

## **Minutes of the Alabama State Democratic Executive Committee**

- 1.** At 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 2, 2019, a meeting of the Alabama State Democratic Executive Committee was held at 11:00 a.m. in Exhibit Hall A at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center at 201 Tallapoosa Street in Montgomery.
- 2.** Brandy Duncan, member of the SDEC from District 44, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3.** Ms. Duncan reported that a quorum of the SDEC was marked present on the sign-in sheets available for all members to sign upon arrival for the meeting.
- 4.** Ms. Duncan introduced Sarah Merkle, certified parliamentarian.
- 5.** Ms. Duncan noted the absence of SDEC Chair Nancy Worley and First Vice Chair Randy Kelley. In their absence Ms. Duncan opened the floor for nominations for chair pro tempore to run the meeting.
- 6.** Cheryl Patton, SDEC member from District 49, nominated Carole Marks, Chair of the Shelby County Democratic Executive Committee, to serve as chair pro tempore for this meeting. No other nominations were made from the floor. Multiple members seconded the nomination. A voice vote was held, the votes were all AYE and no NAY, and Ms. Marks was unanimously approved to serve as chair pro tempore.
- 7.** Chair Pro Tempore Marks addressed the assembled SDEC members.
- 8.** Chair Pro Tempore Marks recognized Matthew Brown, SDEC member from District 21, to nominate a secretary pro tempore for the meeting. Mr. Brown nominated the undersigned, Kayla Sloan, SDEC member from District 1. No other nominations were made from the floor. Multiple members seconded the nomination of the undersigned to serve as secretary pro tempore. A voice vote was held, the votes were all AYE and no NAY, and the undersigned was unanimously approved to serve as secretary pro tempore.
- 9.** Chair Pro Tempore Marks noted the minutes of the October 5, 2019 meeting of the SDEC. Multiple members moved for the adoption of the minutes of the October 5 meeting. The motion was seconded by multiple members as well. The minutes were unanimously adopted by voice vote, with the votes being all AYE and no NAY.
- 10.** The Chair Pro Tempore opened the floor for the filling of District Vacancies. The following actions were taken regarding those vacancies:
  - a.** District 38, Male: SDEC Member Shelia Gilbert nominated Brian McGee to fill this vacancy, and his nomination was seconded. There were no other nominations. Mr. McGee was unanimously approved by the SDEC to join as male representative from District 38.
  - b.** District 102, Male: Chair Pro Tempore Marks called for nominations for this vacancy, but no nominations were made.

- c. District 105, Male: Chair Pro Tempore Marks called for nominations for this vacancy, but no nominations were made.
  - d. Ms. Gilbert called for a point of order and stated that there was a vacancy for the position of District 95 male representative. Ms. Gilbert nominated John Bednarczyk for that vacancy, and his nomination was seconded. No other nominations were made, and nominations were closed. Mr. Bednarczyk was unanimously approved by the SDEC to join as male representative from District 95.
  - e. Kathleen Kirkpatrick, SDEC member from District 31, called for a point of order and stated that there was a vacancy for the position of District 44 male representative. Ms. Kirkpatrick nominated Samuel Carroll for this vacancy, and his nomination was seconded. No other nominations were made, and nominations were closed. Mr. Carroll was unanimously approved by the SDEC to join as male representative from District 44.
  - f. Jim Chavez, SDEC member from District 34, stated that he would need to resign his office because he recently moved out of the district. SDEC Member Gayla Wynn from District 27 nominated Oscar Morales to the vacancy created upon his resignation. SDEC Member Rep. Napoleon Bracy seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made, and nominations were closed. Mr. Morales was unanimously approved by the SDEC to join as male representative from District 34.
- 11.** Chair Pro Tempore Marks recognized the chairs pro tempore of the following Diversity Caucuses. Those chairs pro tempore put forth for nomination to the SDEC the following representatives from the various Diversity Caucuses:
- a. James Parker, chair pro tempore of the Youth Caucus, nominated the following 39 African-American members of the Youth Caucus: Ayodele Jourdan Lewis, Jaylan Matthews, Jaylan Thompson, Justin Smith, Adarris May, Jeremy Gray, Robert Hunter, Jordan Caesar, Caleb Florence Sr., Robert Mardis III, Joshua Raby, David Thomas, III, Robert Stewart, Joseph Dye, Tristan Mullen, Qunelius Pettway, Kenyan Carter, Dexter Strong, La-Kisha Emmanuel, Katricia Flowers, Olivia McDonald, Nayirah Muhammad, Gwinnelly Bota, Katie Pullom, Lillian Thomas, Paige Horace, Terri Wiggins-Chapman, Essence Drake, Kyteria Marshall, Jilisa Milton, LoRen Burroughs, Camilla Ahmed, Melissa Bailey, Terrika Shaw, Roderick Clark, Bryanne Garner, Kiana Perkins and Lillian Thomas, and Hillary Murrell. Mr. Parker nominated the following nine Caucasian members of the Youth Caucus: Kyle David Pierce, James Hutto, Josh Coleman, Cline Thompson, Shawn Thompson, Amy Wasyluka, Robert Russell, Sara Clayton, and Bridgette Bowen. The Youth Caucus nominated 24 males and 24 females.
  - b. Raphael Braithwaite, chair pro tempore of the Hispanic Caucus, nominated the following members: Frank Barragan, April Hodges, Mona Ochoa-Horshok, Juanita Nessinger, John Ocampo, Jesus Perez, and Janice-James Robert Ward. The Hispanic Caucus nominated four females and three males.
  - c. Matthew Brown, chair pro tempore of the LGBTQ+ Caucus, nominated the following African-American members: Leonard Daniel Sykes, Terry Dewayne Adamson Jr., Dillon

Nettles, Antwon Womack, and Nayirah Muhammad. Mr. Brown nominated the following Caucasian members: Cari Diane Searcy, Felicia Stewart, and Brit Blalock. The LGBTQ+ Caucus nominated three female members, four male members, and one gender non-binary member.

- d. Lloyd Wright Love, chair pro tempore of the Native American Caucus, nominated the following members: Caleb Florence Jr. and Virginia Applebaum. The Native American Caucus nominated one male member and one female member.
- e. Hanu Karlapalem, chair pro tempore of the Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus, nominated the following members: Rebecca Seun-Bickley, Vera Vergara Bullard, and Quang Do. The Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus nominated two female members and one male member.

All of those nominees were unanimously approved by the SDEC membership.

**12.** SDEC Member Michael Smith from District 6 moved that the SDEC formally vacate the office of chair of the SDEC. Multiple members seconded the motion. A vote by division was taken on Mr. Smith's motion to vacate the office of chair of the SDEC. The votes were all AYE and no NAY.

**13.** SDEC Member Curtis Travis from District 62 moved that the SDEC formally vacate the office of vice chair of the SDEC. The motion was seconded. A vote by division was taken on Mr. Travis's motion to vacate the office of vice chair of the SDEC. The votes were all AYE and no NAY.

**14.** SDEC Member Sen. Vivian Davis-Figures from District 99 moved that the vote to vacate the office of chair of the SDEC also be taken by roll call. The motion was seconded and more than 25% of the SDEC members present voted in favor of the motion, so a roll call vote was held. The result of the roll call vote was 172 AYES and 0 NAYS. The motion unanimously carried and the office of chair was declared vacant.

**15.** Chair Pro Tempore Marks took nominations for the office of chair of the SDEC. SDEC member Mr. Smith of District 6 nominated Dr. Will Boyd for chair. That nomination was seconded by Mr. Eddie Britton from District 18. SDEC Member Rep. Anthony Daniels nominated Rep. Christopher John England for chair. That nomination was seconded by SDEC Member Rep. Bracy. SDEC Member Essence Drake nominated Rev. Tabitha Isner for chair. That nomination was seconded by SDEC Member Nicki Arnold-Swindle from District 36. SDEC Member Cassandra Williamson also spoke in favor of the nomination of Rev. Isner. All three candidates were confirmed to have filled out the appropriate qualifying forms. No further nominations were made from the floor. The SDEC membership present heard brief speeches from each of the three candidates for chair. A roll call vote was held for the election of a new chair. There were 171 votes cast in the election, and the results of the election were as follows: Rep. England, 104; Rev. Isner, 63; and Dr. Boyd, 4.

**16.** Chair England took the podium from Chair Pro Tempore Marks. He thanked her for her service.

**17.** Chair England took nominations for the office of vice chair of the SDEC. SDEC member Patricia Todd, Rev. Isner, and Dr. Adia Wynfrey were nominated for the office of vice chair. All three were determined to have filled out qualifying forms to run for SDEC office. No further nominations were made from the floor. Rev. Isner withdrew her nomination and declined to be a candidate for vice chair. The SDEC members present heard short speeches from the remaining two candidates for vice chair. A roll call vote was held for the election of a new vice chair. There were 141 votes cast in the election, and the results of the election were as follows: Ms. Todd, 113; Dr. Wynfrey, 28. Chair England welcomed Vice Chair Todd as a new officer of the SDEC.

**18.** The Chair then briefly recessed the meeting of the SDEC so the Diversity Caucuses could continue their unfinished business. The Chair reconvened the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

**19.** The Chair then received the following reports from the Diversity Caucuses:

- a.** Ms. Hodges, chair, and Mr. Perez, vice chair, were elected as officers of the Hispanic Caucus.
- b.** Mr. Florence, chair, and Ms. Applebaum, vice chair, were elected as officers of the Native American Caucus.
- c.** Mr. Karlapalem, chair, and Ms. Seung-Bickley, vice chair, were elected as officers of the Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus.
- d.** Mr. Brown, chair, and Ms. Muhammad, vice chair, were elected as officers of the LGBTQ+ Caucus.
- e.** Mr. Parker was elected as chair of the Youth Caucus.

**20.** The Chair then received the following nominations to the SDEC Executive Board from the Diversity Caucuses:

- a.** The Youth Caucus nominated the following eight members to the Executive Board (four males, four females): Josh Coleman, Dexter Strong, Ayo Lewis, Nick Shabel, Beth Clayton, Monica Riley, Jilisa Milton and Camilla Ahmed. Of their eight nominations, 5 were African-American and 3 were Caucasian.
- b.** The Hispanic Caucus nominated April Hodges to the Executive Board.
- c.** The LGBTQ+ Caucus nominated Mr. Ralph Young and Felicia Stewart to the Executive Board.

All eleven nominees were unanimously approved by the SDEC.

**21.** The Chair then opened the floor for new business. The following new business was done:

- a.** Ms. Duncan moved that the SDEC vote to confirm that Nancy Worley may not encumber or spend the assets of the Alabama Democratic Party. The motion was seconded by multiple members. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

- b.** SDEC Member Sue Thompson moved that the SDEC order a forensic audit of the Alabama Democratic Party's books, and that the audit be completed as quickly as possible, but no later than ninety days from November 2, 2019. The motion was seconded by multiple members. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.
- c.** Mr. Strong moved that the SDEC vote to dismiss, on behalf of the Party and the SDEC, the lawsuit filed against Chair England and other SDEC members on October 30, 2019, and that no Party resources be used to pay any legal fees of Ms. Worley and Mr. Kelley individually. The motion was seconded by multiple members. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.
- d.** Ms. Stewart moved that the SDEC cancel the meeting that former Chair Worley ostensibly called and brought up for a vote at the October 15, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by multiple members. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.
- e.** Ms. Clayton made a motion regarding payment of office staff of the Alabama Democratic Party, which was withdrawn.
- f.** Ms. Julia Juarez, SDEC member from District 46, introduced the following resolution:

Whereas the Alabama Democratic Party recognizes and values the participation and contributions of persons with disabilities to our Party and to our society, and

Whereas the existing bylaws adopted on October 5, 2019, creates a caucus for the purpose of organizing Democrats who are persons with disabilities, and

Whereas these bylaws provided for the organization of a Person with Disabilities Caucus commencing at the 2022 organizational meeting, and

Whereas it is the policy of the Alabama Democratic Party to give voice to all diversity constituencies as soon as possible,

Be it resolved that first the Affirmative Action Committee shall immediately form a task group to identify Democrats who are persons with disabilities for the purpose of recruiting such persons to participate in the affairs of the Party.

And, second, the Affirmative Action Committee shall adopt a plan to reach out to groups and organizations that advocate for the persons with disabilities.

And, third, the Affirmative Action Committee shall study and propose amending the bylaws in order to organize and form a Persons with Disabilities Caucus.

Ms. Juarez moved for the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded by multiple members. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

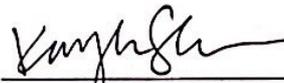
- g.** Ms. Gilbert raised a point of personal privilege to honor JoAnn Cummings, who is moving out of state. The SDEC membership applauded Ms. Cummings.

- h. Mr. Karlapalem made a motion regarding the forensic audit, which was withdrawn.
- i. Several recognitions were made as points of personal privilege by SDEC members concerning challenges to the August 2018 elections with the Democratic National Committee and the recent litigation involving the SDEC filed by the former chair and vice chair.

22. The Chair recognized SDEC member and U.S. Senator Doug Jones. Sen. Jones addressed the membership.

23. SDEC Member Stan Glasscox moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Juarez seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, and the votes were all AYE and no NAY. The meeting was unanimously adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



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**Kayla Sloan, Secretary Pro Tempore  
SDEC Representative, District 1**

On this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019.