

2022 Convention Rules

As specified in section 5.03 of The North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization (“the PoO”), the county executive committee has the power to make rules and regulations for the conduct of the county convention that are not inconsistent with the PoO. The same section of the PoO states that a quorum exists at any time at which there is present on the floor at least one official delegate from fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the precincts with duly elected delegates to the convention. Quorum will be determined through electronic registration as the delegates enter the meeting. The link to the registration form will be posted in Zoom Chat.

In compliance with section 0.01 of the PoO, the Guilford County Democratic Convention is open to all active Democrats. Voting, however, is limited to Delegates duly elected by precincts organized and registered as such with the Guilford County Democratic Party (“Delegates”).

Voting

Only Delegates registered to vote in the respective Congressional District may vote in elections for Congressional Convention Delegates. Only Delegates registered to vote in precincts within Senate District 26 may vote in the election of the members of the District 26 Senatorial Executive Committee.

All Delegates to this convention may vote on all other matters considered by the convention. Other than elections, decisions will be made by simple majority vote of the Delegates present and voting. Votes will be by the “Raise Hand” function in Zoom, or other such means as determined by the presiding officer.

Voting in uncontested elections (elections in which there are as many candidates as there are positions to be filled) will be by acclamation.

Voting in contested elections (elections in which there are more candidates than there are positions to be filled) will be by precinct. Each delegate may cast a vote online by clicking a link posted in Zoom Chat. Votes will be counted by precinct by the convention’s head teller (Pete Salassi) who will also tabulate the results. Precinct votes will be allocated or weighted according to section 5.02 of PoO. In contested elections, the top vote getters in a single round of voting will be elected to fill the respective number of open seats. In the event of a tie for the last position(s), the presiding officer will conduct a drawing of a name(s) to fill the remaining position(s). Final results of the elections may not be known before the convention adjourns.

Speaking Rules for Candidates for Election

If the election is contested, candidates for the District Executive Committee and/or the State Executive Committee will be recognized to speak for up to two (2) minutes each.

Speaking Rules for All Other Matters, including Resolutions

A maximum of six (6) speakers, three (3) on each side of a respective issue, will be recognized by the presiding officer. Speakers will be recognized to speak for up to two (2) minutes each, in rotation, “for” and “against.”

When any delegate wants to speak in debate, the delegate shall indicate so to the Chair electronically by using the “Raise Hand” feature on Zoom. The Chair shall inquire of the delegate the purpose for which the delegate seeks 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 precinct name or number. If more than three (3) people on one side of an issue want to speak and cannot otherwise agree on which three (3) of them are to speak, the presiding officer will conduct a drawing for three (3) names to determine which speakers to recognize.

No one will be recognized to speak for a second time until everyone requesting to speak on the same side of the issue have been heard. Additional rebuttals, clarifications or requests to provide more information by someone who has already spoken on an issue will be considered a second request for speaking on the issue and subject to the rules above. No Delegate will be recognized to speak more than twice on an issue.

Congressional District and State Convention Delegates

Any credentialed delegate may place in nomination the name of a registered Democrat as delegate to the Congressional District convention. (A motion may be made that Convention delegates present are nominated.) 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. If all the delegate positions (601) are not filled by election, a motion will be considered to allow the Executive Director (Bess Lewis) to fill any remaining delegate slots to the District Convention, so Guilford County is fully represented at the convention (Names can be submitted to Bess [via email gcdpchair@guilforddems.org] by noon Tuesday, April 13 Include the person's full name, address, phone number and email address.)

Other Rules

All telephones and other electronic devices must be silenced while the convention is in session.

All attendees shall remain muted unless recognized by the Chair.

At any time, the convention may suspend one or more of these rules by a vote of 2/3 of the Delegates present and voting.