

SPECIAL RULES

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

March 16, 2024

RULE 1. Chair. The County Party Chair (Chair) shall have general direction of the meeting and shall be authorized to take such action as necessary to maintain order. The Chair, with the guidance of the appointed Parliamentarian, shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any delegate. Order of priority of Rules shall be (1) the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization, (2) the Rules adopted by the delegates of the Convention, and (3) Robert's Rules of Order (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 challenge, when any delegate wants to speak in debate, that delegate shall rise, approach a microphone, and await recognition by the Chair. The Chair shall inquire of the delegate the purpose for which the delegate rises. If the delegate's purpose in seeking recognition is in order, the Chair will recognize the delegate, and the delegate shall state their name and precinct name or number.

RULE 3. Limitations on Speaking and Debate. Ten (10) minutes shall be the total amount of debate on any item, motion, or amendment. No delegate shall speak in debate more than once on the same question, or longer than one (1) minute, 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. The Chair will attempt to alternate between members in favor or opposed to a motion. 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 fully participate physically and is urgent in nature. Neither "Point of Order" nor "Question or Point of Personal Privilege"

shall be used to debate a matter that is before the body.

RULE 4. Credentialed Voting. Credentialed delegates are those whose names appear on the official delegates' list submitted by the precincts and who have registered prior to the Convention call to order. 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 precincts 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 organized precincts in the County. If the presence of a quorum is questioned, the Party 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. Nominations for County Executive Committee Officers. Nominations for office shall be taken from the body, or by video if necessary, 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 three (3) minutes to respond to the nomination. Only nominations for Chair, Vice Chairs, and Secretary made in accordance with section 2.03 of the Plan of Organization shall be in order.

RULE 7. Election of State Senatorial District 46 Executive Committee Members. If the number of nominations for State Senatorial District 46 Executive Committee members is equal to the number of members to which the county's senatorial district 46 is entitled (two), and the nominations conform with section 3.10 of the Plan of

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Organization, a motion to elect all nominees by acclamation will be in order. Only the delegates to the county convention who reside in the NC Senatorial District 46 may vote.

RULE 8. *Election of County Executive Committee Officers.* If only one nomination has been made, a motion to elect by acclamation will be in order. If two or more nominations have been made for an office, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the weighted vote requirements in Section 5.02 of the Plan of Organization.

RULE 9. *Election of State Executive Committee Members.* If the number of nominations for State Executive Committee members is equal to the number of members to which the county is entitled, and the nominations conform with section 4.01 of the Plan of Organization, a motion to elect all nominees by acclamation will be in order. If a ballot election is used to elect State Executive Committee members, members shall be elected by plurality per section 12.04 of the Plan of Organization.

RULE 10. *Election of Congressional and State Convention Delegates.* Any credentialed delegate may place in nomination one or more names of registered Democrats as delegate(s) to the Congressional District and/or NCDP convention as appropriate for each nominee's voting address. If nominations for delegates to a convention are closed and the number of nominations does not exceed the number of seats, a motion to elect all nominees by acclamation shall be in order.

RULE 11. *Resolutions.* Resolutions will be presented as a group for approval. Credentialed delegates may remove individual resolutions from a group for amendments by obtaining recognition, stating a resolution they would like to have removed, and providing a reason. Credentialed delegates may make motions to approve or deny groups of resolutions. In debate, a delegate having removed a

resolution from the group of considered resolutions may be recognized for one (1) minute to speak to the reason the resolution was pulled or to make motions. A delegate from the precinct or group of precincts submitting the Resolution may be recognized for one (1) minute to speak on behalf of the resolution or explain its intent. Delegates may then be recognized to speak for one (1) minute, alternating on behalf of or in opposition of the proposed Resolution.

RULE 12. *Tellers.* If ballots are used in any contested election, votes shall be collected via paper ballot from credentialed delegates wishing to vote. Tellers on the committee will enter total votes cast by delegates in a precinct into a weighted vote spreadsheet to calculate final vote totals. In any contested election, each nominee may designate an official observer of this process by indicating so to the Chair.