

**Beaufort County Republican Party Convention**  
**March 25, 2023**  
**3889 NC Hwy 92 E Bath, NC 27808**

\$612 raised for 50/50 and the winnings were donated back to the party.

Judge Jefferson Griffin spoke before the convention was called to order as he has multiple events to attend today.

Melinda Highers spoke on behalf of Susan Mills for NC GOP Vice Chair.

10:37am Chairwoman Carolyn Garris called the Beaufort County Convention to order.

10:38am Invocation by Jackie VanEssendelft

10:40am National Anthem performed by Nikki Selby

10:42am Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Frankie Waters

10:43am Representative Keith Kidwell introduced Judge Marion Warren as the Chairman of the Convention.

10:47am Officers of the convention are Michele Nix as parliamentarian, John Rebholz as timekeeper, McKeller Knox as secretary, Sergeant at Arms as Representative Keith Kidwell.

10:48am Senator Bill Cook was recognized by Chairman Judge Marion Warren. 3rd Congressional District Chairman Dave Wickersham was recognized. District credentials committee chair Stephanie Broughton is also in attendance. County Commissioners and county officials were recognized. Sheriff Scott Hammonds was recognized.

10:54am Initial credentials report was requested by Chairman Judge Warren. Anne Maatman provided an initial credentials report. There are 96 delegates present as an initial report with 14 alternates. There are 142 possible delegate seats.

Aurora: 4 delegate positions and 1 delegate appointed  
Belhaven: 6 delegate positions and 6 delegates appointed  
Chocowinity: 16 delegate positions and 11 delegates appointed  
Surry Bath: 10 delegate positions and 10 delegates appointed  
Woodard Pond: 8 delegate positions and 4 delegates appointed  
Old Ford: 6 delegate positions and 3 delegates appointed  
PS Jones: 3 delegate positions and 2 delegates appointed  
Washington 2: 4 delegate positions and 1 delegate appointed  
Gilead: 11 delegate positions and 11 delegates appointed  
Washington: 5 delegate positions and 5 delegates appointed

River Road: 9 delegate positions and 4 delegates appointed  
Washington Park: 5 delegate positions and 5 delegates appointed  
Blounts Creek: 4 delegate positions and 4 delegates appointed  
Hunters Bridge: 5 delegate positions and 3 delegates appointed  
Beaver Dam: 10 delegate positions and 10 delegates appointed  
Pantego: 5 delegate positions and 5 delegates appointed  
Edward: 4 delegate positions and 1 delegate appointed  
North Creek: 8 delegate positions and 4 delegates appointed  
Washington 4: 8 delegate positions and 8 delegates appointed  
Tranters Creek: 11 delegate positions and 5 delegates appointed

10:57am Chairman Judge Warren spoke to the attendees of the convention.

11:00am Chairman Judge Warren introduced Senator Bobby Hanig as the keynote speaker.

11:00am Senator Bobby Hanig gave the keynote speech.

11:20am Chairman Judge Warren spoke to the attendees of the convention regarding points that Senator Hanig made during his speech.

11:22am Chairman Judge Warren introduced Charles Dingee, who is running for State Auditor. First Vice Chair of Wake County GOP, Chairman of the 13th Congressional District, NCFRY 2022 Man of the Year Award

11:28am Chairman Judge Warren asked the Credentials Committee if they were prepared to provide their final report. Anne Maatman said they have a few questions and need a few people to meet at the Credentials Committee table.

11:28am Representative Kidwell addressed attendees and discussed what is happening in Raleigh and eastern North Carolina.

11:40am Anne Maatman provided a final report from the Credentials Committee. 103 delegates seated and 2 alternatives moved to delegates. Motion to seat two alternates by Representative Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity with a 2nd by Joanne Forrest, Old Ford. Ayes have it. Final report of 105 delegates.

Pinetown: 6 delegate positions and 2 delegates appointed

Surry Bath had 2 alternate delegates that were made delegates, bringing their total to 10 delegates seated.

11:45am Chairman Judge Warren introduced Jimmie Whichard as Rules Chairman who provided a report. Ayes have it. Rules of the convention are adopted.

11:47am Plan of Organization is on each table and discussion time offered.

Steve Rader, Washington 1, made a motion to delete "and no more than 21" page 11 under Elections, and the Executive Committee would be selected by volunteering and being nominated at the district convention

Representative Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity, against the Plan of Organization motion

Hood Richardson, Washington 4, is in support of the Plan of Organization motion

Jody Forrest, Old Ford, spoke against the Plan of Organization motion

Patricia Garrison, Pantego, spoke in support of the Plan of Organization motion

Carolyn Garriss, Woodard Pond, spoke against the Plan of Organization motion

2nd on the motion by Stan Detherage Washington 4

Joseph Knox, Old Ford call to question

Motion before body is to amend Plan of Organization

Point of Order by Hood Richardson, Chocowinity to ensure the remainder of the POO will be reviewed

Chair says Nays have the vote and the motion will not be passed.

Steve Rader, Washington 1, motioned to amend page 14 under number 6, Party Disloyalty discussing "party disloyalty" as he believes it goes against the state Plan of Organization.

Motion to keep all party disloyalty provisions aligned with the State Plan of Organization, not as in the proposed County Plan of Organization.

2nd by Joseph Knox, Old Ford

Rep. Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity spoke against the motion

Hood Richardson, Washington 4 spoke for the motion

Chairman Judge Warren warned that there will be NO personal direct confrontation during this debate.

Parliamentarian and Chairman Judge Warren said that a 1 minute direct reply to the question will be permitted.

Rep. Keith Kidwell said that he has never worked against a Republican and has never written a check for a Democrat

Point of Clarification Gail Breed, Washington 2

Jody Forrest, Old Ford spoke against the motion

Steve Rader, Washington 1 spoke for the motion

April Holloway, Belhaven spoke against the motion

Al Clemons, Tranters Creek call to question

Ayes have it with Call to Question

Nays have it

Hood Richardson, Washington 4 Call for Division

Chairman appointed the teller committee to tally the standing vote

Teller committee as appointed by Chairman: Melinda Highers, Donna Whartmon, Dana Berry, Jane Hauser

Ayes:

Jane Hauser, Surry Bath 44

John Rebholz, Gilead 44

Melinda Highers, Onslow County, guest 44  
Donna Whartmon, Surry Bath 44

Convention total is 105 delegates. Motion fails for motion of majority.  
Point of order by Steve Rader for counting abstaining votes. Motion denied.  
Point of Order by Hood Richardson Washington 4 that some delegates have left and you must be on the floor to vote.

Motion fails.

The Plan of Organization cannot be determined by voice vote. Tellers must individually report votes to the secretary.

Point of order regarding why the teller committee met privately.

Brief intercession to get lunch.

1:00pm Sergeant at Arms announced that recess is over and called for the return of the convention.

Steve Rader, Washington 1 made a Point of Order that a delegate left and an alternate is present.

Neutral district officer will be a head teller to report the count of any votes by tellers.

Teller, Jane Hauser said there were three gentlemen standing and she was questioning other tellers if they counted those men.

Head teller is Stephanie Broughton

John Rebholz 43 amended to 44 to add the secretary  
Jane Hosier 43 amended to 44 to add the secretary  
Melinda Highers 43 amended to 44 to add the secretary  
Donna Whartmon 42 amended to 43 to add the secretary

The motion fails.

Point of Order on page 13 discusses replacement if attendance is not met.

Jody Forrest, Old Ford, Chairman of Plan of Organization Committee explained on page 15 there is a section on filling vacancies.

No further motions on plan of organization.

Standing vote called for approving motions of the Plan of Organization.

Teller count as reported by Stephanie Broughton is 63, 72, 67, 68, 62. Invalid as counts are too inconsistent.

Change in credentials 3 people left at lunch where 3 alternates were made delegates.

After a standing vote in a designated area of the convention hall, there are 63 votes determined by each teller as reported by head teller Stephanie Broughton.

Chairman Judge Warren asked those who abstained to rise. There were 2 absentions as reported by the head teller.

Chairman Judge Warren requested those who wish to vote against the Plan of Organization as presented.

Head teller reported 30 voting against passing the Plan of Organization.

Vote is now closed.

Chairman Judge Warren said the Plan of Organization as presented is the Plan of Organization will be passed.

1:31pm Election of Officers will take place as a secret ballot as determined by the Chairman. Chairman Judge Warren discussed that secret ballots will take place and that candidates will have 2 minutes to address the convention.

### **Chairman nominations**

Rep. Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity nominated Carolyn Garris for Chair with a 2nd by Jody Forrest, Old Ford. Both spoke regarding the nomination.

Tony Keech, Washington Park nominated Tim Melton with a 2nd from Stan Deatheridge, Ward 4. Both spoke regarding the nomination.

Chairman Judge Warren confirmed there are no further nominations. Rep. Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity moved to close nominations with a 2nd by John Rebholz, Gilead. Ayes have it.

### **First Vice Chair nominations**

Stan Deatheridge, Washington 4 nominated Hood Richardson with a 2nd by Joyce Coward, Washington 1. Both spoke regarding the nomination.

Carolyn Garris, Woodard Pond nominated Paul Varcoe with a 2nd by Jody Forrest, Old Ford. Both spoke regarding the nomination.

Tandy Dunn, Tranters Creek made a motion to close nominations, John Rebholz, Gildead. Ayes have it.

**Second Vice Chair nominations**

Jackie Van Essendelft, River Road nominated Jody Forrest, Old Ford with a second by Carolyn Garris, Woodard Pond. Both spoke regarding the nomination.

Motion to close nomination by Rep. Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity with Jody Forrest as 2nd.

Someone said she wanted to add a nomination.

Point of order that there is already a motion to close. Chairman Judge Warren called to question. Ayes have it that the nomination is closed.

Rep. Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity, moved that Jody Forrest, Old Ford is 2nd Vice Chair by acclamation. Second by Joseph Knox, Old Ford

**Secretary nominations**

Jody Forrest, Old Ford nominated April Holloway, Belhaven as secretary and a 2nd by Vicki Kidwell, Chocowinity.

Rep. Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity moved to close nominations. 2nd Joseph Knox Old Ford. Ayes have it.

Rep. Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity moved to elect April Holloway, Belhaven as secretary by acclamation and 2nd by Joseph Knox, Old Ford. Ayes have it.

**Treasurer nominations**

Paul Varcoe, Blounts Creek nominated David French with a 2nd by Rep. Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity.

Rep. Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity motioned to close nominations with a 2nd by Jody Forrest, Old Ford. Ayes have it to close nominations.

Rep. Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity moved to nominate David French by acclamation with a 2nd by Gary Cerce, Washington 4.

Chairman Judge Warren asked all precinct chairs to rise. Vice chairs of precincts without a chair present were asked to rise. These 21 individuals are responsible for getting ballots to their precinct members. Chairman Judge Warren reviewed all duties of precinct chairs.

Tim Melton and Carolyn Garris are precinct chairs and were asked to meet at the table due to being candidates and precinct chairs. Chairman Judge Warren said that candidates have identified an alternative to get ballots for their precinct.

Surry Bath has alternates wish to be seated and they need to go to the credentials table with the credentials chair.

Chairman Judge Warren confirmed that neither 1st vice chair nominee is a precinct chair or a precinct vice chair that must take the place of the chair.

Chairman Judge Warren determined that a coin flip will determine who goes first in chair and vice chair speeches. All candidates confirmed the coin has two sides. By a coin flip, Carolyn Garris won and chose to speak second. By a coin flip, Paul Varcoe won and decided to go second.

Report from Credentials Committee chair, Anne Maatman said that one alternate has become a delegate. There are 103 delegates total.

2:13pm Chairman nominee Tim Melton spoke for two minutes.

2:16pm Chairman nominee Carolyn Garris spoke for two minutes.

2:19pm Vice chairman nominee Hood Richardson spoke for two minutes.

2:21 pm Vice chairman nominee Paul Varcoe spoke for two minutes.

2:22pm Chairman Judge Warren reminded each nominee they are permitted to appoint an observer to the vote count.

Chairman Judge Warren stated the alternate Sergeant at Arms is 3rd Congressional District Chairman Dave Wickersham.

Donna Henderson was requested by Carolyn Garris to be the poll observer.

Stand Deatheridge was requested by Hood Richardson and Tim Melton to be the poll observer.

Lawrence Berger was requested by Paul Varcoe to be the poll observer.

Chairman Judge Warren called precinct representatives to obtain ballots. Head teller has determined all ballots are collected and ballots will be counted in the foyer. Melinda Highers was requested to observe on behalf of the chair.

Credentials Committee report by Anne Maatman. One person from Gilead has left and an alternate is taking the place. Total is still at 103 delegates.

Chairman Judge Warren has been made aware that someone in the teller area has their cell phone. Chairman Judge Warren said he does not feel it is necessary and has asked the

Sergeant at Arms to find the individual, and require them to stop recording or taking pictures immediately. The individual is back on the delegate floor.

At 3:05pm the teller committee reported to the secretary and parliamentarian that according to ballots the Chair will be Carolyn Garris and the Vice Chair will be Paul Varcoe. Head Teller, Stephanie Broughton announced Carolyn Garris as the chair and Vice Chair as Paul Varcoe.

Chairman Judge Warren said that the executive committee election will now take place. Floor nominations are:

Anne Maatman, Pantego said names were collected during precinct meetings.

Rep. Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity moves that all nominations take place on the floor and a 2nd by Jody Forrest, Old Ford.

Chairman Judge Warren said that the motion for nominations from the floor has passed. Please note that all nominations were made and followed by a second.

Gail Breed  
Steve Rader  
Kelly Cox  
Patricia Garrison  
Jeff Johnson  
Ruth Cauvin  
Donna Workman  
Nancy Brickhouse  
Joseph Knox  
Delores Morgan  
John Rebholz  
Jimmie Whichard  
Jeffrey Trueblood  
Al Clem  
Rep. Keith Kidwell  
Donna Henderson  
Frankie Waters  
Jackie Van Essendelft  
Janet Knight  
Joyce Coward  
Scarlett Stokes  
Buzz Cayton  
Kathy Waters

Joseph Knox, Old Ford motion to close floor nominations 2nd by Jackie Van Essendelft. No discussion or debate. Ayes have it. Nominations are closed.



Rep. Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity made a motion to place names for the two individuals that you DO NOT want to be elected as delegates. 2nd by Joseph Knox, Old Ford.

Point of Order by Steve Rader that someone was removed from the committee and the chair met with the secretary and Chairman Carolyn Garris and it has been determined the person is eligible.

Head teller reported the two members that are NOT elected to the Beaufort County Executive Committee are Steve Rader and Buzz Cayton.

Joseph Knox, Old Ford moved that names written during precinct meetings for state and district conventions are accepted and that alternates can be moved up to meet the total for state and district conventions and a 2nd by Vicki Kidwell, Chocowinity.

Anne Maatman read the list of names for district convention delegates. Alternates for the district convention were also named.

Anne Maatman read the list of names for state convention delegates. There are no alternates.

Carolyn Garris, Woodard Pond motioned to accept the names with a 2nd by Rep. Keith Kidwell, Chocowinity.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Joseph Knox, Old Ford with 2nd by Vicki Kidwell, Chocowinity.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55pm.

Respectfully,

McKeller Knox