

2022 REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION

Windham High School, Windham, New Hampshire

April 23, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER: NHGOP Chairman Stephen Stepanik called the Convention to order at 1:50 p.m.

II. INVOCATION: Chairman Stepanek invited Bill Smith to offer an invocation.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Rep. Jason Osborne led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

IV. APPOINTMENTS: Chairman Stepanek made the following appointments for the convention:

Bill O'Brien as Parliamentarian; Jane Lane as Secretary; and Andrew Georgevits as Sergeant-at-Arms.

V. ELECTION INTEGRITY: Chairman Stepanek spoke about the commitment of NHGOP to election integrity and invited RNC Election Integrity Director Joseph Gagnon to discuss the issue.

VI. NORRIS COTTON AWARDS: Chairman Stepanek presented Norris Cotton awards to the following individuals:

Belknap County: James Thompson

Carroll County: Blaine Nelson

Cheshire County: Augusta Petrone

Coos County: Steve & Lori Korzen

Grafton County: Brad Bailey

Hillsborough County: Kent Blumenshine

Merrimack County: Honorable Natalie Wells

Rockingham County: Tanya Donnelly

Stafford County: Carlton Cooper

Sullivan County: Honorable Walter Stapleton

Concord City Committee: Laurence Weissbrot

Derry City Committee: Honorable Erica Layon

Manchester City Committee: Honorable Will Infantine

Nashua City Committee: Di Lothrop

VII. CREDENTIALS: Chairman Stepanek recognized Scott Maltzie, Chairman of the Convention Credentialing Committee to provide the Credentialing Report for the 2022 Convention. He reported that of 744 eligible delegates, 234 were present which is more than the 25% required. He declared a quorum and moved to accept the report. Alan Glassman seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

VIII. RULES: Chairman Stepanek recognized Wayne MacDonald, Chairman of the Rules committee to provide the Rules Committee Report for the 2022 Convention. He stated that the rules are consistent with rules of past conventions. He moved acceptance of the rules. Rep. Robert Lynn seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

IX. ORGANIZATION: Chairman Stepanek recognized Wayne MacDonald to present the Organization Committee report. Mr. MacDonald explained the report and offered a motion to accept the report. Rep. Robert Lynn seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

X. PLATFORM: Bill O'Brien, chair of the Platform Committee, assumed the chair to oversee the Platform Amendment Discussion. He recognized the other members of the committee: Jim MacEachern and Richard Merkt and noted that they had held three public hearings.

PROPOSAL #1 from Joshua Yokela from Rockingham County. Mr. Yokela presented his amendment: *We believe that the children's best interest is to have a substantial relationship with each parent and the government should only interfere with that relationship with just cause.* The Platform Committee recommends adoption. There were speakers for and against the amendment. Following discussion, Bill O'Brien moved to adopt the Platform Committee recommendation. Richard Merkt seconded the motion. On a voice vote, amendment is adopted.

Proposal #2 from Joshua Yokela from Rockingham County. Mr. Yokela presented his amendment: *We believe that local government should not be allowed to infringe on individual rights and that the state should insure protection from such local government overreach.* The Platform Committee recommends adoption. There were speakers for and against the amendment. Following discussion, Bill O'Brien moved to adopt the Platform Committee

recommendation. Richard Merkt seconded the motion. On a voice vote, amendment is adopted.

Proposal #3 from William Foster from Hillsborough County. Mr. Foster presented his amendment which would be a new section under statement of principles: *We believe that the liberty of parents to direct the upbringing, healthcare, education, and wellbeing of their children in a fundamental right. Decisions in regards to the upbringing, healthcare, education, and wellbeing of children should be the free choice of parents, acting on the children's behalf, unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control.* The Platform Committee recommends adoption with a grammatical change of "in regards to" to "in regard to". There was discussion after which, Bill O'Brien moved to adopt the Platform Committee recommendation with the grammatical change. Richard Merkt seconded the motion. On a voice vote, amendment is adopted.

Proposal #4 from Walter Stapleton from Sullivan County. Mr. Stapleton presented his amendment which the Platform Committee stated would completely supersede the entire text in Education Section: *Public or private education should not contain curriculum intimating, promoting or encouraging racism, bias, bigotry, or discrimination against any element of population relative to race, religion, creed, national or ethnic origins, gender, age, infirmity, culture or customs, or that asserts superiority or inferiority of any such group one over another, including any promotion or emphasis of Identity Politics. This does not preclude or prohibit discussions or teachings of historical facts on how, why, when or where such have occurred for the purpose of awareness to discourage their further recurrence.* The Platform Committee recommends adoption. There were speakers for and against the amendment. Following discussion, Bill O'Brien moved to adopt the Platform Committee recommendation. Richard Merkt seconded the motion. A division vote was called for. On a standing vote, there were 90 ayes and 107 nays. Amendment fails.

Proposal #5 from Charles Albert Hall from Nashua. Mr. Hall presented his amendment: *Prosecute violations of election law and ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only; to prevent voter fraud we support the requirement to produce positive identification and proof of citizenship upon registering at your city of town clerk and on voting day during same day registration. A signed affidavit is not adequate proof of domicile or citizenship.* The Platform Committee recommends adoption. Following discussion, Bill O'Brien moved to adopt the Platform Committee recommendation, Richard Merkt seconded the motion. On a voice vote, amendment is adopted.

Proposal #6 from Steven Goddu from Rockingham County. This proposal would replace the current platform in its entirety. The Platform Committee recommends rejection of this

amendment. David Testerman moved to table Proposal #6 and his motion was seconded. On a voice vote, the tabling motion passed.

Proposal #7 from William Foster from Hillsborough County. Mr. Foster presented his amendment which would be a new section under statement of principles: *We believe that the natural, essential, and inherent right to individual bodily integrity. Decisions in regard to each individual's physical body should be, whenever possible, the free choice of the individual in a manner most agreeable to the dictates of their own conscience and reason. When individuals are unable to make such decision they should be made by a responsible proxy acting in the individual's behalf and in their best interest.* The Platform Committee recommends rejection of this amendment. Following discussion, Bill O'Brien moved the Platform Committee recommendation to reject the amendment. Richard Merkt seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carries and the amendment fails.

Proposal #8 from Aria DiMezzo from Keene. The proponent was not present and the Platform Committee recommends rejection of the amendment. Chris Maidment moved to table this proposal. His motion was seconded. On a voice vote the tabling motion passed.

All of the platform amendments having been considered, Chairman Stepanek resumed the Chair.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: The business of the 2022 Convention having been concluded, Chairman Stepanek moved to adjourn the convention. His motion was seconded and passed unanimously on a voice vote. Convention adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jane P. Lane, New Hampshire Republican State Committee Secretary