



ORANGE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY VIRTUAL 2020 CONVENTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020

MINUTES

**Post-convention Note:**

*Attendance recording systems (Zoom and Mobilize) confirmed 321 persons attended the Convention, **of which 223** were County Convention Delegates representing **all 40 of 41** organized Precincts in Orange County.*

**Chair Marilyn Carter** called meeting to order at 12:06 pm

**First Vice Chair Jonah Garson** outlined OCDP goals for 2020

1. Increase Orange votes for Democrats by 10% - and re-elect Gov Cooper and elect our Supreme Court candidates
2. Expand C2C to flip enough seats to take back the NC House and Senate
3. Strive for a more inclusive party and have fun

So much work to do. Think about ways for everyone to participate.

**Chair Marilyn Carter** introduced the OCDP Leadership team

**Fourth Vice Chair Phyllis Portie-Ascott** called for moment of reflection:

The body was asked to reflect for 30 seconds on why and for whom they engaged

**Chair Marilyn Carter** led the body in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced **Congressman David Price**.

**Congressman Price:**

Welcome. Critical election in November, most important in our lifetime. We must adapt to the pandemic well into the fall. Voting by mail without partisan obstruction imperative. Fourth installment of funding bill includes special committee overseeing funding for direct payment, expanded unemployment, payroll protection for small businesses.

Systems are overloaded. Go to the right people. Offers his office to help with problems.

Pandemic underscores how much Democratic leadership is needed. Lauds NC Governor Cooper and Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services, for their competent leadership during this crisis, something we do not have at the federal level. This profound misfortune calls for a Lincoln or Roosevelt, and all we have is Trump.

Thanks everyone for coming and working to elect Democrats for President, Senate, and NC.

**Chair Marilyn Carter** thanked David Price and read NCDP Chairman Wayne Goodman's letter to the Convention delegates.

Technical Expert **Mary Parry** pointed out the features for participating in the virtual convention.

**Chair Marilyn Carter** called on **Acting Secretary Alexandra Allman** to confirm that quorum has been established for the Convention. Quorum was confirmed and Marilyn explained the protocol for the Convention:

Because OCDP was following the directives of the NCDP in using a virtual meeting platform, the Convention was structured as a webinar with only presenters being able to speak. To comment, delegates were asked to use chat to post a message and raise their hand. Those using a phone were asked to use \*9 to raise their hand and send a text message to Diane Ong.

Voting: We are using unanimous consent and Up and down votes – if no nays = unanimous consent. Aye votes are assumed, and no action is needed but Nay votes are to be recorded in chat if necessary. Those on phone can log nay votes via \*9 and text message.

Marilyn then introduced the Agenda and repeated the goals introduced earlier by Jonah.

**First Vice Chair Jonah Garson** gave a brief recap on the work that OCDP has done so far since 2019:

- OCDP leadership met with all precinct leaders one-on-one and developed a comprehensive plan based on the feedback received.
- Conducted intensive canvassing in collaboration with Neighbors on Call to expand volunteer base and engage more Democrats.
- Created an Alternative Plan of Organization, passed by the SEC, to make OCDP leadership more representative of the County and created a Diversity and Inclusivity Working Group.

Marilyn added that she wants to pivot quickly after the Convention to engage precincts in a safe manner and move forward.

Jonah said that the robust turn-out in the Primary was promising and that the two virtual townhalls showed that people are eager to engage and able to adapt to the circumstances. OCDP's first

virtual townhall on COVID relief was successful and the 2<sup>nd</sup> townhall on contingencies for the November Elections and results from the Primaries was well received.

**Chair Marilyn Carter** reiterated the other Agenda items and introduced Mark Kleinschmidt as the Parliamentarian:

Convention Business that will require a vote:

Rules

Election for Delegates to District and State Conventions

Election for Judicial, House and Senate Executive Committees

Resolution Omnibus Package

Our Legislative Delegation: Sen. Valerie Foushee, Rep. Verla Insko, Rep. Graig Meyer

Announcements

Marilyn made the motion for the body to adopt the Agenda and asked only to use chat if objecting to the motion. There was one objection; however, it was determined that the objection pertained to the Resolution Omnibus Package and not to the Agenda itself and the Agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

Marilyn then turned over the proceedings to **Parliamentarian Mark Kleinschmidt**.

Mark made the motion for the body to adopt the Special Rules of the Convention. The body of ~~306~~ delegates present adopted the rules with only 6 objections.

Marilyn explained that the first Resolution for consideration, on Delegates to the District and State Conventions, if granted, gives the Board of the OCDP Executive Committee the authority to appoint Orange County's 204 delegates based on the criteria listed in the Resolution.

After questions from the body, Marilyn clarified that delegates to District and State Conventions are not the same as delegates for Presidential Electors. The latter will be elected at the District and State Conventions according to the rules communicated by the North Carolina Democratic Party earlier.

Marilyn made the motion to adopt the Resolution on Delegates. Point of clarification is answered by Mark: the majority of attendees are delegates and identifying delegate status is not necessary unless a weighted vote is needed. Motion is adopted by the body.

Marilyn introduces **Michael Parker, Chair of the Nominating Committee**.

Michael introduced the other members and explained the duties of the Committee and the guidelines used to choose the slate of candidates.

Recommended slate for Judicial District 15B: 2 positions

Allen Buansi (i)

Lynette Hartsell

Note: Hathaway Pendergrass was the other incumbent but because he won the election for the vacant NC District Court Judge District 15B seat, he is no longer eligible to serve.

Mark asked for other nominations and hearing none asked for a motion to approve the nominees by acclamation. Michael Parker made the motion and James Bartow seconded. The body approved the slate of candidates unanimously and both were elected.

Recommended slate for House 50 Executive Committee: 2 positions

John Ferguson (i)

Cathy Vinski (i)

Michael Parker made the motion and Joal Broun seconded. The body approved the slate of candidates unanimously and both were elected.

Recommended slate for Senate District 23 Executive Committee: 2 positions

Nan Nixon (i)

Kenneth Woods

Michael Parker made the motion and Matt Hughes seconded. The body approved the slate of candidates unanimously and both were elected.

Michael Parker thanked the body and his Committee members.

**Chair Marilyn Carter** thanked the **Resolution Committee Co-Chairs Renee Price** and **Hongbin Gu** and asks Renee to overview the Committee Process.

Renee thanked Hongbin and the Resolutions Committee members as well as the precinct members who crafted the resolutions that the Committee received. The Committee met twice in person and then had to schedule the All Precinct Meeting online, the first virtual meeting for OCDP due to the coronavirus outbreak. She thanked Mary and Jonah for their help using Google docs to collect comments. The Committee tried to maintain the integrity of the resolutions that were submitted.

Hongbin thanked Renee and all who worked on the resolutions.

Renee then made the motion for the body to adopt the Resolution for a Resolutions Omnibus.

First Vice Chair Jonah Garson seconded the motion.

Marilyn explained that due to the constraints of a Virtual Convention, the NCDP requested that resolutions, with approval of each County Convention, be passed directly on to the State Party's Resolution Committee. Because of that, there would be no discussion of individual resolutions, only an up or down vote on submission of all resolutions received and accepted by the Resolutions Committee to be passed directly to NCDP.

After some chats indicated that some delegates were not satisfied with this process, Matt Hughes added that anyone who wanted to have input on any of the resolutions before they are presented at the State Convention should contact him.

With 290 Ayes and 9 Nays, the Resolution for a Resolutions Omnibus passed.

Marilyn thanked the candidates for their willingness to serve and the committees for their hard work.

**First Vice Chair Johan Garson** introduced **NC House Rep. Graig Meyer**.

**Rep. Meyer** spoke about Education issues and explained that the House bill that was introduced would make a number of statutory changes for this school year: no school openings for this school year, no grades, adding resources for online learning, bridging the broadband gap, more flexibility for school districts, no teacher raises, jump starting the school year early for at risk and special needs students, and planning for long-term distance learning. Polls show that Education still is #1 issue for NC.

Jonah thanked Graig and introduced **NC House Rep Verla Insko**.

**Rep. Insko** spoke on Healthcare and the critical need to expand Medicaid which has the support in House but is blocked by Republicans in the Senate. She also addressed food and shelter insecurity issues during the pandemic that made vulnerable populations even more at risk.

Jonah thanked Verla and introduced **NC Senator Valerie Foushee**.

**Sen. Foushee** gave an impassioned GOTV speech, saying that we need to elect Democrats to set things right again in NC:

If you want to save hospitals, flip some seats!

If you want to expand Medicaid, flip some seats!

If you want access to broadband for all, flip some seats!

If you want fair elections, flip some seats!

If you want independent redistricting, flip some seats!

Jonah thanked Senator Foushee and said that she closed it out.

**Chair Marilyn Carter** thanked all three legislators and moved to the final item on the Agenda:

Announcements and Calls to Action

May 16 – 4<sup>th</sup> District Convention

Late May CEC Meeting

June 6 – State Convention

Now – Mail-in Voting Request Forms!

Mid-October - Early Voting begins

November 3 – Election Day

**First Vice Chair Johan Garson's Call to Action:**

- Protect your vote and request a mail-in absentee ballot now.
- Get involved in C2C. It is a one-of-a-kind program. There is no other like it anywhere. Working with other counties to help flip some seats and building a vibrant partnership across NC ensures that there will be no more lost decade for NC Democrats! Get trained and get involved. Sign up for a phonebank. Thank you, Nan Nixon, for all your leadership.
- Support OCDP with donation so we can do the critical work that is necessary. We know it is a hard time for many of you, but we need your support to win.

**Chair Marilyn Carter** made the motion to adjourn, Mark Kleinschmidt seconded. The convention was adjourned at 2:08 pm.