

**STANDING RULES OF THE 5th DISTRICT CONVENTION OF THE NORTH
CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

May 21, 2022

RULE 1. *Chair.* The District Chair or her designee shall have general direction of the meeting and shall be authorized to take such action as is necessary to maintain order. The Chair, with the guidance of the Parliamentarian, shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any member. Order of priority of Rules shall be (1) the Plan of Organization, (2) the Rules adopted by the District Convention, (3) guidelines contained in “Resolution on North Carolina Democratic Party County and District Conventions in Response to COVID-19 State of Emergency” as adopted by the State Executive Council, and (4) Robert’s Rules of Order (Newly Revised, 12th Edition). Courteous respect for one another will be the standing order of the day.

RULE 2. *Obtaining Recognition.* Except in the case of physical disability, when any member is about to speak in debate, that member shall rise and approach a microphone and await recognition by the Chair. When any delegate wants to speak in debate, and the delegate is online the delegate shall indicate so electronically via the “raise hand” feature on Zoom, either through Zoom software or by pressing *9 on the phone and await recognition by the Chair. The Chair shall inquire of the member the purpose for which the member rises. If the member’s purpose in seeking recognition is in order, the Chair will recognize the member. Upon recognition, the member shall state that member’s name and county or, where appropriate, that member’s position.

RULE 3. *Limitations on Debate.* No Member shall speak in debate more than once on the same question, or longer than two (2) minutes without permission of the assembly granted by a majority vote without debate. *Ad hominem* arguments will not be tolerated by the Chair who may curtail the remaining time of the speaker if noted by the Chair. A member shall be given (1) minute to debate. A “Point of Order” should be made only if the Party Plan of Organization, Rules of the Day, or Robert’s Rules of Order are being violated by the Chair or another member. A “Question or Point of Personal Privilege” should be made only if it concerns the rights of the assembly or the individual’s ability to hear, participate, etc. and is urgent in nature. Neither “Point of Order” or “Question or Point of Personal Privilege” shall be used to debate a matter that is before the body.

RULE 4. *Credentialed Voting.* Credentialed Members may only vote if present in the room and physically casting a ballot at the time that ballots are being taken up by the election marshals. No Member may vote in an election or quorum call *in absentia* and such practice or attempt to engage in such practice shall be grounds for discipline by the District and removal by the Council of Review. The Chair may take voice votes, standing votes, or ballots for any and all votes. If a voice vote is used, any call for Division must be sanctioned by delegates from twenty-five (25) percent of the counties present.

RULE 5. *Quorum.* A quorum shall exist any time there is at least one credentialed delegate present from fifty (50) percent plus one of the counties in the District. If the presence of a quorum is questioned, the District Secretary, and/or assistants shall call the roll of precincts to determine if a quorum exists. Once a quorum has been established, no further quorum call needs to be recognized for one (1) hour. If a quorum exists when the body begins debate on a subject, it is presumed to exist until that item is completed.

RULE 6. *Agenda Modifications.* The agenda shall be followed as adopted by the

Convention. Members of the District shall ask the chair to modify the agenda to include or exclude items.

RULE 7. Nominations. Nominations for office shall be taken from the body with nominating speeches limited to two (2) minutes. Nominations do not require a second. In response to the nomination, each candidate may have up to two (2) minutes to respond to the nomination. Only nominations for Chair, Vice-Chairs, Secretary, State Convention Credentials & Appeals Committee Member, Congressional District Council of Review Member, Platform & Resolutions Committee Member, and CD Plan of Organization Review Committee Member made in accordance with section 3.06 of the Plan of Organization shall be in order. If only one nomination is made, a motion to elect by acclamation will be in order.

RULE 8. Nominations. Elections. If two or more nominations are made for an office, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the State Executive Council Resolution and with weighted vote requirements in Section 5.02 of the Plan of Organization.

RULE 9. *Resolutions Committee Report and Motion.*

The Chair of the District shall report the Resolutions as reported for vote by the District.

(a) *Debate.* On any Resolutions “pulled” for debate, a speaker must be recognized by the Chair for debate, and identify him or herself by name and county. Proponents and opponents for each resolution shall have a total of three (2) minutes. Any resolution may be referred to the District Executive Committee for further study by majority vote of the District Convention.

(b) Resolutions from the floor not submitted to the District may be considered after all items submitted by the Resolutions Committee have been considered and requires a 2/3-majority vote of the body for consideration and debate. New items from the floor must be submitted to the Chair or the Chair's designee in legible writing or in electronic format suitable for use by the District Staff.