

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

Report of Resolutions Referred to the State Executive Committee from the 2018 NCDP State Convention

1. RESOLUTION TO KEEP BEE-KILLING PESTICIDES OUT OF OUR AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the EPA under the Trump administration is working to expand the use of an extremely toxic bee-killing pesticide on over 165 million acres of farmland in the United States; and

WHEREAS, at present a quarter of our honeybees are at risk of extinction and scientists have confirmed that pesticides deserve a large part of the blame; and

WHEREAS, the EPA should be doing more to protect pollinators and should not be promoting the use of bee-killing pesticides; and

WHEREAS, neonicotinoid pesticides not only harm bees, but also pose a danger to birds and aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, large corporations like Bayer and Syngenta are lobbying Scott Pruitt to keep their products in the market;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports an effort to ban the use of bee-killing pesticides and any pesticides harmful to other pollinators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourages Governor Roy Cooper and the North Carolina General Assembly to take legislative action to ban the use of neonicotinoids, like the actions taken in Maryland and New Jersey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge our national level lawmakers to stand firm and to send a clear message to the EPA not to allow the expanded use of these dangerous chemicals because what affects the bees, ultimately affects us all.

Proposed amendment from the State Convention (substitute motion):

RESOLUTION TO REDUCE PESTICIDE MISUSE AND ENSURE POLLINATOR SAFETY

WHEREAS pollination is one of the key processes in nature which enables the reproduction of plants, and many crop and wild flower species depend on insect pollination;

WHEREAS pollinators are mainly insects (in particular bees and hoverflies, but also butterflies, moths, some beetles and other flying insects);

WHEREAS much of agricultural output is directly attributed to insect pollinators; and

WHEREAS funding of insecticide (particularly neonicotinoid) research may lead to better and safer practices and products;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourages Governor Roy Cooper and the North Carolina General Assembly to take legislative action to safeguard biodiversity, agriculture and food security through, but not limited to the following: expanded funding of Cooperative Extension programs throughout the state so as to encourage Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs, which promote using pesticides as a last resort; to further educate those applying insecticides/pesticides to follow labeled instructions; and to expand/fund additional research through North Carolina Universities for additional testing of neonicotinoids that may lead to the creation of new and safer insecticides/pesticides; and fund measures to improve knowledge of pollinator decline.

2. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PROHIBITION OF THE PRACTICE KNOWN AS "ROLLING COAL" WITHIN 20 FEET OF PEDESTRIANS, WITH INCREASED PENALTIES FOR REPEATED VIOLATIONS BY AN INDIVIDUAL ON A SINGLE DAY

WHEREAS, the practice of modifying a diesel vehicle's exhaust system to make it release black smoke, commonly referred to as "Rolling Coal," is in violation of Federal EPA statutes; and

WHEREAS, The American Heart Association has linked exposure to diesel exhaust to lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, this practice is increasing in the current political climate; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the North Carolina General Assembly to enact a law to prohibit the practice known as rolling coal within twenty (20) feet of pedestrians, with increased penalties for repeated incidences by an individual within a 24-hour period.

Proposed amendment from the State Convention: Eliminate "within 20 feet of pedestrians, within increased penalties for repeated violations by individuals in a single day" in the Title.

New Title: Resolution Calling for the Prohibition of the Practice Known as "Rolling Coal".

Amend current: WHEREAS, this practice is increasing in the current political climate; now

TO: WHEREAS, this dangerous practice is increasingly used as a form of conspicuous air pollution intended to protest and harass bicyclists, pedestrians, protesters, electric and hybrid car drivers and environmentalists; now

*Then amend the **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** clause to read:*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the North Carolina General Assembly to enact a law prohibiting the retrofitting of diesel powered vehicles to increase the particulate emissions for the purpose of the practice known as "Rolling Coal". Those found in violation are subject to fines and penalties with increasing penalties for repeated violations.

3. A RESOLUTION TO MOVE NORTH CAROLINA TO 100% CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND OPPOSE NEW FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS

WHEREAS, climate change is real, and influenced by humans, and affirmed by overwhelming scientific evidence; and

WHEREAS, if unchecked, climate change will fundamentally undermine the stability of human societies and natural systems; and

WHEREAS, a just transition to 100% renewable energy can benefit all communities, especially low-income communities and communities of color, which are disproportionately impacted by fossil fuel production; and

WHEREAS, a just transition to 100% renewable energy will create significant numbers of high quality jobs, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will support a statewide goal moving towards 100% clean renewable energy by 2050, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will promote legislation to establish region by region targets and an inclusive Climate Action Planning process, by the North Carolina General Assembly, within the next year.

4. A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY

WHEREAS, climate change is recognized by a consensus of the global scientific community as an ongoing and worsening trend; and

WHEREAS, current trends in carbon emissions are likely to result in substantial sea level rise, increases in temperatures, shifts in agricultural production and geopolitical disturbances that will catastrophically affect our children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the National and North Carolina Democratic Party recognize the urgent importance of protecting human life through amply-funded governmental, science-based policies that maintain and enhance the resources essential to healthy living—clean water and soil, clean air, and healthy food;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that North Carolina Democratic Party act to strengthen environmental protections and to renew a commitment to encourage the development of clean energy; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party also support the removal of tariffs from imports on all solar panels; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Utilities Commission is encouraged to use its influence to make the availability and use of solar energy in North Carolina a top priority, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party support increased investment in energy technology research and development with a goal of making solar, wind, wave, tidal, geothermal and other “green” power, including conservation and other viable energy sources; instituting carbon pricing with full revenue recycling, both to enhance efficiency and to offset regressive impacts on lower-income people and small businesses; creating a federal tax credit for the installation of residential and commercial energy-efficient systems including drain water heat exchangers, solar hot water heating systems and ground source heat pumps; increasing fuel efficiency standards for all vehicles and encouraging alternative fuel technologies such as plug-in-hybrids; development of alternative transport systems such as bike paths and mass transit options; investing in New Deal-like work projects that create green collar jobs, including a Clean Energy Corps to increase energy efficiency in buildings;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourage our representatives in the North Carolina General Assembly and the U.S. Congress to vigorously pursue all measures to rapidly eliminate carbon-based fuel sources and to promote the use of renewable energy.

5. RESOLUTIONS TO CALL FOR MONEY TO FIGHT SEX TRAFFICKING

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is an illegal market driven form of modern slavery existing across the country including North Carolina;

WHEREAS, sex trafficking is the harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age;

WHEREAS, over 220 cases of human trafficking were reported in North Carolina in 2017;

WHEREAS, North Carolina has experienced over 100 new human trafficking cases in the past 5 years;

WHEREAS, North Carolina ranks eighth in the nation in the number of human trafficking cases;

WHEREAS, Human trafficking separates people from their families, destroys lives and can cause irreparable harm to minors;

WHEREAS, the North Carolina state budget passed by the General Assembly in 2017 included no money to fight sex trafficking or aid victims;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to remedy these deficiencies to protect North Carolina and its citizens, by allocating funds to aid in the form of shelter, job training, and mental counseling for victims of sex trafficking.

Proposed Amendment from State Convention: THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the funds allocated for these measures will not be used toward initiatives that further criminalize, persecute or victimize current sex workers, including any and all measures that strengthen legal penalties against selling one's own sexual services over the internet.

6. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO STAND UP AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT IN THE IN THE WORKFORCE.

WHEREAS, North Carolina Democrats hold values of equality, respect and dignity and promote governments that are responsive to and respectful of the legitimate needs, interests and aspirations of every man, woman and child; and

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court recognizes sexual harassment as a form of employment discrimination based on sex under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, Sexual harassment is a form of employment discrimination that is enforced by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and it includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature, as well as gender harassment (https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/sexual_harassment.cfm); and

WHEREAS, harassment includes sexist or crude/offensive behaviors devoid of sexual interest and is recognized by the EEOC as a form of sexual harassment because of sex, gender identity including transgender status, or because of sexual orientation; and includes harassing an employee either because of his or her sexual orientation (e.g., by derogatory terms, sexually oriented comments, or disparaging remarks for associating with a person of the same or opposite sex) or because of a gender transition (e.g., by intentionally and persistently failing to use the name and gender pronoun that correspond to the gender

identity with which the employee identifies and which the employee has communicated to management and employees) (<https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/sex.cfm>) and (https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/task_force/harassment/upload/report.pdf); and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the EEOC released a comprehensive study of workplace harassment in the United States, showing that when researchers disaggregate harassment into the various subtypes (unwanted sexual attention, sexual coercion, and gender harassment), they find that gender harassment is the most common form of harassment (https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/task_force/harassment/upload/report.pdf); and

WHEREAS, Sexual harassment on both social media and in professional and social environments has been reported in politics; and

WHEREAS, Democratic Party candidates and officials have a crucial responsibility to act as positive role models in preventing and combating sexual harassment in society, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to change laws surrounding sexual harassment and assault, for example, instituting protocols that give sufferers in all industries the ability to file complaints without retaliation, making it illegal for employers to require employees to sign non-disclosure agreements as a condition of employment; now, therefore; be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party will not tolerate any form of sexual harassment; by a candidate or elected official; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly urge that our local, state, and federal elected officials actively work to pass legislation that address sexual harassment in both the private and public workplace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party asks our local, state and federal elected officials to support education programs to change attitudes of men and women of all ages toward sexual harassment and work to track progress to reducing sexual assault and harassment in the workplace.

Proposed Amendment from the State Convention: "And to stop all bullying and all harassment that contributes to a hostile workforce environment."

7. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RESTORATION OF NET NEUTRALITY

WHEREAS, net neutrality is the principle that Internet service providers must treat all data on the Internet the same, and not discriminate or charge differently by user, content, website, platform, application, type of attached equipment, or method of communication; and

WHEREAS, access to the Internet is a basic precondition for full participation in our social, political, and economic life, allowing citizens to obtain information, conduct banking transactions, pay bills, apply for jobs, conduct research, communicate with each other and organize in support of, or in opposition to, government actions thereby expanding citizen participation in our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Internet is a platform for free speech and free expression, and is now a principal source of news for 43 percent of Americans; and

WHEREAS, the internet is a vital public utility and it should be equally accessible to all; and

WHEREAS, the largest Internet service provider (ISP) in the United States, Comcast, is also the most hated company in the country; and

WHEREAS, net neutrality requires ISPs to provide equal and nondiscriminatory access to all users, thereby ensuring the Internet remains vibrant and innovative, and creates a level playing field for large and small content providers; and

WHEREAS, more than 20 internet pioneers and leaders such as TCP/IP co-inventor Vint Cerf, inventor of the world wide web, Tim Berners-Lee, and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, have publicly called for the continuation of net neutrality to protect access to the Internet; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission voted to repeal net neutrality rules on December 14, 2017, largely based on the argument that net neutrality is unnecessary regulation which is preventing ISPs from making money to fund new broadband infrastructure, but the ISPs themselves, when speaking to their investors, have denied that net neutrality adversely impacted their financial ability to undertake; and

WHEREAS, The Net Neutrality issue has entered the mainstream, and politicians are paying attention. Momentum to reverse the FCC's decision is building in Congress, and the issue will likely be in play during the midterm elections. In January 2018, Free Press was among the very first to sue the agency over its unfounded attack on the open internet;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges U.S. Senators Burr and Tillis and members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation to support federal legislation restoring net neutrality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urge North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein to join the attorneys general of New York, California, Washington, Illinois and other states in suing the FCC over its decision to end net neutrality.

Proposed Amendment from the State Convention: RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the state legislature to adopt net neutrality regulations similar to California's SB 822 and others adopted by the states of Oregon and Washington.

8. RESOLUTION TO INCREASE PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS FROM THE EDUCATION LOTTERY USED TO FURTHER PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, funding cuts to unemployment benefits and social welfare programs for the needy have resulted in a higher percentage of food insecurity throughout North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, it is scientifically proven that well fed children have a higher capacity to learn, and

WHEREAS, cuts to public education have led to an exodus of experienced teachers, and

WHEREAS, cuts to the number of teaching assistants have led to fewer educators per student, and

WHEREAS, tax reforms have reduced the deduction for teacher expenses for out of pocket purchases for supplies directly related to the ability to teach, and

WHEREAS, lack of funding for infrastructure maintenance has resulted in everything from lack of toilet paper and books, to school consolidation and class size increases, and

WHEREAS, funding for teacher continuing education scholarships has been reduced, and

WHEREAS, respect for teaching experience has not been reflected in the current pay scale, and

WHEREAS, the people of North Carolina were led to believe that funds acquired because of their votes to approve the N.C. Education Lottery would be used for public education, and

WHEREAS, funds from the N.C. Education Lottery have been commandeered to make up for budget shortfalls, while the N.C. General Assembly has seen fit to reduce taxes, and therefore revenues, which might otherwise have been available to remedy the many deficits in our public education system, and

WHEREAS, the pool of public education students reduced and per student spending removed from the public education system by the issuance of vouchers for private, for profit schools; exacerbating education funding shortfalls,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the requirement that N.C. Legislators use a much higher percentage of funds from the N.C. Education Lottery to further the public education of North Carolina Students and to provide local school districts control over those funds.

Resolutions for Consideration from the Resolutions and Platform Committee

1. RESOLUTION AGAINST THE DISPLAY OF CONFEDERATE MEMORIALS, SYMBOLS, AND MEMORABILIA

WHEREAS impunity or the freedom from punishment, exists whenever those who commit crimes against others can confidently do so without fear of punishment, harm, or loss; AND

WHEREAS hate groups use Confederate flags and memorabilia to encourage people who are full of hate to acts of intimidation and murder, and to make them think that these are noble and patriotic acts that they can perform without any fear of punishment; AND

WHEREAS it is today universally accepted that slavery is, was, and always has been a crime against humanity; AND

WHEREAS symbols of the Confederacy memorialize a treasonous conspiracy against the United State of America that was organized in defense of the abominable practice of slavery; AND

WHEREAS to tolerate the culture of impunity makes us all complicit in the oppression it creates, because impunity is the opposite of equal protection under law and is an unfair privilege to those who benefit from it; AND

WHEREAS displaying Confederate memorials, flags and memorabilia glosses over the evils of the Confederacy and legitimizes it; AND

WHEREAS Confederate symbolism in our culture effectively communicates a threat to all vulnerable individuals, including not only persons of color but also immigrants, women, and every oppressed community; AND

WHEREAS the significance of Confederate symbolism is not only to share positive feelings among those with a favorable view of such symbols, nor only to create discomfort in those who object to them, since public display of Confederate symbols is deceiving people into thinking that racism in America is protected; AND

WHEREAS Confederate displays in State sponsored contexts implicate the State in the culture of impunity; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that neither the State of North Carolina, nor any administrative department, nor any event scheduled or organized by the State, or using State resources or facilities, shall display or distribute Confederate memorials, symbols, or memorabilia. This prohibition should not apply where historical or sociological study of racism is occurring, such as museums, history parks, re-enactments, institutions of higher learning, and/or any context in which symbols are studied to understand their true meaning;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the government of North Carolina shall use its resources to teach tolerance, and respect for all its citizens and visitors.

2. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEMORIALS FOR VICTIMS OF SLAVERY AND LYNCHINGS

WHEREAS much of North Carolina, as colony and state was built on the anguish and suffering of African-American slaves, AND

WHEREAS lynchings and other forms of violence and intimidation were used for over a hundred year after the Emancipation Proclamation and the adoption of the 13th Amendment to intimidate and oppress African Americans and keep them in virtual slavery; AND

WHEREAS lynchings and other forms of murder were perpetrated on civil rights workers of all races and religions; AND

WHEREAS acts of violence continue to be perpetrated against African Americans and other people of color, women, immigrants, and LGBTQ people by people encouraged by hate groups; AND

WHEREAS monuments to the Confederacy continue to be shamelessly displayed in North Carolina; AND

WHEREAS the lies of these memorials must be balanced by the truth of memorials to victims of slavery and lynching in North Carolina; AND

WHEREAS there is no reconciliation without truth in the acknowledgement of these evils; AND

WHEREAS memorials to the victims of slavery and lynching, such as the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery Alabama, are being erected in other states;

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, and resolves to work to have the State of North Carolina erect memorials to the victims of slavery and lynching in the North Carolina counties where these atrocities were committed.

3. RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO MILITARY ADVENTURISM

WHEREAS, the 2003 invasion of Iraq is the greatest national security disaster since the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, US engagement with other countries should be based on mutual respect and a determination to avoid military conflict and covert intervention; and

WHEREAS, we should spend less on our military in order to devote more of our limited resources to solving problems at home; and

WHEREAS, if we interfere less with the internal affairs of others, we will have less need to defend ourselves,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the adoption of a less intrusive, less aggressive, and less adventurist military stance toward the rest of the world by all branches

of the United States government and supports increased diplomatic and cooperative measures by the government to ensure peaceful solutions to international problems.

4. RESOLUTION URGING MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS TO HOLD OPEN PUBLIC, NON-PRESCREENED TOWN HALL MEETINGS FOR THEIR CONSTITUENTS

WHEREAS, Members of the U.S. Congress represent the constituents of their respective districts and serve at the pleasure of those constituents; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a deliberate and civil dialogue between citizens and their elected officials in order to assure appropriate representation; and

WHEREAS, Members of the U.S. Congress should make available to the public prescheduled calendar dates for open forum Town Hall Meetings to ensure that the concerns and desires of their constituents are understood and addressed; and

WHEREAS, Constituents should be allowed a period of time during such Town Hall Meetings to make inquiries regarding pending legislative action that may occur and to provide input regarding pending legislative action that may occur to ensure their Representatives and/or Senators are aware of their constituents' concerns and positions regarding such legislation; and

WHEREAS, Members of the U.S. Congress should take positions on issues based on the concerns and needs of their constituents and should be more responsive to their constituents than to the demands and pressures of their political parties, donors, lobbyists and lobbying groups; THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges its Members of the U.S. Congress to hold regular open public Town Hall Meetings, at least twice per year in their district and in person, for their constituents and that such meetings not be prescreened or orchestrated to prevent an open exchange of opinions and ideas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such town hall meetings be held in a public facility that can safely accommodate at least 250 people and that public notice be given at least 14 days in advance such that by-partisan participation can be facilitated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Members of Congress should be held accountable when they pass legislation that is in direct opposition to the needs and desires of their constituents and that create a negative impact on the majority of their constituents.

5. RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE RIGHT OF NORTH CAROLINA CAMPAIGN WORKERS TO UNIONIZE

WHEREAS; North Carolina is a swing state and high-profile election races increasingly depend on support from field staff, especially for statewide campaigns such as the Presidential, Gubernatorial, and Senate elections; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party helps to assist in and coordinate large, field programs every two years in our state; and

WHEREAS, employment contracts with the coordinated campaigns rarely specify working hours, organizers are often expected to work 80–100 hours a week—more than twice the standard American work week; and

WHEREAS, organizers earn less than the national average minimum wage when hours are accounted for, and campaign organizers deserve fair wages for their work; and

WHEREAS, organizers often fund supplies and travel costs out of their own pockets that at times amount to hundreds of dollars; and

WHEREAS, often campaigns do not have procedures in place for grievances or harassment to protect workers from abuses, retaliation, or discrimination by management, coworkers, or others; and

WHEREAS, campaign workers are uniquely vulnerable to sexual harassment without effective reporting systems; and

WHEREAS, accessible health care is one of the main tenets of our party, as transient workers, medical care is too often interrupted between cycles, and the party should actively work to provide medical and dental care by investing in appropriate insurance plans for all organizers; and

WHEREAS, workers may have to relocate for short-term to a new location, details of reasonable supporter housing accommodations should be known ahead of time with all parties; and

WHEREAS, organizing is a skilled profession which requires experience and in-depth, regular training; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of North Carolina fights for workers' rights; and

WHEREAS, the organizers who, on behalf of the Democratic Party of North Carolina, fight for other workers' rights often do not receive those same rights in their own workplace; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, in the spirit of the many values represented by the Democratic Party in the Old North State, to endorse the process for campaign workers in North Carolina to organize for collective bargaining rights; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party's State Executive Committee directs staff to develop an implementation plan for unionization of coordinated campaign workers based on review and implementation of current NCDP policies as well as lessons learned from other state parties and coordinated campaigns for presentation to the State Executive Council for consideration in June 2019, including coordinated campaign workers retaining their rights for collective bargain.