

2025 State Party Reorganization Process

Every year following a Presidential Election the Delaware Democratic Party reorganizes each level of its local party infrastructure. The four-year terms of District, County, and State committee members and leadership expire in 2025 and their positions will be up for re-election. Generally, the party reorganizes from the bottom up beginning with District Committee reorganization meetings in early 2025, followed by County Conventions in late Winter and early Spring, and culminating in the **Democratic State Convention on June 21, 2025**.

District Committee Reorganization

Party reorganization begins at the local district committee level. The terms of all District Committee members will be complete and their seats will be up for re-election. Any qualified Democrat residing in the district is eligible to fill these Committee Member positions. The specifics of these elections will vary by subdivision as these processes are primarily governed by the County/City Party Rules. Generally speaking, the baseline requirement is that **committee members must live in the district and can not have been registered members of another political party within the last year**.

Meetings must be noticed by submitting the event online at www.deldems.org/submit-event.

Any resident Democrat may attend and vote at district committee reorganization meetings.

New Castle

- District Reorganization Timing: Meeting must occur on or before the first Thursday of March (3/8/2025) and notice of the meeting must be submitted on or before the first Monday of February
- Members per Election District: 2
- Contested Election Procedure: County Party run election in the district

Wilmington (City Council Districts)

- District Reorganization Timing: Meeting must occur on or before the first Thursday of April (4/4/2025) and notice of the meeting must be submitted on or before the first Monday of March
- Members per Election District: 2
- Contested Election Procedure: City Party run election in the district

Kent

- District Reorganization Timing: Meeting must occur within the first four months of 2025
- Members per Election District: Not in County Rules
- Contested Election Procedure: Not in County Rules

Sussex

 District Reorganization Timing: Meeting must occur the month of January or February 2025 and noticed no fewer than 10 days but no greater than 30 days ahead of the meeting



- Members per Election District: 3
- Contested Election Procedure: Election District level vote at the reorganization meeting
- Additional Qualifications: Members must also be Delaware residents for at least one year

Members elected at their district's committee meeting (or subsequent election) will make up the voting electorate of their Subdivision Convention.

Subdivision Conventions

Following the election of the district-level committee members each Subdivision elects their County/City Party Officers. These elections are held at a Subdivision level Convention or Caucus where the district committee members vote on County/City Party leadership. Generally, leadership is made up of a Chair, two Vice Chairs, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and At-Large State Exec. member(s). The particulars of these elections will vary by subdivision as these processes are primarily governed by the County/City Party Rules.

Sussex County Caucus

- County Reorganization Timing: Meeting must occur in March 2025 and noticed no fewer than 10 days but no greater than 30 days ahead of the meeting
- Officer Qualifications: Eligibility requirements are the same as the committee members
- Proxy Rules: Proxy voting is not permitted

New Castle County Convention

- County Reorganization Timing: Meeting must occur in April 2025, with at least 15 days notice
- Officer Qualifications: Officers must be residents of New Castle Subdivision (outside of Wilmington) for at least 2 years and must be registered Democrat for at least 5 years
 - New Castle County's officer slate includes 4 At-Large State Executive Committee Members.
- Proxy Rules: Proxy voting is not permitted at the County Convention

Wilmington City Convention

- City Reorganization Timing: Meeting must occur in April 2025 with at least 20 days notice
- Officer Qualifications: Officers must be residents of the City of Wilmington for at least 2 years and must be registered Democrat for at least 5 years
- Proxy Rules: Proxies may be carried by registered Democrats who reside in the same District as the person they are substituting for and are not a committee member. A person may not carry multiple proxies

Kent County Convention

- County Reorganization Timing: No less than 60 days prior to the state convention
 - o Functionally, this would require the KCDC to reorganize by mid-April
- Officer Qualifications: Eligibility requirements are the same as the committee members
- Proxy Rules: Proxy voting is not permitted



Subdivision rules may also enable County/City conventions to undertake other subdivision business.

State Convention

The Delaware Democratic Party reorganization process culminates in the 2025 Democratic State Convention on June 21, 2025 in Dover. There are four major agenda items at the State Convention

- I. Election of State Party Officers
 - o State Chair, Two Vice Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer
- II. Report from the Platform Committee
- III. Report from the Resolutions Committee
- IV. Report(s) from the Rules Committee

State Convention Delegates

The voting body of the Democratic State Convention is made up of delegates from each of the 41 State House Districts. Committee members do not automatically become delegates to the State Convention. Delegates are allocated based on each district's "Composite Democratic Strength". The Composite Democratic Strength of a district is determined based on Democratic registration and the total votes received by all statewide candidates in the district.

In 2025 there are a total of 420 State Convention Delegates distributed across the 41 State House Districts. Each district is also allocated up to five delegate alternates. A full listing of delegate allocations is available on deldems.org.

- New Castle County 222 Delegates
- City of Wilmington 38 Delegates
- Kent County 71 Delegates
- Sussex County 89 Delegates

State Convention Delegates must be elected in March of 2025.

Convention Committees

Ahead of the State Convention, a set of Convention Committees will be convened, and a report will be submitted on the floor of the convention.

Platform Committee

The Platform Committee will consider and draft revisions to the State Party Platform. Final revisions will be put to a vote at the Democratic State Convention. As part of its work, the Platform Committee will hold a series of one or more well-publicized public hearings.

The Chair and members of the Platform must be appointed by the State Chair no later than February 1, 2025. Members will be appointed in proportion to the number of delegates allocated to each subdivision and be broadly representative of the Democratic Party.

Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee will be convened to consider any resolutions that are submitted in writing and will present a report on the floor of the Convention.



The Chair of the Resolutions Committee is appointed by the State Chair and must be a Convention Delegate. There are 20 other members of the Resolutions Committee. Each subdivision's Executive Committee selects five delegates to serve as their members on the Resolutions Committee.

Because its members must be delegates, the Resolutions Committee cannot begin its work until after State Convention Delegates have been selected.

Standing Rules Committee

Should any delegate have their credentials (eligibility) challenged, the Rules Committee will hear the challenge. The Rules Committee would give a report on any challenges and its decision on the floor of the Convention. Any registered Democrat may challenge the credentials of a delegate or alternate up to a week before the Democratic State Convention.

The Rules Committee may also submit revisions to the State Party Rules at the Convention. Amendments to the State Party Rules must be submitted in writing to the Rules Committee ahead of the Democratic State Convention. The Committee will advise on the suggested amendments. A $\frac{1}{3}$ vote of the Rules Committee is required to submit an amendment to the Convention and a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of all convention delegates is required to pass an amendment to the State Party Rules. This vote threshold is higher than other convention agenda items.

State Party Support

The Delaware Democratic Party and its staff will be available to assist throughout the party reorganization process. Party officials will be present for State and County Conventions and will make their best efforts to attend as many district-level reorganization meetings as possible. Districts are encouraged to consolidate meetings and host joint reorganization meetings with neighboring districts. This creates fewer meetings for Party Officials and allows committees to split the costs for reserving venues.

All relevant party rules are available online at <u>www.deldems.org/party-documents</u>. While this memo provides a basic overview of the reorganization process, the state and subdivision rules should be consulted for a more exhaustive detailing of the process.

State Party Rules
New Castle County Rules
City of Wilmington Rules
Kent County Rules
Sussex County Rules