2026 State Convention Minutes
Norfolk, Nebraska

- **Convention and party rules:**
    - **NDP Constitution and Bylaws**
    - **2026 State Convention Rules**

- **Draft 2026-2028 Platform:**
    - **Draft Platform**
    - We've held various in-person and online hearings on the platform over the past several months. The final hearing is Friday evening at the convention. Please review the Draft Platform ahead of the State Convention hearing and come prepared with any written suggested language changes.

- **Stay updated:**
    - We keep all the information you need for the convention in one place on our website: **https://nebraskademocrats.org/2026-state-and-county-conventions/**
    - Keep this link handy, it has the agenda and other key docs all online: **Linktree**

- **Dems Care:**
    - Bring items to donate to Bright Horizons, a local organization that provides resources to Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
        - **Bright Horizons Needed Items**

- **Submit a nomination for statewide officer positions (only the Chair, Vice Chair, and Chair of County Parties positions are up this year):**
    - Send an email about your intention to run to the chair of the Nominations Committee, Roger Morgan, at **nominations@nebraskademocrats.org**. The Nominations Committee will meet at 6:00 PM on Friday, April 24th, in the Veranda Room.
- **Run for a Caucus or Council leadership position:**
    - Contact the current Caucus or Council leadership to see what positions are open. You can find that information at: **https://nebraskademocrats.org/caucuses-councils/**
- **Submit a platform plank:**
    - Email **platform@nebraskademocrats.org**. You can view the **DRAFT 2024-2026 Platform** on the NDP website.
- **If I am not a Delegate or Alternate to the State Convention, can I still attend the State Convention and Caucus meetings?**
    - Yes, you may attend the State Convention. Only Delegates (or an Alternate filling in for a delegate) may vote during the State Convention proceedings (general sessions, Congressional District Caucuses, and Legislative District Caucuses). But you can observe the State Convention as a guest as long as you are a Democrat or an Independent. However, each Caucus and Council has their own requirements on who can be voting members. You MUST be a Democrat to vote in Caucus and Council meetings and abide by any other rules.
    - See Caucus rules here: **https://nebraskademocrats.org/caucuses-councils/**
- **How much does it cost to attend the State Convention?**
    - There is no cost to attend for elected delegates and alternates.
    - **There is a $40 dollar meal ticket you can purchase** if you are eating meals with us. Anyone planning to eat meals on site, including guests, must purchase a meal ticket.

- Guests who are Democrats and Independents are welcome to attend for free, but seating is limited. Everyone must register on-site, and party registration will be checked.

State Convention Schedule and Agenda
April 24-26, 2026

Friday, April 24 Agenda

- **Divots Conference Center,** 4200 W Norfolk Ave, Norfolk, NE 68701

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. / Divots Conference Center Lobby

- Registration: Get your Delegate badge, tote bag, and agenda packet

5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

- CD1 Informational Session and Credentials Committee Elections, **Carson Room**
- CD2 Informational Session and Credentials Committee Elections, **Divots Ballroom**
- CD3 Informational Session and Credentials Committee Elections, **Madison Room**

Agenda of Congressional District Information Sessions:

- CD Caucuses will fill vacancies on convention committees as needed (2 members per CD, gender balance not required).

- Note: All other business, including electing CD Chairs and Vice Chairs and SCC members, will take place during the CD Caucus meetings on Saturday.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

- Nebraska Young Democrats, **Divots Ballroom**
- Environment & Climate Council, **Madison Room**
- Nominations Committee, **Veranda Room**

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

- Rules Committee, **Carson Room**
- Platform Committee, **Dakota Room**

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

- Credentials Committee, **Veranda Room**

Saturday, April 25 Agenda

8:00 am – 1:00 pm / Divots Conference Center Lobby

- Registration: Get your Delegate badge, tote bag, and agenda packet.

8:00 am - 9:30 am / The Link

- Breakfast is available.

9:00 am - 9:50 am

- Women's Caucus, **Divots Ballroom**
- Nebraskans Experiencing Disabilities Caucus, **Veranda Room**
- Working Families Council, **Dakota Room**
- Secular Council, **Carson Room**

10:00 am - 10:50 am

- Training: Fundraising For Your Local Party's Future, **Divots Ballroom**
- Black Caucus, **Dakota Room**
- Native Caucus, **Veranda Room**
- Latino Caucus, **Carson Room**

11:00 am - 11:50 am

- Training: Building a Candidate Support Plan, **Divots Ballroom**
- Veterans & Military Affairs Council, **Veranda Room**
- Rural & Agriculture Council, **Dakota Room**
- Stonewall Democrats, **Carson Room**

12:00 pm - 12:50 pm

- Training: How Local Parties Prepare for GOTV, **Divots Ballroom**
- Meeting with Caucus/Council Chairs, **Veranda Room**

12:40 pm / The Link

- Lunch served in the Link, delegates grab their lunch to take into the Divots Ballroom

1:10 pm / Divots Ballroom

- State Convention Call to Order
    - State Chair Jane Kleeb

- Land Acknowledgement
    - Led by DNC Member Cynthia LaMere

- Pledge of Allegiance
    - Led by Veterans and Military Family Council Chair Jerry Johnson

- Opening Remarks
    - Madison County Democrats Co-Chairs Megan Bowles and Annie Salvatori

- **Election of Delegation Chairs and Vice Chairs**
    - Single Legislative District Counties will form delegations by county.
    - Multi-Legislative District Counties will form delegations by LD.
    - Each delegation elects a delegation chair and vice chair who will assist the convention when taking roll call votes.

- Report of the Committee on Credentials
    - Credentials Committee Co-Chairs Richard Register & Sharlette Schwenninger
    - 346 Delegates elected at County Conventions
        - 41 Alternates Elected
    - 255 Present
        - 18 Alternates Present
        - VOTE
            - Moved By Gina Frank, LD 26
            - Second by Linda Mead, LD 2
            - Outcome Passed by Acclamation

- Adoption of Convention Rules and Convention Agenda
    - Rules Committee Chair Ben Cass
        - VOTE Move to pass the State Convention Rules as presented.
            - Moved By Tom Havelka, LD
            - Second Trevor Fitzgerald, LD 21
            - Outcome Passed by Acclamation

        - 2026 State Convention Rules
        - VOTE Move to pass the State Convention Agenda as presented.
            - Moved By Joel Chiles, LD 16
            - Second Brian Murray, LD 21
        - Outcome Passed by Acclamation

- Report of Convention Committee and Election of State Convention Officers
    - Convention Committee Chair Anna Hernandez
        - VOTE Move
            - Chair, Senator George Dungan
            - Vice Chair, Senator Margo Juarez

- Secretary, Stephanie Matejka
- Sergeant of Arms, Jo-El Chiles
-
    - VOTE Move to Pass the Slate as Presented by Acclamation
        - Moved By Trevor Fitzgerald, LD 21
        - Second by Precious McKesson, LD 9
    - Outcome Passed by Acclamation

- Address of State Convention Chair Senator George Dungan

- Report of the Nominations Committee
    - Nominations Committee Chair Roger Morgan (Precious McKesson)
    - Nomination submitted For Chair
        - Jane Kleeb
    - Nomination Submitted for Vice Chair
        - Ronald Kaminski

        - VOTE
            - Moved By Joel Chiles, LD 16
            - Second by Brian Murray, LD 21
            - Outcome Passed by Acclamation

    - Nomination of Sarah Lash for Chair made by Ryan Nickel, LD 36
        - Second, Kalynn Mann, LD 45

        - Election of State Chair and Vice Chair
            - Candidate Speeches
            - Jane Kleeb
                - Nomination Ron Kaminski Spoke
                    - First Second: Tyrell McKinney
                    - Second Second: James Michael Bowers
            - Sarah Lash
                - Nomination Ryan Nickel Spoke
                    - First Second: Kayla Mann
                    - Second Second: None

- Move to recess for County Chairs meeting, followed by CD and LD Caucus Meetings, reconvene at 4:15 p.m.
    - Moved By Joel Chiles, LD 16
    - Second by Brian Murray, LD 21

    - Outcome Passed by Acclamation

2:00 pm - 2:50 p.m.

- County Chairs Meeting, **Dakota Room**
    - Election of Vice Chair of County Parties

3:00 pm

- CD1 Caucus, **Carson Room**
- CD2 Caucus, **Divots Ballroom**
- CD3 Caucus, **Dakota Room**

Agenda for CD Caucus Meetings includes:

- Elections of CD Chair and Vice Chair
- Upon conclusion of your CD Caucus, move to the Legislative District Caucuses

3:30 pm

- CD3 LDs, **Dakota Room**
- CD2 LDs, **Divots Ballroom**
- CD1 LDs, **Carson Room**
- LDs Split between Multiple CDs, **Veranda Room**
    - LD 3, LD 15, LD 16, LD 19, LD 23, LD 24, LD 30, LD 32, LD 36, LD 49

Agenda for LD Caucuses includes:

- Elections of State Central Committee Members (SCC) by LD
    - The LD Delegate and Alternate positions must be gender-balanced, with those identifying as non-binary (NB) counting as neither male nor female.
    - Each LD Caucus shall elect:
        - One (1) Female/NB Delegate
        - One (1) Male/NB Delegate
        - One (1) Female/NB Alternate
        - One (1) Male/NB Alternate
    - The term begins directly after the State Convention and lasts for two years.
    - The first SCC meeting will be held on Sunday morning.
    - SCC Delegate and Alternate results should be turned into the CD Chairs.

4:15 p.m. / Divots Ballroom

- Reconvene the entire Convention Body
- Monthly Donor Pitch
- Candidate Speeches
- Report of the CD Caucus Elections

    Congressional District Chairs & Vice Chairs

    SCC Delegates and Alternates

- Report of the Rules Committee
    Chair Ben Cass
    - VOTE: Rules Report

    Summary of Convention Proceedings: Bylaw Debates, Platform Adoption, and Organizational Updates

    Debate and Adoption of Bylaw Proposals and Convention Proceedings

    Division and Adoption of Proposals Two Through Seven

    The assembly began by separating the final portion of Proposal One—concerning digital access for county party transitions—from the rest to allow focused debate. This enabled the immediate consideration of Proposals Two through Seven, all of which were adopted by voice vote with no debate. These included provisions for:

    Including automatic delegates in the state convention quorum.

    Flexible vice chair elections.

    Setting a deadline for the state convention committee.

    Reducing the vacancy notice requirement for standing committees.

    Allowing ACOs and APCs to endorse non-Democratic candidates.

    Proposal Eight was noted as removed.

Debate on Proposal One (Bylaw 3.12): Digital Access for County Party Transitions

The core debate centered on Proposal One, specifically Bylaw 3.12, which mandates that county parties grant the Vice Chair of County Parties or their designee the ability to grant or revoke access to digital resources during leadership transitions.

Key Arguments

Opposition to the Mandate:

- Lori Steinke (LD9) and CJ King (Douglas County Chair) argued it undermines county autonomy and is a "solution in search of a problem."

- Tom Green warned it places undue responsibility on one individual.

- Guillermo (LB35) found the language divisive and urged collaborative revision.

Support for the Mandate:

- Jennifer Norris cited a case where a recalled chair locked out new leadership from social media.

- Ryan Griffin (Vice Chair of County Parties) reported six county parties in six months with no digital continuity, emphasizing this is about administrative access, not content control.

- Cynthia Lemire compared it to standard organizational practices.

- A speaker noted that caucuses and councils already follow similar rules.

Clarifications stressed that the provision does not give the State Executive Committee direct access and is strictly for transition purposes, with abuse constituting malfeasance.

Parliamentary Motions and Amendments

A motion to strike the last sentence of Proposal One failed.

3.10 and 3.11 were separated and adopted by majority vote.

Concerns about enforceability and clarity were raised, particularly around "shall" vs. "may" and the ambiguity of "their designee."

A motion to recommit to the Rules Committee was rejected after debate.

A motion to replace "shall" with "may" was voted on and failed (53 in favor, 73 opposed).

Final Amendment and Adoption

Gina Frank (LD29) proposed a compromise amendment: county parties must grant access to the Vice Chair of County Parties, their designee, or an individual jointly agreed upon by the county chair and vice chair.

A floor correction clarified "county party" to "county party chair."

The amendment was adopted by unanimous consent.

The amended Proposal One (Bylaw 3.12) passed by voice vote, establishing a balanced mechanism for digital continuity.

Adoption of Proposal 9: Definition of "Elected Office"

Proposal 9 introduced a new Bylaw 10 – Definitions, defining "elected office."

Tom Havalka argued it is harmless and clarifies that any elected position (e.g., union, condo board) qualifies, preventing ambiguity.

Trevor Fitzgerald opposed as unnecessary; Larissa supported it as a statute-based compromise.

Ryan Neckl (LD36) supported it, citing personal concern as a DSA-elected officer.

The proposal passed by voice vote.

Platform and Resolutions Committee Report

The committee, operating with only 13 active members due to vacancies and resignations, conducted three congressional district hearings and a final hearing.

Gina Frank (LD29) moved to adopt the platform with allowance for grammatical corrections; it passed by voice vote.

Resolutions Report Issue

A procedural error arose: the resolution presented was not the one previously referred back by a delegate.

The correct resolution, authored by Hannah Wabowski, Matt Hansen, and Chloe Fowler, was not the resubmitted version.

Larissa moved to table the report; a point of order advised withdrawal and resubmission after convention.

The issue was deferred, with apologies issued.

Final Resolutions and Announcements

A motion to table a resolution was withdrawn due to lack of support; the resolution was then approved by voice vote.

Logistics and Outreach

Food and drinks available 7–9 PM.

Block captain training to follow (5–10 minutes); attendees encouraged to eat first.

Free materials (blue dot signs, voter outreach tools) available in hallway; t-shirts for sale.

Attendees urged to:

- Become monthly donors (speak with Karen).

- Review DNC playbooks (especially pages 14–15 on voter engagement); full 200-page version online.

Next Day’s SCC Meeting

Organizational meeting only (9–10 AM), with breakfast.

No elections or CD caucuses; focus on onboarding new members.

Committee appointments at a later virtual SEC meeting.

SEC members unable to attend should notify the secretary or party affairs director.

Fundraiser Announcement

Michael Marchek (Nebraska Stonewall Democrats) announced their annual fundraiser on the 29th at Country Pines, Lincoln, featuring Malcolm Kenyatta as keynote.

Funds support queer youth attendance and Pride events across Nebraska.

Clarification on Laura’s Resolution

Not formally tabled; will be considered at the next virtual full SEC meeting.

Current Platform Resolutions Committee will review it before new members are seated.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

The chair emphasized grassroots organizing in the 192 days until Election Day.

Encouraged personal outreach: talk to neighbors, text, call, discuss voting plans.

Stressed mutual support within the party.

Convention adjourned with a motion "to meet at the call of the chair," with slim chance of reconvening before the primary.

Attendees invited to stay for brief block captain training on neighborhood organizing (contacting ~50 friendly doors to boost turnout).

- Moved By
- Second
- Outcome

- Final Report of the Rules Committee to the 2026 NDP State Con…

- Report of the Platform and Resolutions Committee

  Co-Chairs Quinton Corwin and Shannon Graves

  - VOTE: 2026-2028 NDP Platform
    - Moved By
    - Second
    - Outcome

- Block Captain Training

  Led by NDP Outreach Director Gina Frank

Reception / The Link

- Join us in The Link to mingle with State Convention Delegates. Food will be provided. More details to follow.


NEB
DEMS

Sunday, April 26 Agenda

9:00 am - 10:00 am / Breakfast served in the Link/organizational meeting

Additional Information

SCC Governing Documents: All of our SCC meeting documents, agendas, bylaws, and the training manual for SCC Delegates are on the NDP website:

Statewide Officers, Standing and Special Committee Chairs: Party operations happen in our committees, caucuses, councils, and county parties. Thank you to the Chairs, SCC Members, County Officers, and Committee Members for serving.

SCC Agenda Packets

- Archived Agenda Packets are under “2017-2025 Archive Meetings.”

SCC Resolutions

SCC Governing Documents:

- Governing Documents can be found under “Key Party Documents.”

SCC Meeting Facebook Event:

- We stream our SCC meetings on Facebook, except for the closed session portion.

SCC Delegate Training Manual

County Chair Manual

Block Captain Program

NDP Candidate Manual + Trainings: We now have a Candidate Manual (thank you, Sen. Blood and staff!) and a monthly candidate training series. We do not publish these on the website. Candidates must first complete the MOU—please email ronr@nebraskademocrats.org.

- Please share this link if you or someone you know is interested in running for office. Once a person completes this form, staff hold a meeting with the candidate, and then they get added to a listserv and trainings: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6kCBwlpu5YNR7e4ylUrA_776V5saFxCGMylV9l_sbIcCthw/viewform

Events: A reminder that we post our events and volunteer opportunities here: https://www.mobilize.us/nebdems/

- Gina leads the outreach plan. Please email her if you need a mobile office (e.g., materials for use at county fairs, parades, etc.) or if you require materials to be sent to you for meetings and events