

Report of the 2024 NOTA Committee

Members of the LPNC Executive Committee reviewed the way that NOTA rules interacted with electronic voting software, and realized that there are potential issues in using electronic voting programs with our NOTA rules. A NOTA subcommittee was created to review Rule 10: None of the Above of the NC Convention Rules with the purpose of rewriting rules to ensure the principle of NOTA, the functionality of electronic voting, and the functionality of party organization were adhered to.

Proposal 1: Treat NOTA as a candidate

Rule 9: **None of the Above**

2. “None of the Above” (NOTA) will be considered another candidate on the ballot. ~~NOTA will always be an option on the ballot if it goes into multiple rounds.~~

~~3. For elections using Ranked Choice Voting, if NOTA is selected, there can be no other votes to candidates following NOTA. None of the Above will not be eliminated when tallying in Ranked Choice Voting.~~

Rationale: Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) with instant runoff is now the standard voting method for the election of officers in the LPNC, however part of the method is to remove the candidate that has the fewest number 1 choices at each round. That is often NOTA, and there is no provision in the software to keep NOTA in the voting until the last round.

NOTA will still be a candidate on every ballot, however with RCV there is only one ballot. Delegates casting ballots are now allowed to place NOTA on the ballot with other candidates and their ballot is not invalidated. All of these changes are consistent with the nature of the RCV method.

For: Daniel Cavender, Brad Hessel, John Underwood, Dee Watson

Against:

Proposal 2: Allow the respective body to fill NOTA vacancies.

Rule 9. **None of the Above**

1. Attending delegates to the Convention may vote for “None of the Above” (NOTA) for any position on the Executive Committee, or Judicial Committee. Should NOTA be selected for any Party positions, that position shall be declared vacant, and none of the the losing candidates for that position may be selected to fill the vacancy for that term of office. ~~If None of the Above is elected, that position shall remain unfilled. The Executive Committee may assign the duties of that position to any Party member, but the person assigned the duties of that position shall not be a member of the Executive Committee.~~

Rationale: NOTA has never won a party election, but if it ever does, then the current method of dealing with the vacancy would be problematic in that the vacancy cannot be filled. This could leave the party—for example—with no chair or no secretary for two years, which would be materially dysfunctional.

We believe that the intent behind NOTA is literally what the words say: that none of the candidates on the ballot should hold the office in question. Enabling the respective bodies—populated with individuals whose judgment and wisdom the convention delegates trust well enough to have just elected—to fill a position for which NOTA won the election (so long as it’s with someone other than any candidate who lost to NOTA) therefore not only addresses a potentially serious practical flaw but is perfectly congruent with NOTA in spirit.

The proposed change is also consistent with the wording of the national party bylaws.

For: Daniel Cavender, Brad Hessel, John Underwood, Dee Watson

Against: