognized under Section 4.08.

Upon election as President of a statewide affiliated organization, or assumption of the office of President of a statewide affiliated organization, an officer a chair of a county executive committee, chair of district executive committee, or officer of the state executive committee shall be deemed to have automatically vacated their position as an officer chair of the a county executive committee, chair of a district executive committee, or officer of the state executive committee. Should a President of a statewide affiliated organization, be elected as an officer of the chair of a county executive committee, chair of a district executive committee, or officer of the state executive committee, he or she they shall have fifteen (15) days after such election to resign as President of the statewide affiliated organization, or he or she they shall be deemed to have automatically vacated his or her their new position as an officer of the a chair of a county executive committee, a chair of a district executive committee, or officer of the state executive committee.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Amends the gender diversity requirements for the Officers of County and District Executive Committees.

2.03 Officers Of The County Executive Committee

Elected Officers. The county executive committee shall have as officers a chair, three (3) vice chairs, and a secretary. The first vice chair must be of a different gender identity from the chair. Among the chair and first vice chair at least one (1) must be a person whose gender identity is not male. Among the chair and three (3) vice chair offices, one (1) of these must be filled by a person of a racial or ethnic minority which constitutes at least twenty percent (20%) of the registered Democrats in that county, one(1) of these offices must be filled by a person whose gender identity is not female and one(1) of these offices must be filled by a person thirty-six (36) years of age or younger. Officers of a county executive committee shall be active Democrats residing within the county. No two (2) county officers may be from the same immediate family residing in the same household. Gender, racial or ethnic, and age requirements need not be followed if filling a vacancy for an unexpired term but shall be adhered to when the office is filled for a full term.

3.04 Officers Of The Congressional District Executive Committee

Elected Officers. The congressional district executive committee shall have as officers a chair, three (3) vice chairs, and a secretary elected pursuant to Section 6.01. The first vice chair must be of a different gender identity from the chair. Among the chair and first vice chair at least one (1) must be a person whose gender identity is not male. Where there are sufficient counties in a district, no two (2) elected officers shall live within the same county. Among the chair and three (3) vice chair offices, one (1) of these must be filled by a person of a racial or ethnic minority which constitutes at least twenty percent (20%) of the registered Democrats in that district, one(1) of these offices must be filled by a person whose gender identity is not female and one(1) of these offices must be filled by a person thirty-six (36) years of age or younger. Any office not elected at the convention shall be considered vacant. Officers of a congressional district executive committee shall be registered Democrats residing within the congressional district.

Gender, racial or ethnic, and age requirements need not be followed if filling a vacancy by the District Executive Committee. Officers shall acknowledge and agree to comply with the letter and spirit of the most recently adopted North Carolina Democratic Party Code of Conduct.

RECOMMENDATION 4

Establishes the process by which an Affiliated Organization may receive conditional approval.

Add to #4 in section 11.03 as follows:

The State Executive Committee may grant conditional approval of an affiliated organization. If such conditional approval is granted, the conditionally approved affiliated organization must then meet all the requirements for full recognition and meet the appropriate deadlines, as stated herein, prior to the next full meeting of the State Executive Committee, at which time the State Executive Committee shall vote final approval or denial.

RECOMMENDATION 5

Eliminates the requirement to elect Precinct Committee members in order to be consistent with current practices and procedures.

1.03 Composition of Precinct Committee Precinct Committee.

In each precinct, there shall be a precinct committee consisting of at least five three registered Democrats who reside in the precinct and who are elected at an organizational meeting of the precinct. The purpose of the precinct committee is to elect officers and delegates who represent the precinct at county party meetings and coordinate the grassroots work of the precinct, including political education, get-out-the vote, and campaign activities. The composition of the precinct should resemble the make-up of the registered Democrats in the precinct as to gender, age, race, ethnic background and, where practical, geography. Participation and the opportunity to be elected to office or representation is open to any registered Democrat who resides in the precinct. All Democratic county and city elected officials and Democratic members of the North Carolina General Assembly, residing in the precinct and in attendance, shall be ex-officio, voting members of the precinct committee.

Precinct Officers.

The precinct committee shall have as officers a chair, a vice chair, a secretary treasurer, no less than two (2) committee members and any others as the body might desire. The vice chair should where possible be of a different gender identity from the chair and should, where possible, be of a race other than that of the chair. No officers of the precinct committee shall be from the same immediate family residing in the same household. officers shall acknowledge and agree to comply with the letter and spirit of the most recently adopted North Carolina Democratic Party Code of Conduct.

Term of Office.

The terms of office for precinct officers and precinct committee members elected at an annual meeting in an odd numbered year shall be for two (2) years. If elected at another time, the term of the office shall begin upon election. Terms shall end on the date on which the next annual precinct meeting is held in an odd-numbered year or when their successors are elected, whichever occurs first. Should a vacancy occur prior to the end of a term, the officer or committee member elected shall serve the unexpired portion of term.

Vacancy and Succession for Precinct Officers and Committee Members.

Vacancies occurring among the officers or members of the precinct committee shall be filled within thirty (30) days following creation of the vacancy. If a member of the precinct committee moves their voting residence outside the precinct, they shall be deemed to have vacated their position. The precinct chair shall call a meeting of the remaining members of the precinct committee to fill that vacancy and any other vacancies that might be caused by the action of such committee in filling the vacancy. If there is a vacancy of the precinct chair, the vice chair or the secretary/treasurer, in that order, shall become acting chair, assume duties and responsibilities of the precinct chair, and shall call a meeting to fill the office of chair, and any other vacancies. If a meeting is not held within thirty (30) days, In the event of a vacancy amona the officers the county chair or their designee shall call the a precinct meeting to be held for this the purpose of filling the vacancy. Such a meeting will require seven (7) days notice, and it will be the responsibility of the county party chair to make best efforts to communicate the time, date, location, and purpose of the meeting to the Democrats of that precinct. At the meeting any Democrat who is registered in the precinct will be eligible to vote. If the precinct is a significantly ethnic precinct, the County Chair shall appoint a designee to call the precinct meeting upon the recommendation of the county caucuses representing those ethnic groups or the state caucuses representing those ethnic groups if there is no duly organized county level caucus(es). The precinct chair or presider shall certify in writing the results of such elections within five (5) days of this meeting to the county chair.

Resignation.

Resignation of any precinct officer shall be in writing and given to the precinct chair and county chair. In the event resignation is that of the precinct chair, the precinct chair shall give their written resignation to the precinct vice chair and to the county chair.

Removals.

Officers and members of the precinct committee may be removed in accordance with Section 10.00

RECOMMENDATION 6

Amendment to the Responsibilities of the State Finance Committee

8.05 State Finance Committee

Meetings.

The committee shall meet at the call of the Chair and shall propose an annual budget, initially drafted by the State Chair, Treasurer, and Executive Director, to the State Executive Council, for its consideration, at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the winter State Executive Committee meeting

Meetings and Responsibilities

On an annual basis, the Finance Committee will:

- 1. <u>Propose an annual budget, initially drafted by the State Chair, Treasurer, and Executive Director, to the State Executive Council, for its consideration, at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the winter State Executive Committee meeting.</u>
- 2. Audit and report on the use of the Party mail permit, to the State Executive Council.
- 3. Work with the Executive Director to provide mailing permit resources to County Parties, District Executive Committees, and Affiliated Organizations for the purposes of getting out the vote.

RECOMMENDATION 7

Adds flexibility to the voting processes at County Executive Committee Meetings to comply with current practices that comply with practical demands.

Addition at end of Section 2.02

Voice Votes: Nothing herein contained shall prevent the county executive committee from making nominations, holding elections, and conducting business by voice vote or by acclamation where a weighted vote is not demanded by twenty-five percent (25%) of the certified voters present.

RECOMMENDATION 8

Adjusts the District reorganization process

District Reorganization

In the event that the drawing and enactment of Congressional District boundaries by either the North Carolina General Assembly or by a state or federal court of law necessitates the

reorganization of District Executive Committees, the chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party will make a recommendation to the State Executive Council if the reorganization will occur at the next annual Congressional District Convention that is held in accordance with section 6.01 of the NCDP Plan of Organization, or if a separate reorganization convention is needed. The State Executive Council will then have the authority to accept or reject that recommendation. If the recommendation of the State Chair is rejected, the State Executive Council will have the authority to set a date, or window of dates, when District Re-organization Conventions will occur.

Conventions

- When and Where Held. The State Executive Council will have the authority to set the
 date(s) on which such Congressional District Reorganization Conventions will be held. The
 exact location and time of the Congressional District Reorganization Convention shall be
 determined by the acting Congressional District Chair, except that the locations of
 meetings outside of congressional district boundaries may occur with the consent of the
 State Chair if a suitable venue is not available. A Congressional District Reorganization
 Convention may be held either virtually, in person, or hybrid, at the discretion of the acting
 Congressional District Chair.
- Temporary Presiding Officers. The State Chair shall appoint a registered Democrat to serve
 as an acting Congressional District Chair as well as an acting Congressional District
 Secretary for the sole purpose of organizing the District Convention and presiding over the
 election of regular officers, and the election of the district's members of the Council of
 Review, the Platform and Resolutions Committee, and the Plan of Organization Review
 Committee.
- 3. Allocation of Votes. Each county in a congressional district shall be entitled to cast at the Congressional District Reorganization Convention one (1) vote for every three hundred (300) votes, or major fraction thereof, cast in that county or in the applicable portion thereof, for the Democratic nominee for Governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election; provided, that each county shall be entitled to cast at least one vote. A county's votes will be divided equally among the delegates from that county that attend.
- 4. Quorum. A quorum at a District Reorganization Convention shall exist at any time there is present at least one official delegate from a majority of the counties entitled to be at said convention.
- 5. Delegates. In the event that a District Congressional convention is needed for the purpose of re-organizing the Congressional District Executive Committee along new lines, the following people will have standing to serve as voting members of their county's delegation to whichever congressional district their voting address is drawn into.
 - i) Any Democrat who serves as a member of a County Executive Committee pursuant to section 2.01 of the NCDP Plan of Organization.

- ii) Any Democrat who resides in an organized precinct, as defined in Section 1.02 of the NCDP Plan of Organization, and is a member of that precinct's precinct committee as defined by section 1.03 of the NCDP Plan of Organization.
- iii) Any Democrat who resides in an organized precinct and was elected as a county convention delegate at the most recent precinct meeting at which county convention delegates were elected, consistent with section 1.05 of the NCDP Plan of Organization.

County Representatives to District Executive Committees

In the event that the reorganization of Congressional Districts creates a vacancy in the position of a county's representative to a Congressional District Executive Committee, then the county party chair will have the authority, subject to approval of the officers of the County Executive Committee, to appoint someone to fill that vacancy. That person will remain in that position until the next scheduled county convention at which time that position will be filled by a person elected by the convention body consistent with section 5.01 of the NCDP Plan of Organization.

RECOMMENDATION 9

Requires State Chair to consider diversity in State Committee appointments.

8.01 Resolutions and Platforms Committee Composition.

The one individual elected from each Congressional District to the Resolutions and Platforms Committee pursuant to Section 6.01. In addition, the representatives of state chartered Affiliated Organizations with constitutions and/or by-laws approved by the State Executive Committee shall serve as voting members of the Resolutions and Platforms Committee. In addition, the State Chair shall appoint seven (7) at-large members, and designate from members of the committee a chair, vice chair and secretary.

These seven at-large members shall be appointed such that the Committee reasonably reflects the geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender makeup of registered Democrats in North Carolina.

8.02 State Legislative Policy Committee Composition.

The State Legislative Policy Committee shall be composed of the following persons or a duly appointed representative of each of them: the Democratic Governor, the Democratic Lt. Governor, the Democratic Speaker of the State House of Representatives, the Democratic President Pro Tem of the Senate, and the State Chair. If a Democrat is not the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, then the person designated as Democratic or Minority

Leader of the North Carolina House of Representatives shall be a member of the Committee. If a Democrat is not the President Pro Tem of the North Carolina Senate, then the person designated as Democratic or Minority Leader of the North Carolina Senate shall be a member of the Committee. The following persons shall also be members of this committee: the three State Vice Chairs, members of the Democratic National Committee from NC, each Congressional District Chair, the Presidents of State Affiliated Organizations and five persons appointed by the State Chair.

These five persons shall be appointed such that the Committee reasonably reflects the geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender makeup of registered Democrats in North Carolina. The State Chair or designee shall serve as chair of the Committee.

8.03 Committee for Distribution of Political Party NC Victory Funds Composition.

The state chair shall have two (2) appointments as provided for in Section 4.05 number 17. The appointments from the Chair shall be Committee Chair and Committee Vice Chair. These appointments shall serve at the pleasure of the State Chair, and shall be made such that the Committee reasonably reflects the geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender makeup of registered Democrats in North Carolina.

All 13 Congressional District Chairs shall serve as members of the Victory Fund Committee.

8.04 Plan of Organization Review Committee Composition

One (1) member from each Congressional District elected pursuant to Section 6.01. Nine (9) members appointed by the State Party Chair as at-large members.

These nine at-large members shall be appointed such that the Committee reasonably reflects the geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender makeup of registered Democrats in North Carolina. In addition, the State Party Chair shall designate the Committee Chair from among the members of the Committee.

8.05 State Finance Committee Composition.

The State Finance Committee shall be composed of the State Treasurer, who shall chair the Committee. The State Chair shall appoint six (6) members of the State Executive Council, and four (4) at-large members to the State Finance Committee.

These four at-large members shall be appointed such that the Committee reasonably reflects the geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender makeup of registered Democrats in North Carolina. The Executive Director shall be a non-voting member of the committee.

9.00 Council of Review; 9.02 Composition

Members.

The Council of Review shall consist of one (1) member from each Congressional District who shall be elected at the Congressional District Conventions held in even-numbered years. Four (4) members at-large to be appointed by the State Chair.

These four at-large members shall be appointed such that the Committee reasonably reflects the geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender makeup of registered Democrats in North Carolina.

11.00 The Affiliated Organizations Committee; 11.02 Members of the Affiliated Organizations Committee

The Committee shall consist of:

- 1. A chair, secretary, and one (1) member appointed by the State Chair. These appointees shall serve at the pleasure of the State Chair, and shall be made such that the Committee reasonably reflects the geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender makeup of registered Democrats in North Carolina.
- 2. Five representatives of the Affiliated Organizations that qualify for current membership on the State Executive Committee, who are chosen from a list to be ordered by organizational seniority. The list and rotation shall be administered by the Committee Chair. Members shall serve a term of two (2) years.
- 3. Five (5) members who are current County Chairs chosen by the County Chairs Association who serve a two- year term.
- 4. Members of this committee must be registered Democrats.

RECOMMENDATION 10

Replaces sections 9 and 10 to unify procedures between sections, move State Party Officer involvement to appellate level, and create screening process for Council of Review Chair and Committee

Replaces existing Section 9 and 10 with the following:

9.00. COUNCIL OF REVIEW

9.01. PURPOSE

A Council of Review is created for the purpose of hearing and deciding disputes which may arise within the Party in the event that they are properly presented for resolution in accordance with this Plan of Organization. Disputes within auxiliary organizations of the Democratic Party shall be resolved internally using procedure adopted by the auxiliary organization rather than in accordance with the provisions of Sections 9 and 10 of the Plan of Organization.

9.02. COMPOSITION

- (a) Membership. The Council of Review shall consist of one (1) member from each congressional district who shall be elected at the congressional district conventions held in even-numbered years. Four (4) additional at-large members shall be appointed by the state chair. No person may be a member of the Council of Review who also serves as a chair of a county or district executive committee, as an elected or appointed officer of the state executive committee, as a state president of an affiliated organization, or as a member of the dispute resolution committee of an affiliated organization.
- (b) Officers. The state chair shall appoint a chair, a vice-chair, and a secretary of the Council of Review from among its members. The chair, vice-chair, and secretary shall provide e-mail addresses for use by persons having business with the Council of Review which shall be posted on the North Carolina Democratic Party website. The chair shall carry out the duties specified in this Section 9 of the Plan of Organization, with the vice-chair to act in the place of the chair in the event that the chair is unable to act. The secretary shall keep the records of the Council of Review and maintain a list of mediators determined by the Council of Review to be qualified to conduct meditations for purposes of Section 9 of the Plan of Organization.
- **(C) Terms**. Terms of office for the elected members of the Council of Review shall begin upon the date of their election or appointment and end on the date of the next district convention held in an even- numbered year or until their successors are elected or appointed. Terms of office for the at-large members shall run concurrently with the term of the state chair or until their successors are appointed.

9.03. RULES AND DECISIONS

Forty percent (40%) of the membership of the Council of Review shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. All decisions concurred in by a majority of the members of the Council of Review present and voting shall be final and binding, except that any decision made by less than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting is subject to appeal to the State Executive Council. The state chair shall issue such directives as may be necessary and proper to implement decisions of the Council of Review. The Council of Review has the authority to adopt supplemental procedural rules and practices consistent with this Plan of Organization to ensure that each dispute is settled fairly and equitably and shall develop and, from time to time, update a form for the submitting of grievances that shall be posted on the North Carolina Democratic Party website and that shall be used by all persons wishing to submit a grievance in accordance with Section 9 of this Plan of Organization.

9.04. REMOVAL OF MEMBERS

The State Executive Council shall have the right to remove from office any member of the Council of Review in the event that two-thirds (%) of the members of the State Executive

Council present and voting determine, after providing notice of the alleged grounds for removal and an opportunity to be heard, that the member in question been disloyal to the Party, has refused or failed to perform his or her duties, or has committed any act of misconduct which calls for that member's removal.

9.05. VACANCIES

A vacancy in the membership of the Council of Review shall be filled by the congressional District Executive Committee of the congressional district in which such vacancy exists. A vacancy in one of the at-large positions shall be filled by the state chair. The terms of office for persons selected to fill vacancies on the Council of Review shall begin on the date of their selection and continue until the expiration of the terms that they were selected to fill.

9.06. JURISDICTION

- (a) Jurisdiction of the Council of Review. The Council of Review shall have jurisdiction over all disputes arising from (1) alleged violations of this Plan of Organization by persons subject to its provisions except as otherwise specified in this Plan of Organization, (2) any allegation that a violation of the North Carolina Democratic Party Code of Conduct has occurred, and (3) any allegation that an elected or appointed Party officer or a Party committee member, except for precinct chairs and precinct executive committee members, are subject to removal from office pursuant to Section 9.06(b) of this Plan of Organization.
- (b) Removal from Party Office. Elected or appointed officers or committee members are subject to removal from Party office in the event that they, (1) directly or indirectly provide public support to, aid, or assist any opposing political party or a candidate of an opposing party; (2) directly or indirectly provide public support to, aid, or assist a candidate who is registered as an unaffiliated voter (except when there is no registered Democrat who has filed to run for the same office during that election); (3) directly or indirectly give support to, aid, or assist a candidate who is seeking election as a write in or an unaffiliated candidate in a partisan election when there is a properly-selected Democratic Party nominee in a partisan election; (4) failing to perform his or her duties; (5) are convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude while holding Party office; or (6) violate the NCDP Code of Conduct.
- (c) Deadlines for Submitting Disputes for Resolution by the Council of Review. Any grievance presented for the purpose of invoking the jurisdiction of the Council of Review must be submitted in accordance with the procedures set out below (1) within thirty (30) days after the alleged violation of the Plan of Organization or the Code of Conduct occurred or the grounds for removal came into existence or (2) within thirty (30) days after the petitioner(s), through the exercise of due diligence, reasonably should have learned of the alleged violation of the Plan of Organization or Code of Conduct or the existence of the grounds for removal giving rise to the grievance, whichever is latest. The Council of Review has the authority to determine whether a

grievance has been submitted in a timely manner; however, the Council of Review shall have no authority to entertain any grievance based upon an alleged violation of the Plan of Organization or the Code of Conduct or the existence of a ground for removal that occurred more than six (6) months prior to the submission of the grievance.

- (d) Methods for Providing Notification to the Chair of the Council of Review. A grievance that is presented for consideration by the Council of Review must be served upon the chair of the Council of Review by hand delivery, United States mail, a recognized commercial delivery service, or e-mail within the time limitations set forth above. The Council of Review shall also assume jurisdiction over all disputes referred to it by the state chair.
- (e) **Persons Entitled to Submit a Valid Grievance**. Any active Democrat actually and adversely affected by an alleged violation of the Plan of Organization or the Code of Conduct or the state chair is entitled to submit a grievance seeking to invoke the jurisdiction of the Council of Review over the alleged violation. A grievance seeking the removal of one or more respondents from Party office or committee membership must be signed by at least three active Democrats, each of whom must be (1) from the jurisdiction in which the violation occurred, (2) a member of the committee on which the alleged offender serves, or (3) the state chair.
- (f) Contents of a Valid Grievance. Any grievance submitted to the Council of Review for the purpose of invoking its jurisdiction shall be in writing and signed by the requisite number of active Democrats and must (1) describe in detail the factual grounds for believing that the respondent or respondents have violated the Plan of Organization or the Code of Conduct or that grounds for removal exist, (2) specify the date upon which the alleged violation or grounds for removal occurred, (3) specify the date upon which the grievant/s first learned that the alleged violation occurred or grounds for removal had come into existence, (4) describe the manner in which the grievant/s were adversely affected by the alleged violation or grounds for removal, (5) recite the specific provision of the Plan of Organization or Code of Conduct that the respondent allegedly violated or the specific ground for removal that allegedly exists; and (6) state the relief that the grievant/s wish to obtain from the Council of Review.
- **9.07. Procedure Upon Receipt of a Grievance**. Within one week of receiving a grievance, the Chair shall, after determining that it suffices to establish the jurisdiction of the Council of Review, acknowledge receipt of the grievance and serve a copy upon the respondent/s by personal delivery, United States mail, the use of a commercial delivery service, or e-mail and provide a copy of the state chair and the Executive Director. Before acknowledging receipt of and serving the grievance, the Chair shall determine whether the grievance was timely filed; the grievant/s were entitled to invoke the jurisdiction of the Council of Review; and whether the facts alleged, if believed, would entitle the grievant/s to relief. In the event that the Chair believes that the

grievance suffices to invoke the Council's jurisdiction, the Chair shall acknowledge receipt of and serve the grievance. In the event that the Chair believes that the grievance fails to satisfy the prerequisites for invoking the jurisdiction of the Council of Review, the Chair shall notify the Council of Review of the Chair's concerns, explain the basis for the Chair's concerns, and, either after a formal meeting or informal e-mail vote, obtain the decision of the members of the Council of Review concerning the extent to which the grievance is sufficient to properly invoke the jurisdiction of the Council of Review. The time limitations specified in this Section 9.07 of the Plan of Organization shall be tolled while this determination is being made. If the Council of Review determines that the grievance fails to sufficiently invoke the Council's jurisdiction, the grievance shall be dismissed. If the Council of Review determines that the grievance suffices to invoke the jurisdiction of the Council of Review, the Chair shall acknowledge receipt of and serve the grievance.

9.08. MEDIATION

At the time that the Chair acknowledges receipt of and serves, the grievance, the Chair shall inform the respondent/s that they have seven days within which to submit a written response to the grievance in the event that they choose to do so and invite the grievant/s and the respondent/s to participate in mediation be conducted by one of the mediators contained on the list of qualified mediators to be maintained by the Council of Review to be designated by the Chair. If all grievant/s and all respondent/s agree to participate in mediation within seven (7) days after the offer of mediation has been submitted to them, the mediator within seven days after the offer of mediation has been transmitted to them, the mediator shall convene the mediation process and have fourteen days within which to attempt to obtain a mediated resolution. If the parties reach a mediated settlement of the dispute, the mediator shall reduce the settlement agreement to writing, have the grievant/s and respondent/s sign the written settlement agreement, and deliver the signed agreement to the Chair of the Council of Review for approval or disapproval, with this decision to be made within seven (7) days after the signing of the mediated settlement agreement. If the Chair of the Council of Review approves the settlement agreement, the Chair shall sign that agreement and deliver it to the parties, the Executive Director, and the state chair within seven (7) days after the conclusion of the meditation process, at which point the settlement agreement shall become final and binding and must be implemented by the grievant/s, the respondent/s, and the Party in accordance with its terms. If the Chair disapproves the settlement agreement, the Chair shall declare the settlement process at an end.

In the event that (1) all grievant/s and all respondent/s fail to agree to participate in mediation within seven (7) days of having been invited to do so, (2) the grievant/s and respondent/s fail to reach a mediated settlement of their dispute within fourteen (14) days after the mediated settlement process begins, (3) all grievant/s and all respondent/s fail to sign the settlement

agreement within seven (7) days after a settlement in principle has been reached, or (4) the Chair disapproves any settlement agreement, the Chair shall declare the settlement process at an end and refer the grievance to the Council of Review for hearing.

9.09. NOTICE

In the event that the grievance is referred to the Council of Review for hearing, the Chair of the Council of Review shall give notice to the grievant/s, the respondent/s, the Executive Director, the chair of any applicable county or congressional district executive committee, and the state chair of the date, time and place that the Council of Review will hear the matter and whether the hearing will be held virtually or in person. The hearing shall be held within forty (40) days of the date that notice was given and must be completed within that forty (40) day period unless the Council of Review, by majority vote, determines that the hearing cannot, despite the best efforts of all involved, be completed within that forty (40) day period. At the time that notice of the hearing is provided, the Chair shall notify the grievant/s and the respondent/s that they are entitled to be represented by counsel.

9.10. Contested Case Procedures.

- (a). Prehearing Motions. Any respondent/s who wishes to seek dismissal of a grievance on the grounds that it does not suffice to invoke the Council's jurisdiction may do so in any response that may be submitted by that respondent/s or by submitting a written motion to that effect to the Chair at least ten days before the date scheduled for the hearing. Any grievant/s or respondent/s who wish to seek any other relief, including the amendment of a grievance or response, may do so by submitting a motion to that effect in writing. Any party who opposes a dismissal request or other motion may file a written response within three days following the submission of any such request or motion. The Chair of the Council of Review shall refer any such dismissal request or motion to the Council of Review following the expiration of the time for submitting a reply to that dismissal request or other motion, which may either defer ruling on the dismissal request or motion until the time and place set for the hearing or decide to grant or deny any such dismissal request or motion. Any other motion shall be promptly ruled upon by the Chair, subject to reversal by a two-thirds (2/3s) vote of the Council of Review.
- **(b). Witnesses.** Any grievant/s or respondent/s who wishes to present witness testimony at the hearing shall provide the name of such witnesses and the contact information for each such witness to the Chair of the Council of Review at least five days before the hearing. The Chair shall, within twenty-four hours after receiving the names of potential witnesses, notify each such witness of the date, time, and location of the hearing and the manner in which they may participate in it.
- **(c). Prehearing Conference**. The Chair, upon at least forty-eight (48) hours notice, may conduct a pre-hearing conference for the purpose of narrowing the issues, determining the admissibility

of any documents that any party might seek to introduce into evidence, or otherwise expediting the hearing proceeding in the interest of efficiency and fairness to all participants.

- (d). Convening the Hearing. At the time and place set out in the notice provided pursuant to Section 9.10, the Chair of the Council of Review shall convene the hearing and ascertain that (1) all grievant/s and respondent/s have been given notice of the hearing and provided with copies of the grievance and any responses and that (2) all proposed witnesses have been invited to attend and participate by the Chair of the Council of Review. The Chair shall also advise all participants that the hearing is being held to permit the Council of Review to hear evidence concerning the acts, omission or conditions alleged in the grievance and to determine the merits of the dispute or controversy. At the hearing, the members of Council of Review, the grievant/s, and the respondent/s shall have the right to present evidence and confront and cross-examine all witnesses.
- **(e). Evidence**. The evidence of witnesses shall be given under oath or affirmation administered by the Chair. An opportunity for cross- examination of all witnesses by opposing parties and for questions by members of the Council of Review shall be allowed. In order to be admissible, evidence must be of a direct, non-hearsay nature. The Chair shall make all necessary procedural and evidentiary rulings which can only be overturned during the hearing by a two-thirds (2/3s) majority of the Council of Review present and voting.
- **(f). Standard of Proof**. All material facts necessary to sustain the allegations in the grievance must be proved by clear and convincing evidence, with the grievant/s having the burden of proof.
- **(g). Order of Proceedings**. After the opening statement by the Chair and any proceedings deemed necessary in order to decide pre-hearing motions about which the Chair of the Council of Review reserved decision, the presentation of evidence and the opening statements and closing arguments shall take place as follows.
 - 1. Presentation of Case by the Grievant(s) (30 minutes maximum)
 - a. Opening statement, if desired.
 - b. Grievant(s)' witnesses are called, examined and cross-examined.
 - c. Grievant(s)' non-testimonial evidence is presented.
 - 2. Presentation of Case by Respondent(s) (30 minutes maximum)
 - a. Opening statement, if desired.
 - b. Respondent(s)' witnesses are called, examined and cross-examined.
 - c. Respondent(s)' non-testimonial evidence is presented.
 - 3. Closing Statement by each party (5 minutes maximum for each)

4. Council of Review deliberates in executive session, with the Council to announce its decision in open session before all parties and, upon request, to announce the numerical vote.

The Chair of the Council of Review may, subject to a majority vote of those members of the Council of Review present and voting, extend the time for opening statements, evidentiary presentations, and closing statements.

(h). Adjudication. In adjudicating any dispute arising before it, the Council of Review shall find that the grievance is either meritorious or non-meritorious, in whole or in part. In the event that the Council of Review determines that a grievance is meritorious, in whole or in part, it must then determine whether the acts or omissions upon which the grievance relies had a material impact adverse to the interests of the grievant/s. In event that the Council of Review determines that the alleged acts or omissions had a material adverse impact upon the grievant/s, it will, in the exercise of its discretion, adopt a remedy or sanction that, in its opinion, adequately addresses the material adverse impact that resulted from the alleged violation of the Plan of Organization or Code of Conduct or the act or omission justifying removal of the respondent/s from office. In determining that nature and extent of any remedy or sanction that should be adopted or imposed upon a finding of a violation of the Plan of Organization or the Code of Conduct, the Council is not limited to the relief sought by the grievant/s and may, instead, adopt any remedy or sanction that it deems appropriate in light of the nature of the violation and all other relevant facts. In the event that the Council of Review determines that the alleged violation had no adverse impact upon the grievant/s, it shall simply find that a violation occurred without taking any other action.

In cases in which the grievant/s are not seeking the removal of an officer or committee member from party office, the Council of Review shall make its decision by majority vote. A decision that a respondent/s should be removed from Party office or committee membership requires a two-thirds (2/3s) vote of those members of the Council of Review present and participating.

In addition to being announced at the conclusion of the hearing held before the Council of Review, the Council's decision shall be reduced to writing and served upon all parties to the proceeding, the Executive Director, or person acting in that capacity, and the state chair within ten days after the hearing before the Council of Review was concluded.

(i) **Appeal**. All decisions by the Council of Review shall be final, except that any decision of the Council decided by less than a two-thirds (¾) vote may be appealed to the state executive council within fifteen (15) days of the date on which the written decision of the Council of Review is served upon the parties. Any party who wishes to take an appeal from a final decision of the Council of Review shall give notice in writing to the Executive Director and provide a copy of that notice to the Chair of the Council of Review, the state chair, and all other parties to the

proceeding.

Upon the submission of a notice of appeal the Executive Director, or person acting in that capacity, shall procure a copy of the Council of Review's written decision and all available evidence submitted for consideration by the Council of Review for use by the State Executive Council. Within fifteen (15) days after the delivery of the notice of appeal to the Executive Director, the appealing party may submit a document specifying in detail the nature and extent of any error that the Council of Review allegedly committed and explaining why the Council of Review's decision should be overturned or modified and serve that document upon all other parties. Within fifteen (15) days after service of the document explaining the basis for the appeal, any other party may submit a document to the Executive Director explaining why the Council of Review's decision should be upheld. Within five (5) days after the service of the response, the appealing party may submit a reply statement to the Executive Director. After the submission of these documents, the State Executive Committee shall, within ten (10) days, decide whether to allow the parties to make oral presentations to the State Executive Council as well and, if so, specify the time, place, and manner at which such presentations may be made.

Within fifteen (15) days after the submission of any written documents or the making of any oral presentations, whichever is later, the State Executive Council shall meet and decide the issues raised by the appeal. In deciding any factual issues, the State Executive Council shall give appropriate deference to the Council of Review's decision. In deciding whether the Council of Review properly applied the relevant provisions of the Plan of Organization or the Code of Conduct or ordered appropriate remedial action, the State Executive Council is entitled, but need not, give any deference to the Council of Review's decision. Within ten (10) days of the date upon which it meets to consider any appeal, the State Executive Council shall decide whether to affirm or reverse the Council of Review's decision, reduce its decision to writing, announce its decision, and order any appropriate action, including, but not limited to, a new hearing before the Council of Review.

9.10 General Provisions

- (a) **Time Limitations.** Except for the limitations upon the time specified for submitting a grievance set out in Section 9.06(c) of this Plan of Organization, the Chair of the Council of Review, shall, for good cause shown, have the authority to either shorten or lengthen any of the time limitations set out in Section 9 of this Plan of Organization.
- (b) Failure to Comply with Time Limitations. With the exception of the time specified for submitting a grievance set out in Section 9.06(c) of this Plan of Organization, a failure to comply with the time limitations set out in Section 9 of this Plan of Organization shall not justify a decision to dismiss a grievance or award summary relief to a respondent/s. Instead, the

Council of Review shall have the authority, in appropriate cases, to grant relief from any violation of the time limitations set out in Section 9 of the Plan of Organization, except for failures to comply with the time limitations for the submission of a grievance set out in Section 9.06(c) of this Plan of Organization.

(c) **Notices.** All notices required by Section 9 of the Plan of Organization may be transmitted by e-mail in accordance with Section 12.02.

SECTION 10. OTHER PROCEDURES FOR REMOVAL FROM PARTY OFFICE

10.01. Precinct Officer or Precinct Committee Member as Respondent. A petition seeking the removal of a precinct chair or precinct committee member for any of the reasons stated in Section 9.06(b)(1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) of this Plan of Organization shall be submitted in writing to the county chair and shall be signed by three (3) Active Democrats. Within five days of the receipt of such a petition, the county chair shall provide the respondents/s with a copy of the petition. Respondent/s have seven days to submit a written response to its allegations. In the event that a majority of the elected officers of the county executive committee, after reviewing the grievance and any response, vote that the petition has sufficient merit to warrant a full hearing, the county chair shall call, pursuant to this Plan of Organization, a meeting of the county executive committee to hear the Petitioner(s), the Respondent(s), and other interested parties or witnesses. A two-thirds (3/3s) vote of those members of the county executive committee present and voting shall be necessary to remove a precinct officer or precinct committee member. The decision of the county executive committee shall be final. The county chair shall cause a detailed account of any removal and replacement hereunder to be delivered to the Executive Director and the state chair.

10.02. VACATING AND TEMPORARILY RELINQUISHING HOLDING PARTY OFFICE WHEN A CANDIDATE OR CAMPAIGN MANAGER IN PRIMARIES

Any officer of any precinct, county, congressional district or state executive committee who (1) files for a partisan elective office and who is opposed in the Democratic Primary or (2) manages a campaign for a candidate in a partisan elective office who is opposed in the Democratic Primary, shall be deemed to have temporarily relinquished holding that office as of the date that another North Carolina Democrat files for the same elective office throughout the duration of that Primary Election.

Any officer of any county, congressional district or state executive committee who takes an active campaign managerial or staff role or is a treasurer appointed for campaign reporting purposes in support of a candidate in a partisan elective office who is opposed in the Democratic primary, shall be deemed to have temporarily relinquished holding that office as of the date such candidate and another Democrat file for the same elective office throughout the duration of that Primary Election.

When a chair temporarily relinquishes holding office, the first vice chair of the executive committee shall assume such duties for the duration of the Democratic Primary. If, for any reason, there should occur a vacancy in the first vice chair of the executive committee, the second vice chair, the third vice chair, the secretary or the treasurer, in that order, shall assume such duties until the office of the first vice chair is filled or until the closing of the Primary Election, whichever occurs first. If an officer other than the chair temporarily relinquishes holding office, the chair may assign the duties of the officer in part or in their entirety to any member of that executive committee for the duration of the Democratic Primary.

10.03. SIMULTANEOUS OFFICE HOLDING PROHIBITED IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES

Should any county executive committee officer, congressional district executive committee officer, or state executive committee officer be elected as an officer of the county executive committee, district executive committee, or state executive committee, that person shall be deemed to have automatically vacated their previous office.

No elected officer of any county executive committee, district executive committee, or state executive committee may simultaneously serve as a President of any state-wide affiliated organization recognized under Section 4.08.

Upon election as President of a statewide affiliated organization, an officer of the county executive committee, district executive committee, or state executive committee shall be deemed to have automatically vacated that person's position as an officer of the county executive committee, district executive committee, or state executive committee. Should a President of a statewide affiliated organization, be elected as an officer of the county executive committee, district executive committee, or state executive committee, he or she shall have fifteen (15) days after such election to resign as President of the statewide affiliated organization, or he or she shall be deemed to have automatically vacated his or her new position as an officer of the county executive committee, district executive committee, or state executive committee.

Alternate Plans

RECOMMENDATION 11

Authorizes an Alternative Plan of Organization for Wake County

Elected Officers.

2.03 Officers Of The County Executive Committee

Current 1

Elected Officers. The county executive committee shall have as officers a chair, four (4) numbered vice chairs, four (4) regional vice chairs, and a secretary.

Proposed Amendment 1

Elected Officers. The county executive committee shall have as officers a chair, four (4) numbered vice chairs, <u>regional vice chairs as approved by appropriate precinct chairs and precinct vice chairs within a full County Executive Committee meeting</u>, and a secretary.

Current 2

Regional Vice Chair. In each county that contains two or more municipalities of a population of more than 60,000 persons each, officers in addition to the ones specified above shall be elected as follows:

- 1. (a) A vice chair for each such municipality who shall be elected by the precinct chair and vice chair of the precincts with registered voters within that municipality; and (b) a vice chair for those precincts not contained in such municipalities if those precincts have a total population of more than 60,000 persons who must be a resident of one (1) of those precincts and who shall be elected by the precinct chair and vice chair of those precincts not contained in the said municipalities.
- 2. If a municipality with less than 60,000 persons is contiguous to another municipality with more than 60,000 persons and a named Regional Vice Chair, and if the smaller municipality shares easily identifiable cultural, demographic, and/or or geographic affinity with the larger municipality, the County Party Chair may recommend the smaller municipality fall under the purview of the larger municipality's Regional Vice Chair. Upon such recommendation, the chairs and vice chairs of the precincts with registered voters within each municipality will vote separately as representatives of each municipality on whether to accept the recommendation. If the recommendation passes in both municipalities, the smaller municipality shall remain

under the purview and vote for the larger municipality's Regional Vice Chair until the smaller municipality's population exceeds 60,000 persons.

Proposed Amendment Rationale- Add a number 3 to address huge municipalities and the Wake Region that is very, very spread out.

Proposed Amendment 2

3. (a) For individual municipalities containing more than 150,000 persons, and for the precincts not contained within a municipality that already has an elected regional vice chair but collectively exceeds 60,000 persons, the County Executive Committee may vote on a reasonable division of that municipality or region for the purpose of electing an additional vice chair. (b) If a division of a municipality or region is voted upon by the County Executive Committee, then precinct chairs and vice chairs who are residents of the precincts with registered voters within those agreed upon divisions will vote on a vice chair for that municipal or regional division.

RECOMMENDATION 12

Authorizes an Alternative Plan of Organization for Orange County

Orange County Alternative Plan, approved by the Orange CEC

1.03 Composition Of Precinct Committee

Precinct Officers. The precinct committee shall have as officers a chair, a vice chair, a secretary/treasurer, no less than two (2) committee members and any others as the body might desire. Others may include co-Chairs and co-Vice Chairs, however, for the purposes of voting, one individual shall be designated as primary Chair and one individual as primary Vice Chair. The vice chair should where possible be of a different gender identity from the chair and should, where possible, be of a race other than that of the chair. No officers of the precinct committee shall be from the same immediate family residing in the same household. Officers shall acknowledge and agree to comply with the letter and spirit of the most recently adopted North Carolina Democratic Party Code of Conduct.

1.04 Duties Of Precinct Officers

Chair. The duties of the precinct chair shall include:

- 1. Preside at precinct meetings;
- 2. Certify annual precinct meetings, organizational meetings, and meetings to fill vacancies and precinct reports to the county chair within five (5) days of the meeting pursuant to section 1.05
- 3. Establish reasonable political goals for the precinct;
- 4. Organize and execute a voter organizing plan;

- 5. Attend meetings of the county executive committee;
- 6. Recommend to the county chair names of persons to serve as precinct elections officials and on the County Board of Elections;
- Keep precinct officers and members informed of all Democratic Party events and activities;
- 8. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the precinct or county executive committees;
- 9. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.
- 10. Read the NCDP Plan of Organization;
- 11. Read the NCDP Code of Conduct and review with all precinct officers, ensuring that all precinct officers are familiar with the procedure for reporting behavior inconsistent therewith.

2.03 Officers Of The County Executive Committee

Elected Officers. The county executive committee shall have as officers a chair, three (3) four (4) vice chairs, and a secretary. The first vice chair must be of a different gender identity from the chair. Among the chair and three (3) four (4) vice chair offices, one (1) of these must be filled by a person of a racial or ethnic minority which constitutes at least twenty percent (20%) of the registered Democrats in that county one (1) of these must be filled by a person of a racial or ethnic minority which constitutes at least 10 percent (10%) of the registered Democrats in that county, one (1) of these must be filled by a person of a racial or ethnic minority which constitutes any percentage of the registered Democrats in that county, and one of these offices must be filled by a person thirty-six (36) years of age or younger. Officers of a county executive committee shall be active Democrats residing within the county. No two (2) county officers may be from the same immediate family residing in the same household. Gender, racial or ethnic, and age requirements need not be followed if filling a vacancy for an unexpired term but shall be adhered to when the office is filled for a full term. Best efforts must be made to adhere to gender, racial or ethnic, and age requirements in filling a vacancy for any unexpired term.

Vacancy and Succession for County Executive Committee Officers.

Vacancies occurring among the officers of the county executive committee shall be filled within thirty (30) days following creation of the vacancy. The county chair shall call a meeting of the county executive committee to fill the vacancy and any other vacancies that might be caused by the action of such committee in filling the vacancy. If, for any reason, there should occur a vacancy in the chair of the county executive committee, the first vice chair, the second vice chair, the third vice chair, the fourth vice chair, the secretary or the treasurer, in that order, shall preside and in the absence of any of the foregoing officers, any member of the county executive committee may preside. Should a vacancy of the county treasurer occur, the elected officers of

the county executive committee shall temporarily appoint a Democrat who resides in the county, within ten (10) days of the vacancy, to serve for up to thirty (30) days.

2.05 DUTIES OF COUNTY OFFICERS

Chair. The duties of the county chair shall include:

- 1. Preside at county executive committee meetings and county conventions;
- 2. Draft, in consultation with the county executive committee, a strategic plan outlining reasonable political goals for the county;
- 3. Execute the strategic plan approved by the county executive committee;
- 4. In consultation with the elected officers; Appoint a Treasurer.
- 5. Draft, in consultation with the other officers, a diversity, inclusion, and full participation plan outlining strategies and goals for promoting better representation at all levels of party leadership.
- 6. Read the NCDP Code of Conduct and review with the County Executive Committee, ensuring that each member of the County Executive Committee is familiar with the procedure for reporting behavior inconsistent therewith.
- 7. Appoint an acting precinct chair for up to thirty (30) days for any precinct that remains unorganized after the second scheduled precinct meeting for the purpose of organizing the precinct in accordance with this Plan of Organization. If the precinct is a significantly ethnic precinct, the County Chair shall appoint the acting precinct chair upon the recommendation of the county caucuses representing those ethnic groups or the state caucuses representing those ethnic groups if there is no duly organized county level caucus
- 8. Appoint an acting precinct chair for any newly created precinct for the purpose of that precinct in accordance with this Plan of Organization. If the precinct is a significantly ethnic precinct, the County Chair shall appoint the acting precinct chair upon the recommendation of the county caucuses representing those ethnic groups or the state caucuses representing those ethnic groups if there is no duly organized county level caucus(es);
- 9. Designate the date and time, consistent with the parameters set by the state chair, at which precinct meetings will be held;
- 10. Designate the exact time and place, consistent with the date set by the state chair, at which the county convention is to be held, providing said designation to be given to the precinct chairs at least thirty (30) days prior to said county convention;
- 11. Appoint committees as may be required to assist in the execution of these duties;
- 12. Encourage and facilitate establishment and continuity of county chapters of state affiliated organizations;
- 13. Attend meetings of the district and state executive committees;
- 14. Serve as the spokesperson for the county executive committee;

- 15. Serve as the liaison between the county executive committee and the district executive committee, the state party officers, and the state executive committee;
- 16. Represent the county executive committee at party and non-party meetings and functions;
- 17. Appoint a county party attorney, to serve at the Chair's pleasure;
- Carry out other duties as may be assigned by this Plan of Organization or by the county or state executive committees;
- 19. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.

Fourth Vice Chair. The duties of the county fourth vice chair shall be such as may be assigned by the county chair and shall include the following:

- Serving as the voter experience and voter protection chair for the county executive committee, responsibilities of which shall include, but are not limited to
 - i. developing and executing poll greeting programs for all elections;
 - ii. assisting in the recruitment and training of poll observers;
 - iii. collaborating with the voter registration team to develop a comprehensive voter registration plan;
 - iv. organizing a communications strategy pertaining to changes in precinct boundaries and polling locations; and
 - v. serving as a principal representative of the county executive committee to the county board of elections.
- Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the county executive committee;
- 3. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.

RECOMMENDATION 13

Authorizes certain counties to operate under an Alternative Plan of Organization

The CECs of the following counties have approved the Alternative Plan of Organization listed below and are asking the NCDP SEC to exercise its authority under Section 2.11 of the NCDP Plan of Organization to allow them to operate under this Alternative Plan of Organization for two years. Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cherokee, Craven, Dare, Davidson, Duplin, McDowell, Swain, and Yadkin counties.

(Alternative Plan of Precinct Organization for {FILL IN NAME} County)

1.00 PRECINCT ORGANIZATION
1.01 UNIT OF ORGANIZATION

The unit of organization of the North Carolina (FILL IN NAME) County Democratic Party shall be the voting precinct or the precinct cluster which consists of two or three adjacent voting precincts.

1.02 ORGANIZED PRECINCT

A precinct is organized and remains organized provided that, at a minimum, an annual or organizing precinct meeting is held each year at which:

- 1. There is in attendance a quorum of registered Democrats who reside in the <u>precinct/precinct</u> <u>cluster precinct</u>;
- 2. The meeting was convened according to notice, access, and other requirements of this Plan;
- 3. The required order of business for election of officers and delegates and for other business is completed at this meeting. And
- 4. The <u>precinct/precinct cluster</u> precinct chair certifies to the county chair in writing the names of those in attendance, the names of officers and delegates elected, and the names, address, occupation, and employer of the contributors. Funds collected are turned in to the County Treasurer.

1.03 COMPOSITION OF PRECINCT COMMITTEE

Precinct/Precinct Cluster Precinct Committee. In each precinct/precinct cluster precinet, there shall be a precinct/precinct cluster precinct committee consisting of at least five registered Democrats who reside in the precinct/precinct cluster precinct who are elected at an organizational meeting of the precinct/precinct cluster precinct Each precinct in a precinct cluster shall have no less than one registered Democrat that resides in the precinct on the Precinct Cluster Committee. The purpose of the precinct/precinct cluster precinct committee is to represent the precinct/precinct cluster at county party meetings and coordinate the grassroots work of the precinct/precinct cluster precinet, including political education, get-out-the vote, and campaign activities. The composition of the precinct/precinct cluster committee precinct should resemble the make-up of the registered Democrats in the precinct/precinct cluster precinct. Participation and the opportunity to be elected to office or representation is open to any registered Democrat who resides in the precinct/precinct cluster precinct. All Democratic County and city elected officials and Democratic members of the North Carolina General Assembly, residing in the precinct/precinct cluster precinct and in attendance, shall be ex-officio, voting members of the precinct/precinct cluster precinct committee.

Precinct/Precinct Cluster Officers. The <u>precinct/precinct cluster</u> precinct committee shall have as officers a chair, a vice chair, a secretary/treasurer, no less than two (2) committee members and any others as the body might desire. The vice chair should, where possible, be of a different gender identity from the chair and should, where possible, be of a race other than that of the

chair. No officers of the <u>precinct/precinct cluster</u> precinct committee shall be from the same immediate family residing in the same household. Officers shall acknowledge and agree to comply with the letter and spirit of the most recently adopted North Carolina Democratic Party Code of Conduct.

Term of Office. The terms of office for <u>precinct/precinct cluster</u> <u>precinct</u> officers and <u>precinct/precinct cluster</u> <u>precinct</u> committee members elected at an annual meeting in an odd numbered year shall be for two (2) years. If elected at another time, the term of the office shall begin upon election. Terms shall end on the date on which the next annual <u>precinct/precinct cluster precinct</u> meeting is held in an odd-numbered year or when their successors are elected, whichever occurs first. Should a vacancy occur prior to the end of a term, the officer or committee member elected shall serve the unexpired portion of term.

Vacancy and Succession for Precinct/Precinct Cluster Officers and Committee Members.

Vacancies occurring among the officers or members of the <u>precinct/precinct cluster</u> precinct committee shall be filled within thirty (30) days following creation of the vacancy. If a member of the <u>precinct/precinct cluster</u> precinct committee moves their voting residence outside the precinct/precinct cluster precinct, they shall be deemed to have vacated their position. The precinct/precinct cluster precinct chair shall call a meeting of the remaining members of the precinct/precinct cluster precinct committee to fill that vacancy and any other vacancies that might be caused by the action of such committee in filling the vacancy. If there is a vacancy of the <u>precinct/precinct cluster</u> precinct chair, the vice chair or the secretary/treasurer, in that order, shall become acting chair, assume duties and responsibilities of the precinct/precinct cluster precinct chair, and shall call a meeting to fill the office of chair, and any other vacancies. If a meeting is not held within thirty (30) days, the county chair or their designee shall call the precinct/precinct cluster precinct meeting to be held for this purpose. If the precinct is a significantly ethnic precinct, the County Chair shall appoint a designee to call the precinct/precinct cluster precinct meeting upon the recommendation of the county caucuses representing those ethnic groups or the state caucuses representing those ethnic groups if there is no duly organized county level caucus(es). The <u>precinct/precinct cluster</u> precinct chair or presider shall certify in writing the results of such elections within five (5) days of this meeting to the county chair.

Resignation. Resignation of any <u>precinct/precinct cluster</u> precinct officer shall be in writing and given to the <u>precinct/precinct cluster</u> precinct chair and county chair. In the event resignation is that of the <u>precinct/precinct cluster</u> precinct chair, the <u>precinct/precinct cluster</u> precinct chair shall give their written resignation to the precinct/precinct cluster precinct vice chair and to the county chair.

NCDEMOCRATS

2024 Summer SEC Meeting June 1st, 2024 | Jamestown, NC & Zoom

THANK YOU!



www.ncdp.org/2024-sec/