

## **Rules of the Day**

**RULE 1. *Chair.*** The District 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 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 County.

**RULE 3. *Limitations on Speaking and Debate.*** No delegate shall speak in debate more than once on the same question, or longer than two (2) minutes, 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" 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 delegate list submitted by the counties and who have registered prior to the Convention's call to order. The Chair may take voice votes, standing votes, or ballots for all votes. If a voice vote is used, any call for division must be sanctioned by delegates from twenty-five (25) percent of the counties present.

**RULE 5. *Quorum.*** A quorum shall exist any time there is at least one official delegate from a majority of the counties entitled to be at said convention. If the presence of a quorum is questioned, the Party Secretary, and/or assistants shall call the roll of counties 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. *Resolutions.*** Resolutions will be presented as a group for approval. Credentialed delegates may remove individual resolutions from a group, for discussion by obtaining recognition, stating a resolution they would like to have removed, and providing a reason. In debate, a delegate having removed a resolution from the group of considered resolutions may be recognized for two (2) minutes to speak to the reason

the resolution was pulled or to make motions. A delegate from the county submitting the Resolution may be recognized for two (2) minutes to speak on behalf of the resolution or explain its intent. Delegates may then be recognized to speak for two (2) minutes, alternating on behalf of or in opposition to the proposed Resolution.

**RULE 7. *Tellers.*** If ballots are used in any contested election, votes shall be collected and recorded by the secretary and an assistant appointed by the chair. In any contested election, each nominee may designate an official observer of this process by indicating to the Chair the name.

**RULE 8. *Nominations for Representatives to Statewide Committees.*** Nominations for representatives to the biennial State Convention's Committee on Credentials and Appeals, the Council of Review, the Resolutions and Platform Committee, and the Plan of Organization Review Committee shall be in order. When making a nomination a delegate should only state their name, and the name of the person they wish to nominate. The nominator should refrain from any additional comments until nominations are closed. Once the Chair declares the floor open to nominations for a specific position the floor will remain open until any delegate who wishes to make a nomination has had opportunity to do so. Once there is no other delegate who wishes to make a nomination, the Chair shall, without objection, declare nominations closed. If there is only one name that has been entered into nomination when nominations have been closed, the body will proceed to a vote to elect the one person who was nominated. If there is more than one person nominated, then each delegate who made a nomination will be given (1) one minute to provide a nomination speech which will be followed by a candidate speech that should not exceed (2) two minutes. Once all nominations and candidate speeches for a specific position have been finished, the body will proceed to a vote under the procedures outlined in Rules 9 and 10.

**RULE 9. *Reporting and Challenging a Vote.*** Pursuant to Section 6.01 of the NCDP Plan of Organization it shall be the duty of the delegates from the several counties to choose one of their number as chair, whose name shall be reported to the chair of such convention, and whose duty it shall be to cast the vote of his or her county as directed. The vote, as announced by that person, shall be recorded unless some delegate from that county challenges its accuracy. In the event of a challenge, it shall be the duty of the chair of the convention to cause the roll of delegates from that county to be called, upon which the vote of such county shall be tabulated and recorded according to the response of its delegates.

**RULE 10. *Voice Votes.*** Pursuant to Section 6.01 of the NCDP Plan of Organization nothing herein shall prevent the district conventions from making nominations, holding elections, and conducting business by voice vote or by acclamation where a vote of counties is not demanded by twenty-five percent (25%) of the delegates present.