

# **Nebraska Democratic Party 2020 County Convention Rules**

**Approved by SCC 1/18/20**

## **1. 2020 County Convention Committee**

- a. The Nebraska Democratic Party (NDP) shall oversee and assist county parties in the conduction of county conventions, which are the first step of the delegate selection process for the 2020 Democratic National Convention (DNC), by and through the 2020 NDP County Convention Committee (NDPCCC).
- b. The NDPCCC shall consist of the State Chair, the First and Second Associate Chairs, the representative of the County Chairs from the State Executive Committee, and the Chair and Associate Chair of each Congressional District Caucus as voting members. The Executive Director, the Communications Director, the Rules Committee Chair, and the State Convention Committee Chair shall be ex officio non-voting members. The Committee may add additional non-voting members as it sees fit. The State Chair shall serve as Chair of the NDPCCC, unless the Chair, with the approval of the NDPCCC, designates another member of the NDPCCC to serve as Chair.
- c. The NDPCCC shall do all acts reasonable and necessary to successfully conduct county conventions in all 93 counties, within the parameters of these County Convention Rules, the NDP Constitution & Bylaws, the 2020 Nebraska Delegate Selection Plan (DSP) as approved by the Democratic National Committee, and the county party Constitution and Bylaws.

## **2. County Convention Scheduling**

- a. Each county party shall hold a county convention between the dates of May 14<sup>th</sup> and May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- b. The county chair of each county party shall certify the date, time, and location of its county convention to the NDP no later than February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- c. Each county convention shall be held in a publicly accessible meeting space or facility. County parties shall take into account any religious observations or local events that could significantly affect participation, and shall select facilities of sufficient size to seat all registered Democrats

in the county that can reasonably be expected to attend county convention.

- d. At least seven days prior to the date of county convention, the county party shall cause to be published an official notice of the date, time, and place of the convention.
- e. Two or more counties may elect to hold a joint county convention after giving prior notice of such joint county convention to the State Executive Committee. If a joint county convention is held, county convention delegates for each county shall meet separately and no delegate may vote on officers, delegates, or other business of a county party other than the county where they reside.
- f. No county party may require any person to pay a cost or fee, either directly or indirectly, as a condition for participating in county convention.
- g. In cases where the NDPCCC finds a county without an active county party organization, or the refusal of the leadership of a county party to organize and conduct a county convention in compliance with these Rules, the NDPCCC shall do what is necessary to organize and conduct a county convention in such county.

### 3. Convention Delegate Registration

- a. All registered Democrats are eligible to be seated as a county convention delegate in the county (and legislative district) in which they reside and are registered to vote. Unregistered individuals, individuals registered with another political party and registered Nonpartisans may not participate in county conventions. For purposes of this rule, a voter's registration status shall be determined by confirming their party affiliation on the centralized voter registration list maintained by the Secretary of State.
- b. Each county convention delegate must fill out and sign a registration form certifying that they are a registered Democrat who resides in that county (and legislative district) and designating their presidential preference on the date of county convention. Each county party shall utilize the registration form created by the NDPCCC for all county convention delegates.
- c. A county party may elect to create a pre-registration system to assist in preparations for county convention, but may not require pre-registration as a condition of participation in county convention. All pre-registered delegates shall still be required to fill out and sign a registration form on the date of county convention as provided in Rule 3(b). Any county

electing to create a pre-registration system shall notify the NDP of its intention to do so as soon as practicable.

- d. A county party may not place an attendance cap on county convention for any reason, and shall seat all registered Democrats who are residents of the county (and legislative district) who appear on the date, time, and location designated for county convention as county convention delegates. All county convention delegates may participate fully in all county convention business.

#### 4. County Convention Procedures

- a. Each county convention shall convene no earlier than ten minutes after the designated start time, and any registered voter waiting in line to register at the designated start time shall be allowed to register before county convention can convene.
- b. The order of business for all county conventions shall be as follows, unless otherwise specifically provided in county party bylaws:
  - i. Call to Order
  - ii. Seating of Delegates
  - iii. Election of Convention Officers (at a minimum, a Convention Chair and Convention Secretary)
  - iv. Election of County Party Officers (County Chair, Associate Chair<sup>1</sup>, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other officers provided for by county party bylaws)
  - v. Election of State Convention Delegates and Alternates
  - vi. Other Business
- c. There shall be no non-public methods of voting used at any county convention. Voting shall be by voice vote, division of the house (standing or show of hands), roll call (by legislative district), or by signed written ballot. No electronic methods of tabulation shall be used, and any signed written ballots used shall be preserved by the Convention Secretary for possible inspection if necessary. Notwithstanding this section, a county party may apply to use a different public method is otherwise in compliance with these County Convention Rules, the NDP Constitution & Bylaws, the 2020 Nebraska DSP, and any DNC rules, provided such method is also approved by the NDPCCC in consultation with the NDP Rules Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> The Associate Chair shall be of the opposite gender of the Chair

- d. Election of Convention Officers shall be by division of the house (standing or show of hands), unless there is only one nominee, in which case voice vote shall suffice. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, the candidate with the lowest vote total shall be dropped and another vote will be held. This process will be repeated until a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
- e. In counties within a single legislative district, election of County Party Officers shall be by division of the house (standing or show of hands), unless there is only one nominee, in which case voice vote shall suffice. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, the candidate with the lowest vote total shall be dropped and another vote will be held. This process will be repeated until a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
- f. In counties with multiple legislative districts, election of County Party Officers shall be by roll call vote (by legislative district), unless there is only one nominee, in which case voice vote shall suffice. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, the candidate with the lowest vote total shall be dropped and another roll call vote will be held. This process will be repeated until a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
- g. Each county convention shall elect the number of state convention delegates and alternates apportioned to the county (and legislative district) by the NDP and allocated by presidential preference based off the county-wide results of the May 12<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary. The county convention delegates will caucus by legislative district (if applicable) and by presidential preference to elect the number of state convention delegates and alternates allocated to their preferred candidate. A separate election shall be conducted for each gender, unless one or more candidates are non-binary gender, in which case a single election shall be held, with the delegate or alternate positions awarded to the highest vote-getting candidates in order, alternating by gender except in the case of a non-binary gender candidate, until all delegate or alternate positions are filled.
- h. Within each legislative district and within each presidential preference, the county party shall ensure gender balance of state convention delegates and alternates within each delegation. For purposes of this rule, a delegation will be considered to be gender balanced if the variance of self-identified genders is not more than one. In the case of non-binary gender delegates, they shall not be counted in either the male or female category.
- i. A county convention may conduct other business as appropriate, including:
  - i. Adopting a county platform;
  - ii. Electing county central committee members;

- iii. Adopting resolutions to be presented to the Platform & Resolutions Committee at State Convention;
- iv. Providing a forum for Democratic candidates for office at the state or local level; or
- v. Transacting any other county party business

#### 5. State Convention Delegates

- a. For each individual elected as a state convention delegate or alternate, the individual (or if elected in absentia, a representative) shall fill out a certification of election form certifying that they were elected as a delegate or alternate to state convention and designating their presidential preference. Each county party shall utilize the certification of election form created by the NDPCCC for all state convention delegates and alternates.
- b. If any county convention does not elect individuals to serve for all allocated state convention delegate or alternate positions, or in the event of a vacancy due to the death, resignation, moving, or change in party affiliation of a delegate or alternate, the county party may fill such vacancies in the method provided pursuant to NDP Bylaw 1.1.13. Any delegates or alternates elected to fill a vacancy must reflect the presidential preference and gender of the vacancy, and must be elected from the appropriate legislative district.
- c. Each county party shall furnish all county convention registration forms, state convention certificate of election forms, and pre-registration forms (if applicable) to the NDP in the manner prescribed by the NDPCCC within 3 days following county convention.
- d. Failure to comply with these Rules may constitute grounds for the contest of the credentials of the county's delegates and alternates to state convention.

#### 6. Conflicts & Disputes

- a. In the event of any dispute, all matters will be resolved in accordance with these County Convention Rules, the NDP Constitution & Bylaws, the 2020 Nebraska DSP, and the county party Constitution and Bylaws.
- b. These County Convention Rules are intended to comply with all requirements of Nebraska state statutes governing political parties, and are to be interpreted as consistent with such statutes.

- c. These County Convention Rules are intended to comply with and implement all provisions of the NDP Constitution & Bylaws, the 2020 Nebraska DSP, and all Calls, Rules, and Regulations of the 2020 DNC (DNC Rules). In the event of any conflict between these Rules and the 2020 Nebraska DSP or any DNC Rules, these County Convention Rules shall be deemed amended to coincide with the 2020 Nebraska DSP and DNC Rules. Any portion of these County Convention Rules which does not so comply may be severed and the balance of these County Convention Rules shall remain valid.
  
- d. Any amendment or addition to these County Convention Rules may be made by the NDPCCC in consultation with the NDP Rules Committee and after approval of the State Central Committee or State Executive Committee.