



New Hanover County Republican Party Convention Rules March 19, 2024

Convention Rules

Purpose: It is the purpose of these Rules to provide for a fair and open Convention in a manner that facilitates the business of the Convention, respects the rights of the majority and minority, and encourages full participation by all Republican Delegates.

1. **Convention Officers:** The officers of the Convention shall be as follows:
 - a. Convention Chair: Responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting.
 - b. Secretary: Responsible for all minutes of the meeting.
 - c. Parliamentarian: Responsible for adherence to the State and County Plans of Organization as well as questions on proper procedure.
 - d. Sergeant-at-Arms: Responsible for orderly conduct on the floor of the convention. The Convention Chair shall appoint Assistant Sergeants-at Arms as necessary.
 - e. Timekeeper: Responsible for keeping time of speaking for motions. The timekeeper will indicate to each speaker a thirty second warning before the expiration of the allotted time.
2. **Committees:** The Committees of the Convention shall be the Committee on Credentials and the Committee on Motions and Procedures.
3. **Voting Body:** The voting body of this Convention shall be the duly elected delegates as stated in the County and State Party Plans of Organization. All delegates will wear nametags or other identifier given to them at check-in.
4. **Quorum:** A quorum is twenty-five percent (25%) of delegates registered and attending, as certified by the Credentials Committee and reported to the County. Provided a quorum is present during any vote, the majority shall be determined by those present and voting.

5. **Attendance at Meeting.** Registration to vote and participate will close at 6:30 PM March 19, 2024. On any matter brought to the floor of the convention for consideration, once the voting starts no one will be allowed to exit and re-enter the room until the Chair of the Convention calls an end to voting.
6. **Procedure to Motions:** A Motion is a formal proposal that the Convention take a certain action. Only delegates may move a proposal and bring items of discussion to the Convention. In order to move a proposal, a delegate must rise and address the Chair of the Convention. Once recognized by the Chair, the delegate will clearly state his or her name, precinct, and the motion to be considered. The Chair will then ask for a second. If the motion is seconded, the Chair will then read the motion to the Convention. Only after the motion has been read to the Convention is it considered open for discussion. The Chair will then recognize the Delegate who made the motion and allow him or her to have three (3) minutes to speak in support of the proposal.
7. **Discussion of a Motion:** Only delegates may participate in the discussion of a motion or nomination. There will be no more than 2 members speaking for the motion and 2 members speaking against the motion. Each member will be allowed up to two (2) minutes to speak and may speak only once to any motion. In order to discuss a motion, a delegate must rise and address the Chair of the Convention. Once recognized by the Chair, the delegate will clearly state his or her name, precinct, whether for or against the motion and the reasons why. Discussion must be relevant to the motion.
8. **Voting:** When discussion has ended, the Chair will call for a vote. Voting may be done by voice vote, ballot, show of hands or other methods that will clearly indicate a majority. Except in elections, the Convention Chair will designate the Secretary, Parliamentarian, and the Timekeeper to count votes as needed. The motion passes by a simple majority of the voting members of the delegates present. If the motion is to revise or change the County Plan of Organization, the motion will require a 2/3 majority in order to pass.
9. **Election of Party Officers:** Candidates for Chairman, 1st Vice-Chairman, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be nominated at odd year conventions. Nominations shall be done as follows:
 - a. Delegate will rise and address the Chair.
 - b. Once recognized by the Chair, the delegate will then place the slate into nomination. No nomination speech is given at this time.
 - c. If the nomination is seconded, the Chair of the Convention will read the entire slate. At this point, the slate is considered nominated.
 - d. The Chair will continue to ask for nominations. Nominations are closed by the Chair when no other nominations come from the floor of the Convention.
 - e. The Chair will then recognize each of the nominating delegates to speak for their slate. The nominating delegate has up to three (3) minutes to speak to his or her slate.
 - f. The Chair of the Convention will then recognize the Chairman Candidate of each slate who will be allowed to speak up to 5 minutes for their slate.

Voting for leadership slate shall occur through secret ballot. Delegates will vote for one nominee for Chairman. The Credentials Committee will tally the votes and report the results to the Presiding Officer. The winning slate is that of the nominee receiving at least 50% + 1 of the votes. If there are more than two slates running, the two slates with the highest votes will move to a second vote, whereby the slate receiving 50% +1 of the votes will be declared the winner.

10. Election of Executive Committee At-Large Members: As required by the North Carolina State Plan of Organization, the Convention shall elect at odd-year conventions 5 At-Large Members to serve with full voting rights on the Executive Committee. Candidates for this at-large position shall be nominated as a block. Nominations for the At-Large Members shall be as follows:

- a. Delegate will rise and address the Chair.
- b. Once recognized by the Chair, the delegate will then place the block into nomination by reading the entire block. No nomination speech is given at this time.
- c. If the nomination is seconded, the Chair of the Convention will read the entire block. At this point, the block is considered nominated.
- d. The Chair will continue to ask for nominations. Nominations are closed by the Chair when no other nominations come from the floor of the Convention.
- e. The Chair will then recognize each of the nominating delegates to speak for their block. The nominating delegate has up to three (3) minutes to speak to his or her block.

Voting for At-Large blocks shall occur through secret ballot. The Credentials Committee will tally the votes and report the results to the Presiding Officer. The winning block is the block receiving at least 50% + 1 of the votes. If there are more than two blocks running, the two blocks with the highest votes will move to a second vote, whereby the blocks receiving 50% +1 of the votes will be declared the winner.

11. Parliamentary Authority: Roberts Rules of Order, 12th Edition, shall govern this Convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these rules, the County Plan of Organization, and the State Plan of Organization. The Chair of the Convention is the final authority in all matters of Parliamentary procedure.

12. Proposed Plans of Organization or Amendments: Proposed amendments or changes to the Plan of Organization must be submitted to the Motions and Procedures Committee no less than 30 days prior to the Convention. Any terms in any proposed Plan or proposed amendments to any Plan that are inconsistent with the State Republican Party Plan of Organization may be ruled out of order and stricken by the Chair of the Motions and Procedures Committee or the Chair of the Convention prior to, or during, any discussion or other consideration of the proposed Plan or proposed amendment.

13. Resolutions: Proposed resolutions must be submitted to the Motions and Procedures Committee no less than 15 days prior to the Convention. All resolutions shall be no longer than 150 words in length. Resolutions regarding issues sufficiently addressed in the National and State Republican Party Platforms will be ruled out of order. Any terms in any resolution that is inconsistent with the State Republican Party Plan of Organization may be ruled out of order and stricken by the Chair of the Motions and Procedures Committee or the Chair of the Convention prior to, or during, any discussion or other consideration of the proposed Plan or proposed amendment.

14. **Demonstrations:** Any demonstrations or presentations prior to the voting for elected positions, other than traditional speeches, must have prior written approval from the County Republican Party Chair and the Convention Chair.
15. **Proxy Voting:** There shall be no proxy voting. Delegates casting a vote must be on the floor of the Convention at the time such vote is cast.
16. **Convention Guests:** Only Delegates will be allowed on the floor of the Convention to speak or vote. All Alternate Delegates and guests must remain seated in the section designated for guests. The Convention Chair has the sole authority to remove any alternate or guest for violation of these rules.
17. **Duration of Rules:** The fundamental Rules herein shall govern until new Rules are adopted at a subsequent Convention of the New Hanover County Republican Party.