



Resolutions for Consideration from the 2018 District Conventions
Report of the Resolutions and Platform Committee
June 9, 2018

Democratic Party

HONORARY RESOLUTION FOR DR. VIRGINIA K. NEWELL

WHEREAS, Dr. Virginia K. Newell, affectionately known as “VK”, created a tremendous political legacy in Winston-Salem and across North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, this dynasty involved service to Precinct 401 and extended to all East Ward precincts and adjacent precincts, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Newell diligently served on the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen, now referenced as the City Council for 16 years, and

WHEREAS, her leadership tool kit extended to the birth of The N.C. Black Elected Officials and active participation in the state and national Women in Municipal Government Associations, and

WHEREAS, her dedication also led to the birth of The East Winston Restoration Association, Mediation Services and The Best Choice Center. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the East Ward precincts of the Forsyth Democratic Party support the adoption of the resolution and that her eight decades of political service to the Democratic parties of Forsyth County and North Carolina are noted in the archives of said entities.

RESOLUTION HONORING COL. WILLIAM FRANKLIN

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Franklin is a native son of the Tar Heel State and has never been afraid to call out injustice, communicate his position and “speak truth to power”; and

WHEREAS, Bill has worked tirelessly within and around the Party to advance the cause of progressive ideas and the Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Franklin served our country in active duty and finished his career as a well-regarded officer at the Pentagon;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the delegates of the North Carolina Democratic do wholeheartedly honor William Franklin for his service as a decorated Veteran as well as his work within the democratic Party and wish him a full recovery from his recent spate of health problems.

CALLING ON DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES TO REJECT FUNDS FROM NRA AND NRA ASSOCIATES

WHEREAS, the National Rifle Association (NRA) has prevented the implementation of common-sense gun laws in America that would protect our children and citizens from gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the NRA is a powerful lobby whose main goal is to promote the sale of firearms, including military-grade assault rifles, at the peril of innocent citizens; and

WHEREAS, there are 200 million registered voters and only 5 million NRA members in the United States;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party petitions Democratic candidates running for office in North Carolina in local, state and national elections not to accept any money from the National Rifle Association, any firearms industry, any firearm PAC's or any individual donations given to further firearm sales.

REDUCE THE INFLUENCE OF BIG MONEY IN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES

WHEREAS, the influence of corporate donations undermines the pillars of democracy the established Constitutional principle of one person, one vote;

WHEREAS, corporations, while generally constructive in providing important benefits to society, are not human beings, but “artificial immortal beings,” as defined by Chief Justice John Marshall; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court’s 5-4 decision in *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission* (FEC) 558 U.S. 310 (2010) legalized unfettered corporate spending to influence federal elections and overturned a century of established law that acknowledges the power of citizens to limit corporate influence in elections; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court’s rulings in *Citizens United* and related cases overturned campaign finance laws by finding that spending money by corporations to influence elections is protected by the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party asserts that the North Carolina Democratic Party and the Democratic National Committee must also act internally to model our commitment to reducing the disproportionate influence of corporations in choosing candidates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party asserts that the North Carolina Democratic Party and the Democratic National Committee must pursue reform of fundraising by individual candidates in Democratic primaries to limit the influence of corporations.

General Government

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

WHEREAS, free and fair elections are the foundation of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, actors from a foreign nation, Russia, interfered with our nation's 2016 presidential election by fraudulently misrepresenting themselves as American citizens to disseminate misinformation through Social Media; and

WHEREAS, Russian agents on American soil apparently manipulated American citizens through staged rallies and paid protesters, as well as other unknown means; and

WHEREAS, Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller has already brought criminal charges against 22 persons or entities involved with the Donald Trump campaign or with Russian citizens alleged to be involved with interfering in our electoral process;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the Congress of the United States to furnish the financial and resource support, as well as the necessary freedom to act effectively, to the U.S. Department of Justice's Special Counsel investigating the 2016 Presidential Election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Special Counsel, Robert Mueller, must not be dismissed from his appointed job until that investigation is concluded to his satisfaction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such dismissal by the President, Donald J. Trump, be considered by Congress an impeachable offense; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on Congress to enact strong legislative measures to protect the integrity of future elections from all interference by our enemies, foreign and domestic.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MORE DISASTER AID TO PUERTO RICO

WHEREAS, the people of Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens since a 1917 decree and

WHEREAS, In September 2017 Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico; damage has been estimated at \$ 93 billion; the total number of deaths reached 1,230, with many of them attributable to the after-effects of the Hurricane such as food, water and housing shortages; and

WHEREAS, In October, when President Trump was tossing rolls of paper towels to flooded-out hurricane-victims, he offered lavish promises of aid and said Wall Street lenders were “going to say goodbye” to Puerto Rico’s \$ 73 billion debt; but the debt was not written off, and disaster relief aid has been inadequate and piecemeal; a recent report from Refugees International said “Thousands of people still lack sustainable access to potable water, electricity and dry, safe places to sleep,” and

WHEREAS, when five months after Congress approved a \$4.7 billion disaster relief loan the U.S. Treasury Department sent the money, reducing the amount to \$2 billion without providing any explanation; Puerto Rico’s governor warned that the move puts the territory in a “dangerous financial dilemma” and that his administration could be forced to cut some essential services; and

WHEREAS, nearly a million low-income Puerto Ricans are in danger of losing health care because the territory’s Medicaid program will soon be unable to pay providers; federal law restricts Medicaid reimbursements for Puerto Rico to 25% of what a state on the mainland receives; and

WHEREAS, The GOP tax bill treats Puerto Rico as a foreign country, imposing a 12.5 percent tax on the income that U.S. companies there receive from intellectual property – a big hit to its crucial pharmaceutical and medical-device sector; rather than give Puerto Rico special tax treatment, which it urgently needs, Trump and his congressional allies gave employers a powerful reason to move jobs off the island; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Treasury make available to Puerto Rico the additional \$2 billion approved by Congress immediately and without conditions; and

RESOLVED, That the Democrats in the House bring to the floor a revised and comprehensive disaster aid and reconstruction grant package, like the ones approved for Texas and Florida, hit by hurricanes in the same time; and

RESOLVED, That the Democrats in the Senate use some rare leverage in fixing the tax bill with the GOP assuring for Puerto Rico special tax treatment and full recognition as U.S. territory with all the benefits associated with it.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PRESERVING JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

WHEREAS, it is the right of political parties to back candidates and the General Assembly's authority to set election parameters;

WHEREAS, the elimination of partisan primaries for trial and appellate court judgeships violates voters' constitutional right to associate as a party and choose in an election people they believe best represent their party for the general elections;

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Legislature's proposed judicial redistricting plan is anti-democratic and contrary to our form of government;

WHEREAS, changing all judicial races from officially nonpartisan affairs to partisan and dispensing with judicial primaries means some races could have numerous candidates seeking a seat and election results that put a judge on the bench with far less than 50 percent of the vote;

WHEREAS, population deviations in the judicial redistricting plan dilute the voting strength of some North Carolinians while providing advantage to others, as well as disproportionately pairing judges who are African-American and/or registered Democrats;

WHEREAS, reducing the number of Court of Appeals judges from 15 to 12 will likely result in people of color and people in rural areas disproportionately having less access to our justice system;

WHEREAS, no expert or public input was allowed in the creation of the North Carolina Legislature's proposed judicial redistricting and reform plan, so no thought has been given to what this change means for important legal services in the community – such as drug courts, guardian ad litem programs, and litigation of existing cases;

WHEREAS, Courts in our democracy serve many roles, e.g., critically, they serve as a check on the whims of the political branches, and they serve as an assurance to the public that everyone will be held to the same set of rules; however, to fulfill these responsibilities fairly and independently, they need greater insulation from the political pressures governors and legislators face; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the General Assembly should not enact the proposed judicial redistricting and reform legislation which undermines North Carolina's fiercely independent judiciary which is vital because justice and fairness can't be compromised, not by any government body, not by any lawyer, not by any governor and not by any legislator;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the voters understand that this is a deliberate attack on the independence of the judiciary, an act that is an affront to the rule of law, and an attempt to compromise the integrity of the separation of powers contemplated by the North Carolina Constitution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the people of North Carolina should have a meaningful role in the judicial selection and retention process, just as citizens of states around the country do and the people

of North Carolina do not want to give up the right to vote for their own local judges and give that power to partisan legislators to make the choices for them;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the legislature must reject this scheme to politicize our courts and to end these reckless power plays, instead, the legislature should work in a respectful and productive fashion with the judicial branch on any reforms that may legitimately be needed to ensure our court system functions fairly and effectively for all citizens of our state.

Agriculture, Energy, and the Environment

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PREPARATION FOR MAN-MADE DISASTERS, ESPECIALLY DISRUPTION OF THE GRID

WHEREAS, the federal response to the emergency in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria has proven to be inept, lacking in scope or speed, and painfully slow, (for example, in restoring the electrical grid); and

WHEREAS, an even greater man-made disaster could happen in the continental United States if hackers choose to disrupt the electrical grid; and

WHEREAS, Ted Koppel, in his book Lights Out, has explained the vulnerability of our grid to attack by hackers and the impediments to effective reaction to an emergency; and

WHEREAS, a widespread and long-lasting blackout would cause tragic disruption of our society and the deaths of millions of Americans;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party find ways to bring together civic and religious organizations to organize for every sort of emergency; that we as a party promote the funding of safe and localized electrical grids; and that we as a party work to make FEMA a highly organized, fully-funded, and effective entity for dealing with disasters.

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 Delegates to the North Carolina Sixth District Democratic Party Convention support 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.

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ABATEMENT OF INJURY DUE TO PFOA, PFOS AND PFASs

WHEREAS, the risk for cancer is characterized as suggestive for PFOS and PFOA (categories which include C8) based on animal data and human epidemiological studies; though there is no equivalent determination for Gen-X or other PFAS's, in Europe they have determined that the data is suggestive for Gen-X;

WHEREAS, Studies of human populations that have been exposed to PFASs, PFOS and PFOA (categories which include Gen-X and C8) may result in such adverse health effects as gestational hypertension, developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or breastfed infants, changes in cholesterol, liver effects and immune effects;

WHEREAS, Emergent chemicals including Gen-X and C8 released by DuPont and its spinoff company, Chemours, in the Cumberland County area constitute a continuing trespass and nuisance to residents that may cause physical harm, property damage or damage to business or economic interests;

WHEREAS, The Cape Fear River, wells on the property of DuPont and its spinoff company, Chemours, and public wells in the surrounding area are contaminated with Gen-X;

WHEREAS, Dupont and its spinoff company, Chemours, have failed to stop releasing Gen-X into the environment and that they have also failed to abate or clean up the spread of these chemicals onto and into the county's air, soil and water;

WHEREAS, the current N.C. Department of Health and Human Services drinking water health advisory level for Gen-X is 140 ng/L. which is twice that of the federal health advisory levels for PFOA and PFOS;

WHEREAS, The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Environmental Quality does not have adequate funding to assess the extent of the contamination; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED That we urge Governor and General Assembly to mandate analysis (testing of wells, soil, and air) that will be ongoing for four years, twice a year; and,

RESOLVED That we urge Governor and General Assembly to provide individuals who have been exposed to Gen-X and C8 with medical monitoring; and,

RESOLVED That we petition the governor and the general assembly to hold DuPont and its spinoff company, Chemours, financially responsible for all costs involving analysis, monitoring, mitigation, physical harm, property damage and economic interests; and,

RESOLVED That DuPont and its spinoff company, Chemours, cease all production of Gen-X until it is proven that their facility is not threatening health and welfare; and,

RESOLVED That the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services lower the drinking water health advisory level for GenX to a maximum of 70 ng/L. or less; and,

RESOLVED That the budget for the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality and N.C. Department of Health and Human Services be increased to enable assessment and monitoring of the extent of the contamination in air, water, and soil.

A RESOLUTION TO INITIATE A PROGRAM FOR THE STATEWIDE INSTALLATION OF CHARGING STATIONS TO FUEL ELECTRIC CARS

WHEREAS, the transportation industry including cars, light and heavy trucks are transitioning to electric power; and

WHEREAS, electric vehicles will require a substantial charging infrastructure to fully realize their potential; and

WHEREAS, as the electric vehicle fleet grows the charging infrastructure will have to be significantly expanded; and

WHEREAS, to make electric vehicles more useful, faster charging requiring higher voltages and amperages will be required; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina General Assembly initiate a program for the statewide installation of charging stations to fuel electric vehicles.

A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PRODUCERS TO THE STATE ELECTRICAL GRID TO "BANK" ANY ANNUAL EXCESS

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Public Utilities Commission allows public utilities to rollover excess production of alternative energy for a year at which point any surplus is zeroed out; and

WHEREAS, current regulations allow alternative energy producers to install systems sized to meet or slightly exceed expected electrical demand; and

WHEREAS, this constitutes an unfair business designed to disincentivize private development of alternative energy; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Public Utility Commission amend their regulations to allow alternative energy producers to 'bank' any annual excess.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

WHEREAS, Alternative energy applications can be effectively deployed in a distributed manner both technically and economically; and

WHEREAS, Alternative energy generation cannot be independent of the grid without adequate battery storage; and

WHEREAS, Effective implementation of non-utility or non-industrial alternative energy will require economic and technical support to accelerate implementation; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina General Assembly support, through tax incentives and other programs, the installation of alternative energy sources at residential and commercial sites.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESTORING BALANCE AND FAIRNESS IN MANAGEMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the State's Marine Resources are a public trust, the owners of which are the 10.2 million residents of the state living from Murphy to Manteo; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Fisheries Reform Act of 1997 established the legal framework for the management of fisheries for the benefit of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission is composed of designated seats, appointed by the Governor, designed to balance user group interests among recreational, commercial, science, and at-large fisheries stakeholders in accordance with the Fisheries Reform Act; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has exhibited a troubling pattern of disregarding stakeholder input, scientific expertise, and proper legal process and procedures in favor of interest group agendas; and

WHEREAS, improperly-made decisions threaten food security for the state and country, economic vitality of coastal towns and cities, and occupational viability of commercial fishing families and associated businesses; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party requests that Governor Roy Cooper ensure any future appointees made to the committee pledge to work for the benefit of the resources of all stakeholder groups, and not to use the privilege of the public seat to benefit private interests and bring harm to their stakeholders, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges Governor Cooper request to Attorney General Josh Stein review previous actions taken by the Marine Fisheries Commission to ensure past and future compliance with the Fisheries Reform Act.

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.

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.

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.

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SMART GROWTH AND ZONING GUIDELINES FOR GROWING COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, growing communities need improved transportation, transit, pedestrian and recreation amenities to serve new populations; and

WHEREAS, most rural communities do not have adequate zoning or smart growth regulations in place to ensure these needs are met; and

WHEREAS, the state should require such guidelines for communities meeting the appropriate growth levels; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the North Carolina General Assembly require smart growth and zoning guidelines for growing communities.

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MITIGATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will cause increasing risk to human health and safety, as well as adverse impacts to economic interests; and

WHEREAS, mitigative efforts can be put into place to help offset many of the adverse effects; and

WHEREAS, some impacts, such as sea level rise, may not be feasible to mitigate and other strategies such as retreat must be developed and implemented; and

WHEREAS, planning for future adverse events is always more beneficial than reacting; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the North Carolina General Assembly develop a comprehensive plan to anticipate and mitigate climate change impacts throughout the state including responding to the increased likelihood of flood and drought cycles, wildfires and sea level rise impacts.

RESOLUTION TO ENSURE NORTH CAROLINIANS HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER

WHEREAS, the maintenance of a healthy environment is important to the health of the residents of and visitors to the state; and

WHEREAS, if North Carolina acts now-it may be in time to reclaim and restore a variety of fresh water sources to levels needed to sustain life and the quality of life associated with the State, with much less effort/costs, than in crisis later; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing crisis of industrial pollutants dumped into the rivers of North Carolina has exposed a serious gap in the resources available to the relevant State of North Carolina agencies – the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Health and Human Services – for example, a reduction by 70 DEQ water quality positions; now

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for the reversal of harmful cuts to the Department of Environmental Quality, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party promises to ensure all our citizens have access to drinking water free from pollutants like GenX, Coal Ash, PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane, and all other industrial and non-industrial sources.

Civil Justice

RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS INEQUITIES IN THE PRE-TRIAL RELEASE SYSTEM IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, our criminal justice system currently relies on the imposition of money bail (otherwise known as “Secured Bonds”) to ensure the appearance of certain criminal defendants in proceedings against them; and

WHEREAS, such a system necessarily creates a discrepancy between wealthier defendants who can afford to pay money bail and poorer defendants who cannot; and

WHEREAS, requiring poor defendants to remain in jail pending trial deprives those defendants of their ability to maintain employment, care for their families, and otherwise go about the business of living while they await trial; and

WHEREAS, Defendants jailed while awaiting trial can face unsafe and inhumane conditions that pose a threat to their physical and mental wellbeing; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party to amend its platform to reflect its support for meaningful reform to address the inequities in the pre-trial release system in its next rewrite.

A RESOLUTION FOR THE INCREASED ADOPTION OF DIVERSION PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, The United States of America has the highest incarceration rate in the developed world; and

WHEREAS, many of those incarcerated individuals are imprisoned for non-violent offenses; and

WHEREAS, mentally ill individuals without the means to seek mental health treatment often end up in our prisons and jails, with some committing offenses intentionally as a means of seeking treatment; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the prison-industrial complex is not only economically unsustainable, it is morally reprehensible and must be addressed; and

WHEREAS, it has been proven both domestically and internationally that diversion and rehabilitation programs substantially lower the recidivism rate for first time offenders and the mentally ill; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Federal, State, and local governments should institute, implement, and adopt a variety of economic and societal diversion policies to address the issues enumerated above.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PARKLAND STUDENTS AND ALL OTHER STUDENTS MARCHING FOR OUR LIVES

WHEREAS, The Columbine High School massacre occurred on April 20, 1999; and

WHEREAS, over 187,000 students at 193 schools have experienced a school shooting since the Columbine massacre; and

WHEREAS, at least 193 primary or secondary schools have experienced a shooting on campus during school hours, according to a year-long Washington Post analysis; and

WHEREAS, the shootings have caused over 375 injuries and 122 student deaths; and

WHEREAS, the country has already seen over a dozen school shootings this year; and

WHEREAS, Congress has not taken any significant action on gun control; and

WHEREAS, Congress allowed the 1994 assault weapons ban to expire in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the students are now demanding common sense gun control including requiring universal background checks for all gun sales, prohibiting the sale of high-capacity magazines and passing a law to ban the sale of assault weapons like the ones used in Las Vegas, Orlando, Sutherland Springs, Aurora, Sandy Hook and, most recently, Parkland at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School where 17 innocent people were killed, and more than a dozen others were injured; and

WHEREAS, well over one million students and supporters marched in Washington, DC, and cities all around the country and the world on March 24, 2018, now, therefore it be

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party reach out to these brave students and offer support to them in their efforts, so they can make change happen; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party work tirelessly to elect Democrats who will turn these brave students demands into law.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ANTIDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2017

WHEREAS, multiple North Carolina law enforcement departments continue to receive complaints and have faced charges for racial profiling, including brutality in several cases; and

WHEREAS, the website Open Data Policing North Carolina has collected more than 20 million records spanning 10 years of law enforcement data related to traffic stops reported to the North Carolina Department of Justice, and analysis of the data shows wide racial disparities disproportionately affecting minority drivers; and

WHEREAS, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's "Rules of Conduct," effective December 4, 2017 -- which specifically prohibit officers from "detaining, arresting or conducting any law enforcement action against an individual solely based on the individual's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, or ancestry" -- are commendable, along with similar police reforms in other communities, they cannot substitute for state-wide legislation; and

WHEREAS, most police officers serve with honor and integrity, it is the responsibility of the state to provide training and clear requirements regarding racial profiling in law enforcement.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on our legislators to support the Antidiscrimination Act of 2017, General Assembly of North Carolina, Session 2017, House Bill 99, introduced February 17, 2017, and subsequently stalled in committee.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF COMMON SENSE GUN REGULATION

WHEREAS, according to data verified by the Gun Violence Archive as of 4/30/2018, there have been 18,581 incidents of gun violence, 4,651 Americans have lost their lives, and 193 children (age 0-11) as well as 814 Teens (age 12-17) have been killed or injured;

WHEREAS, the encouragement of "thoughts and prayers" are never enough for the victims, families, and communities following episodes of tragic gun violence, and

WHEREAS, a number of these shootings occur at schools to the point that children, parents, and teachers can no longer consider a school to be a safe environment, and

WHEREAS, mass shootings occur in other public spaces where people are crowded together, and these venues are difficult to secure, and

WHEREAS, “Bump Stocks” and other gun accessories multiply the risk to and loss of life when guns are used irresponsibly, and

WHEREAS, responsible gun control measures can be instituted without impinging on the 2nd Amendment Rights of responsible American citizens, now

WHEREAS, neither the North Carolina Democratic Party’s nor the Democratic National Committee’s platforms sufficiently address the national public health crisis created by easy access to guns;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports common sense regulation of firearms.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the Democratic National Committee, to adopt language that will:

- support raising the minimum age of firearm ownership to 21
- institute ‘waiting periods’ for licensing and permits to be issued
- require mandatory background checks on ALL firearm purchases, thereby closing the firearm show loophole
- ban bump stocks, silencers, and high capacity magazines in addition to assault rifles

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party should encourage the funding of research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention into the health effects of gun violence; and

THEREFORE, BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urge the North Carolina General Assembly to create a non-partisan statewide task force composed of, but not limited to, individuals from law enforcement, the justice system, mental health, school personnel, parent groups, professionals from social media technology, medical professionals, and architect professionals in school safety design to develop policies and local coordinated community responses for dealing with imminent danger situations in all school environments.

RESOLUTION TO END COURT FEES IMPOSED UPON INDIGENT OR NEAR INDIGENT DEFENDANTS

WHEREAS, North Carolina’s court system currently imposes an array of fees upon criminal defendants, and

WHEREAS, such fees are imposed largely without regard for a defendant’s ability to pay them and can sometime far exceed the penalties for the crime that brought the defendant before the courts, and

WHEREAS, the non-willful inability of a criminal defendant to pay such fees may be punished by penalties including additional monetary sanctions, extension of probation (which results in the imposition of yet more fees), driver’s license revocation (which decreases a defendant’s ability to work and therefore pay their fees), and even jail time, and

WHEREAS, Judges in North Carolina have routinely failed to consider the ability of criminal defendants to pay fees before they are imposed and that The General Assembly has recently passed laws severely limiting the discretion of judges to waive fees imposed upon indigent or near-indigent criminal defendants, and

WHEREAS, because of this fee structure, indigent or near-indigent criminal defendants find themselves subject to harsher and longer-lasting punishment than wealthier defendants, and

WHEREAS, the fee system in North Carolina's courts may raise an array of constitutional concerns, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party recommends the reform of court fees imposed upon criminal defendants be more equitable, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that until the fee system is reformed, that the discretion of the judiciary to waive or reduce fees for indigent and near-indigent defendants be fully restored, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that until the fee system is reformed, criminal defendants should not be subject to any additional punishment for their non-willful inability to pay court-imposed fees.

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.

Civil Rights

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HEARINGS AND RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, Women, who constitute over 51% of the population of North Carolina, continue to confront workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults, and a lack of political parity; and

WHEREAS, Anti-discrimination state laws are not uniform and federal laws are not comprehensive; additionally, these laws can be repealed or reduced; and

WHEREAS, The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is needed to help correct systemic sex discrimination, since the US Constitution does not explicitly guarantee that all the rights that it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex; and

WHEREAS, The ERA was proposed in 1923, passed by Congress in 1972 and ratified by 35 of the 38 states necessary to put it into the Constitution as of a June 30, 1982 time limit; and

WHEREAS, irrespective of a time limit for ratification, the Nevada Legislature ratified the ERA with a bipartisan vote on March 22, 2017, becoming the 36th state to ratify the amendment; and

WHEREAS, Congress can alter time limits in the proposing clauses of amendments, and the deadline for the ERA appeared only in the preamble and not in the text of the amendment; and

WHEREAS, fifteen municipalities across North Carolina have adopted resolutions of support for the ERA in 2017; and

WHEREAS, ERA bills were introduced into both chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly in 2015 and 2017, were assigned to Judiciary and/or Rules Committees, but were not considered in hearings; and

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Democratic Party Platform calls for a renewed effort to ratify the ERA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party will prioritize advocating that the General Assembly hold committee hearings upon like ratification bills and all Democrats will pursue ratification of the ERA to the US Constitution as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

WHEREAS, for over 40 years, people with disabilities have been guaranteed a Free and Appropriate Education; and

WHEREAS, People with disabilities contribute to our economy and to our society; and

WHEREAS, every child in America should have the right to reach their full potential; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party will oppose any attempt to repeal IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Act.

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.

Economy, Labor, and Technology

FULLY FUND SNAP AND OTHER HUNGER PROGRAM

WHEREAS, there are 42 million people in this country -- 13 million of them children and over 5 million of them seniors -- living in households struggling with hunger; and

WHEREAS, 20% of people living in Watauga County, including 1 in 5 children, have limited or uncertain access to enough food; and

WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, as our nation's first line of defense against hunger, has the broadest reach and is structured to respond effectively to need because of economic downturns, natural disasters, and other causes of hunger; and

WHEREAS, federal nutrition programs reduce hunger and poverty, improve health and learning, increase productivity, create jobs, and strengthen our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration proposes trimming \$80 billion from the SNAP program by cutting off about 4 million people who currently receive food assistance; and

WHEREAS, under the current Trump Administration proposal most SNAP recipients would lose much of their ability to choose the food they buy with their SNAP benefits by giving over half their benefits in a “USDA Foods Package” that would contain only pre-packaged foods and no fresh meat, fruits, or vegetables;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party call on our Federal legislators to safeguard the federal nutrition programs, including protecting the programs against block grants or other structural changes that would undermine their effectiveness; fully funding these programs and defending them against budget cuts; and taking steps to assure all hungry people in our country receive the help they need.

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

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.

RESOLUTION PROMOTING FAIR AND AFFORDABLE URBAN HOUSING

WHEREAS, sub-standard housing and housing that pushes people apart by class and race is a blight on urban centers, and

WHEREAS, segregated housing and sub-standard urban housing has been created by

- The practice of redlining (or bank disinvestment) of poor and minority communities
- The practice of block busting where unscrupulous real estate operators frighten middle class families into selling their homes at greatly reduced prices when minorities begin to buy housing in their communities
- Misusing urban renewal as poor people removal
- The practice of gentrification where building solely upper middle-class housing in middle-class and poor communities drives up the cost of living in those communities; and

WHEREAS, resident-owned, and managed housing cooperatives have provided affordable, stable and integrated low and middle-income housing such as Electchester in Fresh Meadow, New York, which was founded in 1949 and is still a thriving community offering 2,500 apartments to working people; and

WHEREAS, New York State's Mitchel-Lama program, enacted in 1955, encourages the construction of affordable low and middle-income housing cooperatives using low interest loans and other incentives; now. therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges municipalities to adopt zoning policies and incentives that encourage the construction of affordable housing that accommodates diverse populations; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party, urges Democratic members of the North Carolina General Assembly to promote a program like the State of New York's Mitchel-Lama program; and

FINALLY RESOLVED, that the delegates to North Carolina Democratic Party's 2018 Convention urges that the Resolutions and Platform Committee to amend the North Carolina Democratic Party's plank on Housing to oppose gentrification and include resident-owned and -managed housing cooperatives.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE FUNDING FOR BROADBAND INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL AREAS

WHEREAS, infrastructure is important to the vitality of rural communities; and

WHEREAS, broadband access is vital for the educational needs of our children with the growth of digital learning in North Carolina classrooms; and

WHEREAS, our children will not have access to a 21st Century education without broadband access in their homes; and

WHEREAS, broadband access is vital for the growth of business, including agribusiness, in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, rural areas lack sufficient broadband for our communities to thrive and our children to learn; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party requests that the North Carolina General Assembly provide sufficient funding to develop and implement broadband in rural North Carolina

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE REPEAL OF UNION BUSTING SO-CALLED “RIGHT TO WORK” LAWS

WHEREAS, strong labor unions have contributed greatly to the standard of living of workers by

- Raising wages
- Improving safety and working conditions in the workplace
- Founding housing cooperatives, such as Electchester, in Fresh Meadow, New York, to provide good affordable housing for working class people
- Founding credit unions
- Training skilled workers through joint union industry apprenticeship programs
- Fostering good public schools within housing cooperatives
- Funding scholarships to good universities, and

WHEREAS, so called “right to work” laws are about taking workers’ freedom as working people to join in strong unions to fight for their fair share of the wealth that they create; and

WHEREAS, so called “right to work” laws have been used to weaken and break labor unions and hurt workers by

- Forcing union shops to hire workers who do not join their unions and do not pay union expenses
- Starving unions for funds, thereby weakening their ability to organize workers, strike, bargain effectively, educate workers and the public, and support pro-union, progressive candidates
- Promoting low wages and higher poverty rates
- Concentrating more big money power in wealthy corporations, and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King Jr. stated, “In our glorious fight for civil rights, we guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right to work’. It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and collective bargaining”; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges elected Democrats at the state and national level to work to repeal all so called “right to work” laws and prevent their enactment; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party urges that repeal of so called “Right to Work” Laws be included in the North Carolina Democratic Party Platform; and

FINALLY RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges that repeal of so called “right to work” laws be included in the Platform of the National Democratic Party

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR DISPLACED FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY WORKERS

WHEREAS, Human caused climate change is creating chaos endangering human settlements and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, A broad initiative to implement an urgent response to halting and reversing climate change will displace many American workers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that resulting unemployment be addressed by a national initiative to retrain displaced workers in other fields; with a focus on clean energy.

A RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE RURAL ECONOMIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, for several years industrial development in North Carolina has been focused on the major metro areas.; and

WHEREAS, most rural areas have been shut out of the high paying new jobs that have been developed in Charlotte, the Research Triangle, Greensboro, and Winston Salem; and

WHEREAS, in part this problem is caused by the fact that most rural areas do not have “shovel ready sites” with full utilities in place where new businesses can locate; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, North Carolina will establish a revolving \$200,000,000.00 fund that will allow rural counties, cities, and towns to develop shovel ready industrial sites with full utility availability; and

RESOLVED, this fund will be available only to Tier 1 and 2 counties. It will allow these counties to borrow funds at 0% interest rates until the sites are completed and sold to economic development clients; and

RESOLVED, the fund’s use shall be limited to property acquisition, site development, and construction of transportation and utility facilities that meet North Carolina State industrial development standards; and

RESOLVED, the funds borrowed shall be repaid to the State of North Carolina rotating fund when the industrial sites are sold; and

RESOLVED, interest costs for the fund will be borne by the state of North Carolina in the interest of spreading economic development benefits to the entire state.

A RESOLUTION FOR THE INSTITUTION OF A UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

WHEREAS, Throughout the course of history, major technological developments have radically reconstituted the structure of societies; and

WHEREAS, the current development and implementation of new technologies are rapidly upending the old order through automation, threatening to create mass unemployment and unprecedented income inequality; and

WHEREAS, this nation is founded upon the premise that all men are created equal; irrespective of their faith, sex, gender, ethnicity, race, or nationality, and that they are endowed with the rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness; and

WHEREAS, any inequality is corrosive to the self-determination and self-affirmation of the individual, limiting those rights enumerated in this nation's Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, those enumerated rights are inherent to all of mankind, not bestowed by governments, but through man's sovereignty unto himself, and where governments are formed for the sole affirmation of the will of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the proper representation of the citizens and residents of the state, as well as the general welfare of the state, demands the active participation of all citizens irrespective of ownership of property or financial status; and

WHEREAS, Citizens oppressed by poverty are hampered through economic circumstance from actively participating in our democracy, and this inequality fosters societal ills that morally assault the individual and the state itself; and

WHEREAS, we are a nation without societal class or caste, where all individuals are entitled to an equal opportunity to participate in our government and society and to affirm themselves as individuals, and that no child should be born into poverty or destitution through economic circumstance; and

WHEREAS, the existence of poverty is an inexcusable affront to our democracy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party should introduce into its platform a demand for the institution of a Universal Basic Income such that no citizen should fall or be born into poverty, and that it should advocate that the Democratic National Committee and other state parties should do so as well.

SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF SMALL AREA FAIR MARKET RENTS IN North Carolina

WHEREAS, in November 2016, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Obama administration established the Small Area Fair Market Rent Rule (SAFMR) to judge Fair Market Rent (FMR) at the zip code level as opposed to the metropolitan level; and

WHEREAS, in December 2017, the United States District Court rejected the decision by current HUD Secretary Ben Carson to suspend SAFMR for two years; and

WHEREAS, the SAFMR enables Section 8 voucher holders to live in neighborhoods with "better schools, more college graduates, and less violent crime, poverty, and unemployment" without making the program more expensive; and

WHEREAS, the SAFMR can help families remain in good neighborhoods when rent prices increase;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the implementation of Small Area Fair Market Rent Rule in applicable areas throughout North Carolina and

urges the North Carolina Democratic Party to support implementation of Small Area Fair Market Rent Rule in applicable areas throughout North Carolina.

INCREASE STATE MINIMUM WAGE TO A LIVING WAGE

WHEREAS, there remains no federal living wage law and the minimum wage has been \$7.25 per hour since July 2009 for any job not otherwise exempted; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a living wage factors heavily into systemic poverty and the societal ills that accompany that poverty; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State of North Carolina should implement a Living Wage calculated on a local cost of living or all hourly employees and laborers; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Living Wage should scale automatically annually with the value of the dollar such that further legislation is not needed in the future.

END SALES TAX ON LABOR

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a law to require certain businesses to charge and collect sales tax on the total amount of the labor charge; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to repeal §105-164 and end the sales tax on labor.

RESTORE THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT AND EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

WHEREAS, North Carolina adopted a flat state individual income tax, broader sales tax, and reduced corporate income tax in 2013, while allowing the state Earned Income Tax Credit to expire; and

WHEREAS, the individual and corporate tax rates have been further reduced in the years since, while the sales tax base has been further broadened;

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has shortened the length of time unemployed people are entitled to receive unemployment compensation, making it more difficult to obtain meaningful, long term, gainful employment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to return to the pre-reform tax code, including restoring the state Earned Income Tax Credit; and Extend Unemployment Benefits

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges our legislators to increase in length of time and the funding for unemployment compensation, phased in over next five years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party call for future tax legislation to reduce state dependence on regressive forms of taxation and fees.

OPPOSITION TO THE NEWSPRINT TRADE TARIFF

WHEREAS, the newsprint trade tariff, imposed by President Trump, will increase the price of Canadian newsprint paper, which is where we buy most of it. If fully implemented, could lead to an increase in the price of newspapers and the loss of thousands of jobs; and

WHEREAS, the tariff could also affect other business segments such as book publishers and paper merchants thus increasing prices and leading to loss of jobs; and

WHEREAS, our democracy depends on our citizens receiving truthful and timely information about events regarding public affairs and government actions; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly opposes President Trump's newsprint trade tariff.

RESOLUTION ON INFORMATION SECURITY AND DATA

WHEREAS, more than 1,000 data breaches were reported to the North Carolina Department of Justice in 2017, with the majority coming from retail, general businesses, financial and insurance sectors, impacting 5.3 million North Carolinians, including loss of funds and identity theft, and

WHEREAS, businesses that collect Personally Identifying Information (PII) are not currently required to meet specific physical, logical and procedural information security standards, nor to notify affected parties within 30 days of a security breach and can avoid having to send written or electronic notification if the cost is deemed too restrictive to the business, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party recognizes that current law is insufficient to protect our citizens' data and privacy due its lack of effective controls or stiff penalties, nor is it in line with current technologies and attack types, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports new legislation to protect citizens' data and privacy through meaningful penalties and effective controls that reflect the current technologies and threats, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports new legislation to incentivize organizations which acquire and maintain independent industry-standard information security certification(s) of their information security infrastructure to help offset the costs of compliance.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PRIVACY RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

WHEREAS, digital media are used nearly universally by people in this country, and

WHEREAS, such use includes personal affairs emails communication, web searches, and browsing activity, which are private in nature, and

WHEREAS, warrantless governmental access to digital activity through any means, potentially in contradiction to the 4th amendment, including but not limited to direct access without permission, security exploits, purchase or receipt from a third-party service provider is an infringement upon the people's right to privacy, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party, is its platform, supports "reasonable measures to limit the amount of information gathered by government agencies and corporations about individuals", now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party explicitly includes digital media in its support of individual rights, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports new legislation explicitly affirming the right of the people to maintain security and privacy in their digital affairs, including, but not limited to, email communication, web searches, browsing activity, and personal information, and

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party stands in opposition to any existing or future legislation that may facilitate the warrantless acquisition of records of a person's digital activity by a Government entity or hobbling of a person's ability to secure their digital privacy.

Education

SUPPORT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, North Carolina needs to prioritize education for the sake of future generations; and

WHEREAS, General Assembly members are requiring that school districts dramatically reduce class sizes in grades K-3 in the next school year, but have failed to provide the necessary funding; and

WHEREAS, there was virtually no public debate before the measure was slipped into the state budget bill in 2016; and

WHEREAS, School districts since July 2017 have been appealing to state lawmakers to delay changes that would require them to lower average K-3 class sizes from 20 students per room this school year to 17 students; and

WHEREAS, the changes in class size were scheduled to take effect for the 2017-18 school year, protests from school officials, parents, teachers, and others prompted the General Assembly to delay by a year full implementation of requirements to class sizes and changes in kindergarten through third grade; and

WHEREAS, to meet the unfunded mandate districts would have to expand class sizes in higher grades or reduce offerings of "enhancement" courses such as art, physical education, music, and technology; and

WHEREAS, in past budgets districts were provided one enhancement teacher for every six "regular" classroom teachers and if the General Assembly decided to continue this practice, school districts would be receiving an additional \$58 million above the new plan; and

WHEREAS, our public schools are facing classroom space concerns and whether they have enough money to pay both regular and enhancement teachers; and

WHEREAS, the transition is more difficult for smaller systems that have fewer ways to divide classes and have limited availability of local funds; and

WHEREAS, there have been predictions that some schools may increase class sizes in higher grades to comply with the new law; and

WHEREAS, many citizens cannot support the bill because of the inclusion of the non-education items such as changes to the state board of elections and the Atlantic coast pipeline; and

WHEREAS, it is unacceptable to package a class-size law with unrelated provisions meant to force unpopular and controversial positions, using our children as political cover; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult to find enough qualified teachers to meet the mandate and some school systems do not have enough classrooms; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly should consider an adequate formula going forward that provides funding based on the required curriculum each school needs to provide for students; and including a more complete solution that will consider capital costs, teacher pipeline issues, as well as addressing the negative impact of the ballooning class sizes in upper grades; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that any sensible class-size reduction plan would account for: the additional operating costs of \$304 million, the capital costs school districts will incur to build new classrooms, and the building of a supply of high-quality teachers; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the time, energy, and money spent on this class size issue should also help expand child nutrition, mental health, after-school programs, teacher assistants, lead abatement, vision, and dental programs that would likely have an equally significant impact on student learning; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to all Democratic organizations in the State of North Carolina and to our legislative delegation.

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF SPLITTING COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, unified county school systems are working well to provide a quality education, and

WHEREAS, consolidated school systems prevent de facto segregation and save money, and

WHEREAS, State Government interference undermines democracy and community values, and

WHEREAS, Communities should have control over the structure of their own school systems, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges members of the North Carolina General Assembly not to support the North Carolina legislature splitting school districts into smaller entities.

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.

SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL PUBLIC PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

WHEREAS, children in quality early childhood education are less likely to repeat grades, need special education or have legal problems; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports universal public pre-Kindergarten, for any family who wants to enroll their child, ages 3-4 years.

VALUING QUALITY IN OUR CLASSROOMS

WHEREAS, a just, humane, imaginative, well-educated and industrious citizenry is essential to a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Supreme Court held (Leandro) that the state is required to provide the opportunity for a quality education every child; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the national average spent per student on public education was almost \$12,000, but North Carolina spent on average only \$8,940 per student; and that puts North Carolina 43rd in the US; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has mandated that school districts reduce class sizes in K-3 yet has not provided additional funds to implement this important mandate; and

WHEREAS, without additional funding, school districts will be forced to cut art, music, PE and other parts of the curriculum; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina General Assembly bring our own per pupil expenditure (PPE) up to the national average, ensure an instructional asst in every K-3 classroom, and fund a solid elementary school literacy program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to bring the number of school counselors, guidance counselors, and school psychologists to ideal levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to create and keep new teachers by bringing back the Teaching Fellows program and funding a statewide mentoring program for beginning teachers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to fully fund the additional staff positions necessary to implement the class size reductions, as

well as all funds necessary for adequate textbooks, technology, and essential health and nutrition for growth and development.

EDUCATOR PAY AND BENEFITS

WHEREAS, the compensation and benefits currently offered public school teachers in North Carolina denigrate their abilities and commitment, discourage entry into the profession, and lead teachers to seek employment elsewhere; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to raise certified and classified salaries to the national average, increasing benefits and lowering costs for the health plan for all state employees, ending pay discrimination against veteran teachers, reinstating career status due process rights, restoring annual cost-of-living increases, and salary bumps for teachers with post-graduate degrees.

ELIMINATE TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR PAY FOR PERFORMANCE

WHEREAS, pay for performance discourages talented teachers from working in schools with a population of high risk students; and

WHEREAS, pay for performance leads to teaching to the test rather than encouraging creative and innovative teaching, fails to consider factors that are not within the control of a teacher, and does not address or penalizes teachers of subjects that are not tested; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pairing compensation for educators to test performance should be ended, including for administrators.

STEM AND HUMANITIES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

WHEREAS, the future workforce will need highly trained STEM individuals; and

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of STEM teachers in the state and schools of education show a decline in enrollment for future teachers, especially STEM teachers; and

WHEREAS, instruction in art, music, PE, dance, theater, world language, and other disciplines has a positive effect on academic outcomes for children; and

WHEREAS, such classes are threatened by current policies enacted by North Carolina General Assembly as well as the persistent failure of the North Carolina General Assembly to fully fund public schools; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that to support STEM education public school teachers shall be provided with professional development and other incentives to support technology workforce development; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourages that instruction in the arts and humanities should be considered a critical component of a sound, basic education for all North Carolina students.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, all schools should work together to ensure a coordinated approach that serves all children; and

WHEREAS, school governance should be representative and transparent; and

WHEREAS, all charter schools and private schools should ensure equal access to interested students and prohibit practices that discourage enrollment; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty and authority of only the local school system to provide strategic growth and expansion of its schools to better serve students and the community while protecting taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, financial and academic monitoring, auditing, and oversight of all schools are critical to protect the public interest;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the same accountability and transparency standards for charter schools and schools accepting Opportunity Scholarships.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges DPI to conduct an annual assessment of the cumulative impact of charter and private schools on traditional school districts. This assessment should review the flow of funding, student enrollment trends, and educational outcomes.

OPPOSITION TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS

WHEREAS, the Opportunity Scholarship Program (school vouchers) uses taxpayer funds to provide vouchers of up to \$4,200 a year for eligible families to use toward the cost of tuition at any private school, including a religious one that may not allow students based on sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, students receiving special education and related services must be enrolled in a public school to receive the services and protections under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at no cost to the parent;

WHEREAS, vouchers divert funding from public schools and haven't shown any improvement in student performance; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina General Assembly terminate funding for private and religious schools with taxpayer money.

EXPAND WORK STUDY PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the cost of higher education has dramatically increased in the past 30 years while general household incomes have been stagnant (when factoring in inflation); and

WHEREAS, work study programs not only assist students financially, they also provide valuable support for higher education institutions while increasing the student's experience and skill set preparing them for an increasingly competitive workforce; now, therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the federal and state government should implement or increase the number of available federal/non-federal work study programs as well as incentivize private institutions.

MINIMIZE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY TUITION

WHEREAS, investment in the in the North Carolina Univ. System has been a primary engine of our state's economy for decades, been the birthplace of countless innovations for hundreds of years, and a gateway of opportunity for freedom of thought and freedom from poverty for generations of North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, members of the North Carolina General Assembly took an oath to uphold the State Constitution of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, tuition and fees at most public state universities in North Carolina has increased 100% since 2007; and

WHEREAS, increases in tuition and, subsequently, student debt, are prohibitive barriers and crippling financial burdens for many college students and their families which disproportionately affect low and middle-income students and families; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 9 of our state constitution states: “The North Carolina General Assembly shall provide that the benefits The Univ. of North Carolina and other public institutions of higher education, as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense”, and tuition has been lowered to \$500 at Western, Pembroke, and Elizabeth City State Universities, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina General Assembly immediately freeze tuition and fees at all North Carolina higher learning institutions and adequately invest in them for their continued growth in quality and access, reduce tuition at all North Carolina higher learning institutions to \$500 by 2020; and increase appropriations to North Carolina schools so that there would be no reduction in their funding or ability to grow in quality or access.

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR EQUITY IN FUNDING IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the State Constitution requires a general and uniform system of free public schools providing equal opportunities for all students; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has not adequately addressed differences in family and community wealth in providing funding for public school education; and

WHEREAS, revenues between school districts vary and limit the ability of communities to provide funding that provides all the elements of a sound basic education; and

WHEREAS, the *Leandro* decision of the Supreme Court of North Carolina held that the state is required to provide every child residing in the state with an opportunity to receive a sound basic education; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the North Carolina General Assembly ensure equity in the public schools by increasing the per pupil allocation in a way that adequately funds our state’s local school systems, particularly poor and rural areas which are often severely under-funded.

Foreign and Military Affairs

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA FOR ITS ASSAULT ON US ELECTION AND VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, twenty-one states had their state’s voter registration systems assaulted by the Russians during the 2016 election and a few were penetrated; and

WHEREAS, most government officials agree that there is proof that our US voter registration systems were assaulted by the Russian government; and

WHEREAS, it was reported in North Carolina that due to the voting problems in Durham, North Carolina in 2016 was stopped and delayed because of possibly such issues; and

WHEREAS, the US House and US Senate overwhelmingly passed sanctions against the Russian government for this assault on our voting system; and

WHEREAS, in fact, Trump denies that there was any assault on our voting system by the Russians and refuses to institute these sanctions on Russia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party must push for money for investigations into the 21 states into what assaults happened to the US before voting in this year's midterms occurs; and

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party must push for solutions to stop the Russian assault on our election systems before the November midterms; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Democrats push for the institution of these sanctions against Russia before the midterm elections.

CONCERNING THE UNITED STATES FOREIGN SERVICE

WHEREAS, the United States Foreign Service works tirelessly to advance the interests of the United States abroad, enhancing national security by promoting peace, and

WHEREAS, Foreign Service Officers have served Democratic and Republican administrations at home and abroad to protect United States citizens; foster cross-cultural relations with the United States; build and maintain economic, technological, and trade relations between the United States and other countries; and interpret situations and advise the United States Government on international issues, and

WHEREAS, the current administration has consistently asked for cuts to the Department of State totaling nearly one third of that department's annual budget, and

WHEREAS, the current administration has demonstrated its contempt of diplomacy by consistently undermining its own foreign policy team and sidelining career Foreign Service Officers, and

WHEREAS, the exodus of career Foreign Service Officers through retirement or resignation and the concomitant departure of their knowledge and expertise, in combination with a slowdown in hiring new Foreign Service Officers to replace those departing threatens the future of our diplomacy, our leadership in the world, and our national security;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party demands that the current administration cease its counterproductive attacks on the Foreign Service, and to allow foreign policy professionals to perform their jobs unimpeded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to maintain the United States' diplomatic strength, the North Carolina Democratic Party implores the United States Department of State to maintain and expand the numbers of Foreign Service Officers; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon Representative David Price, his colleagues on the House Appropriations Subcommittee for State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, and North Carolina's Congressional Delegation to resist budget cuts to the United States diplomatic corps.

CALLING FOR REMOVAL OF US ARMED FORCES FROM YEMEN

WHEREAS, a complex civil war has raged in Yemen since 2015, displacing over 3 million people; causing the worst cholera outbreak in recorded history, affecting over one million people; and threatening over 17 million people with famine; and

WHEREAS, the United States Armed Forces have contributed material assistance to the Saudi-led coalition in the ongoing Yemeni Civil War, despite Congress neither declaring war nor authorizing the use of military force by statute; and

WHEREAS, Congress has the sole power to declare war under Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, thirty-seven leading experts have written to all US senators, “We strongly encourage you and your Senate colleagues to cosponsor and vote for S.J. Res 54, which defends the constitutional linchpin of Congress’s sole authority to declare war and promises to help end what aid groups consider the worst humanitarian crisis in the world;” and

WHEREAS, the signatories include former U.S. ambassador to Yemen Stephen Seche; Bruce Ackerman, a Yale Law School professor who has challenged the legal authorization of recent U.S. wars; Nobel peace laureates Jody Williams and Tawakkol Karman; retired Lt. Col. Daniel Davis; retired Col. Lawrence Wilkerson, former chief of staff to Colin Powell; Bruce Fein, associate deputy attorney general in the Reagan administration; and former Rep. Mickey Edwards (R-OK.);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party urges North Carolina’s Senators to support S.J. Res 54, a bipartisan resolution calling for the removal of United States Armed Forces from Yemen co-sponsored by Senator Sanders (I-VT), Senator Lee (R-UT), and Senator Murphy (D-CT); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party urges North Carolina’s Representatives join their colleague Representative Jones (NC-03) in their support for the related bill, H.Con.Res. 81.

Healthcare

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR LOW INCOME NORTH CAROLINIANS TO ASSIST IN ADDRESSING THE ONGOING OPIOD CRISIS

WHEREAS, Carteret County, North Carolina, and the rest of our nation, is experiencing a crisis of unprecedented proportions from opioid misuse and addiction; and

WHEREAS, Carteret County’s opioid death rate increased by almost 70% from 2005 to 2015 and now is the top reason for unintentional deaths, surpassing automobile accidents; and

WHEREAS, in North Carolina, 300,000 – 500,000 people still lack access to affordable health care, thus limiting options for treatment of opioid addiction or other chronic mental health and physical health conditions; and

WHEREAS, full recovery from opioid use disorder is unlikely without expensive and lengthy rehabilitation followed by long-term treatment of mental as well as physical health conditions; and

WHEREAS, health care coverage for low income individuals with opioid use disorder would greatly reduce the drain on state and county funds to pay for this expensive and lengthy treatment; and

WHEREAS, health care coverage for low income individuals would also enhance the health, quality of life and employability of Carteret Countians and North Carolinians due to their opportunity for long-term recovery from opioid use disorder, and

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic is so dire in North Carolina that we all urgently need a legislative solution as soon as possible, that is, during the upcoming 2018 short session of the North Carolina General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Assembly could develop insurance-like health coverage for low income individuals that would provide for the needs of its citizens and it would receive bipartisan support, featuring 1) no expenditure of state funds, 2) insurance-like features such as premiums, co-pays, and comprehensive benefits, including strong mental health coverage, and 3) limitations on eligibility involving work and personal responsibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, there is already a North Carolina legislative model for this type of insurance-like health coverage (HB 662, Carolina Cares, submitted in March 2017), as well as a precedent established in a similar plan instituted in 2015 by then-Governor Mike Pence of Indiana; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly urges the North Carolina General Assembly to take immediate action for the development and implementation of healthcare coverage for low-income North Carolinians to assist in the ongoing opioid crisis.

A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE MENTAL HEALTH SPENDING

WHEREAS, there is a clear disparity between the need for mental health services and the availability of and access to such services for those who need them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports further funding for enhanced mental health services.

EXPAND MEDICAID

WHEREAS, healthcare is a right, not a privilege; and

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid in North Carolina will create good jobs; and

WHEREAS, the health of our neighbor effects our own health; and

WHEREAS, the US spends the most per capita on healthcare of any industrialized nation and yet is number 38 in positive health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the US remains one of the only advanced industrialized nation without universal healthcare; and

WHEREAS, our current medical system leaves millions of people uninsured or underinsured thereby severely limiting their access to medical care; and

WHEREAS, an economics professor at the Univ. of Massachusetts at Amherst found that, under HR676, the US could save ~\$592B a year “by slashing the administrative waste associated with the private insurance industry (\$476 billion) and reducing pharmaceutical prices to European levels (\$116 billion). In 2014, the savings would be enough to cover all 44 million uninsured and upgrade benefits for everyone else. No other plan can achieve this magnitude of savings on healthcare; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urge the North Carolina General Assembly to expand Medicaid as part of a greater effort to help make the goal of universal healthcare a reality.

Immigration

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FAMILY-BASED IMMIGRATION

WHEREAS, since the enactment of the Immigration and Nationality Act in 1965, legal immigration to the United States has been based primarily on family relationships and the demands of the US economy for prospective immigrants with certain skills; and

WHEREAS, family and skill-based immigration should not be viewed as mutually exclusive as less family-friendly admission policies would fail to attract highly skilled immigrants who also have families; and

WHEREAS, there are 480,000 family-based visas available every year for relatives of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents through the family preference system; and

WHEREAS, because of the lack of governmental programs for the integration of new immigrants, families and ethnic communities help assimilate the newcomers into American society and provide critical resources such as employment and education opportunities, access to housing, healthcare, credit, and other kinds of support that allows these newcomers to thrive and start businesses of their own; and

WHEREAS, the Trump's administration's proposed changes to immigration is a radical departure from who we are as a nation, as evidenced by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director L. Francis Cissna recent statement to employees that he was changing his agency's mission statement by removing the phrase "America's promise as a nation of immigrants;" and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration's goal to replace family-based immigration with skill-based immigration by admitting only skilled immigrants from preferred countries, while limiting immigration from so-called "shithole" countries and banning visitors and immigrants from certain countries altogether is contrary to American's long history of family-based immigration and acceptance of diversity; and

WHEREAS, skill-based immigration policies are more likely to leave many jobs unfilled in construction, hospitality, healthcare, food-processing plants and agriculture, driving up prices for consumers; and

WHEREAS, families are the building blocks of healthy communities and the ongoing raids on immigrants that tear families apart, orphan tens of thousands of children every year, and drive the remaining family members into poverty and despair are cruel and inhumane and contradict all the family values that Americans hold dear;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina Congressional delegation to protect America's long-standing family-based immigration policies and support immigration reform that protects families and honors our promise as a nation of immigrants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party pledges its unwavering support for our County's immigrants and stands in strong opposition to the raids that destroy families, endanger children, and spread terror and despair through our communities.

IN SUPPORT OF THE DREAM ACT

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration's rescission of the Deferred Action for Children Arrivals (DACA) initiative makes it imperative that Congress finally pass the latest version of the federal legislation known as the Dream Act, introduced in July 2017 in the Senate by Senators Lindsay Graham (R-SC) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) and in the House by Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL); and

WHEREAS, this bipartisan legislation supported by 76% of Americans provides a three-step pathway for current, former, and future undocumented high-school graduates and GED recipients brought to the United States as children to earn U.S. citizenship through college, work, or the armed services; and

WHEREAS, the first step to grant Conditional Permanent Residence (CPR) which includes work authorization for up to 8 years to all qualified DACA recipients and individuals who were under the age of 18 when they entered the US and meet the requirements will protect these young immigrants from deportation and allows them to seek higher education and lawful work; and

WHEREAS, the second step grants Lawful Permanent Residence (LPR or green card) to individuals who have earned it by completing at least two years of higher education or military service or who have worked for at least three years; and

WHEREAS, individuals who cannot meet one of these requirements can apply for a "hardship waiver" if the applicant is a person with disabilities, a full-time caregiver of a minor child, or for whom removal would cause extreme hardship to a US citizen spouse, parent, or child, and

WHEREAS, the third step allows individuals with a green card to apply for U.S. citizenship after successfully maintaining LPR status for five years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina Congressional delegation to set aside partisan strife and pass the bipartisan DREAM ACT that has the support of 76% of the American public as soon as possible to protect these young immigrants made vulnerable to deportation after the end of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to join California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, and Washington and grant undocumented students in-state tuition if they are North Carolina residents and attended and graduated from North Carolina's schools.

Voting and Voting Rights

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO REPEAL LITERACY TEST PROVISION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the North Carolina Constitution reads, "Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the Constitution in the English language"; and

WHEREAS, Literacy tests have been used in the past to disenfranchise minorities; and

WHEREAS, Voting is central to the liberty of the United States citizens, as protected by the 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Amendments of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, English is not the national language of the United States; and

WHEREAS, A North Carolinian must register with the State of North Carolina to vote in federal elections; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports an Amendment to the State Constitution of North Carolina to abolish the English literacy test as prescribed in Article VI, Section 4 of the North Carolina Constitution.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ELECTING MORE WOMEN TO PUBLIC OFFICE

WHEREAS, in 2018, 106 (78D, 28R) women hold seats in the United States Congress, comprising 19.8% of the 535 members; 23 women (23%) serve in the United States Senate and 83 women (19.1%) serve in the United States House of Representatives, with an additional five women delegates (3D, 2R) serving in the United States House of Representatives who represent the United States territories of American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. (<http://cawp.rutgers.edu> Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers Eagleton Institute of Politics); and

WHEREAS, Women comprise only 25.3% of state legislators nationwide in 2018 (National Conference of State Legislatures, 11/7/2017); and

WHEREAS, Women comprise 51.4% of the population in North Carolina, but only 25.3% of members of the General Assembly (<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/under-the-dome/article175292336.html> 5/25/17, Lauren Horsch); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party ask that our local, state and federally elected officials actively support efforts to educate, recruit and support women to run for public office in North Carolina and to serve on public boards and commissions in North Carolina.

A RESOLUTION TO OVERTURN CITIZENS UNITED

WHEREAS, Caring, thoughtful Americans support a government that represents all the people, not just the wealthy and the powerful; and

WHEREAS, Large money donors are overwhelming the voices of everyday citizens, who do not always have the means to resist their power; and

WHEREAS, Americans need to eliminate the presence and power of undisclosed, unaccountable money in politics, and promote complete disclosure and transparency; and

WHEREAS, the voices of the people must be paramount over the voices of corporations and pseudo non-profits; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party will fight for campaign finance reform now; and

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's decisions in *Citizens United* and *Buckley v. Valeo*; and

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the immediate elimination of "super PACs"; and

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports a system of small donor and public financing of elections; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Federal Election Commission must be strengthened to ensure enforcement of campaign finance laws.

A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PROVIDE AVAILABILITY TO EACH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES NATIVE OF ITS CITIZENS, AS FOUND IN SAID COUNTIES.

RESOLVED That every citizen should have easy access to understandable process for registration and voting; and

RESOLVED That the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement provide adequate forms to County Board of Elections so that minorities may have equal opportunity of understanding their voter registration opportunities.

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE ANY RE-INTRODUCTION OF VOTER SUPPRESSION LEGISLATION IN NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, Previous N.C. voter suppression legislation has been ruled unconstitutional and as deliberate suppression of minority votes; and

WHEREAS, Republicans in the General Assembly introduced many of the same voter suppressive elements in 2017;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we Democrats of Brunswick County, North Carolina oppose any re-introduction of voter suppression legislation, including specific measures to:

- require photo ID
- eliminate same day registration
- eliminate pre-registration of 16 and 17-year old's
- eliminate out-of-precinct provisional voting
- eliminate Sunday voting
- reduce early voting days, hours and locations

IN SUPPORT OF FREE AND OPEN ACCESS TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO VOTE

WHEREAS, the United States derives its just powers from the consent of the governed; and

WHEREAS, for all Americans, the right to vote, must be viewed not only as a legal issue but as a moral imperative; and

WHEREAS, any limitation in the ability of the eligible voters to vote undermines the fabric of American Democracy; and

WHEREAS, the ability to cast a vote must be protected, with meaningful access without discrimination ensured, as voting is a fundamental right enshrined in both the US and North Carolina Constitutions and a key component to a functioning democracy; and

WHEREAS, voting must be made as easy as possible for the qualified North Carolina voters;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourages our State and Federal Representatives in the North Carolina General Assembly and US Congress to pass such legislation that incorporates the following rules and policies for full and equal participation in elections:

1. Universal automatic voter registration, online registration, and same day voter registration.
2. Expanding K-12 civics education about voting and American Democracy.
3. Voter pre-registration options being made available in high school civics classes.
4. A 4-week early voting period.
5. That polling locations remain open for a minimum of thirteen and a half hours (13.5) and are numerous and convenient enough to easily accommodate their geographic area.
6. An expansion of vote-by-mail options in North Carolina. With a study to investigate the feasibility of a vote by mail system.
7. A policy to ensure that enough staff, voting machines, and adequate facilities exist such that voting is made as efficient as possible.
8. That North Carolina continues its policy that people with past criminal records have their right to vote immediately restored and goes further in that such people are automatically registered to vote after they have had their citizenship rights restored.
9. That no "voter ID" or other burdensome requirements be placed on an eligible voter's rights to vote.
10. That all voter purges are to be discontinued no later than three [3] months prior to an election.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE INCUMBENT PRESIDENT AND ALL FUTURE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO RELEASE THEIR PERSONAL INCOME TAX RETURNS TO THE PUBLIC FOR SCRUTINY PRIOR TO BEING ELIGIBLE TO APPEAR AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON ANY NORTH CAROLINA BALLOT

WHEREAS, since the 1970's, candidates for the Office of the President of the United States have regularly and routinely voluntarily released their full or partial tax returns, some going back fifteen years or more, for public examination; and

WHEREAS, a candidate's tax returns, when considered with required financial disclosure forms, present a more complete picture of a candidate's financial dealings, financial positions, financial interests, personal character and credibility, values and priorities, and how their judgment might be affected by their financial transactions and debts as well as any conflicts of interest, both domestic and foreign, which may impact the individual's position on specific issues of public policy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urge the North Carolina General Assembly to pass legislation requiring the incumbent President of the United States and all future presidential candidates to produce their history of income tax filings to the public for scrutiny; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any presidential candidate who fails to release his or her tax returns to the public should not be allowed to appear in the ballot as a candidate for President of the United States in North Carolina.