

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

June 2, 2020

Ronna McDaniel  
Chairwoman  
Republican National Committee  
310 First Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Marcia Lee Kelly  
President & CEO  
Republican National Convention  
Post Office Box 31174  
Charlotte, NC 28231

Dear Chairwoman McDaniel and President Kelly:

I am in receipt of your letter of May 30, 2020, demanding a "full convention" which includes "19,000 delegates, alternative delegates, staff, volunteers, elected officials and guests inside the Spectrum Center." You also require "full hotels and restaurants and bars at capacity." In my conversations with you and with President Trump Friday night, you want us to guarantee a full arena.

We had appreciated your earlier acknowledgements that a successful and safe convention would need to be scaled back to protect the health of participants as well as North Carolinians. Unfortunately, it appears that has now changed.

We still want a safe RNC convention in Charlotte that follows the health guidelines set forth in [the CDC's interim guidance regarding mass gatherings](#). In my conversation with the President, I commended him for not holding crowded political rallies since March because of the serious health risk that they would cause.

The people of North Carolina do not know what the status of COVID-19 will be in August, so planning for a scaled-down convention with fewer people, social distancing and face coverings is a necessity.

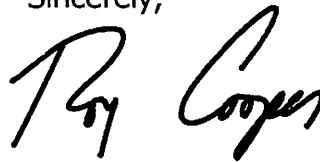
We are happy to continue talking with you about what a scaled-down convention would look like and we still await your proposed plan for that. We also await answers to

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the safety questions posed by our state Health and Human Services Secretary, specifically regarding social distancing and face coverings.

With the Nation, the State of North Carolina and the City of Charlotte still under states of emergency it's important to conduct the RNC convention accordingly. As much as we want the conditions surrounding COVID-19 to be favorable enough for you to hold the Convention you describe in late August, it is very unlikely. Neither public health officials nor I will risk the health and safety of North Carolinians by providing the guarantee you seek.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "C".

Roy Cooper

RAC/swh