

South Carolina SG GOP Convention

May 3, 2025

Summary

The convention was promptly gaveled at 11:00 a.m.

The “opening ceremonies,” including the Call to Order, Invocation, National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance and the Republican Creed, lasted 25 minutes ... which had attendees standing for the entire time.

The selection of a “Temporary Organization,” i.e., an individual who would conduct the convention agenda in strict accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, resulted in Jay W. Ragley being “elected” ... as a result of a very confusing election process which took approximately 40 minutes.

Several awards were given to volunteers who exhibited “above and beyond” service to the Party for the past two years.

The report from the Credentials Committee was most controversial, as it ruled on two fairly minor disputes, and then a major one involving Pickens County. In summary, I understood from the report that the (former) County Chairman apparently received 400 Form 1’s from the SC GOP staff and arranged for a venue for the ReOrg and convention that accommodated 400 persons, effectively capping participation in the process at 400 ... thereby freezing out about 86 interested Republicans. (This was done notwithstanding that these people could have been added at the “make-up meeting” or up until 4 days prior to the county convention, and a new venue may have been arranged; however, this apparently did not happen.) So, based on a dispute filed by one of those left out of the process, and after listening to arguments from both sides, the Credentials Committee could have ruled that *a*) the former Chairman committed an egregious error by denying dozens of interested Republicans the opportunity to participate in the process ... and deem that Pickens County should not be represented at the SC GOP convention, or *b*) that the 400 certified Delegates to the County convention did everything asked of them, including voting for Delegates to represent the County at the SC GOP convention ... and deem that the Delegates elected at the Pickens County convention should be seated at the SC GOP convention, notwithstanding the decisions and actions of the former Chairman. The Credentials Committee opted to exclude the Pickens County delegation from the SC GOP convention and, in a fairly close floor vote the decision of the Committee was upheld.

Subsequently, the votes for SC GOP Officers were held:

Drew McKissick (Richland) was re-elected with 505 votes, versus 375 for Lee Bright (Spartanburg) and 27 for Denny Floyd (Anderson).

Cindy Risher (Clarendon County) was re-elected First Vice-Chair; Jennifer Cunningham (Richland County) was elected Second Vice-Chair; and Christen Norman (Charleston) was elected Third Vice-Chair.

The last order of business was the passage of four resolutions:

1) A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN PARTY REGARDING RESTRICTION OF INTERFERENCE FROM FEDERAL DISTRICT COURTS.

In light of what we have been seeing since President Trump took office, this was a call for all South Carolina congressional representatives to take every measure to curtail and reverse the extent to which federal judges interfere with the executive authority and “common sense” agenda of President Trump.

2) A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN PARTY EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES BY PRIMARY.

This resolution opposes the movement in some SC Counties to “select” Republican nominees for office, versus continuing the mechanism of Primary Elections.

3) A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN PARTY TO ENSURE BIPARTISAN REPRESENTATION FOR POLL MANAGERS AND CLERKS AT POLLING PLACES.

This resolution calls for bi-partisan staffing at every SC polling place in order to “promote accountability, transparency and integrity in our electoral system,” versus the documented anti-Republican bias in some Democrat-run counties and Precincts.

4) A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN PARTY AFFIRMING REAL PROPERTY OWNERS’ RIGHT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE TO REMOVE TRESPASSERS AND SQUATTERS FROM THEIR PROPERTIES WITHOUT SUFFERING UNDUE DELAY, HARDSHIP, ATTORNEY FEES AND COURT COSTS.

Duh!

All of these Resolutions were approved by the delegates, and the convention was subsequently adjourned ... until May, 2027.