



**Democratic Party of Wilson County NC  
Post Office Box 7034  
Wilson, North Carolina 27895**

**Minutes  
Annual Convention: March 19, 2022**

The Democratic Party of Wilson County met for its Annual Convention on Saturday, March 19, 2022, in a virtual format, using the ZOOM platform. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM, and Chair Jim Hawley welcomed participants and made opening remarks. He then read aloud the North Carolina Democratic Party's Statement of Inclusion, which expresses the open and inclusive policies of our party.

Chair Hawley asked that the tragedy in Ukraine be remembered in a Moment of Silence after which the delegates and guests joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance led by George Revis, a US veteran and chair of Taylors precinct. Following the Pledge, delegates and guests were greeted with video presentations from Dr. Bobbie Richardson, North Carolina Democratic Party Chair, and retiring Congressman G.K. Butterfield.

The NCDP Plan of Organization requires that a minimum of 50% plus 1 of the county's organized precincts be present in order to have a quorum. With each of the 19 organized precincts represented, a quorum was established and the convention moved into the business of the day.

Chair Hawley presented the Convention Agenda, the Special Rules for the Day and the Minutes of the April 2021 convention which had been previously distributed for review. Each, without objection, was declared approved.

The next order of business was the election of Wilson Democrats to serve as Delegates to the District Convention to be held in May. A copy of a Resolution on Election of District Convention Delegates was shared on screen, summarized and discussed. It was noted that Wilson could elect 73 Delegates to the District 1 Convention. The resolution granted the Board of the Wilson County Executive Committee the authority to appoint delegates to the Congressional District Convention, using the following sources to make delegate appointments

1. List of Delegates in attendance at this County Convention
2. Precinct Officers
3. County Members of the SEC
4. Individuals from Wilson County who have expressed interest in serving as District Delegates
5. List of County Convention Delegates not in attendance at the County Convention, but interested in attending the District Convention

Without objection, the Chair noted the approval of the resolution.

Next, the Convention elected representatives to serve on the three regional District Executive Committees: N C House of Representatives Executive Committee, the N C Senatorial District Executive Committee, and the Regional Judicial District Executive Committee. These committees exist to make recommendation to the party for vacancies that may occur during the elected terms of state representatives, senators, or judges. These

committees will be called together to deliberate and make recommendations on moving forward with the selection of another Democrat to complete the remainder of any vacant term. Wilson County elects two representatives each to serve on the three District Executive Committees.

The NC House District 24 Executive Committee has changed with the recent State redistricting. Previously, Wilson County comprised all of HD 24, and no regional Executive Committee was needed because the County Executive Committee (CEC) served in that role as it did when Representative Jean Farmer Butterfield resigned her seat in the NC House and now Representative Linda Cooper Suggs was elected by the CEC to fill her term. With the new district including parts of Nash County, it is necessary to create a new House District 24 Executive Committee. Dr. Carol White of Wilson Precinct R and Ann Martin of Wilson Precinct D agreed to serve if elected. Their names were presented to the Convention on our recommended slate, and Chair Hawley asked if there were any nominations from the floor. With no other nominations, Dr. White and Mrs. Martin were approved by acclamation.

Currently serving on our NC Senate Executive Committee are Randolph Sessoms, Chair of Springhill Precinct, and Zette McArn, of Wilson Precinct N. Both agreed to serve another term if elected. Their names were presented to the Convention on our recommended slate, and Chair Hawley asked if there were any nominations from the floor. With no other nominations, Mr. Sessoms and Ms. McArn were approved by acclamation.

Currently serving on our Judicial District Executive Committee are Cassandra Darden of Wilson Precinct N and Herbert T. Farmer of Wilson Precinct K. Both agreed to serve another term if elected. Their names were presented to the Convention on our recommended slate, and Chair Hawley asked if there were any nominations from the floor. With no other nominations, Mr. Farmer and Ms. Darden were approved by acclamation.

Chair Hawley then recognized Nancy Hawley, Co-President of the Democratic Women of Wilson, who will be coordinating the Party's Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Strategic Plan. Mrs. Hawley presented a brief overview of the goals and procedures for Voter Registration Drives, which she noted was Phase 1 of GOTV, and added that Phase 1 was officially starting today after the Convention with a Voter Registration Drive at Total Impact Church in Wilson, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, sponsored by Wilson's Precinct J. Voter registration is an on-going effort through the election cycles, and the County Party goal is to register every eligible voter in the county, regardless of party affiliation. There will be many opportunities throughout the election cycle for volunteering and involvement, including phone banking, text banking, emailing campaigns, in-person events, and canvassing. It will be extremely important for WilsonDems to work together and coordinate these activities. She stressed the importance of the various individuals, groups, and any registration drive planners to work with the Party as we manage a collaborative effort to keep everybody informed and up to date on activities. We plan to post all such drives on the Party's website calendar, for easy access to all. Details on planned activities can be emailed to [WilsonDems@Gmail.com](mailto:WilsonDems@Gmail.com), or shared with a phone call to Chair Hawley at 919-418-0953 or Ms. Hawley at 919-418-0967.

Following the completion of business, the Convention turned attention to hearing from local Democrats and many of the candidates running in the May 17 election. Delegates heard remarks from incumbents Senator Toby Fitch, Representative Linda Cooper-Suggs, and Justice Sam Ervin IV, all campaigning to retain their present seats. Senator Don Davis, who is running to replace retiring Congressman Butterfield, spoke virtually from his car on the way to yet another campaign event. Representative Raymond Smith, running for NC State Senate District 4, spoke to delegates live via Zoom. Former Chief Justice Cherie Beasley, running for the US Senate Seat now held by Richard Burr, spoke directly to

the convention virtually and delegates then viewed a video sent by Rett Newton, who is also running for the seat Burr now holds.

Of special interest were presentations by the candidates for the hotly contested local races for Wilson City Council. Councilman Derrick Creech, who is running for re-election in District 7, spoke to the Convention. Joyah Bulluck and Karen Wellington, both newcomers, are running against long time Councilman Logan Liles for the District 6 seat, while Bea Ethridge is running to replace Councilman Donald Evans in District 5. Johnnie Chestnut is challenging incumbent Councilman Derrick Creech for his seat in District 7. Each expressed the need for change in the Council makeup that will reflect more realistically the people being served.

Candidate Darnell Thoms introduced himself as the candidate running in County Commission District 6 against incumbent Chris Hill. Mr. Thoms also cited the need for representative change to address the diverse needs of his district.

The convention was closed out by a video presentation by Attorney General Josh Stein. AG Stein emphasized that this next election will determine the direction of our country and the reality of our democracy. He ended with his vote of confidence that with hard work and genuineness of purpose Democrats will prevail and the interests of all Americans will be considered and not just those of the few.

With no further business, Chair Hawley asked for a motion to adjourn. Ann Barnes of Black Creek Precinct so moved, the motion was seconded, and Convention members voted to adjourn at 12:20 PM.