



NORTH CAROLINA 4th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

– May 22, 2021 | 10:00 am via Zoom –

SPECIAL RULES

RULE 1. *Chair.* The Chair of the Fourth Congressional District Democratic Party or their respective designee (the “Chair”) shall have general direction of the Fourth Congressional District Democratic Convention held on May 22, 2021 over Zoom teleconference (the “Convention”) and shall be authorized to take such action as is 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 credentialed delegate of the Convention. Order of priority of rules shall be (a) the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization (the “Plan”), (b) these Special Rules, as adopted by the credentialed delegates of the Convention, (the “Special Rules”), and (3) Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12th Edition. Courteous respect for one another will be the standing order of the day.

RULE 2. *Orders of the Day.* The Convention shall be called to order by the Chair at approximately 10:00 AM on May 22, 2021 for the purposes set forth in the Agenda. The Agenda shall be followed as adopted by the credentialed delegates of the Convention. While pending, the Agenda may be amended by a simple majority vote of credentialed delegates present. After adoption, the Agenda may only be modified by a two-thirds vote of credentialed delegates present. Similarly, the Special Rules governing the Convention may be amended by a simple majority vote of credentialed delegates present, while pending. After adoption, the Special Rules may only be modified or suspended by a two-thirds vote of credentialed delegates present. The Special Rules shall be valid only for the Convention.

RULE 3. *Obtaining Recognition.* Credentialed delegates may seek the recognition of the Chair by submitting a message to the designated Zoom chat moderator via the chat feature within the Zoom platform. The chat moderator shall then inquire of the delegate the purpose for which they seek recognition. 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 county. Credentialed delegates participating via telephone may seek recognition of the Chair by utilizing the “raise hand” feature within the Zoom platform by pressing * 9 on their telephone keypad. The Chair shall then inquire of the delegate the purpose for which they seek recognition. 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 county.

RULE 4. *Limitations on Speaking and Debate.* All delegates of the Convention will be muted unless and until recognized by the Chair. No delegate shall speak in debate more than once on the same question or longer than one minute without the express permission of the Convention granted by a simple majority vote of credentialed delegates present without debate. Debate on a single question shall be limited to six minutes, unless expressly extended by a simple majority vote of credentialed delegates present without debate. When delegates speak in support of and opposition to a question, the Chair shall attempt to alternate between speeches in support and speeches in opposition. Parliamentary “Point of Order” shall be recognized only if the Plan, Special Rules, or Robert’s Rules of Order are violated by the Chair or another delegate. Parliamentary “Point of Personal Privilege” shall be recognized only if it concerns the proceedings of the entire Convention or an individual’s ability to participate and is urgent in nature.

Neither a parliamentary “Point of Order” or “Point of Personal Privilege” will be recognized if seeking to debate a question before the Convention.

RULE 5. *Credentialed Voting.* Consistent with Section 6.01 of the Plan, credentialed delegates are those whose names appear on the roll of delegates and who have registered prior to the Convention call to order. The Chair may take voice votes, standing votes through use of the “raise hand” feature within the Zoom platform, or balloted votes on a question. If a voice vote or standing vote is used, any call for Division must be sanctioned by 50 credentialed delegates.

RULE 6. *Quorum.* A quorum shall exist any time there is at least one credentialed delegate present from a majority of the counties that comprise North Carolina’s Fourth Congressional District. If the presence of a quorum is questioned, the Secretary of the Fourth Congressional District Democratic Party and/or their assistants shall call the roll of counties and request responses over the Zoom platform to determine if a quorum exists. Once a quorum has been established, no further quorum call needs to be recognized for one hour. If a quorum exists when the Convention begins debate on a question, it is presumed to exist until that question is resolved.

RULE 7. *Nominations.* Nominations for officers of the Fourth Congressional District Democratic Party shall be accepted from the Fourth Congressional District Democratic Party Nominations Subcommittee through the presentation of its Nominations Report. Nominations shall also be accepted from the floor of Convention, when offered by a credentialed delegate. The Fourth Congressional District Democratic Party Nominations Subcommittee shall be provided with up to five minutes to present its Nominations Report. Credentialed delegates shall be provided with up to two minutes for each nomination offered from the floor. Nominations do not require a second. Nominated candidates shall be provided up to two minutes to respond to a nomination. Only nominations offered in accordance with Section 3.04 of the Plan shall be in order.

RULE 8. *Elections.* If only one nomination is offered for a given office, a motion to elect by acclamation shall be in order. If two or more nominations are made for a single office, the election shall be decided by balloted vote, in accordance with the Section 6.01 of the Plan. In the event of a contested election, credentialed delegates shall be provided with a link to the digital ballot form via the “chat”

feature within the Zoom platform. Credentialed delegates should click on the link provided and follow the prompts within the form to cast their ballot. Credentialed delegates participating via telephone will be moved to a breakout room to cast their ballot. Credentialed delegates participating online who encounter technical difficulties with the digital ballot form will be instructed to utilize the “raise hand” feature within the Zoom platform to request assistance. Those credentialed delegates participating online who encounter technical difficulties with the digital ballot form will, similarly, be moved to a breakout room to cast their ballot. Balloting will close once the last assisted ballot has been cast, as determined by the Chair. Votes will be tabulated by designated tellers. Results will be announced when tabulation is complete.

RULE 9. *Resolutions.*

RULE 9.1. *Technical Corrections.* Amendments determined by the Chair to be technical in nature, relating to either spelling, grammar, or formatting, shall be incorporated without debate or vote.

RULE 9.2. *Consent Package.* A consent package of resolutions (the “Resolutions Report”) shall be presented for adoption.

RULE 9.3. *Process for Setting Aside Resolutions from Consent Package.* Any resolution contained within the Resolutions Report may be set aside for further discussion and / or amendment through motion offered by credentialed delegate, seconded by a credentialed delegate, and adopted by a simple majority of credentialed delegates present. The maker of any such a motion shall be provided up to one minute to address the Convention.

RULE 9.4. *Disposition of Consent Package of Resolutions.* The Resolutions Report shall be considered prior to consideration of any resolutions set aside from the Resolutions Report and prior to any resolutions offered from the floor of the Convention. The Resolutions Report shall receive a standing vote and shall be adopted by a simple majority of credentialed delegates present.

RULE 9.5. *Disposition of Resolutions Set Aside from the Consent Package.* Each resolution set aside for discussion shall be subject to debate and / or amendment in accordance with the Special

Rules. A standing vote shall follow debate on each resolution set aside and any substantive amendments thereto, determined by a simple majority of credentialed delegates present.

RULE 9.6. *Resolutions from the Floor.* Credentialed delegates may offer resolutions from the floor of the Convention, if presented in writing, following consideration of all resolutions set aside from the Resolutions Report, as time permits. Resolutions properly offered from the floor of the Convention will be considered if so moved by a credentialed delegate, seconded by a credentialed delegate, and approved for consideration by a two-thirds vote of credentialed delegates present. The maker of such a motion shall be provided up to one minute to address the Convention. Resolutions offered from the floor shall then require a two-thirds vote of credentialed delegates present for adoption.

RULE 9.7 *Referral for Further Study.* Any resolution pending consideration by the Convention may be referred to the Fourth Congressional District Democratic Party Resolutions Subcommittee for further study by a simple majority vote of credentialed delegates present.

RULE 9.8. *Status of Resolutions at Adjournment.* Any resolution set aside from the Resolutions Report or offered from the floor of the Convention that do not receive a standing vote or proper referral to the Fourth Congressional District Democratic Party Resolutions Subcommittee by Convention adjournment shall be considered null and void. Delegates are encouraged to engage in expeditious discussion.