



Republican Party of Virginia

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State Central Committee Meeting September 7, 2019

The regular meeting of the State Central Committee of the Republican Party of Virginia was held at the Independence Golf Course, Midlothian, VA, on September 7, 2019. Chairman Jack Wilson called the meeting to order at 10:16am. Secretary Jill Cook was present.

The invocation was given by Jean Gannon.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Watson.
The Republican Creed was read by Carey Allen.

The Chair appointed Jennifer Brown, Dennis Free and Bill Curtis to the proxy committee.

The following members attended in person:

Jack Wilson	Wendell Walker	Susan Lascolette
Mike Thomas	Heather Stefl	Dewey McDonnell
Morton Blackwell	Russ Wright	Charlie Keller
Jill Cook	Larry Kile	Sandy Liddy Bourne
John Selph	Mark Daniel	David Foster
Chris Marston	Carol Dawson	Zack Thompson
Bob Watson	Jeff Ryer	Susan Edwards
Dennis Free	Carolyn Weems	Mark Sell
Jennifer Lee	Bill Curtis	Julie Williams
Ben Slone	Wesley Edwards	Mike Feuz
Carey Allen	Steve Trent	Richard McCarty
Melvin Adams	Carole de Triquet	Ryan Rauner
Jennifer Brown	Bill Coburn	Tyler Perkins
Ben Slone	E Janet Riddick	Cole Trower
Adam Tolbert	Renee Maxey	Linda Bartlett
Andrew Nicholson	Ed Yensho	Marie Quinn
Courtney Britt	Will Kirk	David Suetterlein
Mary Franklin	Steve "Doc" Troxel	
Amanda Batten	David Ross	

The report of the Proxy Committee was accepted. Eleven written and one electronic proxy were reported and found in order.

One written proxy arrived after the report was given.

Wendell Walker departed early and was represented by proxy Donald Williams for the remainder of the meeting.

The following members attended by proxy:

Paul Prados – proxy held by Melissa Beaudoin
Nancy Dye – proxy held by Jean Gannon
Barbara Tabb – proxy held by Carolyn Pruett
Angela Swygert – proxy held by Nicholas Profit
Nancy Rodland – proxy held by Carolyn Cay
Travis Witt – proxy held by Sandy Adams
Nate Boyer – proxy held by Brandon Butler
Joseph Sonsmith – proxy held by Mary Beth Swemba
Jeffrey Adams – Veronica Shihoski
Anne Fitzgerald – proxy held by Charlie Nave
Mark Hile – proxy held by Nancy Smith
Caleb Cruet – proxy held by Kyle Cruet
Erika Dyer – proxy held by Andrew Komornik
Wendell Walker – proxy held by Donald Williams

The Chair recognized Delegate Lee Ware, who briefly addressed the Committee.

The minutes of the June 22, 2019 meeting were approved.

The Chair recognized Thomas Speciale, who addressed the Committee announcing his candidacy for US Senate.

Chairman's Report

The Chair reported on the Trump Victory program. Field staff is in place and is focusing on voter registration drives, principally in the 5th, 6th, 9th, and parts of the 11th Congressional Districts.

The Chair reported on the RNC quarterly national meeting in Charleston. A new program called Win-Red, to counter Act-Blue, will focus on small-donor dollars. Virginia may be one of the first states to get the program. The Chair reported that Virginia is participating in RNC's GROW program, through which RNC makes \$50,000 grants to state parties to implement best practices for state party committees.

The Chair recognized Morton Blackwell, who delivered the National Committeeman's Report.

Thomas Turner moved to reconvene in executive session for the purpose of discussing finances and strategy. The motion carried by voice vote.

The Committee convened in executive session at 10:48am.

The Committee reconvened at 11:28am, ending the executive session.

Chris Marston moved to certify that the topics discussed in executive session were limited to financial matters and strategy; the motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on National Delegate Selection

Sandy Liddy Bourne presented the report, as follows:

The committee convened by conference call over the months of July and August to determine a procedure for electing Delegates to the National Convention at the RPV State Convention for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the President of the United States. This procedure is for use at the State Convention to elect the At Large Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention of the Republican National Committee. At this time, we anticipate electing 12 Delegates and 12 Alternates.

The RPV Chairman and the National Committeeman and National Committee Woman will automatically be Delegates with respect to their positions on the Republican National Committee.

- 1. This procedure will not interfere with the Congressional District elections. A candidate may apply to run for election at the District level or at the State level, but not both.*
- 2. The application will clearly state an estimated cost to attend the National Convention, including lodging and travel that the candidates understand the expense of the undertaking. It will also clearly state that neither the RNC nor RPV will reimburse or otherwise provide funds to the delegates to attend the National Convention. The Delegates are fully responsible for covering all costs to attend the National Convention.*
- 3. A candidate for the At Large Delegate must submit a petition with 125 signatures from their Congressional District that is notarized in accordance with Virginia statutes on elections.*
- 4. A filing fee of \$250.00 is required to be with the application and paid to the RPV to cover the administrative costs of the election.*
- 5. RPV will determine a date certain for the application to be received for consideration of candidacy. Postmarks will not govern this deadline.*
- 6. Ballot position will be determined by the order of arrival. First arrived is first on the ballot.*
- 7. A list of candidates and their contact information, websites, twitter handles and social media addresses will be compiled by RPV and sent to the delegates for consideration. A list of delegates WILL NOT be sent to the candidates.*
- 8. The voting procedure will be a straight vote for 12 Delegates and 12 Alternates. The top 24 will win in descending order. Should there be a tie, a random competition with a vessel and drawing of straws will determine the winner. Short straw wins.*
- 9. The method of binding the delegates for the first ballot at the convention is the winner takes all.*

The committee proposes this procedure to the SCC for adoption.

Steve Trent moved the adoption of the report.

Jeff Ryer moved to amend the report by striking out the last sentence in numbered paragraph 8 and inserting in its place *"Ties will be broken by drawing of lots."* The amendment passed by voice vote.

David Suetterlein moved to amend the report by striking from numbered paragraph #3 *"from their Congressional District"*. The amendment carried by voice vote.

Jeff Ryer moved to amend the report by inserting a second sentence at the end of numbered paragraph #6. *"Should multiple filings arrive at the same time, order will be determined by drawing of lots."* The amendment carried by voice vote.

Richard McCarty moved to amend the report by striking out the last sentence in paragraph #1. The amendment failed by voice vote.

The motion to adopt the report, as amended, passed by voice vote.

Appeal of General Counsel Ruling Relating to Signature Requirements

The Chair's request that the appeal be postponed until after consideration of the Party Plan amendments was granted by unanimous consent.

Party Plan Amendments

The Chair recognized Mike Thomas, chair of the Party Plan Committee, to offer the 9 amendments recommended by the Committee for which notice was provided in the call of the meeting pursuant to Article XI of the Plan.

Amendment #1: Signatures for Removals and Appeals

Amend Article II by adding a new paragraph 27, as follows:

27. "Signed by" shall mean, for purposes of Article VII, Section C, and Article X, Section B, accompanied by one or more pages of original signatures in ink, or evidence of electronic signatures consistent with the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, Code of Virginia, section 59.1-479 et seq. For purposes of Article VII, Section C, a copy of the original signatures in ink or evidence of the electronic signatures shall be provided as part of the required notice.

On behalf of the Committee, Mike Thomas moved the adoption of the Amendment #1.

Bob Watson moved to amend Amendment #1 by striking the final sentence and inserting in its place *"For purposes of Article VII, Section C, a list of the members of the committee who signed the charges shall be provided to the member who is the subject of the charges as part of the notice to such member, and copies of the original signatures in ink and/or evidence of the electronic signatures shall be provided to such member (i) within a reasonable time upon his or her request and/or (ii) at such time as he or she appears and defends himself or herself."*

Jeff Ryer moved to postpone further consideration to the December meeting; the motion carried by voice vote.

Amendments #2 & #3: Ranked Choice Voting

Mike Thomas' request that Amendments #2 and #3 be considered together was granted by unanimous consent.

Amendment #2

Amend Article II by adding a new paragraph 27, as follows:

27. "Ranked choice voting" shall mean a system of election in which each vote ranks candidates in order of preference (first, second, third, etc.) and ballots are tabulated by sequentially identifying the candidate with the least support, eliminating that candidate, and transferring those votes to the next-ranked candidate on each ballot, until there are only as many candidates left as seats available.

Amendment #3

Amend Article VIII Mass Meeting by adding a new Section P, as follows:

SECTION P. Ranked Choice Voting If and only if an official committee includes in a call the use of ranked choice voting, then the Mass Meeting, Party Canvass, or Convention must use ranked choice voting.

Amendments #2 and #3 passed on a counted rising vote of 56-11.

Amendment #4: Reading of the Call

Amend Article VIII, Section A. paragraph 7 as follows:

A Mass Meeting or Convention may ~~by unanimous consent~~ dispense with the reading of the call.

Andrew Nicholson moved to amend Amendment #4 to insert "by a two-thirds vote" in place of the text proposed to be stricken. The amendment failed by voice vote.

The previous question having been ordered, Amendment #4 was adopted by voice vote.

Amendment #5: Model Calls

Amend Article VIII, Section A. paragraph 8 as follows:

Strike out the existing paragraph and insert in its place:

The State Central Committee shall adopt, and from time to time amend, recommended call forms, including all required provisions and identifying optional provisions. Recommended call forms shall be appended to the Party Plan but shall not be a part of the Plan.

Mike Thomas moved the adoption of Amendment #5.

Amendment #5 failed on a counted rising vote 47-19 (passage requiring the votes of three-quarters of the members present).

Having voted on the prevailing side, Jeff Ryer moved to reconsider the vote by which Amendment #5 failed; the motion carried by voice vote.

By unanimous consent, Jeff Ryer's request that reconsideration be postponed to the December meeting was granted.

Amendment #6: Changing a Method of Nomination

Amend Article VIII, Section A. by adding a new paragraph 11 as follows:

Once a call has been issued, the method of nomination may only be changed until the deadline to notify the State Board of Elections of the selection of a primary pursuant to section 24.2-516, or its successor provision.

Mike Thomas moved the adoption of Amendment #6.

Dave Foster moved to amend Amendment #6 by striking out "only be changed until" and inserting in its place "not be changed after". The amendment passed by voice.

Chris Marston moved to amend Amendment #6 by a striking out the entire text and inserting in its place "Once a call has been issued, the method of nomination cannot be changed."

Jeff Ryer proposed a secondary amendment to strike out "issued" and insert "published" in the amendment.

Chris Marston moved to refer Amendment #6 and the adhering amendments back to the Party Plan Committee with instructions to report at the December meeting; the motion carried by voice vote.

Amendment #7: Military Delegates

Amend Article VIII, Sections F and H:

In Article VIII, Section F, strike out the second paragraph:

~~For the purposes of, and limited to, determining the Republican Party Voting strength of a Military Delegation at a Party convention called to nominate a candidate for election to a public office, such Voting Strength shall be the average percentage of the Republican vote in the immediately preceding Gubernatorial and Presidential elections among all units and portions of units comprising the convention multiplied by the total number of active duty military absentee votes cast in such units and portions of units in the same Gubernatorial and Presidential elections (number of military absentee ballots cast can be found from your local registrar using the code 6A).~~

In Article VIII, Section H, paragraph 6, strike out subparagraph a:

~~a. The provisions of this Paragraph 6 of Section H shall remain in force until such time as the State Central Committee determines Department of Defense regulations no longer inhibit active duty military personnel from standing for election to become a delegate to a Convention.~~

In Article VIII Section H, strike out paragraph 7 and insert in its place:

Military Members who are certified as delegates pursuant to paragraph 6 that are unable to attend the convention in person due to obligations of their official military orders, shall have their votes cast within their unit delegation according to candidate preference ballots. Candidate preference ballots shall list the Military Members rank order preference among candidates (i.e., first choice, second choice, third choice, etc.). Their votes shall be cast for the highest ranked choice candidate who remains eligible to receive a vote in a particular round of voting. Candidate preference ballots shall be made available no later than twenty (20) days prior to the convention and returned no later than seven (7) days prior to the convention.

Jeff Ryer moved the adoption of Amendment #7.

John Selph moved to amend Amendment #7 by striking “no later than” and inserting in its place “not less than”. The amendment was adopted by voice vote.

Amendment #7, as amended, was adopted by voice vote.

Amendment #8: General Counsel Rulings

Amend Article X, Section A as follows:

SECTION A. Rulings

1. Any Chairman of an Official Committee or twenty (20) percent of the members of an Official Committee may request a ruling or interpretation of the State Party Plan from the General Counsel. The General Counsel's determination shall be binding unless and until overturned upon appeal, either to the ~~Appeals~~ Executive Committee or directly to the State Central Committee. Any original appeal must be made within thirty (30) days of the date that the ruling is posted on the RPV website.
2. ~~The Appeals Committee shall consist of the State Chairman, all of the State Vice Chairmen and a General Assembly Committee Member appointed by the Joint Republican Legislative Caucus.~~ The State Chairman shall convene ~~this~~ the Executive Committee within fourteen (14) days, either in person or by telephone, *for the purposes of considering an appeal.*
3. ~~A decision of the Executive Committee in the event of an appeal to the Appeals Committee and a concurrence by a majority of that Committee with the Ruling or interpretation of the General Counsel,~~ it may be further appealed to the State Central Committee, ~~whose~~ *the decision of which* shall be binding in accordance with Article X, Section C.
4. All rulings and interpretations by the General Counsel, and the final determination on any appeal ~~of such thereto~~, shall be posted on the ~~State Central Committee and Unit Chair sections of the website of the Republican Party of Virginia.~~ Further, notice of each ruling and determination of any appeal shall *and* be provided by electronic mail to each member of the State Central Committee and to each Unit Chairman.

Mike Thomas moved the adoption of Amendment #8; Amendment #8 was adopted by voice vote.

Amendment #9: Contests and Appeals

Amend Article X, Sections B and C as follows:

SECTION B. Contests

1. Each Unit Committee shall decide all controversies and contests arising within its jurisdiction. ~~A Unit Committee's decision may be appealed by, but those persons deemed~~ any Party member adversely affected by any such decision shall have the right of appeal to the appropriate District Committee. In the case of a split Unit, if the controversy or contest specifically relates to the operations or affairs of a particular Congressional or Legislative District, an appeal shall be taken to that particular Congressional or Legislative District Committee; if not, an appeal shall be taken to the District Committee of the District wherein the person appealing resides.
2. Each Legislative District Committee shall decide all controversies and contests arising within its jurisdiction. ~~Persons deemed adversely affected by a decision of the A~~ Legislative District Committee's decision may be appealed by any Party member adversely affected shall have the right of appeal to the appropriate Congressional District Committee. In the case of a legislative district that is located in more than one congressional district, the appropriate Congressional District Committee shall be the District wherein the person appealing resides.
3. Each District Committee shall decide all controversies and contests arising within its jurisdiction. It shall also hear and decide all timely appeals taken from units and legislative districts within the District. ~~A District Committee's decision may be appealed by any Party member~~ ~~Persons deemed~~ adversely affected by a decision of the District Committee shall have the right of appeal to the State Central Committee.
4. All ~~Contests and appeals~~ Appeals, under sub-sections 1, 2 and 3 of this section must be made in writing within ~~thirty (30)~~ fourteen (14) days after the decision appealed from and the appeal must be accompanied by a petition signed by at least twenty-five (25) Party members (except as provided below) of the respective Unit, Legislative District or Congressional District affected. When an appeal involves a mass meeting, party canvass or convention, then for purposes of this paragraph the term "Party members" shall mean mass meeting participants in the case of a mass meeting; canvass voters in the case of a party canvass; or delegates in the case of a convention. If fewer than one hundred twenty-five (125) persons voted in such mass meeting, party canvass or convention, then the petition shall be signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the voters at such mass meeting, party canvass or convention. *A subsequent appeal by the same party does not require an additional petition (e.g., if a petition accompanies an appeal to a Unit Committee, an appeal of the Unit Committee's decision made by the same party does not require a second petition).*

5. All Contests and Appeals under sub-sections 1, 2 and 3 of this section, except for an appeal to the State Central Committee, shall be heard and a decision rendered by the committee to which the appeal was made within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the appeal. If no decision has been rendered ~~in writing~~ at the end of ~~thirty~~ *fourteen (14)* days, the appeal or contest may be made directly to the next level of appeal as if an adverse decision had been rendered. A timely appeal made to the State Central Committee will be heard at the next regular meeting of the Committee unless the Chairman or 1/3 of the members call for a special meeting.
6. If the Contest or Appeal arises from an action during a Mass Meeting, Party Canvass or Convention held less than ~~fourteen (14)~~ *thirty (30)* days prior to the deadline for the official committee chairman to certify a nominee, a contest or appeal may be made directly to the appropriate Congressional District Committee.

SECTION C. Finality

The State Central Committee shall make the final decision, upon timely appeal, on all Party controversies and contests in any Election District of the State, rulings of the General Counsel and on all other matters ~~deemed to~~ *affecting* the efficiency of the Party organization or the success of the Party.

Mike Thomas moved the adoption of Amendment #9.

Mark Sell moved to amend Amendment #9 to strike out the final sentence of Section B, paragraph 4 *"A subsequent appeal by the same party does not require an additional petition (e.g., if a petition accompanies an appeal to a Unit Committee, an appeal of the Unit Committee's decision made by the same party does not require a second petition.";* the amendment failed by voice vote.

Doc Troxel moved to amend the first sentence of Section B, paragraph 4 by striking out "fourteen (14)" and inserting in its place "thirty (30)".

Jeff Ryer moved to postpone the consideration of this amendment to the December meeting; the motion carried by voice vote.

Appeal of General Counsel Ruling relating to Signature Requirements

By unanimous consent, Jeff Ryer's request to postpone consideration of the Appeal to the December meeting, after consideration of the postponed proceedings on Amendment #1, was granted.

The Committee adjourned at 1:44pm.