

These Minutes Record the Proceedings of the

Libertarian Party of North Carolina Convention 2024

17 February 2024

Call to Order:

Chair Ryan Brown (Granville) called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Secretary Report

Ms. Dee Watson (Brunswick) reported there are currently 63 delegates, 0 alternates and 1 other member checked in. The voting threshold for one half is 32, two-thirds is 42, seven-eighths is 56.

Ms. Kate Shawhan (Carteret) moved “that in accordance with the LPNC Bylaws Article XII, Section 5, the convention designate any LPNC member present as a delegate.” The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Robert (Mac) Browder (Mecklenburg) moved we adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

State of the Party Address

Chair Ryan Brown (Granville) gave the State of the Party address.

Reading of Resolutions

Mr. Phillip Jacobson (Wake) read a resolution to appoint Mr. Robert Yates (Mecklenburg) as a member of The Advisory Senate. The resolution is Appendix A.

Platform Committee Report

Mr. Sean Haugh (Durham) presented the Platform Committee Report. The report is Appendix B.

Mr. Haugh presented the first committee proposal on Education. Mr. Brad Hessel (Wake) moved to amend the committee's proposal to insert a second sentence "Where taxpayer dollars are allocated to education, the disposition of each student's share should be determined by that student's family." The motion was seconded and passed on voice vote. The plank was debated and after debate ceased the amended proposal passed on voice vote.

Mr. Haugh presented the second committee proposal on Recording Law Enforcement. The body voted to consider the amendment on voice vote. Ms. Barbara Howe (Granville) moved to remove "who appears in the footage". The body voted to consider the amendment on voice vote. After debate the body passed the amendment on voice vote. Mr. Mike Davis (Alamance) made a motion to split the proposal into "Body Camera Records" and "Public Recordings". The motion passed (Yes 29, No 22). After debate ceased the body voted on the two amendments.

Body Camera Records

Police body camera records should be available upon request to any person.

Passed (Yes 43, No 9)

Recording in Public

Individuals enjoy an absolute right to record anything in any public space with photo, sound, video or any other means, including but not limited to recording law enforcement.

Passed on voice vote.

Mr. Haugh presented the third committee proposal on Succession. The body voted to consider the amendment on voice vote. After debate expired, a vote was taken to consider a vote on the proposal. Consideration of the proposal passed (Yes 47, No 6). The amendment was voted on, and failed (Yes 13, No 41).

Mr. Eric Rowell (Mecklenburg) moved to amend the takings plank to add "The LPNC calls on North Carolina State government to close the equitable sharing loophole, and prohibit local law enforcement in North Carolina from participating in any seizure that is not pursuant to state law." The motion passed without objection.

At 11:40 am. Mr. Jhon Underwood (Wake) moved to adjourn until 1:30 pm. The motion passed without objection.

Call to Order:

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

Secretary Report

Ms. Watson reported there are currently 66 delegates checked in. The voting threshold for one half is 34, two-thirds is 44, seven-eighths is 58.

Debate and Voting on Resolutions

Mr. Jacobson moved to adopt the resolution to appoint Mr. Yates as a member of The Advisory Senate. The resolution is Appendix A. The motion passed on voice vote.

NOTA Report

Ms. Watson moved that we suspend the rules and move the NOTA report prior to elections. The motion passed without objection.

Mr. Daniel Cavender (Davidson) presented the NOTA Committee report. The report is Appendix C. Mr. Cavender moved to pass the first proposal. The motion passed on a hand vote. Mr. Cavender moved to pass the second proposal. The motion passed on a hand vote.

Elections

Libertarian National Convention (LNC) Delegates

The following members were nominated to be LNC delegates: Sarah Brady, Bob Derr, Dee Watson, Daniel Johnson, Rob Yates, Daniel Cavender, William Wells, Mac Browder, Kate Shawhan, Nick Taylor, Andrew Johnson, Stephen Sumner, John Underwood, Steven Feldman, Phil Jacobson, Barbara Howe, Ryan Brown, Travis Ritenour, Susan Hogarth, Eric Parker, Michael Munger, Brad Hessel, Angela Humphries, Steven J DiFiore II, Carl Carter, Sean Acton, Michael Oakes, Jacob Stewart, Ed George, Bob Drach, Tom Watercott, J Stratton Lobdell, Mike Ross, Ray Ubinger, Sean Haugh, Chris Humphries, Ethen Ware, and Chris Sessions. Election results are found in Appendix D.

Mr. Haugh made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ethan Ware as the last alternate to the LNC convention. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Judicial Committee

Chair Brown called for nominations to the LPNC Judicial Committee. Mr. Jacobson nominated Mr. Kenneth Penkowski (Wake). Ms. Watson nominated Mr. Phil Jacobson. Mr. Cavender nominated Mr. David Speight (Davidson). Mr. Mike Ross (Gaston) nominated Mr. Stephen Sumner (Duplin) and Ms. Sarah Brady (Johnston). Mr. Browder moved to suspend the rules and elect all 5 humans nominated to the Judicial Committee. The motion passed without objection.

Presidential Electors

Brad Hessel moved to adopt the following list of presidential electors by acclamation.

David Speight – At Large

Kate Shawhan – At Large

Eric Parker – First Alternate

Nick Taylor – Congressional District 1

Brad Hessel – Congressional District 2

Stephen Sumner – Congressional District 3

Sean Haugh – Congressional District 4

Thomas Watercott – Congressional District 5

Daniel Cavender – Congressional District 6

Daniel Johnson – Congressional District 7

Brandee Kriutzfield – Congressional District 8

Mike Davis – Congressional District 9

Steve Feldman – Congressional District 10

Andrew Johnson – Congressional District 11

Stephen DiFiore – Congressional District 12

Sarah Brady – Congressional District 13

Robert Browder – Congressional District 14

The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Mr. Underwood moved to allow the LPNC EC to appoint vacancies for presidential electors. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Other Business

Chair Brown called for other business. No other business was brought to the floor.

Mr. Browder moved to adjourn sine die at 3:00 pm. The motion passed without objection.

Appendix A

Resolution of the 2024 State Convention of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina (LPNC)

Whereas: The LPNC Bylaws state:

Article VIII. Advisory Senate

The Advisory Senate shall be an honorary council consisting of those Executive Committee members or other officers who have completed their terms of office, those who have completed a federal or statewide campaign as Libertarian nominees, or those who have been appointed Senators by the Party in Convention, and who remain members of the Party in good standing.

Whereas: Rob Yates, a member in good standing of LPNC has, as LPNC Communications Director, performed many services for the party, to include, but not limited to: developing the Communications Division itself, re-establishing and publishing the State Newsletter, soliciting, writing and publishing many articles and Issue Papers, working to upgrade the content of the party web site, and developing a series of podcasts for the party on a number of issues.

Be it resolved that Rob Yates is appointed by the delegates as a member of the LPNC Advisory Senate.

Submitted by
Phil Jacobson
Brad Hessel
Sean Haugh
Angela Humphries

Appendix B

Libertarian Party of North Carolina

Report to the 2024 LPNC State Convention of the Adjunct Platform Committee

The 2024 Platform Committee has three proposals, all of which were approved by the committee members without objection.

Committee Members: Sean Haugh (Chair), Mac Browder, Phil Jacobson, Stephen Sumner. Special thanks to Angela Humphries for her input on the Education plank.

Proposal 1: Education

(Revision of current plank.)

Current: The LPNC supports the separation of school and state. Where the state does fund education, that funding should be allocated to students, not systems. Parents should have full control over how their children are educated.

Proposed: The LPNC supports the separation of school and state. Parents should have full control over how their children are educated.

Rationale: The General Assembly passed legislation implementing funding for students, not systems last year, so the second sentence in this plank is no longer necessary.

Proposal 2: Recording Law Enforcement

(New plank to be placed after "The Police.")

Police body camera records should be available upon request to any person who appears in the footage. Also, individuals enjoy an absolute right to record anything in any public space with photo, sound, video or any other means, including but not limited to recording law enforcement.

Rationale: LPNC members have become involved in several causes over the last two years which would be greatly helped if these principles had been followed. New laws shielding law enforcement from public scrutiny, including taking away one's right to film the police, continue to be proposed and must be stopped.

Proposal 3: Secession

(New plank to be placed after "Free Association.")

The LPNC recognizes the right to peaceful political secession. This includes the right to secession by political entities, private groups, or individuals. Exercise of this right, like the exercise of all other rights, does not remove legal and moral obligations not to violate the rights of others.

Rationale: Self government is a root principle of Libertarianism, which all people have the right to exercise. People also have the absolute right of freedom of association, which allows them to join or leave governments according to their own needs.

Appendix C

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 to review Rule 10: None of the Above of the NC Convention Rules was created with the purpose of rewriting rules to ensure both 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:

Appendix C (continued)

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:

Appendix D

LNC Delegate Election

| Candidates | First | Preferences |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Mike Ross | 49 | Elected |
| Rob Yates | 48 | Elected |
| Ryan Brown | 47 | Elected |
| Dee Watson | 43 | Elected |
| Angela Humphries | 43 | Elected |
| Barbara Howe | 42 | Elected |
| Brad Hessel | 42 | Elected |
| Susan Hogarth | 41 | Elected |
| Mac Browder | 37 | Elected |
| Nick Taylor | 37 | Elected |
| Stephen Sumner | 36 | Elected |
| Daniel Cavender | 35 | Elected |
| Steven J DiFiore II | 35 | Elected |
| Bob Derr | 34 | Elected |
| Travis Ritenour | 32 | Elected |
| Michael Munger | 32 | Elected |
| Sean Acton | 31 | Elected |
| Michael Oakes | 30 | Elected |
| Kate Shawhan | 29 | Elected |
| Andrew Johnson | 29 | Elected |
| Bob Drach | 28 | Elected |
| William Wells | 27 | Elected |
| Sarah Brady | 26 | Elected |
| Steven Feldman | 26 | Elected |
| Ray Ubinger | 25 | Elected |
| Eric Parker | 23 | |
| Tom Watercott | 23 | Elected |
| Daniel Johnson | 21 | |
| Carl Carter | 19 | |
| Ed George | 18 | |
| Jacob Stewart | 17 | |
| J Stratton Lobdell (A) | 12 | |
| Sean Haugh (A) | 9 | |
| Phil Jacobson (A) | 7 | |
| John Underwood (A) | 5 | |
| Chris Humphries (A) | 5 | |
| Chris Sessions (A) | 5 | |
| NOTA1 | 5 | |

| | |
|------------------|----|
| NOTA2 | 4 |
| Ethen Ware (A) | 3 |
| NOTA3 | 3 |
| NOTA4 | 3 |
| NOTA5 | 2 |
| NOTA6 | 2 |
| NOTA7 | 2 |
| NOTA8 | 2 |
| NOTA9 | 2 |
| NOTA10 | 2 |
| NOTA12 | 1 |
| NOTA13 | 1 |
| NOTA14 | 1 |
| NOTA15 | 1 |
| NOTA16 | 1 |
| NOTA17 | 1 |
| NOTA18 | 1 |
| NOTA19 | 1 |
| NOTA20 | 1 |
| NOTA21 | 1 |
| NOTA22 | 1 |
| NOTA23 | 1 |
| NOTA24 | 1 |
| NOTA25 | 1 |
| NOTA26 | 1 |
| Non-transferable | |
| Totals | 61 |