Consideration of Recognition of the North Carolina Green Party

State Board Meeting • June 30, 2022

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

How a Party Becomes Recognized in Our State

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Creation of a New Party

- Group's candidate for Governor, or for presidential electors, received at least 2% of entire vote cast in last preceding general State election.

- By petition which is signed by registered and qualified voters in this State equal in number to 0.25% of the total number of registered voters who voted in the most recent general election for Governor. Must also obtain at least 200 voter signatures from each of 3 NC congressional districts.

- The party had a candidate nominated on the general election ballot of at least 70% of the states in the prior Presidential election.

The Petition Process

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Petition for a New Political Party

- Initiate Process
  - Submit petition request form to NCSBE.

- Signature Gathering
  - Obtain signatures of at least 200 registered voters from each of 3 NC congressional districts.
  - Obtain signatures from registered and qualified voters in this State equal in number to 0.25% of the total number of registered voters who voted in the most recent general election for Governor: 13,865
  - Use required heading (see next slide).

Example of Blank Signature Sheet

PETITION TO CREATE A NEW POLITICAL PARTY (NCGS § 163-96 (a)(2))

THE UNDERSIGNED QUALIFIED REGISTERED VOTERS IN _____ COUNTY HEREBY PETITION FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY

TO BE NAMED _____ AND WHOSE STATE CHAIRMAN IS _____, RESIDING AT _____, AND WHO CAN BE

REACHED BY TELEPHONE AT _____.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO SIGN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON TO A PETITION. (G. S. 163-221)

BOE ONLY	Line No.	Print your name (Must be printed legibly)	Residential street address	ZIP code	Birth date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Signature	Date (DD/MM/YYYY)
	1						
	2						
	3						
	4						
	5						
	6						
	7						
	8						

Filing Petition Signature Sheets

- Deadlines
  - To qualify for the 2022 general election, party submits sheets to the county board of elections (CBE) of the county in which the signatures were obtained by 5 p.m. on May 17, 2022.
    - *CBE returns checked sheets along with certification to the petitioner.*
  - Party submits checked signature sheets and certifications to NCSBE by noon on June 1, 2022.

- Other Instructions
  - Must be checked by the individual CBE.
  - May be submitted to the CBEs as collected to assess number of accepted signatures throughout the signature gathering.
  - Signatures must be original (use ink); no electronic signatures or photocopies.
  - No one may sign a petition on behalf of another person.

County Petition Checking Process

County Board of Elections petition checking process per G.S. § 163-96(a):

- Verification to be completed within 2 weeks from the date submitted.
- Processed through SEIMS Petition Module.
- Examine names and signatures. Statute requires the signatures on the petition be checked against the registration records.
- Confirm if qualified and registered voter in the county.
- Generate report/certificate indicating number of credited and discredited signatures.

SBE Review of NC Green Party Petitions

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Signatures Credited & Discredited

- 13,865 required (with 200 signatures in 3 congressional districts)

- 22,521 submitted
- 15,953 validated by county boards and under review by NCSBE

Validated signatures over minimum requirement: 2,088

Petition Review & Investigation

- Starting in early May, several CBEs alerted the NCSBE of irregularities identified during review of petitions.
- NCSBE opened an investigation.
- Staff reviewed every signature sheet received. Sheets were turned in as late as this week.

Petition Review & Investigation

Numerous petition pages have obvious signs of fraud or irregularities, including:

- Same handwriting throughout and similar signatures
- Numerous lines with incomplete information, or where name, address, or date of birth was crossed out
- Petition sheets with partial dates of birth
- Duplicate voters
- Some of these sheets include the name/initials of the petition gatherer

Other issues include:

- Deceased or long-removed voters included (indicates submission of signature sheets from Green Party's pre-2018 petition effort)
- Signature pages identifying a long-ago chair for the party (also indicating submission of outdated signatures)

Petition Review & Investigation

Signature gathering consultants/firms hired by Green Party or potential candidate:

- One firm collected around 100 signatures
- Another firm collected more than 1,000 signatures
- 3 individuals hired by contract collected 1,472 signatures; only 624 accepted

Investigations staff and others at NCSBE are continuing to review.

Example

Josh M

PETITION TO CREATE A NEW POLITICAL PARTY (NCGS § 163-96 (a)(2))

THE UNDERSIGNED QUALIFIED REGISTERED VOTERS IN WAKE COUNTY HEREBY PETITION FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY

TO BE NAMED NORTH CAROLINA GREEN PARTY AND WHOSE STATE CHAIRMAN IS ANTHONY NDEGE, RESIDING AT 1713 CHAPEL STREET, WINSTON-SALEM 27127,

AND WHO CAN BE REACHED BY TELEPHONE AT 336-577-1421.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO SIGN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON TO A PETITION. (G. S. 163-221)

BOE ONLY	Line No.	Print your name (must be printed legibly)	Residence Address and City/Town (no PO Box numbers)	ZIP code	Birth date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Signature
X	1	Linda Cox	912 Park Summit Blvd	27523	[redacted]	
X	2	Michelle Hightower	107 Rivergreen Ct	27518		
X	3	Janie Dupree	8205 Cunningham Rd	27597		
X	4	Zaher El-Assi	901 Wayne Dr	27608		
X	5	Cassie Inscho	124 Gremar Dr	27540		
X	6	Sharron Brehl	1040 Wake Towne Dr #410	27609		
X	7	Anthony Fiorentino	1019 windy Rd	27502		
X	8	channing Duke	904 Olive St	27502		
X	9	Kathleen Knox	332 Briarfield Dr	27502		
X	10	John Madson Jr	236 Terrell Dr	27571		
X	11	Elaine Dunavant	2933 Mavisbank Cir	27502		
X	12	Tawanda Lassiter	747 Maypearl Ln	27610		
X	13	Jason Ipock	2509 Cotesworth Dr	27587		
X	14	Erica Flory	124 Winchester Dr	27591		
X	15	Diana Brown	8331 Bratt Ave	27587		

SUBMIT COMPLETED FORMS TO THE OFFICE OF (COUNTY) BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

Example

Josh M

PETITION TO CREATE A NEW POLITICAL PARTY (NCGS § 163-96 (a)(2))

THE UNDERSIGNED QUALIFIED REGISTERED VOTERS IN WAKE COUNTY HEREBY PETITION FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY TO BE NAMED NORTH CAROLINA GREEN PARTY AND WHOSE STATE CHAIRMAN IS ANTHONY NDEGE, RESIDING AT 1713 CHAPEL STREET, WINSTON-SALEM 27127, AND WHO CAN BE REACHED BY TELEPHONE AT 336-577-1421.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO SIGN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON TO A PETITION. (G. S. 163-221)

BOE ONLY	Line No.	Print your name (must be printed legibly)	Residence Address and City/Town (no PO Box numbers)	ZIP code	Birth date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Signature
✓	1	Corinthia Evans	2002 Manderleigh Dr	27545	[redacted]	C. Evans
	2	[redacted]	[redacted]			
✓	3	Keyonte Cherry	812 Terrastone Pl	27519		Keyonte Cherry
✓	4	Demonte Blue	1663 Plexor Ln	27545		
✓	5	Shaneeka Bell	1151 Cannonball Run #301	27545		Shaneeka Bell
✓	6	Jacob Green	2830 Manorcrest Ct #231	27609		Jacob Green
✓	7	Dondre Griffin	5900 Peacenest Dr	27610		Dondre Griffin
✓	8	Ebony Young	506 Glenbrook Dr	27610		Ebony Young
✓	9	Deosia Goodman	5324 Baywood Forest Dr	27545		Deosia Goodman
✓	10	Sumoner Hardin	7837 Harps Mill Woods Run	27615		Sumoner Hardin
✓	11	Karrin Kennard	2513 Shepherd Valley St	27610		Karrin Kennard
✓	12	Lofton Woods	2301 Fox Ridge Manor Rd	27610		Lofton Woods
✓	13	Tajasia Pitts	410 Montview Way	27545		Tajasia Pitts
✓	14	Camryn Hunter	404 Little Acres Dr	27545		Camryn Hunter
✓	15	Nyjil Thomas	2253 Ballston Pl	27545		Nyjil Thomas

SUBMIT COMPLETED FORMS TO THE OFFICE OF (COUNTY) BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

Petition Review & Investigation

Recent outside complaints:

- 145 signatories seeking to revoke their signatures.
- 3 signatories claiming they did not sign (staff investigators have separately identified a handful of people whose signatures were counted but who say they never signed).
- 19 signatories claiming the Green Party never "inform[ed] the signers of the general purpose and intent of the new party," as required in G.S. 163-96(b).
- Allegations of apparently fraudulent signatures and signatures validated after the deadline.

Staff Recommendation

- Number of known questionable signatures exceeds the 2,088-signature threshold.
- Requires further investigation, including subject interviews.
- Table consideration to future date.

Criminal Penalties

- Class 2 misdemeanor to sign the name of another person to any petition under G.S. 163-96 for the formulation of a new political party. G.S. § 163-221(a)(2).
  - Any name signed on a petition, in violation of this section, shall be void.

- Class I felony for "any person knowingly to swear falsely with respect to any matter pertaining to any primary or election". G.S. § 163-275(4).

Staff Recommendations for Legal Changes

- Request legislative changes, including making it illegal to pay signature gatherers per petition signature.
  - It is already a crime to pay per voter registration form or absentee request form. G.S. §§ 163-237(d4) and 163-274(15).

- Propose rules to help reduce fraudulent petitions, including requiring each petition page to identify the person gathering the signatures and to disclose their contact information.

Thank You!

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS