

TO: County Party Chairs and Officers
FROM: Trav Robertson, Chair
DATE: January 26, 2020
SUBJECT: **2020 Precinct Reorganization and County Conventions**



I trust you are having a productive New Year! We have much work to do together in 2020.

This packet serves as a resource as we prepare for Precinct Reorganization on March 14, County Conventions March 14-31, and finally the Blue Palmetto Dinner and State Convention on May 29th and 30th.

We have worked hard to make this information as straightforward as possible. I know there will always be a few bumps along the way, so please reach out to our office directly if you have any problems preparing for your events. You can reach us on the phone at 803-799-7798. My email and personal number are also listed above and you can reach our Executive Director, Jay Parmley at jay@scdp.org. We're here to serve you and will be a partner throughout this process.

PRECINCT MEETING PUBLICITY FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY:

As you know, the state and county parties are responsible for helping to publicize the party organization and delegate selection process. We will help you with publicity, including providing a handout to be distributed at each polling location for the February 29, Presidential Primary. The handout will provide information about getting involved with the Democratic Party and provide precinct meeting and county convention information. The State Party will provide the handout for you to reproduce. Our hope is that this will bring an increased number of Democrats at your precinct meetings, and that you will put them to work as volunteers in your county.

Attached to this email are final instructions from the State Election Commission. In order to distribute handouts on February 29 volunteers must stand outside the polling locations as to not to interfere with the voting process. You should begin now to line up volunteers for this role and schedule them for shifts on Primary day. If you have a limited number of volunteers, we can work with you to determine which precincts would make the most sense to send volunteers to for the Presidential Primary.

This is a great way to put info about participation in the Democratic Party into the hands of Democratic Presidential Primary voters, and we believe it will pay off next fall.

Email Angela Clyburn at angela@scdp.org and let her know if you are going to provide volunteers to handout precinct information on the February 29 Presidential Primary so we can make sure we have your handout ready and to you.



PRECINCT MEETINGS:

Organizing Democrats across South Carolina for the 2020 elections will begin with **Precinct Reorganization**. These meetings will be **Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m.** Every county's precinct meetings must be held on this day and time. Please email to Angela Clyburn at the state party your list of precincts and their meeting places no later than **February 21, 2020**. Her email is angela@scdp.org.

Included in this packet is the information needed to run smooth and effective precinct meetings.

The Precinct sign-in sheet and Individual forms for each Precinct's officers will be mailed to you by February 14, 2020. We will use carbon forms for Precinct Officer reporting in each precinct. One of the copies will remain with the precinct president/secretary, one will be provided/remain with the county party and the final copy will be returned to the State Party by the County Party.

Public Notice of Your Precinct Meetings:

There is no state law that requires a public notice for Precinct Meetings but I ask that you promote these events as much as possible. Individuals can't run to be National Convention Delegates without attending Precinct Reorganization meetings so we want as many people in attendance as possible.

Determining the Number of Precinct Delegates to the County Convention:

Attached to this email is a list of each county with the precincts listed with the number of delegates each will have to the County Convention. These numbers are based on the turnout for the Democratic Primary in June 2018.

A county may double or triple the number of delegates from each precinct in order to increase the number of delegates to the county convention. For example, if Precinct A has one delegate, that number can be doubled (2 delegates) or tripled (3 delegates). If you choose this option, it **MUST** be done for ALL precincts in your county—you cannot double some and not others. Contact the state party office if you have questions.

Submission and Reporting of Precinct Officers:

- Since Precinct Meetings and County Conventions are all within a two-week window, you can return both your precinct meeting and county convention information together. **April 10** is the deadline for you to return all the precinct officer forms, sign in sheets and county convention forms to the state party office. We encourage you to submit any information you have as soon as possible. You don't have to wait until the April 10 deadline. We will tag precinct officers in the voter file for your convenience.

The Precinct Resource Guide has a checklist and includes a sample precinct agenda, job descriptions for precinct officers, and a precinct resolution form. Again Precinct Sign-in Sheets and Precinct Officers Reporting Forms will be mailed to you by February 14.

We will email a Resource Guide for County Conventions to you by Friday, January 31, 2020, and copies of forms for the County Convention will be mailed along with the Precinct Forms by February 14.



Public Notice of Your County Conventions:

Also, we want to be sure to publicly announce your county conventions in as many ways as possible. State law (Section 7-9-70) requires that “notices...must be published by the county committee, once a week for two consecutive weeks, not more than three nor less than two weeks, before the day in a newspaper having general circulation in the county.” Be sure to use your social media accounts, email lists, and mailing lists to let your folks know what we have going on.

Thank you for helping and working so diligently with such a tight schedule for precinct meetings and county conventions, especially just two weeks after our Presidential Primary.