

WCDP County Convention Special Rules

Wake County Democratic Party - (Session One) April 24, 2025, 6:30 PM
(Session Two) April 26, 2025, 10:00 AM via Zoom

Amended and passed during Session 01. Amendments are highlighted in bright yellow.

This convention will be divided into **two separate sessions: Session One** and **Session Two**.

- For **Session One**, digital doors open at 6:00 PM, and Session One begins at 6:30 PM. A majority of eligible precincts must be represented to achieve quorum.
- For **Session Two**, digital doors open at 9:15 AM, and Session Two begins at 10:00 AM. A majority of eligible precincts must be represented to achieve quorum.

For both sessions, pre-registration is required (see below). During each session, final credentialing **closes** 15 minutes after Quorum declaration; delegates in the credentialing queue before credentialing closes will still be processed. **Those who miss the window will be provided a streaming link to observe the convention.**

For each session, 50% + 1 of precincts (91) that successfully met during the 2025 PAM period must be represented by **at least one** (1) elected delegate for quorum establishment.

Pre-credentialing is required for attendance, no exceptions by 11:59 pm on April 22, 2025.

NOTICE: These Rules may be updated in the interim between initial publication and the date of the convention.

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RULE 1 *Chair.*

The County Party Chair (Chair) or Chair's designee (Designee) shall have general direction of the meeting and is authorized to take such action as necessary to maintain order. The Chair, with the guidance of the appointed Parliamentarians, shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any elected Convention delegate. Order of priority of Rules shall be as follows:

- A. Link: [The NCDP Plan of Organization](#)
- B. Link: [WCDP Alternative Plan of Organization](#)
- C. The Rules adopted by the elected delegates of the County Convention
- D. Link: [Robert's Rules of Order \(12th Edition\)](#)
- E. Link: [Motions and Amendments Flow Chart.](#)

Courteous respect for one another will be the standing order of the day.

RULE 2 *Quorum.*

A quorum shall exist any time there is at least one (1) credentialed delegate present from 50 percent plus one (1) of the County's organized precincts.

- A. Once a quorum has been established in each session, the continued presence of a quorum is presumed to exist.
- B. Any time a quorum has been established, no further quorum call shall be recognized for one (1) hour after that time.
- C. If the presence of a quorum is questioned, WCDP Council, staff, or an appointee shall call the roll of precincts via Zoom poll or hand raise/yes reaction to determine if a quorum exists.

RULE 3 *Obtaining Recognition.*

The method of obtaining recognition shall be explained at the beginning for the meeting. The Chair shall have the discretion to change the recognition method if said method proves to be untenable or grossly inefficient.

- A. The Chair/Designee shall inquire why the delegate seeks recognition.
- B. If the delegate's reason for recognition is in order, the Chair/Designee will recognize the delegate who shall state their **name** and **precinct number** via the appropriate Zoom chat or verbally if called upon to unmute.

Rule 3.1 *Obtaining Recognition - Zoom Room*

- A. Those attending *via phone without access to Zoom chat* will **raise a hand by pressing *9** on the phone.
- B. Those attending *via computer or the application on a smartphone* will seek recognition through the **designated Zoom Chat options only**, unless otherwise directed by the Chair:
 - a. **!Debate/Motion** (Motion, Second, Amend, For, Against)**
 - i. ****During Resolutions ONLY: !Debate** and **!Motion** will be *separate* chats
 - 1. ****!Motion** (General Motion, Second)
 - 2. ****!ForDebate (Debate/Amend)** and ****!AgainstDebate** (Debate/Amendment)
 - b. **!Nominations** (For WCDP Elections)
 - c. **!SEC Male/NonB** (for SEC Elections only)
 - d. **!SEC Female/NonB** (for SEC Elections only)
 - e. **!Query** (Informational, Order)

- f. **!Tech** (Tech Issues)
 - g. **!Write** (Short Amendment Text only)(less than two lines)
 - h. **!Elected Officials** (To be recognized as in attendance)
 - i. **!Vote** ((Voting Assistance for Google Ballot or Zoom Poll Issues)
 - j. **!Pin Assistance** (Assistance with PIN number for voting)
- C. All delegates must await recognition by the Chair/Designee.
- D. For **Motion, Query, and Voting**, all delegates with Chat access must also include their precinct number (eg. 01-01) AND either a **motion/amending text** for a Motion or a short **description-of-need** for Query, Tech, Motion, or Voting in the chat.
- E. For **seconding a motion**,
- a. All delegates with **Chat** access **will type** "Second" or "2nd" + their precinct number, *which will be read aloud by the Chair/Designee*
 - b. For **Debate**, all delegates must include in the chat "For" or "Against" and their name and Precinct Number to be recognized during discussion
 - c. All delegates **without Chat** access **will raise a hand** and await recognition by the Chair/Designee, then unmute and second by voice.
- F. All delegates must await recognition by the Chair/Designee before proceeding with any discussion or debate.
- G. All delegates are encouraged to prepare remarks ahead of time if they intend to speak on items during debate.

Rule 3.2 *Points of Personal Privilege.*

For meeting efficiency, Points of Personal Privilege are limited to urgent situations like noise, volume issues, safety concerns, uncredentialed attendees, etc. that affect the privileges of the assembly or an individual member. Otherwise, **Points of Personal Privilege** will **NOT** be entertained.

RULE 4. *Credentialed Voting.*

Credentialed delegates are those whose names appear on the official delegates' list submitted by the precincts, registered prior by **11:59 pm on April 22, 2025**, as well as credentialed or were in the credentialing queue 15 minutes after the initial Quorum declaration for each Convention session.

- A. The Chair/Designee may take voice votes or balloting for any and all votes.
- B. If a voice vote is used, any call for Division must be sanctioned by delegates from twenty-five (25) percent of the precincts present.

Attendance at the Convention and during each voting session is required for individual

votes to count. *Proxies are not permitted at the Convention.*

Rule 4.1 *Acclamation, Unanimous Consent, & Voice Voting.*

The Chair/Designee may take election by acclamation in uncontested races or unanimous consent in lieu of votes on motions for non-controversial items, as well as the adoption or suspension of rules. Voice Votes for motions, amendments, or elections with only two (2) candidates for a seat *may be done by*

- A. **Yes/No** reaction feature for Zoom client users or Raised hands (*9) for dial-in users
- B. Zoom **Poll** feature for **members attending via Zoom client**,
- C. **Yes/No** reaction feature for **Meeting Hosts/Co-Hosts only**.

The body will have **up to** one (1) minute to cast all Voice Votes, subject to expansion by the Chair. For unanimous consent, the Chair/Designee will say, "If no one objects..." followed by a pause then stating the action.

Rule 4.2 *Voting by Ballot*

In order to accommodate all Delegates in attendance - including those with no access to digital voting via email, Zoom Poll, or Zoom Breakout Room - and to allow for a thorough credentialing process, each registered Convention Delegate has been provided with **voting credentials** in case ballot voting becomes necessary.

Elections *may* be carried out via a Google Form application. Where feasible, multiple elections may be on a single ballot to expedite meeting efficiency.

- A. Iterative balloting **or** [ranked choice/instant runoff voting](#) *may* be used for elections with more than three (3) candidates.
- B. In the case of a tie during iterative voting, we will run another election.

For all elections administered via Google Form except for State Executive Committee votes:

- C. An online ballot link will be posted in the Zoom chat; delegates will click the link and access their ballot using their ballot credentials
- D. Ballot credentials include a Personal Identification Number created on the Convention Pre-Registration Form. A copy of that completed form was automatically emailed to the user following completion. The user-created PIN includes an uppercase First Name Initial, uppercase Last Name Initial, and four numerical digits.
- E. Members who are having difficulty with the ballot link may request their ballot be emailed to them.

- F. Members accessing the meeting by phone who cannot complete an online ballot will be assisted by a trained volunteer to cast their votes either via a Google Mark sheet (where votes can be weighted) or filling out a ballot for the member.

With the exception of elections for State Executive Committee (SEC) members,* three (3) minutes after ballots are sent, the Chair/Designee will issue a reminder for votes to be cast and the meeting will resume.

- G. Any members still needing voting assistance are expected to either seek help via the **!Vote chat** or raise their hands. Those members will be noted.
- H. **One (1) minute** after the reminder, the Chair will issue a *final call* for votes to be completed. Voting will end except for members who are actively being assisted with their voting.
- I. The Chair/Designee reserves the right to extend voting time if the provided time limits become untenable.

**For SEC Voting, six (6) minutes* after ballots are sent, the Chair/Designee will issue a reminder for votes to be cast and the meeting will resume.

- J. The rules will remain the same for the previous subsection **except** Chair/Designee will issue a final call for votes to be completed **two (2) minutes** after the reminder.

RULE 5 *Limitations on Debate.*

No delegate shall speak in debate more than once *on the same question* or longer than one (1) minute, without permission of the convention, granted by a *majority vote* without debate. **No debate shall last more than six (6) minutes**, except that an extension of the speaker's time will also extend the 6-minute limit.

- A. *Ad hominem* arguments will not be tolerated by the Chair/Designee who may curtail the remaining time of the speaker.
- B. When delegates speak in support and opposition of a matter, the Chair/Designee shall attempt to alternate between pro and con speakers.
- C. If a delegate is called on to speak but a previous speaker has already covered the delegate's topic and points, delegates should say, **"I yield my time."**

Rule 6 *Special Rules to Implement Split Session/Adjourned Meeting*

In an attempt to facilitate a more efficient Convention, the convention will be conducted in two (2) separate sessions. The First Session will begin at 6:30 PM on April 24; the principal

order of business will be to handle the administrative and procedural matters. The Second Session will begin at 10:00 AM on April 26 in order to conduct business as set forth in the Plan of Organization in an expedited manner.

If the First Session achieves quorum, all actions taken by the Convention during the First Session will be considered actions of the body and may **not** be reconsidered at the Second Session, unless the motion to reconsider is approved by a two-thirds vote of the convention. The Second Session will be in the nature of an adjourned meeting; §8.5, Robert's Rules of Order.

If the First Session does not achieve quorum in a timely manner, the Chair shall declare the meeting to be a *Quasi Committee of the Whole* to consider a proposed Agenda, Special Rules, Minutes and other business to be adopted by the Convention when a quorum is present. When the Committee Report is presented to the Convention, it shall be considered *without* debate.

RULE 7 *Special Rules for Resolutions.*

NOTE: *The Resolutions Committee appointed by the Chair and guided by the Party Plan of Organization §2.10 considered all submitted resolutions based on two main criteria:*

- 1. Whether the proposed resolution provided new policy **versus** policy already reflected in the 2022 NCDP Platform;*
- 2: Whether the proposed item was actually a resolution that can affect electoral governing policy **versus** something else.*

Committee members' personal viewpoints regarding subject matter had no part in whether a proposed resolution became part of the Resolution Package.

Delegates are expected to have reviewed all resolutions prior to the convention as the current consent package has been posted on the Convention webpage since April 10. As such, resolutions may not be read aloud in full.

Timekeeping will be strictly monitored. ***Time will pause for reading a resolution, between resolutions, or for technical, informational, or order queries.***

To support an efficient Convention process and provide delegates time to prepare amendments in writing - which is required for all *amendments* with the exception of those

supplied by delegates who have no access to Chat (Zoom Room) or Q/A Feature (Zoom Webinar) - resolutions will be handled in five (5) distinct parts:

- A. **Memorial or Honor Resolutions:** Any such resolutions will be read in the opening segment of the First Session of the Convention.
- B. **Resolutions, Part 1:** Considering the Resolutions Package as recommended by the County Resolutions and Platform Committee (**25 minutes maximum**); the Consideration of Consent matters approved by the convention *may take place at the First or Second Session*, depending on availability of time.
 - Each Resolution title and final resolved clause or final two resolved clauses, depending on the length of the resolution, shall be read aloud, *AFTER WHICH* the convention body will signify if the resolution should be set aside for further discussion by a **25%** raised-hand vote.
 - A motion to set aside is in order, but no 2nd is required. Upon an appropriate motion to remove a resolution from the Consent package, the Chair will call for a vote of the convention. With a **25% raised hand** vote, the proposed resolution will be taken from the Consent Package and move to Resolutions, Part 2 or Resolutions, Part 3 (as appropriate)
 - Resolutions **not** set aside will receive a **majority up or down vote** using the Yes/No/Raised Hand Zoom feature without discussion; if the vote passes, they become part of the final Resolutions Report to be sent to NCDP for Congressional District Convention consideration.
 - After completing review of the Consent Package, all of the resolutions will be voted up or down by a weighted majority vote of the Convention.
- C. **Resolutions, Part 2:** Considering "non-foreign affairs" resolutions **set aside** from the Resolutions Package (**1 hour maximum**)
- D. **Resolutions, Part 3:** Considering "foreign affairs" resolutions **set aside** from the Resolutions Package (**1 hour maximum**)
- E. **Resolutions, Part 4:** Considering Resolutions from the Floor. These are REQUIRED to be submitted in writing for all delegates, no exceptions. Resolutions originating from the floor shall only be considered by a 2/3s vote of the convention body for each resolution. (**30 minutes maximum**)
- F. **Resolutions, Part 5:** Weighted majority vote by ballot on accepting the total consent package.
- G. **NOTE:** Any resolutions not considered in the time allotted for Parts 1, 2, 3, or 4 will not receive a vote and shall not be adopted by the convention nor be included in the final resolution report.

Rule 7.1 *Minor Corrections.*

All spelling, grammar, and formatting errors in adopted resolutions will be corrected during compilation into the package based on the actions of this convention. Those changes **do not** require discussion during the convention.

- Email the Resolutions Chair and Secretary at Resolutions@wakedems.org with corrections **no later than Wednesday, April 30** as the WCDP Resolutions Package must be sent to NCDP by the end of day on Thursday, May 1.

Rule 7.2 *Resolutions Package.*

A package of resolutions shall be presented by the Platform and Resolutions Committee in *Part 1* for adoption by the Convention. As the Resolutions Package will be available to the delegates well before the Convention opens. The presentation shall consist of reading each Resolution title and final resolved clause or two resolved clauses depending on resolution length.

Rule 7.3 *Process for Setting Aside Resolutions from the Resolutions Package.*

Any resolution may be set aside from the Resolutions Package for discussion and/or amendment when at least 25% of the convention body votes by raised hand to do so. **No second is required and no debate will take place during this portion** **except that the delegate that moves to set aside a resolution will be given 1 minute to explain why the resolution should be set aside.**

- A. Resolutions may **not** be set aside due to *minor corrections* per Rule 7.1.
- B. Once a resolution has met the threshold for being set aside, it will immediately fall under Rule 7.5, and the convention will consider the next resolution in the package.

Rule 7.4 *Disposition of the Consent Package of Resolutions.*

The remaining package of resolutions (the "Consent Package") that were **not** set aside in *Part 1* will receive an **up or down vote as a whole**, without discussion of any of the individual resolutions and prior to consideration of those resolutions that have been set aside. The Consent Package shall pass by **majority vote**.

Rule 7.5 *Disposition of Resolutions set aside from the Resolutions Package.*

Each resolution set aside in *Part 1* will be discussed and/or amended as follows in *Part 2* or *Part 3*:

- A. *An author of the resolution* who is a delegate **or their representative who is a delegate** to the convention has the right to speak first to explain the reason for the

resolution for up to one (1) minute. **This time will NOT count toward Resolution timekeeping.**

- B. Each speaker may have up to one (1) minute to discuss a motion regarding a resolution or an amendment to the resolution.
- C. No speaker shall speak more than once *to a motion*.
- D. As is feasible, speakers shall alternate between those speaking *for* and *against* a motion.
- E. Debate will end when there have been no more than three (3) speakers each for and against a motion or if there are no further speakers regarding the motion.
- F. Time for a speaker may be extended for up to one (1) additional minute by two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the votes cast regarding the motion to extend.
- G. The number of speakers for and against a motion may be increased by two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the votes cast regarding the motion to extend.
- H. Total time allotted per resolution motion is six (6) minutes unless extensions are made per subsections F and G above.
- I. Minor amendments (two or less sentences) must be provided in writing to the **!Write chat** space for those with Zoom Chat access. Longer amendments must be provided in writing via a link to a Google Form or other method provided for those with Zoom Chat access.
- J. Resolutions are adopted by **majority vote**.

Rule 7.6 *Resolutions from the Floor.*

Only resolutions which were NOT presented to a precinct or were NOT presented to the Platform and Resolutions Committee will be in order. Further, only resolutions presented **in writing** as either a Google Doc or Microsoft Word.Docx document from the floor will be considered *after* all resolutions that were set aside have received an up or down vote **and only** if time permits. ***Due to the new rule requiring weighted balloting for the final consent package, we will need to prioritize 7.7 in order to ensure resolutions are sent to the next level.***

- A. All resolutions *from the floor* must be emailed to Resolutions@wakedems.org. This email account will open **after Part 2 concludes**.
- B. *The maker of such a motion* may take up to one (1) minute to explain why the resolution should be considered. This time **will count** toward time keeping.
- C. Any resolution made from the floor will be considered if a motion to do so is made and seconded and approved for discussion by a two-thirds majority of the convention.

- D. Each speaker may have up to one (1) minute to discuss a motion regarding a resolution or an amendment to the resolution.
- E. No speaker shall speak more than once *to a motion*.
- F. As is feasible, speakers shall alternate between those speaking *for* and *against* a motion.
- G. Debate will end when there have been no more than three (3) speakers each for and against a motion or if there are no further speakers regarding the motion.
- H. Time for a speaker may be extended by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the votes cast regarding the motion to extend.
- I. The number of speakers for and against a motion may be increased by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the votes cast regarding the motion to extend.
- J. Total time allotted per resolution motion is six (6) minutes unless extensions are made per subsections H and I above
- K. Resolutions are adopted by **majority vote**.

Rule 7.7 *Voting on Final Resolutions Report*

After completion of consideration of ALL of the proposed resolutions (Consent Resolutions, Resolutions set aside from the Resolutions Package, and Resolutions from the Floor); those resolutions **which have been adopted by the Convention shall be placed on a ballot which shall be presented to the Convention**. Said ballot will reference each adopted resolution by title and shall identify the approved resolution as being either a "State" resolution or a "National" resolution.

Each delegate may prioritize state and national resolutions but may prioritize fewer than the total number *if he or she chooses*. The county party secretary shall tabulate the ballots, weighted by precinct delegate vote, and report the state prioritized and the national prioritized resolutions to the convention (or to the delegates after the conclusion of the convention). The secretary shall then forward these results to the secretary of each of the Congressional District Executive Committees, pursuant to NCDP Plan of Organization Section 2.10, subparagraph 5.

Rule 7.8 *Status of Resolutions at Adjournment.*

Delegates are encouraged to engage in expeditious discussion. Any resolutions that were set aside from the resolutions package or presented from the floor that have not received a vote at the end of the convention section designated for that type of resolution shall not be adopted by the convention nor included in the final resolution report.

RULE 8. *Nominations and Elections for County Executive Committee Officers.*

Elections are being held to fill each of the Executive Officer positions in the County. Candidates must be active Democrats registered in the County. Nominations do not require a second, and candidates may self-nominate. All candidates shall have an allotted time for nominations and/or remarks regardless if they provided a pre-declaration posted on the convention webpage or have come from the convention floor.

- **Candidates for Chair** shall have up to *four (4) minutes total* for both nominations and candidate remarks.
- **Candidates for First Vice Chair** shall have up to *three (3) minutes total* for both nominations and candidate remarks.
- **Candidates for Second Vice Chair, Third Vice Chair, Fourth Vice Chair, Secretary, and Regional Vice Chair** shall have up to *two (2) minutes total* for both nominations and candidate remarks.
- Candidates for these positions *may provide a video in lieu of live candidate remarks*. Said video must be provided Convention@wakedems.org no later than 11:59 pm on Tuesday, April 22.
- Candidates may have 1 minute to respond if named by opposing candidates in their candidate speeches.
- All delegates vote for the chair and the numbered chairs and secretary. Only the **precinct chairs and vice chairs** living in a **Regional Vice Chair's** respective region will vote for said Regional Vice Chair per 2.03 of the NCDP Plan of Organization and as listed in 2.03.3.(a) of the [WCDP Alternative Plan of Organization](#).

RULE 8: *Election of State Executive Committee (SEC) Elections.*

All SEC terms are up for election this year for a 2-year term. All delegates may vote in this election. The Chair is an automatic SEC member. WCDP has an allotment of 66 SEC members.

- A. Depending on the gender identity of the Chair, all delegates will elect 32 or 33 female/non-binary and male/non-binary members.
- B. Anyone who declared a candidacy prior to the convention is featured on the WCDP website on the convention page.
- C. Nominations for SEC members from the floor must be made via Zoom chat at the appropriate time with the name and precinct of the person being nominated to **!SEC Nominations (Male/Non Binary) or !SEC Nominations (Female/Non Binary)**.

- D. Nominations will be accepted from the floor, but because of the large number of people being elected the floor nominees will only be able to provide their names and precinct numbers - ***no nomination or candidacy speeches are allowed.***
- E. Elections for SEC members will be by Google Ballot and will use iterative balloting ***or [ranked choice/instant runoff voting](#)***, as specified in Rule 4.2, subparagraph J.

RULE 9: *Election of Congressional District Representatives.*

Elections will be held for members of the Congressional District Executive Committees. In accordance with Sections 3.01 and 3.07 of the Plan of Organization, the County Chair and 1st Vice Chair are automatically elected representatives if they live within a Congressional District. Wake County includes three districts - CD2, CD4 and CD13.

- **Congressional District 2** - Pursuant to the amendments to the Plan of Organization adopted at the February 2025 SEC meeting, ***no members of the CD2 Executive Committee*** will be elected at this County Convention.
- **Congressional District 4** - Partial County District that extends beyond Wake County borders
 - The county is entitled to two (2) representatives on the CD4 Executive Committee.
 - If the County Chair or First Vice Chair resides in CD4, they shall represent the County on the District Executive Committee in the district in which they reside.
 - The County Convention shall elect two (2) representatives of different genders from Congressional District 4 (unless the County Chair or 1st VC resides in the CD).
 - Only Convention Delegates who **live within CD4** may run or vote for this seat.
- **Congressional District 13** - Partial County District that extends beyond Wake County borders
 - The county is entitled to two (2) representatives on the CD13 Executive Committee.
 - If the County Chair or First Vice Chair resides in CD13, they shall represent the County on the District Executive Committee in the district in which they reside.

- The County Convention shall Elect two (2) representatives of different genders from Congressional District 13 (unless the County Chair or 1st VC resides in the CD).
- Only Convention Delegates who **live within CD13** may run or vote for this seat.
- **Candidates for Congressional District Representative** have up to **one minute total** for both nominations and candidate remarks, *regardless* if the candidate provided a declaration posted on the WCDP website prior to the Convention.

RULE 10 *Election of Delegates to Congressional District Conventions.*

The Convention will elect **1,006** Delegates to the 2nd Congressional District (CD) Convention, **310** to the 4th CD Convention, and **180** Delegates to the 13th CD Convention [based on the number of votes for Governor Stein in the 2024 election](#) and current CD maps. The election of Delegates to their respective CD Conventions will follow this order until the exact number of allotted delegates is reached:

- A. All Convention Delegates in attendance at either convention session; then
- B. All 2025-27 precinct officers who **attended** their precinct meeting and were elected as Convention Delegates but who are **not in attendance** at convention; then
- C. All other Democrats who **attended** their precinct meeting and were elected as Convention Delegates but who are **not in attendance** at convention; then
- D. *If needed to fulfill a CD delegation allotment*, all convention delegates elected by their precinct who did **not attend either** their precinct meeting nor this county convention; then
- E. *If further necessary to fill the CD delegation allotment*, all Democrats identified as likely to attend who were added to the precinct annual meeting outreach list but were not elected as Convention Delegates via a randomly selected population (using Excel RND).
- F. If step A or B or C or D or E exceeds the allowed delegate count, delegates in that step will be elected from a randomly selected population (using Excel RND) to reach the exact allotment number for a Congressional District delegation.

RULE 11 *Adjournment.*

The County Convention shall adjourn by 6:30 pm unless otherwise extended by up to one hour (60 minutes) with permission of the convention granted by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of those present without debate.