



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

**Minutes
Annual Convention: April 17, 2021**

The Democratic Party of Wilson County met for its Annual Convention on Saturday, April 17, 2021, 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.

After a Moment of Silence and the recitation of our Pledge of Allegiance, we had video presentations from State leaders, including:

1. Dr. Bobbie Richardson, North Carolina Democratic Party Chair
2. Governor Roy Cooper
3. Attorney General Josh Stein

Following the video presentations, we had brief remarks from other county, city, regional, and state leaders, including:

1. Former Governor Jim Hunt
2. House District 24 Representative Linda Cooper-Suggs
3. Wilson City Councilman Derrick Creech
4. US House of Representatives North Carolina District 1 Representative G.K. Butterfield
5. Wilson County Commission Chair Rob Boyette
6. Democratic Women of Wilson County Co-President Beth Punte
7. Young Democrats of Wilson County Vice President Erick Jenkins

After these inspiring and motivating presentations, the Convention moved into its business session.

Chair Hawley read the Roll Call of Wilson County's 19 Organized Precincts, asking the chair or a delegate from each Precinct called to respond and document presence at the meeting. 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. Each of our 19 organized Precincts was represented at the Convention, so the official presence of a quorum was declared.

The Agenda for the day, which had been distributed previously electronically, was presented. Without objection, Chair Hawley declared the Agenda to be approved. Next, the Rules for the Day, also previously distributed electronically, were presented. Without objection, Chair

Hawley declared the Rules of the Day approved. The Minutes from our previous Convention held in April of 2020, also previously distributed, were then presented. Without objection, Chair Hawley declared the minutes approved. Following the approval of minutes from the last convention, Democratic Party Treasurer Tom Sallenger provided the treasurer's report.

The Convention then moved into the election of officers for the County Executive Committee. After a brief discussion of voting by raising hands on the ZOOM platform by clicking the Raise Hand icon on the screen or by pressing Star 9 on the phone for those using the dial-in option, First Vice Chair Joyah Bulluck moderated the event for the first election. First Vice Chair Bulluck asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Chair of the Democratic Party of Wilson County. Springhill Precinct Chair Randolph Sessoms was recognized, and nominated Jim Hawley. His name was placed on the screen, and First Vice Chair Bulluck asked three times for further nominations. Hearing none, she stated that a motion to close nominations and elect Mr. Hawley by acclamation would be in order. The motion was made and properly seconded. With no further discussion, First Vice Chair Bulluck asked delegates who approved the motion to raise their hands. Those votes were counted by ZOOM event co-hosts, serving as tellers. Hands were lowered, and then First Vice Chair Bulluck asked those delegations in opposition to the motion to raise their hands. After those votes were counted by tellers, First Vice Chair Bulluck announced that Mr. Hawley was elected as Chair of the Democratic Party of Wilson County. She then moved away from the moderator position, and Chair Hawley resumed.

Chair Hawley made the request for nominations for the position of First Vice Chair. Joyah Bulluck was nominated and her name was listed on the screen. Chair Hawley asked three times for other nominations. Hearing none, he requested a motion similar to the one made for the election of the chair. The motion was made and seconded. With no further discussion, Chair Hawley asked those delegates in favor of the motion to close nominations and elect Joyah Bulluck by acclamation to raise their hands. After the count by co-hosts/tellers, the hands were lowered, and then the request was made for those delegates in opposition to the motion to raise their hands. After the count, Chair Hawley announced that Joyah Bulluck was elected to serve another term as First Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Wilson County.

A similar process was followed for each of the other officers of the County Executive Committee. Ann Y. Barnes was re-elected as Second Vice Chair, Wayne Willingham was re-elected as Third Vice Chair, and Tom Sallenger was re-elected as Treasurer. Flor Herrera-Picasso was nominated for the office of Party Secretary (which was vacant due to an earlier resignation), and elected in a similar manner.

Attention was then turned to the matter of electing Party members to serve as Representatives from Wilson on the State Executive Committee (SEC). Wilson County was allocated a total of four SEC positions this year, and the Chair serves by mandate as one of them. SEC members must be evenly divided by gender. With Chair Hawley serving by mandate, that meant Wilson must elect one more male and two females to serve as SEC members. Chair Hawley opened the floor for nominations for the one male representative. Mr. Dewey Sheffield was recognized,

and nominated himself to serve an additional term. Mr. Sheffield was provided the opportunity to make a brief presentation. Chair Hawley asked for any other nominations. Dr. Ron Williams was recognized, and nominated himself to serve. He made a brief presentation on his own behalf. Chair Hawley then asked three times for any other nominations, and hearing none, proceeded to call for the vote. Delegates in support of Dr. Williams were asked to raise their hands. Those votes were counted by tellers. Hands were lowered, and then those delegates in support of Mr. Sheffield were asked to raise their hands. After counting was completed by the tellers, Chair Hawley announced that Dr. Ron Williams was elected to serve the term as SEC member.

Next, the floor was opened for nominations for the two female positions on the SEC. Three nominations were made: Joyah Bulluck, Ann Y. Barnes, and Patricia Uzzell. After the names were posted on the screen, Ann Barnes was recognized, and stated that she wished to withdraw her name from consideration. Chair Hawley then asked three times for other nominations. Hearing none, a motion to close nominations and elect Joyah Bulluck and Patricia Uzzell by acclamation was requested. The motion was made and seconded, and the voting by raising hands ensued.

The SEC members from Wilson County to serve for the 2021-2023 term were announced and congratulated:

Those members are:

1. Jim Hawley
2. Dr. Ron Williams
3. Joyah Bulluck
4. Patricia Uzzell

Following the election of SEC members, the task of electing Wilson Democrats to serve as Delegates to the District Convention to be held in May was considered. A copy of a Resolution on Election of District Convention Delegates was shared on screen. That resolution was summarized and discussed. It was noted that Wilson could elect 73 Delegates to the District 1 Convention. The resolution provided the Board of the Wilson County Executive Committee is granted the authority to appoint delegates to the Congressional District Convention, and shall use the following sources of information to make decision about delegate appointment:

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

After discussion and consideration of options to ensure that Wilson County is fully represented at the District 1 Convention in May, Chair Hawley called for those delegates in support of the resolution to raise their hands. After counting by the co-hosts, hands were lowered, and then those delegates in opposition to the resolution were asked to raise their hands. The resolution was supported unanimously, and District 1 Delegates will be appointed.

Announcements of upcoming events were made and Chair Hawley closed the meeting expressing appreciation to all delegates and participants who made the convention a success. He extended congratulations to the new officers.

Nancy Hawley, Co-President of DWWC, was recognized. She expressed a special thanks to First Vice Chair Joyah Bulluck for all her hard work organizing precincts, and extended thanks and congratulations to all who have agreed to serve the Democratic Party of Wilson County in any capacity.

With no further business, Chair Hawley adjourned the 2021 Wilson County Convention at 12:05 PM.