

2020 COUNTY CONVENTION MINUTES

The meeting was called to order on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 3:10 PM by Chairman Richard Poole, who welcomed the participants to this virtual meeting. He then made a strong pitch for everyone to request absentee ballots right away. For various reasons the number of voters requesting absentee ballots might be a substantial multiple of the number in past presidential election years. If many voters wait until right before Election Day, the Board of Elections staff may be unable to handle the volume and generate election results in a timely way, as happened in the recent Wisconsin primary election.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of all those harmed by the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. Chairman Poole then led the Pledge of Allegiance and reminded the participants of the Democratic Party's policy of inclusion and non-discrimination for all Party meetings.

Attendance of many Democratic elected officials and 2020 candidates was acknowledged. A recorded message from Wayne Goodwin, the Chairman of the North Carolina Democratic Party was shown.

The convention keynote speaker was New Hanover County Commissioner Rob Zapple. His message was optimism for the future of New Hanover County, especially with the terrific 2020 slate of Democratic candidates for the three Commission positions. Commissioner Zapple also emphasized the importance of the ongoing exploration of the future of the New Hanover Regional Medical Center, including its possible sale.

The convention adopted the proposed agenda and meeting rules without objection and are attached.

Election of delegates to the 7th Congressional District and State Conventions will follow past practice: Slates of 188 delegates to each convention will be filled by any delegates to this convention who wish to attend, any other 2020 precinct meeting attendees, county party officers, and state executive committee members, until the 188 slots are filled. This method was approved by the convention without objection.

Two positions each on three District Executive Committees were filled by vote of delegates. In each case nominees were presented by Chairman Poole on behalf of the New Hanover County party officers, and no other individuals were nominated. Those thereby elected were Deborah Maxwell and Jim Morgan for the 5th Judicial District (by vote of 105 For and 2 Against), George Vlasits and Rachel Hatfield for NC House District 19 (26 For, 1 Against), and Gorman Wilkes and Allen Phillips Bell for NC Senate District 8

(2 For, 0 Against). (Only those convention delegates who reside in each district were eligible to vote.)

Chairman Poole explained the special procedure for considering resolutions. Because the meeting technology made it nearly impossible to count votes from delegates participating by telephone, the state party urged the delegates to vote up or down on all nine proposed resolutions at once.

Resolution Development Committee Chairman Dennis Dixon reviewed the preparation of the resolutions and advised anyone objecting to a particular resolution to vote against the full package. Approved resolutions will be forwarded for consideration to the 7th District convention and to the NC State Party Resolutions and Platform Committee.

The set of resolutions was approved (85 for, 6 against). A delegate voiced an objection to the resolution supporting an increase in the federal minimum wage to \$15, on the grounds that the unemployment rate due to the pandemic will make it impossible to adopt such a measure. He recommended that a universal basic income be proposed instead of, or in addition to, the minimum wage increase.

Mr. Dixon indicated a willingness to discuss a revision along these lines with the author of the specific resolution. (On further reflection, however, modification of the resolution at this stage would depart from the announced procedure for considering resolutions at the convention. It may be possible to offer an amendment at the subsequent Congressional District or State convention, or directly at the next meeting of the State Resolutions and Platform Committee.)

Minutes recorded by Dennis Dixon, Secretary, New Hanover County Democratic Party

**New Hanover County Democratic Party
Convention April 25th, 3 p.m.**

Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Moment of Silence
3. Pledge of Allegiance, Acknowledge Candidates and Elected Officials
4. Letter from North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Wayne Goodwin
5. Keynote Speaker: Commissioner Rob Zapple
6. Adopt Agenda and Meeting Rules
7. Elections
 1. **Elect Delegates** to District Convention
 2. **Elect Delegates** to the State Convention
 3. **Elect 2 members to each of the following**
 - J 05 Judicial District Executive Committee
 - S 08 State Senatorial District Executive Committee
 - H 19 State House of Representatives District Executive Committee
8. Resolutions
9. Announcements
 - a. May 16th, District Convention, Zoom
 - b. June 6th, State Convention, Likely Online
10. Candidate Statements
 - . Local Candidates
 - a. Statewide Candidates
11. Adjourn

New Hanover County Democratic Party

Convention, April 25, 2020

Meeting Rules

1. If adopted by the delegates, these rules shall govern the New Hanover County Democratic Party Convention on April 25th, 2020.
2. Obtaining Recognition: When any delegate wants to be heard, the delegate shall so indicate by using the “raise hand” feature on Zoom. Delegates participating by cell phone shall raise their hands by pressing *9. The Chair will inquire the purpose for which the delegate seeks recognition to determine whether recognition is in order.
3. Comments on Nominees or Motions: After nominations are closed, candidates in contested elections may make a one minute statement and individual delegates may comment once on each contested election, for one minute, in support or opposition to a candidate or slate. Similarly, to comment on a motion before the Convention, delegates may comment once, for one minute, in support or opposition. Discussion shall be closed after 5 minutes at the discretion of the Chair.
4. Hand Vote or Weighted Voting: Pursuant to North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization Section 5.02, all votes shall be conducted as voice or hand votes unless 25 percent of delegates present vote for weighted voting by precinct.
5. Hand Vote: The Chair will instruct attendees that only delegates elected at their precinct meeting may raise their hands to vote.
6. Weighted Voting: In the event of a call for a weighted vote delegates shall vote by a Google Form ballot. To be counted, each ballot must be fully filled out. Only ballots cast by County Convention Delegates elected at their precinct meeting will be counted. Because of the limitations of the technology we are using, delegates participating by phone will not be able to cast a ballot.
7. Resolutions: Because of the limitations of the technology we are using, Resolutions will not be individually considered. The NCDP Executive Council has directed that we transmit all resolutions to the District Convention.