

SCHEDULE I

2025 Annual Convention Special Rules

Special Rules: Orange County Democratic Party 2025 Convention

Rule 1. Authority of Chair; Priority of Rules. The Orange County Democratic Party Chair shall have general direction of the meeting and shall be authorized to take such action as is necessary to maintain order. The Chair, with the guidance of the Parliamentarian, shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any delegate. A majority vote of the precincts present shall be required to overrule a decision of the Chair following such an appeal. Order of priority of rules for the Convention shall be (1) the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization (“the Plan of Organization,”) (2) these Rules, and (3) Robert’s Rules of Order (12th Edition.) Courteous respect for one another will be the standing order of the day.

Rule 2. Suspension of the Rules. Any standing rule may be suspended for a particular specified purpose by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

Rule 3. Quorum. A quorum shall exist any time there is at least one credentialed delegate present, in person or via Zoom, from fifty (50) percent plus one of the organized precincts in the County. If the presence of a quorum is questioned, the Party Secretary, and/or assistants shall call the roll of precincts to determine if a quorum exists. Once a quorum has been established, no further quorum call need 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 4. Obtaining Recognition. When any delegate wishes to speak, that member shall stand or raise a hand and await recognition by the Chair. Any delegate attending by Zoom who wishes to speak 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.

Rule 5. Limitations on Debate. No member shall speak in a debate more than twice on the same question, or longer than 2 minutes each time, without permission of the assembly granted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the convention delegates present. Such a vote shall not be debatable. All members participating by Zoom will be muted until recognized by the Chair. No member shall speak in debate more than once on the same motion. Debate on a motion is limited to five (5) minutes per motion or item. The Chair will attempt to alternate between members in favor of 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 asserted as 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 hear, participate, etc., and is urgent in nature. Neither “Point of Order” or “Question or Point of Personal Privilege” shall be used to debate a matter that is before the body.

Rule 6. Credentialed Voting. Credentialed delegates must be registered Democrats whose names appear on the official delegates' list submitted by the precincts and who have registered to attend the meeting prior to the Convention call to order. For any and all votes, the Chair in their discretion may take voice votes, votes by in person/Zoom hand raise, votes by polls/Zoom polls, or votes by ballot. A delegate objecting to the Chair's decision to conduct a voice or in person/Zoom hand raise vote on a matter before the Convention may interpose a motion in the form of a Call for Division. A Call for Division must be approved by at least twenty-five (25) percent of the delegates present and, if approved, will be followed by a recorded weighted vote on the matter before the Convention.

Rule 7. Weighted Voting. Weighted voting shall be used for election of officers or SEC members. In those elections, the Teller Committee shall group delegate votes by precinct.

(a) Each precinct that has elected the full slate of delegates to which it was entitled shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for every one hundred (100) votes, or major fraction thereof, cast by the precinct for the Democratic nominee for Governor in the last preceding gubernatorial election.

(b) The Precinct Delegates who attend the County Convention shall be entitled to vote the full strength of their Precinct upon matters of business which come before the Convention, provided the Precinct originally elected a minimum of five (5) delegates, or at least one (1) delegate for each vote to which it was entitled, as provided in Section 1.08 of NCDP's Plan of Organization, whichever number is smaller. Each such delegate present from a particular Precinct shall cast an equal number of the votes to which the Precinct is entitled. All votes which the Precinct is entitled to cast shall be divided equally among all the delegates representing the Precinct who are in attendance.

Rule 8. Voting by the Delegates. In matters requiring weighted voting, each delegate from a particular precinct shall cast an equal number of the votes to which the precinct is entitled. All votes which the precinct is entitled to cast shall be divided equally among all the delegates in attendance from that precinct.

Rule 9. Teller Committee. Ballots in any contested election shall be collected and counted by a Teller committee appointed by the Chair prior to the convention. All ballots shall be gathered and counted simultaneously. In any contested election, any nominee may designate an observer to the Teller committee.

Election of County Party Officers

Rule 10. Only registered Democrats shall be eligible to serve as County Party Officers. A list of officer candidates will be presented in accordance with Section 12.14 of the Plan of Organization. Any delegate may place the name of any member (subject to party diversity rules) in nomination for any position. If there are no additional nominations, the position shall be voted on by acclamation. If any names are placed in nomination, there will be an election for that position. If two or more nominations are made, the election shall be by majority vote. If three or more candidates run for an office, and no nominee receives a majority of the votes cast, the nominee receiving the lowest number of votes will automatically be removed from the next round of voting.

Rule 11. Speeches. Each nominee for any contested officer election shall be permitted up to two (2) minutes to address the convention except for candidates for Chair, who shall be permitted up to three (3) minutes to address the convention. Nominating speeches, if any, count toward this total. Candidates may have someone make remarks on their behalf.

Election of State Executive Committee Members

Rule 12. The Convention will strive to attain equal representation by gender in electing the ten (10) State Executive Committee (SEC) members allocated to Orange County, provided that the Chair shall take measures to accommodate any candidates who identify as gender non-binary. Only registered Democrats shall be eligible to serve on the SEC. If ten (10) or fewer candidates are nominated, whether by the Nominations Committee or by combining the Nominations Committee's slate with nominations from the floor, the SEC members shall be elected by acclamation. If more than ten (10) candidates are nominated, then there shall be an election. In the case of a contested election, each voter may cast up to five (5) "orange" votes and five (5) "blue" votes. Orange votes may only be cast for male or non-binary candidates, and blue votes may only be cast for female or non-binary candidates. Each voter may cast only one vote per candidate. The ten candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected.

Rule 13. Speeches. Each nominee for any contested SEC election shall be permitted up to one minute to address the convention. Nominating speeches, if any, count toward this total. Candidates may have someone make remarks on their behalf.

Consideration of Resolutions and Platform Items

Rule 14. Omnibus Resolutions and Platform Items. Resolutions and Platform Items that have received a favorable recommendation from the County Resolutions and Platform committee and fail to elicit an objection from the floor shall be considered by the full convention as an omnibus resolution. Items that receive an objection from the floor from at least ten (10) credentialed delegates shall be considered separately following the omnibus resolutions.

Rule 15. Amendments to Resolutions and Platform Items. Proposals for amendments shall be presented to the Chair or the Chair's designee in writing, must be seconded, and shall require a simple majority vote for passage.

Rule 16. Referral to Committee for Further Study. Any Resolution or Platform Item may be referred by majority vote of the convention to a committee appointed by the Chair for further study.

Rule 17. Resolutions from the Floor. Resolutions offered from the floor may include either new items, which shall be submitted in writing to the Chair, or items that failed to receive a favorable report from the Platform Committee. Resolutions offered from the floor may only be considered upon a vote in favor of consideration by two-thirds of the Convention delegates.

Business During Votes

Rule 18. Business of the convention that may be conducted shall continue while the Tellers' Committee counts votes in contested elections.