

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND CREDENTIALS

The Committee on Rules and Credentials met on May 1, 2021, and recommends the adoption of the following rules for the conduct of the 2021 South Carolina Democratic Convention.

The Committee moves adoption of the Convention Rules.

2021 SOUTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION RULES

1. The 2021 SCDP Convention will be conducted remotely. The following rules are designed to address the limitations imposed by this circumstance.
2. The Platform and Resolutions Committee and the Rules and Credentials Committee made available on Tuesday, May 18 the opportunity for delegates and alternates to participate in an information and comment virtual session with regard to the Committee reports.
3. On any proposal which has been reviewed by a Committee of this Convention (for example the Committee Report on proposed resolutions) and which has been prepared for the delegates in writing and has been distributed in writing, it shall be in order for the Convention to adopt or reject the proposal without debate.
4. Election of State Party Officers will take place on Saturday, May 22. Candidates for Party office who have duly filed their intent to run at least 30 days prior to this convention and are in a contested election may have one nominating speech of not more than two minutes and two seconding speeches of not more than one minute each. Candidates who are unopposed may have a nominating speech of not more than two minutes; and no seconding speeches are necessary. Nominating and seconding speeches shall be pre-recorded and must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 20. Candidates in contested elections may speak for up to three minutes such speeches shall be live during the May 20 Saturday morning 9 a.m. session. Both nominations of candidates and their speeches shall be in alphabetical order.
5. Voting shall be conducted by secure online balloting and telephone following the instructions provided to delegates and alternates by mail and email. The Rules and Credentials Committee Report shall be put to a vote on Wednesday, May 19 from 3:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. The Platform and Resolutions Committee Report shall be put to a vote on Thursday, May 20 from 3:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. Voting for State Party officers shall occur on Saturday, May 22 from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.
6. Convention Officers shall be nominated by the State Chair and approved by the delegates and alternates during voting on Thursday, May 20.
7. The Convention Chair may, in the interest of efficiency and timeliness, temporarily interrupt the published agenda at any point.

2021 RULES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

PROPOSED SCDP Rule Change #1

The Rules and Credentials Committee met on Saturday, May 1 at 10 a.m. The following rule was approved and is included as part of the Rules and Credentials Committee report to the 2021 SCDP Convention.

The Committee moves adoption of Rule Change #1.

Current rule:

XII. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING RULE Any officer or committee member at any level in the Party violating these rules shall be requested by the State Executive Committee to provide his/her reasons for such violation. The State Executive Committee, in Executive Session, shall determine if the individual is to be removed from her/his position.

Proposed replacement:

XII. VIOLATION OF THESE RULES. If a group of Democrats believe that their county party, or an officer or committee member at any level, has taken an action in violation of these Rules or of SC election or ethics law, that action may be appealed to the State Executive Committee, provided that:

- All remedies that can be sought within the county must have been exhausted.
- Such appeal must be filed in writing, enumerating the reasons and evidence for the appeal.

A majority vote of the State Executive Committee is required to hear such an appeal. The State Executive Committee must establish its own procedure for handling appeals, which will become an appendix to these rules and may be amended by the committee only when no appeal is pending. If an appeal is heard, its disposition must be decided by majority vote of the members present.

Penalties, if imposed, are at the discretion of the State Committee and may include, but are not limited to, removal from office, referral back to the appropriate county party body, state party takeover of the county party, mandatory training for officers, etc. A county party or its officers failing to abide by the decision of the State Committee may be further sanctioned.

PROPOSED SCDP Rule Change #2

The Rules and Credentials Committee met on Saturday, May 1 at 10 a.m. The following rule was approved and is included as part of the Rules and Credentials Committee report to the 2021 SCDP Convention.

The Committee moves adoption of Rule Change #2.

New Section XIII: Headquarters and Property (renumber current section XIII to XIV)

At no point may any South Carolina Democratic Party Officer or any agent acting on behalf of the South Carolina Democratic Party use the real property located at 1929 Gadsden Street, 700 Calhoun Street and 708 Calhoun Street as collateral for mortgages, debt or credit without the approval of three-fourths of the Executive Council and two-thirds of the Executive Committee.

The Don and Carol Fowler Center, the permanent headquarters of the South Carolina Democratic Party located at 1929 Gadsden Street may only be sold if a two-thirds of the membership of the South Carolina Executive Council and a two-thirds of the membership of the Executive Committee vote to do so. Such vote may not be taken unless a legal agreement is in place to purchase another property, that in the opinion of the Committee, more adequately meets the needs of the South Carolina Democratic Party for its headquarters. A minimum of ninety percent of all proceeds from selling 1929 Gadsden Street must be used to pay for the new building.

Further, all documents relating to mortgages, debt or credit must be signed by the state party chair, secretary, and treasurer.

Carol Fowler
Co-Chair, Rules and Credentials Committee

Mel Hart
Co-Chair, Rules and Credentials Committee