



Guidelines for 2025 County Party Reorganization

The Guidelines for the 2025 County Party Conventions were adopted by the South Carolina Democratic Party Executive Committee on December 14, 2024.

Precincts:

Precinct meetings are not required. If you wish to have precinct meetings for organizational purposes, you may, but precincts no longer elect delegates to your county convention. If you hold precinct meetings, you should publicize them widely to ensure that Democrats in your county know they can participate. They may be held at any time except during the period between your county and state conventions.

County Conventions:

Any Democrat who is a registered voter may participate in their county convention.

Every county party must hold an in-person convention between **March 1 and March 22, 2025**. **You must notify the SCDP of the date, time, and location of your convention by February 1, 2025.**

For at least 4 weeks before your convention, you must publicize it widely, using every possible means. This publicity must inform Democrats of the convention's date, time, and place and encourage them to participate. The SCDP will help with publicity and will provide information about how you can build participation.

You must keep a record of everyone who attends your convention, so setting up an efficient registration system is important. Avoid long registration lines. Attendance records must be submitted to the SCDP. SCDP staff will provide attendance sign-in forms for you to use.

The ability to preregister online so participants can check in quickly will be a plus. To that end, the SCDP staff will prepare a Mobilize link for each county convention. Just be sure to have an opportunity for people to register when they arrive if they didn't pre-register.

If a county party chooses not to utilize an SCDP-provided online form or template, an SCDP staff member must be added as a user or collaborator on any online form created by the county party.

County Convention business:

Every county must elect a chair and 3 vice chairs (1st is a different gender from the chair, 2nd is a different race, and 3rd is under 36.) These officers will serve for a two- year term.

Every county must elect two members of the state executive committee who must be of different genders.

You may have a nominating committee for your county party officers, if your county bylaws call for one, but you must also allow nominations from the floor.

Your current county executive committee may vote to require candidates for party office to file ahead of time. In that case, you would not take nominations from the floor. The filing period should be two weeks ending two days before the county convention. The SCDP will provide a filing form for your use.

You must elect delegates and alternates to the state convention. The numbers that you must elect will be given to you by the state party. These delegates and alternates will serve as delegates and alternates to the 2025 state convention.

The secretary and treasurer are to be elected by the county executive committee within 30 days following the county convention. They will also serve for two years.

Electing a County Executive Committee:

SC state law and SCDP rules require that every county party have an executive committee as its governing body. As always, this county committee must be made up of the county party officers and a representative from each precinct. Our rules require that the county convention elect the members of the executive committee, as well as alternates.

For two weeks prior to your convention, you must let people file who want to represent their precincts as members or alternates on the county executive committee. You must publicize this widely; the SCDP will provide guidance and templates but you are responsible for putting the word out. You must allow filing by email, in person, or by mail.

Be clear about when filing closes.

You should have a small committee that seeks out people who are willing to serve and encourages them to file so that you have someone filing from every precinct. You can start by checking with the current members to see if they want to serve again.

At the beginning of the convention, give everyone who registers a copy of the list of precincts with the names of those who have filed to be elected to the executive committee. Allow anyone who wishes to file to represent their precinct to do so.

At the time listed on the agenda for the election of members of the county executive committee, allow any participant in the convention to submit their name for the list.

The convention should vote once to confirm all of the unopposed names as county executive committee members. A separate election must be held for each of the precincts with more than one candidate. The entire convention must vote on these. You may decide to let the runner-up be the alternate, unless someone else has filed specifically to be the alternate.

The new county executive committee must meet within 30 days to elect a county party secretary and treasurer, and must meet at least 4 times a year.

Tips for a Successful Process

Spend the month before your convention publicizing the new process and the significant dates—for the convention and for any filing period. As always, the counties that do the best job of getting the word out will have the best turnout.

You should use Mobilize or some other efficient method to both spread information and preregister participants.

Begin planning your convention now! Do you intend to use paper ballots? Work out the details carefully.

The only way to use paper ballots is to have a filing period that closes before your convention. You are not required to use paper ballots even if you have a filing period. Paper ballots must be signed to be counted.

A smooth registration process is essential. No long lines!

A nominating committee for the election of your county executive committee can recruit Democrats from every precinct who are willing to serve.

Use every method you can come up with to publicize this new process: Texts, emails, social media, phone banks, etc. You should provide a phone number or email address for people with questions. Educate Democrats in your county at every meeting or other opportunity.