



## RESOLUTIONS AND PLATFORM COMMITTEE FINAL 2020 RESOLUTIONS REPORT

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## **Honorary Resolutions**

### **RESOLUTION HONORING UNITED STATES SENATOR KAY R. HAGAN**

**WHEREAS** Janet Kay Ruthven was born on May 26, 1953 in Shelby, North Carolina to Jeanette Chiles Ruthven and Joe P. Ruthven; and

**WHEREAS** Kay Hagan was an accomplished dancer who received her undergraduate degree in American Studies for Florida State University; and

**WHEREAS** Kay Hagan interned with her late uncle on Capitol Hill, Lawton Chiles, former U.S. Senate and Governor of Florida, and afterward pursued a law degree at Wake Forest University School of Law, where she met her future husband Charles (Chip) Hagan; and

**WHEREAS** Kay Hagan spent a decade working in banking in North Carolina, one of the state's premier industries; and

**WHEREAS** Kay Hagan served as county key for Governor Jim Hunt during his 1992 and 1996 gubernatorial campaigns; and

**WHEREAS** Kay Hagan ran for the North Carolina State Senate in 1998 at the urging of Governor Hunt and served five two-year terms representing Guilford County and worked tirelessly to pass bills on financial literacy, providing funding to test the backlog of rap kits, and securing the High Point Furniture Market as an economic engine for North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS** Kay Hagan ran for the United States Senate in 2008 after initially turning it down, defeating former Senator Elizabeth Dole and carrying over two-thirds of North Carolina's counties; and

**WHEREAS** Senator Kay Hagan and her staff visited all 100 counties to ensure people across the Old North State could access her office and constituent services; and

**WHEREAS** while in the U.S. Senate, Senator Hagan chaired the Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee, served on the Banking Committee, the Health Education, Labor & Pensions Committees, and the Small Business Committee; and

**WHEREAS** Senator Hagan prided herself on promoting military families and her work supporting our nation's Armed Forces and their families, including passing a bipartisan bill to provide for healthcare for military families exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune and working with the late Senator John McCain to provide tuition assistance to military spouses; and

**WHEREAS** Senator Hagan was critical in passing several important pieces of legislation, including the Lily Ledbetter Equal Pay Act, repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and supporting marriage equality; and

**WHEREAS** Senator Kay Hagan courageously supported the Affordable Care Act to secure life-saving coverage for millions of Americans, especially women, rural Americans, and those with pre-existing conditions; and

**WHEREAS** Senator Hagan's office assisted with thousands of North Carolinians to adopt children, reunite their families, and keep people in their homes due to mortgage and foreclosure issues; and

**WHEREAS** Kay Hagan was passionate about both young people and building up women in public service and thereby always encouraging them to reach for their dreams and never stop trying; and

**WHEREAS** Kay Hagan believed in making North Carolina and the United States the place where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the North Carolina Democratic Party honors Senator Kay R. Hagan for her tireless service on the behalf of the people of North Carolina and extends our deepest condolences to the entire Hagan Family.

#### **RESOLUTION HONORING FORMER STATE SENATOR TONY RAND**

**WHEREAS** Anthony Eden "Tony" Rand was born on September 1, 1939, in Garner, North Carolina to Walter Rand, Jr., and Geneva Yeargan Rand; and

**WHEREAS** Tony Rand graduated from Garner High School in 1957, then enrolled at the University of North Carolina, earning a BA degree in political science in 1961 and a JD degree in 1964; and

**WHEREAS** Tony Rand had a distinguished career as a lawyer, practicing for over 55 years, first in Washington, D.C., and then in Raleigh before settling in Fayetteville in 1968; and

**WHEREAS** Tony Rand was an active member of his community, serving on numerous boards and commissions, helping to build the Homeboys Condominiums, and supporting Fort Bragg; and

**WHEREAS** Tony Rand was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to a vacancy in the North Carolina Senate in 1981 and he went on to serve more than 11 terms in the Senate from 1981-1988 and 1995-2009; and

**WHEREAS** Tony Rand focused on issues that benefited the State of North Carolina, particularly public education and economic development, and legislation that helped the City of Fayetteville, the University of North Carolina system, and the Law School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and

**WHEREAS** Tony Rand died on May 1, 2020, at the age of 80, after a long and distinguished career as a public servant and lawyer; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the North Carolina Democratic Party that is Anthony Eden "Tony" Rand and expresses its appreciation for his achievements as a former member of the Senate and as a leader and citizen of this State.

### **RESOLUTION HONORING DR. VIVIAN BURKE, MAYOR-PRO TEM OF WINSTON-SALEM**

**WHEREAS** The Honorable Dr. Vivian Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore of Winston-Salem, was born on August 4, 1934, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Burke was married to the late Honorable Logan Burke, former member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, and mother to the Honorable L. Todd Burke, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge of Forsyth County; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Burke attended Mecklenburg County Public Schools and attended Elizabeth City State University, where she became an educator along with her husband; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Burke held many positions within the local school system, including teacher and guidance counselor; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Burke was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to become the Regional Director of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and would cement herself as a pillar of the Winston-Salem Community; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Burke would serve forty-three years on the Winston-Salem City Council and would implement a legacy that included creating the Human Relations Commission, the Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise Program, and serving as the chairwoman of the Public Safety Committee; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Burke was a lifelong member of the NAACP, worked for Winston-Salem State University, and was committed to inclusiveness, equal rights, and equality opportunities; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Burke planted the seeds of inspiration that allowed Winston-Salem to garner a reputation as a city of the arts and a center for innovation; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Burke served the Winston-Salem community, and the residents of the Northeast Ward in particular, for many, many decades; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party honors Dr. Vivian H. Burke for her tireless decades of service on behalf of the residents of Winston-Salem and North Carolina and extends our condolences to her family and her constituents.

### **RESOLUTION HONORING REPRESENTATIVE LARRY WOMBLE**

**WHEREAS** Representative Larry Womble served as a member of the North Carolina General Assembly since 1995 and served as a member representing North Carolina House District 71 since until 2012; and

**WHEREAS** Representative Womble first served the people of Winston-Salem as a City Councilman before being elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS** Representative Womble was a tireless champion of North Carolina's people, including the Racial Justice Act and rectifying the injustices of North Carolina's disgraceful eugenics program; and

**WHEREAS** Representative Womble was a tireless educator and sought to improve the lives of all North Carolinians; and

**WHEREAS** Representative Womble always stood up on the behalf of those who were not connected to the rich and powerful; and

**WHEREAS** Representative Womble believed in the positive power of public schools and North Carolina's Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and

**WHEREAS** Representative Womble was always honest about his beliefs, including when they weren't always popular and made a point of giving a voice to the voiceless; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the North Carolina Democratic Party celebrates Representative Womble's life of service and sends our deepest condolences to his family and this difficult time.

## **RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOYCE MOURNING MITCHELL**

**WHEREAS** Joyce Mourning Mitchell, a native of Bertie County, NC was born on August 14, 1957 and was called to her heavenly home on June 8, 2019; and

**WHEREAS** Joyce was the Chair of the Human Relations Council of Greenville; served as President of Democratic Women of North Carolina from 2016-2018; was President of Democratic Women of Pitt County; was Community Outreach Director for U.S. Senator Kay R. Hagan; was area representative for U.S. Senator John Edwards; was N.C. Eastern Political Director for the Democratic National Committee; was a Congressional Aide for U.S. Congresswoman Eva M. Clayton; and worked for the U.S. Dept. of Commerce Bureau of the Census as a Census 2000 Local Census Office Manager; and

**WHEREAS** Joyce was the Host of the "AWAKEN" Talk Show for 14 years on CBS affiliate station, WNCT-TV 9. She was selected as a finalist and published in both the 2010-11 and 2012-13 editions of Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals. Her commitment to advocacy for the ERA was inspiring. As a lifetime Girl Scout, she served on the Board of Directors for Girl Scouts-North Carolina Coastal Pines, Inc. as the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President; and

**WHEREAS** Joyce donated countless hours empowering her community by being actively involved as a member of Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, NC and serving on numerous ministries for over 30 years. She co-founded the NC Democratic African-American Caucus of Pitt County and chartered both the Eta Mu chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. at ECU and the Pitt-Greenville Zeta Pi Sigma alumnae chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS** all who worked with Joyce were enriched by her exuberance, her glowing smile, her positive energy and her enthusiastic support for women working together. Joyce was a Christian who lived her faith. Her light will shine on in those whose lives she touched; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the North Carolina Democratic Party that we honor the life, legacy and contributions of Joyce Mourning Mitchell--wife, mother, dear friend and colleague--in hopes that all of us can strive to live up to the highest ideals that Joyce exemplified.



## **RESOLUTION HONORING DR. ANDREA LYNETTE HARRIS, PIONEER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**WHEREAS** Dr. Andrea Lynette Harris was born in Sumter, South Carolina on July 2, 1966 and grew up in Henderson, North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Harris was daughter of the late Mr. Al Harris, Sr. and Mrs. Geneva Smith and was molded during the Civil Rights Movement; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Harris attended Vance County Schools and graduate from Bennett College as a "Bennett Bell" where she began her work to support community organizations; and

**WHEREAS** at the age of 23 Dr. Harris was appointed Executive Director of Franklin-Warren-Vance Opportunity, Inc., as one of the youngest community agency directors in the nation; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Harris began a career that lasted more than five decades, leading organizations that focused on economic justice to uplift communities and individuals across race, class, and condition; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Harris in 1986 co-founded the non-profit North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) to support minority and women owned businesses which also was home to the Women's Business Center of NC; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Harris lead the organization (NCIMED) until 2014, contributing to public policy, engaging in education and training, and developing programs to help enhance the success of business people across sectors; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Harris was especially proud of the work that the Institute did to research and document the impact and value of Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as major economic engines in the community; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Harris was sought after from many organizations and community groups to speak and advise on subjects related to minority economic power and status of HBCUs; and

**WHEREAS** upon Dr Harris's retirement, she became a Senior Fellow at Self-Help Credit Union and additionally was tapped by Governor Roy Cooper to the state's Advisory Council for Historically Underutilized Businesses; and

**WHEREAS** Dr Harris was a tireless member of Bennett College National Alumnae Association, served two extended terms on the Bennett College Board of Trustees and was an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; and

**WHEREAS** the thread that ran through her life's work was known and recognized beyond North Carolina-and the State's lost was recognized by Governor Cooper orders to lower the State and National Flags at half-staff from from May 21-May 23, 2020 until the end of the day; and

**WHEREAS** Dr Harris' life work extends far beyond the boundaries of this resolution and your absence will be missed in so many settings. She left an indelible impact on North Carolina's businesses and the African American community; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the North Carolina Democratic Party honors Dr. Andrea Lynette Harris for her visionary leadership, tireless decades of service to the citizens of North Carolina, her love and passion for social justice and HBCUs, her Alma Marta and Oxford Henderson Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

#### **RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF GENEAL B. GREGORY**

**WHEREAS** Geneal B. Gregory was a life-long Democrat with a passion for working for the good of the Party, and

**WHEREAS** Geneal B. Gregory served in various committees of the Democratic Party, including 1st Vice Chair of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party and was serving as Vice Chair of Precinct 4 in east Charlotte, and

**WHEREAS** Geneal B. Gregory was a member of the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County, serving as an officer in that organization, and

**WHEREAS** Geneal B. Gregory was committed to the betterment of our community and our Party through her work at the United House of Prayer for All People, NAACP and Black Political Caucus, and

**WHEREAS** Geneal B. Gregory stood up for the "Open Party" principles of the Democratic Party in her testimony before the NCDP Council of Review, and

**WHEREAS** Geneal B. Gregory worked on numerous Democratic candidate campaigns with dedication and knowledge,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party honors the life and achievements of Geneal B. Gregory and offers condolences to her family.

### **RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF EVA BARBER**

**WHEREAS** Eva Barber was a life-long Democrat with a passion for working for the good of the Party, and

**WHEREAS** Eva Barber was serving as Chair of Precinct 41 in west Charlotte at the time of her death on February 9, 2020, and

**WHEREAS** Eva Barber was dedicated to her community especially her neighbors in the Hoskins community

**WHEREAS** Eva Barber was honored by the community when Mecklenburg County named a park in the Hoskins Community "The Eva B Barber Park",

**WHEREAS** Eva Barber was dedicated to her church, her community and to the principals of the Democratic Party,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party honors the life and achievements of Eva Barber and offers condolences to her family.

### **RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF JAMES WEBB MCEWEN**

**WHEREAS** James ("Jim") Webb McEwen served with pride and enthusiasm as a Member, North Carolina Democratic Party State Executive Committee and as Chair of the Mecklenburg County Precinct 11, from 2013 until his death on March 14, 2020, just one month after holding his final Precinct meeting, and

**WHEREAS** Jim McEwen was a lifelong Democrat who loved working for the Party, attending County, District and State Conventions since 2011, installing or fixing phones that didn't work at the County Party Headquarters, and giving time and treasure to the campaigns of many Democratic local, state and national candidates, including Jennifer Roberts, Bill Toole, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and others, tirelessly making phone calls and distributing yard signs, and

**WHEREAS** Jim MecEwen personified the values of the "big Tent' party in his openness to all, friendliness, egalitarianism, commitment to justice and kindness, and

**WHEREAS** after selling his business, Jim devoted himself to helping others, serving at his church, St. Peter's Episcopal Church as a Lay Eucharist Minister and serving on many committees, volunteer work as facilities maintenance at the Galilee Ministry (Refugee) Center and organizing his precinct,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party honors the life, achievements and distinguished public service of James Webb McEwen and expresses condolences to the family of James Webb McEwen on his passing.

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF EMILY CAROL BUCK SCOPPE**

**WHEREAS** Emily Carol Buck Scoppe, a native of New Bern, Craven County, NC was born on August 20, 1940 and was called to her heavenly home on May 8, 2020; and

**WHEREAS** Emily was a member of Beta Sigma Phi in Havelock, a member of Reelsboro United Methodist Church and a retiree from Cherry Point Marine Air Station after having worked there for many years; and

**WHEREAS** Emily served as President of Democratic Women of Craven County from 2007 through 2008 and was a highly active member of both the Pamlico and Craven County Democratic Parties volunteering in whatever capacity was needed; and

**WHEREAS** Emily served admirably as the Treasurer of the Third Congressional District Democratic Party from 2011 through 2015; and

**WHEREAS** anyone who was fortunate enough to know her, knew their lives were enriched by her friendship. One of Emily's greatest legacies was her overwhelming love for her family and friends. She never met a stranger and was the living embodiment of southern hospitality and class. She was a true Southern Belle; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the North Carolina Democratic Party that we honor the life and contributions of Emily Carol Buck Scoppe--wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, loving friend, colleague, and loyal Democrat--in hopes that all of us can strive to live our lives with the joy and love of life that Emily embraced.

**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**, the North Carolina Democratic Party do wholeheartedly honor William Franklin for his service as a decorated Veteran as well as his work within the Democratic Party and extend our deepest condolences to the family of William Franklin and all those who knew him.

### **RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM STEVEN WELLS**

**WHEREAS** Mr. William Steven (Steve) Wells was a valued member of our Grover community whose life and good work, rooted in the Democratic values we share, have had impact well beyond Grover’s borders; and

**WHEREAS** Steve Wells was first and forever an educator and champion of public education, from his own faculty days as “Mr. Wells” to his time as president of the North Carolina Classroom Teachers Association; and

**WHEREAS** Steve Wells was also a lifelong Democrat. He committed early to the personal touchstones not only of education but also to anti-discrimination, worker rights, and voter rights, and undertook to advance them through the political process. For more than 30 years, he was active in Grover’s precinct organization, serving as chair, vice chair, and secretary-treasurer; and

**WHEREAS** Steve Wells has further lent his efforts to ensuring Cleveland County citizens may freely exercise their right to vote in fair and honest elections. He served many years as chief elections judge at Grover’s polling place. Thereafter, upon our Democratic Party’s recommendation, he was appointed to the Cleveland County Board of Elections, serving nine years as chairman; and

**WHEREAS** Steve Wells and his wife, Betsy, have been inseparable, indispensable in our Democratic party, an unflinching team encouraging us to move forward;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** That the delegates representing all Democrats in Cleveland County, gathered in Convention , honor Mr William Steven Wells and direct that this resolution be presented to his family and a copy be placed in the Party's records.

## **RESOLUTION REMEMBERING NORTH CAROLINA COVID VICTIMS**

**WHEREAS** the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the untimely death of over 700 of our fellow North Carolinians as of this writing; and

**WHEREAS** the NC Democratic Party wishes to acknowledge these deaths and the suffering of their loved ones; and

**WHEREAS** there has been a general lack of compassion and sympathy coming from President Trump

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party acknowledges and mourns these losses, as well as losses that will happen as a result of COVID-19 beyond the time of this writing; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party extends condolences to all North Carolinians who have lost loved ones to this pandemic.

# **Agriculture**

## **IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE FARMING**

**WHEREAS** sustainability rests on the principle of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; and,

**WHEREAS** stewardship of human resources includes consideration of social responsibilities such as working and living conditions of laborers, the needs of rural communities, and consumer health and safety both in the present and future; and

**WHEREAS** stewardship of land and natural resources involves maintaining or enhancing this vital resource base for the long term; and,

**WHEREAS** in a systems perspective of sustainability, the system is envisioned in its broadest sense, from the individual farm to the local ecosystem, and to communities affected by this farming system, locally and globally; and

**WHEREAS** the system provides the tools to explore the interconnections between farming and other aspects of our environment; and

**WHEREAS** making the transition to sustainable agriculture is a process, requiring a series of steps; and

**WHEREAS** reaching toward the goal of sustainable agriculture is the responsibility of all participants in the system, including farmers, laborers, policymakers, researchers, retailers, and consumers;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly and the offices, agencies and departments of the State government to work towards a policy of sustainable farming using a systems approach involving interdisciplinary efforts in research and education, requiring input of researchers from various disciplines, as well as farmers, farmworkers, consumers, policymakers, and others.

## Environment

### TO PRIORITIZE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

**WHEREAS** the southeast region of the United States has been impacted by recent flood damage, and the state of North Carolina in particular has experienced tremendous financial loss from severe weather damages since 2016, moving annual transportation maintenance costs from \$66M to \$324M in 2019 from rainfall, which scientists are predicting will increase; and

**WHEREAS** more than 90% of our transportation budget is spent on building and expanding roads and highways, based on a questionable belief that it reduces traffic congestion; and

**WHEREAS** in 2018, Governor Cooper signed Executive Order #80 directing our state to lower its greenhouse gas levels by 40 percent by the year 2025; and

**WHEREAS** the transportation industry is a large polluter of greenhouse gases, and inside that industry, the largest polluters are private vehicles; and

**WHEREAS** approaches to congestion, such as widening roads and adding parking, do nothing to address the climate crisis;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina Department of Transportation to invest substantially more financial and personnel resources into infrastructure that reduces car dependency, such as rail, busways, and bikeways; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to fund and support physically-protected networks of paths for bicycles, scooters, and other sustainable mobility options that serve as viable transportation between major residential and business centers, which also can serve as a last-mile option for users of bus and rail services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly, to propose budgets and pass regulations that bolster the growth of sustainable transportation and dis-incentivize the construction of infrastructure that promotes or entrenches car dependencies.

## **TO ENGAGE AND EMPOWER CITIZENS TO HELP FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE LOCALLY**

**WHEREAS** the overwhelming consensus among climate scientists is that “adverse global climate change” is real, and that the Earth’s warming is extremely likely due to human activities; and

**WHEREAS** emissions of greenhouse gases are a dominant cause of this warming, and the leading sources of greenhouse gas emissions include transportation (28.9%), electricity production (27.5%), and commercial and residential (11.6% for both) including heating; and

**WHEREAS** climate change threatens the viability of life as we know it, and every person can contribute to reducing his or her contribution to greenhouse emissions, the dominant cause of climate change;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges all elected officials to empower individual citizens, businesses and governmental bodies to promote actionable programs to mitigate climate change; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NC Democratic Party urges elected representatives to support local efforts to engage and educate the public about specific ways to:

1. reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy consumption, and improve energy efficiency in public, private, and commercial buildings
2. reforest public and private lands
3. bring together experts in public forums to create actionable and measurable short-and long-term programs and plans that local individuals, families, businesses and governments can enact to make a difference.

### **TO COMMIT TO PROMOTING CHANGES IN HUMAN ACTIVITY TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE**

**WHEREAS** in the opinion of the majority of environmental scientists, the earth is beginning to undergo radical ecological changes, including increasing annual temperatures, intensifying storm activity, droughts, rising sea level, and their consequent effects on life on Earth; and

**WHEREAS** the opinion of climate scientists is that these effects are being caused by the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and others; and

**WHEREAS** the increased accumulation of these greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is directly related to the increasing use of fossil fuels such as, oil natural gas, and coal, and our demand for and reliance on animal products; and

**WHEREAS** increasing global temperatures contribute to a cycle of methane released into the atmosphere, from deposits previously contained within the permafrost regions and Arctic Ocean beds, thus intensifying greenhouse gas accumulation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to prioritize and encourage the continued study of global climate change and its causes and effects; and

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the NC Democratic Party urges the NC General Assembly to adopt economic incentives to encourage energy conservation, decreased consumption, reuse and recycling of energy and materials and promotion of renewable energy infrastructure such as solar, wind, tidal and geothermal and reduce reliance on meat and dairy products; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NC Democratic Party supports election and appointment to office of those individuals who will commit to promoting actions that support the concepts expressed in this resolution.

### **IN SUPPORT OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

**WHEREAS** the changing climate and the resulting ongoing environmental impacts are scientifically valid concerns affecting vulnerable communities around the world; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Asheville passed a Climate Emergency Resolution in January 2020 that calls on the City of Asheville to develop a Climate Justice Plan; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Asheville and Buncombe County both passed resolutions committing to 100% renewables in 2018-2019, and other municipalities and counties have passed similar resolutions; and

**WHEREAS** communities around the state are active in other sustainable activities, such as waste reduction, resilience, and carbon reduction; and

**WHEREAS** many sustainability goals require support from the State and Federal Governments to be fully achievable;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports and urges the adoption of a declaration of climate emergency at the state and federal levels; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NC Democratic Party calls on elected leaders at the local and state levels to take steps to combat climate change (including but not limited to regenerative agriculture, renewable energy resources, green infrastructure investments, etc.), and that these climate emergency responses include a transition of resources that ensures that environmental justice communities are not adversely impacted economically, socially, or environmentally.

### **IN SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL 'GREEN NEW DEAL,' RESTORATION OF STATE INCENTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY, AND A NORTH CAROLINA GREEN NEW DEAL**

**WHEREAS** "Scientific evidence for warming of the climate system is unequivocal," as observed by the U.S. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and, in the words of NASA, there is "greater than 95% probability to be the result of human activity since

the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and proceeding at a rate that is unprecedented over decades to millennia”; and

**WHEREAS** the 2018 National Climate Assessment, mandated by Congress and conducted by U.S. governmental agencies, analyzed the likely impact of global warming in the southeast U.S.:

- “Cities across the Southeast are experiencing more and longer summer heat waves.
- Increasing precipitation and extreme weather events will likely impact roads, freight rail, and passenger rail, which will have cascading effects across the region.
- Infrastructure related to drinking water and wastewater treatment also has the potential to be compromised by climate-related events.
- Increases in extreme rainfall events and high tide coastal flooding due to future climate change will impact the quality of life of permanent residents as well as tourists visiting the low-lying and coastal regions of the Southeast.
- Sea-level rise is contributing to increased coastal flooding in the Southeast, and high tide flooding already poses daily risks to businesses, neighborhoods, infrastructure, transportation, and ecosystems in the region.
- The ecological resources that people depend on for livelihoods, protection, and well-being are increasingly at risk from the impacts of climate change. Sea-level rise will result in the rapid conversion of coastal, terrestrial, and freshwater ecosystems to tidal saline habitats.”

**WHEREAS** Governor Roy Cooper’s Executive Order No. 80, pointed to specific impacts of global warming on North Carolina, stating “the effects of more frequent and intense hurricanes, flooding, extreme temperatures, droughts, saltwater intrusion, and beach erosion have already impacted and will continue to impact North Carolina’s economy; and climate-related environmental disruptions pose significant health risks to North Carolinians, including waterborne disease outbreaks, compromised drinking water, increases in disease-spreading organisms, and exposure to air pollution, among other issues;” and

**WHEREAS** the State of North Carolina, under the Republican super-majority in the legislature, backed away from its former progressive support of a sustainable energy future;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party fully supports federal, state, county and municipal initiatives that invest in sustainable infrastructure and provide tax credits and other incentives for individuals and businesses to invest in renewable energy and other sustainable technologies; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party condemns the Trump administration's refusal to recognize the threat posed by global warming, and calls on our Congressional delegation to take action to reverse such policies, remain in the Paris agreement, reestablish the Clean Power Plan, and revive the Obama fuel efficiency standards; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the NC Congressional delegation to pursue the adoption of policies to achieve the environmental objectives contained in the Green New Deal as proposed by Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Senator Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts, which calls for a ten-year national mobilization to meet "100 percent of the power demand in the United States through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources," with attention to improved energy efficiency and pollution abatement in buildings, vehicles and the electrical power grid; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that NC Democratic Party requests that members of the North Carolina General Assembly and State departments and agencies lead the way to protect life, and create a Green New Deal for North Carolina; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party endorses Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 80, which:

- Expresses the State of North Carolina's support for the Paris agreement, and intention to honor the state's commitment to the United States Climate Alliance
- Seeks, by 2025, to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 2005 levels, increase the number of zero-emission vehicles to at least 80,000, and reduce energy consumption in state-owned buildings by at least 40% from 2002-2003 levels

- Directs cabinet agencies to evaluate the impacts of climate change on their programs and operations, and integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation practices into those programs and operations
- Creates the North Carolina Climate Change Interagency Council to recommend, develop, implement and evaluate programs and activities that support statewide climate mitigation and adaptation practices.

## **TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT WITH A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC MODEL**

**WHEREAS** the United States of America is one of the highest emitters of greenhouse gases on the planet; and

**WHEREAS** subsidizing fossil fuel excesses on the government level signifies to the rest of the world that the U.S. has no intention of starting to do its part to mitigate the Climate Crises or pollution; and

**WHEREAS** in recent years, the Republican-controlled General Assembly has consistently deregulated previously successful environmental protections, pushed for seismic blasting and offshore oil drilling, supported “fracking” and de-funded scientific research on environmental issues;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports and urges Democratic members of the North Carolina General Assembly and local elected officials to support the following elements of a sustainable economic model in order to preserve, protect and defend the environment for the health and well-being of children and grandchildren:

- shifting of incentives from coal and oil to solar and renewable energy;
- the development of clean public transportation;
- the prohibition of offshore drilling and fracking;
- implementation of policies on land-use planning which result in greenhouse gas reduction

## **PROTECTING DRINKING WATER IN THE CAPE FEAR REGION**

**WHEREAS** provision of safe, potable drinking water is among the highest obligations of all levels of government to their constituents; and

**WHEREAS** the platform of the North Carolina Democratic Party states, “We believe that any firm or organization - public or private -, which uses or produces hazardous products must be held accountable for their safe and proper use and disposal. We support strengthening laws against irresponsible dumping of toxic chemicals and wastes, and aggressive prosecution of those who violate these laws”; and

**WHEREAS** after-the-fact penalties are inadequate: monitoring for compliance with scientifically established standards, as well as vigorous and effective enforcement of such regulations and the provisions of existing permits require strong, independent governmental oversight; and

**WHEREAS** the ongoing crisis of GenX (and other chemical byproducts) dumped into the Cape Fear River has exposed a serious gap in the authorities and 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; and

**WHEREAS** in November 2018, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality announced a proposed consent order between the agency and Chemours that would require the company to:

- continue to capture all process wastewater from its operations at its Fayetteville Works facility for off-site disposal unless and until a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is issued that authorizes such discharges
- eliminate other sources of its pollution into the Cape Fear River and groundwater, with oversight by DEQ
- conduct studies to determine potential health risks associated with the release of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) compounds into the environment, and determine appropriate analytical procedures so that all PFAS in the Fayetteville facility’s stormwater and waste streams can be detected
- reduce air pollution—a major source of the plant’s pollution of surface water and groundwater (including water supply wells)—from the facility by 99% by the end of 2020
- provide replacement drinking water supplies for any party with a contaminated drinking water supply, either by connection to a public utility or provision of a filtration system, and

- pay a \$12 million penalty, plus \$1 million for investigative costs related to GenX pollution; and

**WHEREAS** on February 20, 2019 DEQ filed a revised consent order that, in addition to the requirements in the November proposal, requires Chemours to:

- report air emissions of GenX compounds each month
- measure and analyze Chemours' contribution to PFAS contamination at downstream public utilities' raw water intakes submit an analysis of PFAS contamination in river sediment
- remove 99% of the contamination of the surface water and groundwater from an old outfall at their site
- provide downstream public utilities with an accelerated plan to reduce PFAS contamination in the Cape Fear River
- provide effective systems to treat drinking water fountains and sinks in public buildings
- ensure filtration systems are operating properly and maintained for a minimum of 20 years; and

**WHEREAS** the proposed consent order does not require Chemours to pay for any of the costs of mitigating the effects of its pollution on downstream users, such as those in New Hanover County, and the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA) has initiated a federal lawsuit against Chemours that, if successful, would require the company to pay for upgrades in CFPUA's filtration system necessitated by the company's pollution; and

**WHEREAS** a revised proposed corrective action plan submitted by Chemours in December 2019 was judged by CFPUA to be inadequate, containing "promises to attempt to reduce PFAS ... sometime in the next five years or more ...";

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina state government to significantly strengthen the ability of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to protect public health with respect to drinking water purity and safety by:

1. repealing the state law that prohibits DEQ and other state environmental agencies from adopting water quality protections more stringent than minimum federal requirements;

2. repealing the state law that prohibits DEQ from regulating airborne chemicals that contaminate rivers and other waters;
3. requiring all applicants for water pollution discharge permits to fully disclose all pollutants in their wastewater discharge;
4. enacting legislation requiring that all discharges of pollutants be below state-adopted standards designed to protect public health, and prohibiting discharges for substances for which no such standard exists;
5. amending existing law to require the immediate suspension of a permit if the permit holder is found to be discharging an unauthorized or unregulated pollutant; and
6. redefining "discharge" to include solid waste from industry or agriculture that affects water quality of natural waterways or drinking water sources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NC Democratic Party urges that the consent order between NCDEQ and Chemours be implemented promptly, and that if the CFPUA lawsuit against Chemours is not successful, that the North Carolina state government expeditiously take action to assist CFPUA in assuring safe drinking water for its customers.

### **CALLING FOR REINSTATEMENT OF WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES RULE FOR THE CLEAN WATER ACT**

**WHEREAS** the Clean Water Act was enacted to restore and protect water quality in the United States; and

**WHEREAS** a definition of Waters of the United States was not included in the Clean Water Act; and

**WHEREAS** the definition of Waters of the United States has changed over time pursuant to Corps of Engineers direction and lawsuits; and

**WHEREAS** the recently repealed Waters of the United States Rule provided clarity and accuracy to the term; and

**WHEREAS** repealing this current definition of Waters of the United States will reduce protections to water quality in North Carolina as well at the entire nation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges its members in the North Carolina General Assembly to support the reinstatement of the Waters of the United States [WOTUS] Rule.



## **CALLING FOR THE REDUCTION OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES**

**WHEREAS** plastic wastes are harmful and destructive to our oceans, lakes, and rivers and are filling up our landfills; and

**WHEREAS** approximately 50 billion plastic water bottles are consumed in the US per year and of these about twenty percent are recycled; and

**WHEREAS** until 2018 plastics were being recycled in China, but since January of 2018 China no longer accepts imports of plastics; and plastics disposal options for recycling is limited;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the State of North Carolina to introduce an incentives program to reduce the use and disposal of single use plastic bottles.

## **TO REDUCE PLASTIC BAG USE AND SUPPORT USE OF SUSTAINABLE BAG ALTERNATIVES**

**WHEREAS** Americans use 100 billion plastic bags per year, requiring 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture them; and

**WHEREAS** the 1500 shopping bags an average family brings into their home annually are only used for an average of 12 minutes; and

**WHEREAS** only 1% of plastic bags are returned for recycling, while the rest end up in landfills or as unsightly litter; and

**WHEREAS** it takes 500 or more years for plastic bags to degrade in a landfill; and

**WHEREAS** 80% of ocean plastic enters the oceans by land; and

**WHEREAS** the ecological harm of microplastics from the breakdown of these bags is just beginning to be understood; and

**WHEREAS** the reusable bag is a much more sustainable option; and

**WHEREAS** it is possible that those in poverty would struggle if plastic bags were banned and Americans were required to purchase reusable bags;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on elected officials to consider measures to reduce the prevalence of plastic bag use; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NC Democratic Party urges these measures include incentives for businesses using plastic bags to promote and provide on-site recycling depositories, offer recycled paper bags as an alternative to plastic and/or charge a minimal fee for plastic bag conveyance of merchandise; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NC Democratic Party urges that awareness be increased about the detrimental effects of plastic bag use with clear, factual and concerted public messages; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NC Democratic Party calls on the State government to promote the use of reusable shopping bags, thus reducing the use of plastic bags, by means of a government subsidy for reusable bags for lower income households.

## Healthcare

### **TO REINSTATE COVERAGE FOR GENDER TRANSITION TO THE STATE HEALTH PLAN**

**WHEREAS** professional medical guidelines of the AMA and USPATH recognize gender transition as medically necessary healthcare; and

**WHEREAS** trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming staff are valuable civil servants and educators in the State of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS** trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming youth and dependents are recognized and loved; and

**WHEREAS** the exclusion of transition coverage from the North Carolina State Health Plan is a baseless partisan attack on the same;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the North Carolina Democratic Party demands that coverage of comprehensive gender transition care be reinstated to the State Health Plan.

## **TO FULLY IMPLEMENT NC'S DEFENSE PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES TO DEAL WITH THE HEALTHCARE CRISIS**

**WHEREAS** the nation is experiencing a Coronavirus Pandemic costing thousands of lives, made worse by deficient national leadership on readiness, early response, and contact tracing, as well as emergency production of tests, medical equipment, and protective supplies for medical workers and patients; and

**WHEREAS** the current pandemic is the most widespread of a series of dangerous coronavirus outbreaks including SARS, Swine Flu, and MERS; and

**WHEREAS** North Carolina State law empowers the Governor, with the concurrence of the Council of State, to respond to critical health emergencies by requiring any available North Carolina companies that manufacture the required critical medical devices and personal protective equipment to do so and supply said items to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party affirms efforts by Governor Cooper, with the advice and counsel of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the rest of the Council of State, to vigorously implement our state's capabilities for the remainder of the current crisis and to ensure that guidelines are in place to protect our people through swift, early response to future emergencies.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION IN HEALTHCARE**

**WHEREAS** the United States is currently in the middle of a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS** this is not in any way an appropriate time to implement means to impede access to healthcare for any person; and

**WHEREAS** there exists a history of LGBTQ persons being denied healthcare simply for their identity, and these denials have led to avoidable complications and negative health outcomes, up to and sometimes including death; and

**WHEREAS** the Trump Administration has a history of animus towards the LGBTQ community; and

**WHEREAS** the two-year effort by the Trump Administration to allow healthcare providers to deny care to people based on their "sincerely held religious beliefs" has led

to the rewriting of Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, opening the door to such action; and

**WHEREAS** the ostensible reason for this effort so that medical practitioners would not have to perform abortions or gender confirming surgeries is at best specious, since providers who perform these procedures undergo specialized training to perform them, and almost exclusively perform these services; and

**WHEREAS** this opens the door to LGBTQ people being denied even basic or life-saving healthcare; and

**WHEREAS** the Democratic Party stands for nondiscrimination based upon, among other things, gender identity/expression and sexual orientation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party condemns the discriminatory action of the Trump administration in the strongest terms possible, and calls for an immediate reversal to the original Section 1557; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, lacking said reversal, the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for clarification being written into the law that no medical provider may deny to LGBTQ persons any medical services that the provider would render to cisgender or heterosexual persons for any reason.

## **EXPAND THE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS**

**WHEREAS** the North Carolina Democratic Party already supports the Patients' Bill of Rights and this resolution will amend said support; and,

**WHEREAS** the special trust relationship between doctors and patients is important to maintain; and,

**WHEREAS** annual insurance plan changes often cause patients to have to change doctors the annual forcible change of doctor threatens the continuity of care for patients, particularly those with chronic conditions and,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party commits to advocating for legislation allowing patients to keep their doctors; that insurance companies are required to allow patients to continue to see their current doctors at in-network rates, regardless of whether that doctor is included in their plan; and that the NCDP work to add this critical element to the Patients' Bill Of Rights.

**CALLING ON THE SPEAKER OF THE NC HOUSE AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM OF THE NC SENATE TO HOLD FAIR HEARINGS ON THE BILL TO EXPAND MEDICAID IN NORTH CAROLINA**

**WHEREAS** 500,000 North Carolinians are currently uninsured with many living in counties classified as rural; and

**WHEREAS** Medicaid expansion would help financially strapped rural hospitals and boost revenues to cover the millions of dollars per year of previously unreimbursed medical costs; and

**WHEREAS** NC State Representative Ray Russell has co-sponsored HB 5, the Medicaid Expansion Bill, which targets mostly low-income workers and their families who often are self-employed or work for small businesses that do not provide health insurance benefits; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party fully supports the effort of Governor Roy Cooper to expand Medicaid eligibility in order to provide over 500,000 uninsured North Carolinians with health insurance coverage; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, for the betterment of our citizens and the economy of North Carolina, the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the Speaker of the North Carolina House and the President Pro Tem of the NC Senate to ensure that HB 5 is reported out of committee and gets a fair vote on the floor of their respective legislative bodies.

**IN SUPPORT OF HEALTHCARE COVERAGE FOR ALL**

**WHEREAS** the United States has the highest healthcare costs in the world, spending on average double the per capita that most other countries spend per capita; and

**WHEREAS** the number of Americans without health insurance is still nearly 30 million, while more than 40 million Americans remain underinsured; and

**WHEREAS** in his speech before Congress on January 11, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt referenced certain economic truths that had become accepted as self-evident including but not limited to “the right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health”; and

**WHEREAS** the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including prescription

drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

**WHEREAS** the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would guarantee that all residents of North Carolina will be fully covered for health care without co-pays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs, protect the doctor-patient relationship, assure patients a free choice of doctors and would save billions in taxpayer dollars over ten years now spent on premiums; and

**WHEREAS** millions with insurance have coverage so inadequate that a major illness would lead to financial ruin, and nearly 62% of all personal bankruptcy in the United States is due to medical expenses; and

**WHEREAS** rationing health care according to one's ability to pay has diminished the overall health of our citizens to the point that the United States ranks last among industrialized nations in health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS** numerous academic studies have concluded that the administrative savings under a single-payer, Medicare for All system would be enough to cover the currently uninsured and improve coverage for all those who now have only partial coverage; and

**WHEREAS** recent polls show that a majority of Americans support Medicare for All and a majority of Democrats in the House of Representatives now support H.R. 1384 in support of Medicare for All; and

**WHEREAS** the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed serious flaws in the current system including, but not limited to Americans and North Carolinians losing their employee-based coverage as they become unemployed;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports legislation which would provide access to health care for all people who need health care—i.e., Medicare for All Act as envisioned in the 2019 H.R. 1384 and Senate Bill 1129; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly supports expanding national health insurance to include all residents of the United States, and calls upon its federal legislators to work toward its immediate enactment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges that such legislation shall include: 1] no exemptions for “pre-existing conditions,” and 2] expansion and strengthening the Affordable Health Care Act [ACA]; and

**BE IT MOREOVER RESOLVED** that the NCDP representatives to the Democratic National Committee support the inclusion of a call for universal Improved Medicare for All healthcare in the National Democratic Party Platform.

### **A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HIGHER WAGES, OCCUPATIONAL CANCER INSURANCE COVERAGE, AND MORE PPE FOR NC FIREFIGHTERS**

**WHEREAS** firefighters and paramedics are first responders who respond not only to fires but motor vehicle accidents, explosions, and medical emergencies;

**WHEREAS** because of the growing difficulties recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters there is an accelerated trend towards hiring more paid (or career) firefighters;

**WHEREAS** recent reports indicate that North Carolina is 47<sup>th</sup> in wages for paid firefighters, and that even in some cities with Democratic-majority city councils and mayors the municipalities are not paying a living wage for their firefighters, and, in some instances have excluded them from pay raises given to other first responders and city personnel;

**WHEREAS** years of occupational exposures to smoke bearing airborne carcinogens and toxins, both by inhalation and regular contact with soiled firefighter gear, have caused occupational cancers to become the Number 1 national killer of firefighters, ahead of accidental deaths and heart attacks;

**WHEREAS** other states except North Carolina allow workers compensation insurance to cover treatment for and death benefits for firefighters who are diagnosed with occupational cancers, and in light of the exposures being greater than the public at large have enacted a statutory presumption of workers compensation insurance coverage for occupational cancers; and,

**WHEREAS** throughout the COVID-19 pandemic NC firefighters have performed their jobs protecting the public notwithstanding a grossly insufficient number of masks and related personal protective equipment (PPE), unnecessarily subjecting firefighters to potential COVID-19 exposure more than the public at large.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports a fair, living wage of at least \$15 per hour for firefighters and strongly encourages local governments to adopt budgets reflecting such policy;

That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports and encourages the North Carolina General Assembly to amend Chapter 97 of the General Statutes to allow for presumptive occupational cancer coverage in workers compensation cases; and,

That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports greater funding for and fair and equitable statewide distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks, for NC firefighters and other first responders, by appropriation and distribution from federal, state, local, and non-profit sources, with an emphasis on fire departments in the greatest need.

### **A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATEWIDE COMMISSION ON HIV/AIDS IN NORTH CAROLINA**

**WHEREAS** despite common misconception, HIV is on the rise throughout the South with North Carolinians contracting HIV/AIDS at ever-increasing rates since 2016; and

**WHEREAS** as of December 31, 2017, the number of people living with HIV who reside in North Carolina (including those initially diagnosed in another state) was 35,045.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the North Carolina Democratic Party reaffirms its commitment to the values of equality, respect and dignity and promote governments that are responsive to and respectful of the legitimate needs, interests and aspirations of every person; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for the establishment of a statewide commission on HIV/AIDS to study the effects of the disease, commemorate those who have died and propose future actions for consideration to the Governor and the General Assembly; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the establishment of county-based commissions on HIV/AIDS in North Carolina.

### **RESOLUTION TO HONOR SCIENTIFIC AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**WHEREAS** the United States and the world are facing a global pandemic in the form of Covid-19,



**WHEREAS** this virus threatens the lives of millions of people across the world and has taken hundreds of thousands already,

**WHEREAS** several key figures have stood out in stemming the tide by providing crucial knowledge and leadership in the United States,

**WHEREAS** these people have undoubtedly saved tens of thousands of lives, or more, by preventing the spread of the virus,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Congress of the United States shall award the Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Anthony Fauci, Dr. Deborah Birx, Governor Mike DeWine, Governor Gavin Newsom, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Governor Larry Hogan, Governor Andrew Cuomo, and Governor Roy Cooper.

## Education

### **A RESOLUTION TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVICS AND SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS** we believe that all citizens should be educated about the structure and function of our government, how the various levels of government (local, state and federal) are distinct but interrelated, and how our government derives from the consent of the governed; and

**WHEREAS** the current North Carolina Democratic Party Platform fails to emphasize sufficiently the importance of such education;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the North Carolina Democratic Party Platform be amended to include the statement that “We affirm the critical importance of educating North Carolina’s children on the structure and function of the government on the municipal, county, state and Federal level.”

### **RESOLUTION ENDORSING STUDENT-LED TUTORING CENTERS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS** school systems in every state in the USA have an unmistakable education injustice for low-income, Hispanic and Black students who perform 20 to 30 points below their respective White or upper middle-class students; and

**WHEREAS** locally, 31% of Black students and 40% of Hispanic students scored as college ready compared to 85% of white students; and

**WHEREAS** the method of providing after school support similar to that which high-income students with highly educated parents receive has proven revolutionary for giving students the support necessary to close the gap; and

**WHEREAS** many teachers are overworked, and eventually recruiting specialists may become too costly; and

**WHEREAS** two resources have yet to be utilized to maximize effectiveness, the first being community volunteers, parents, and university students, and the second being high school students themselves;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the opening and staffing of student-led tutoring centers in high schools, where volunteers and one staff member can provide individualized attention that many of these students need; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that North Carolina Democratic Party urges that among the tutors, some be selected from low income and minority backgrounds to serve their peers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that North Carolina Democratic Party urges that the tutors be given a living wage (\$15 per hour) and/or scholarships to provide immediate relief from compounding challenges.

## **RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE PAID PARENTAL LEAVE FOR TEACHERS**

**WHEREAS** in 2019, Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No. 95, that extended paid parental leave to employees in the State of North Carolina cabinet agencies; and

**WHEREAS** public school teachers were excluded from this benefit;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that North Carolina Democratic Party urges its members of the North Carolina General Assembly to introduce and negotiate passage of legislation that will provide parental leave pay to all teachers/educators in North Carolina public schools.

## **A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND THE EXTENSION OF FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLING THROUGH THE EQUIVALENT OF GRADE 14 (COMPLETION OF THE EQUIVALENT OF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND/OR TRADE SCHOOL PROGRAM)**

**WHEREAS** the United States adopted as its standard for publicly supported schooling the completion of high school or its equivalent over one hundred years ago; and

**WHEREAS** the cost of education beyond completion of high school has escalated, often pricing the children of poor families out of the advanced education marketplace; and

**WHEREAS** the correlation between education, including formal education in a trade, is closely tied to economic success over one's working lifetime; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Democratic Party of North Carolina supports the elimination of cost for education in community colleges and/or training beyond completion of high school for all in-state residents.

## **Civil Rights**

### **RESOLUTION ON CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY COMMITTED BY THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION**

**WHEREAS** our founders declared "All Men Are Created Equal," and each has inalienable rights to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.," and

**WHEREAS** Amendments to our Constitution describe and enhance the Constitutionally guaranteed rights of individuals subject to US governance and jurisdiction, and

**WHEREAS** since its founding, the US has become the envy of the world, attracting immigrants from all continents, and **WHEREAS** the US is a great nation, however all nations are made up of men and women who are imperfect, and all nations have from time to time strayed from their founding values, and

**WHEREAS** one characteristic of a truly great nation is its ability to admit and face its errors, and make appropriate amends, and

**WHEREAS** despite lofty claims to noble enlightenment values, in the period from our founding to the end of the twentieth century the US committed the following acts in opposition to its professed values:

1. The “ethnic cleansing” of Native Americans
2. The genocide of native Americans
3. The African slave trade
4. Slavery itself
5. “Jim Crow” violations of citizenship rights
6. Aggressive acquisition of Spanish, British, and Mexican territory
7. Limited or denied admission to Jewish refugees seeking asylum from the holocaust, and
8. The confinement of Japanese American citizens (including entire families) in prison camps during WW2, and

**WHEREAS** these are now widely recognized as serious human rights violations, some reaching the level of crimes against humanity with international jurisdiction, meaning that, if current law existed when these crimes were committed, our responsible leaders could have been put to trial in an international court or tribunal, or they be could have been apprehended and tried by another country, and

**WHEREAS** during the George W. Bush administration, torture, extraordinary rendition<sup>3</sup>, and indefinite extraterritorial imprisonment<sup>45</sup> of captured combatants became official government policy, and

**WHEREAS** the claim that the US is not a signatory to anti-torture conventions is not relevant, since a criminal who rejects an applicable law is still a criminal, and

**WHEREAS** the Trump administration is currently responsible for:

1. The imprisonment of individuals at our southern border, who come seeking asylum from life- threatening anarchy and criminality in their own countries, and
2. The separation of young children from parents seeking asylum, without any record to assure they will ever be reunited with their family, and
3. The imprisonment of these children in cages that are not even suitable for animals at facilities that lack adequate sanitation, privacy, medical care, emotional support, and where children must sleep with other children on concrete floors (only covered by emergency mylar-aluminum-film blankets), and
4. The legal processing of these children and their parents proceed exceedingly slowly, and some parents are deported without their children, and
5. Detained adults have committed suicide when faced with their helplessness and seemingly interminable incarceration, and
6. Detained children have died because of the lack of medical care, and

7. The imprisoned children, some toddlers, have no one to care for them or hold them lovingly; they have no toys, schools, or ways to obtain healthy exercise, and
8. Delays in implementing court-ordered reuniting of children with their parents, often because of the absence of identity and movement records, sometimes because the parent has already been deported, and sometimes because of the blatant disregarding of a legal order, and
9. The emotional suffering and permanent emotional scarring of children and their parents, and
10. The seeds of resentment and hate, that may pose threats to US security in the future, and

**WHEREAS** any American who supports the actions of the Trump administration described above, tacitly or overtly, by defending them or by failing to speak out forcefully and constantly, shares in the guilt for these horrible crimes, now therefore

**LET IT BE RESOLVED** that Congressional Democrats are asked to investigate crimes against humanity committed by the Trump administration, and

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that both Republicans and Democrats, currently in or out of office and serving at any federal level, who were complicit in these crimes be formally censured or charged under current law, and

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congressional Democrats are asked to prepare legislation clearly defining the war crimes, acts of torture, and other crimes against humanity covered by the legislation, and lastly

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, in this legislation, Congressional Democrats are asked to define the penalties for the commission of these crimes (with definition of the circumstances that might apply directly to the President).

## **A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A BAN ON THE PRACTICE OF CONVERSION THERAPY FOR NORTH CAROLINA YOUTH**

**WHEREAS** a national community of professionals (including, but not limited to, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American School Counselor Association) has determined that there is no scientifically valid evidence that supports the practice of attempting to prevent a person from being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender nonconforming; and

**WHEREAS** such professionals have determined that there is no evidence that conversion therapy is effective or that an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity can be changed by conversion therapy; and

**WHEREAS** such professionals have also determined that conversion therapy is not only ineffective, but also that it is substantially dangerous to an individual's mental and physical well-being. It has also been shown to contribute to depression, self-harm, low self-esteem, family rejection, drug use, homelessness, and suicide; and

**WHEREAS** the issue of conversion therapy is not about politics or religious values but about basic human decency and the fact that it's impossible to fix something that was never broken in the first place;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party opposes all portrayals of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and gender non-conforming youth and adults as mentally ill, due to their sexual orientation or gender identity, and supports the dissemination of accurate information about sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, mental health, and appropriate interventions in order to counteract bias that is based in ignorance or unfounded beliefs about sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we citizens pledge to protect the physical and psychological well-being of all people and their families, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, against exposure to serious harms caused by sexual orientation change efforts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that it is in the best interest of our county and our state to make sure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and gender nonconforming youth and their families are not defrauded by persons seeking to profit by offering harmful and wholly ineffective conversion therapy; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we call on North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, Speaker of the North Carolina House Tim Moore, and President Pro Tem of the North Carolina Senate Phil Berger to enact legislation banning the practice of conversion therapy, regardless of practitioner or source of funding, for all minor youth in the state of North Carolina.

## **RESOLUTION ON REPARATION PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS**

**WHEREAS** House Bill [H.R.] 40, "Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act," was introduced by Representative Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, with Rep. David Price as one of many Democratic co-sponsors; and

**WHEREAS** H.R.40 calls for a task force to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the 13 American colonies and the United States between 1619 and 1865; and

**WHEREAS** H.R.40 calls for the Commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery and the de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans following the abolition of slavery; and

**WHEREAS** the impact of these forces on African Americans continues to the present; and

**WHEREAS** the Commission will make recommendations to Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes; and

**WHEREAS** H.R. 40 has been heard in Subcommittee, yet not in the Judiciary committee, nor brought to the floor of the House of Representative for a vote;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the United States House of Representatives Judiciary Committee to give a full hearing to H.R. 40 and bring the bill to the floor for a vote by the whole House of Representatives as expeditiously as possible.

### **RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FLOYD FAMILY, SUPPORT OF PEACEFUL PROTESTS, AND JUSTICE FOR GEORGE FLOYD**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. George Perry Floyd, Jr. was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina on October 14, 1974;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. George Perry Floyd, Jr. died on May 25, 2020, after then Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, knelt on his neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds as he repeatedly stated, "I can't breathe;"

**WHEREAS**, An independent medical examiner found that Mr. George Perry Floyd, Jr.'s death was a homicide caused by a cardiopulmonary arrest while being restrained resulting from neck compression;

**WHEREAS,** Many communities across the nation and the State of North Carolina have held peaceful demonstrations and protests opposing the use of excessive force on Mr. George Perry Floyd, Jr. and others;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That the North Carolina Democratic Party extends our deepest condolences to the Floyd family;

**RESOLVED FURTHER,** That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports law enforcement reform and clarifies our opposition to the excessive use of force by any law enforcement officer;

**RESOLVED FURTHER,** That the North Carolina Democratic Party opposes racism and police brutality and calls for a truth and reconciliation commission on policing and excessive force;

**RESOLVED FURTHER,** That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports peaceful demonstrations and protests to stand in solidarity that Black lives matter; and

**RESOLVED FURTHER,** That the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for justice for Mr. George Perry Floyd, Jr. and other victims of police brutality.

## **ON BANNING THE USE OF CHEMICAL AGENTS AGAINST PEACEFUL PROTESTERS**

**WHEREAS,** during protests for racial justice in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, chemical agents and including tear gas, pepper balls, and other lachrymators have been fired at peaceful protesters in cities across North Carolina and the United States;

**WHEREAS,** the First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances;"

**WHEREAS,** on Monday, June 1, members of the U.S. Park Police, following the orders of the Trump Administration, used chemical agents to disperse peaceful protesters in Washington, D.C. so that President Trump could walk across Lafayette Square to St. John's Episcopal Church for a photo op;

**WHEREAS,** on Tuesday June 2, scores of peaceful protesters were trapped by police with no clear escape route, fired upon by the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, and subjected to chemical agents due to this kettling technique;



**WHEREAS**, peaceful protesters become the victims of indiscriminate force when they are subjected to chemical agents;

**WHEREAS**, a fundamental principle of jurisprudence in the United States is that a person is innocent until proven guilty, but the use of chemical agents inflicts a harmful punishment without judge, jury, or trial;

**WHEREAS**, the Geneva Protocol regulating weapon of war prohibits the use of "asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of all analogous liquids, materials or devices" in armed conflicts;

**WHEREAS**, the use of tear gas and other chemical agents has been demonstrated to increase the spread of respiratory illnesses;

**WHEREAS**, the efficacy of chemical agents as a crowd control solution is disputed by academic research;

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina Democrats including Congresswoman Alma Adams, Representative Chaz Beasley, Councilmember Braxton Winston, and others have spoken out against the use of chemical agents against peaceful protesters;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that the North Carolina Democratic Party condemns the use of chemical agents against peaceful protesters or groups of predominantly peaceful protesters;

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on its elected officials to ban the use of chemical agents by local law enforcement agencies except in extreme emergency circumstances, with the escalation of the use of force authorized by the mayor or mayoral equivalent.

## **Criminal Justice**

### **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CLOSURE OF 'BOYFRIEND LOOPHOLE' IN FEDERAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GUN LAW**

**WHEREAS** more than 1/2 of all intimate partner homicides are committed by dating partners with the number increasing for 3 decades; and

**WHEREAS** the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%; and

**WHEREAS** Federal law prohibits the following persons, convicted of certain Domestic Violence crimes, from buying or owning a gun: current or former spouse, parent or guardian of victim, person with whom victim shares child, person who was living with or had lived with victim as spouse/parent/guardian; and

**WHEREAS** the law does NOT prohibit convicted current boyfriends, dating partners, stalkers from buying or owning a gun thus known as the “boyfriend loophole”; and

**WHEREAS** April 2019 the US House, in passing bi-partisan legislation reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), added a clause which closes the “boyfriend loophole” by preventing those convicted of stalking and/or abusing dating partners from buying or owning a gun; and

**WHEREAS** November 2019 the companion to the House passed Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act was introduced in the US Senate; Be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Democratic Party and US Senators from North Carolina work to get passage of the VAW Reauthorization Act in the United States Senate so as to close the “boyfriend loophole” and move to enactment.

## Government

### **A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE PRINCIPLE OF AN INDEPENDENT U.S. JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**WHEREAS** President Donald J. Trump and Attorney General William Barr have recently attempted to influence judicial proceedings in active cases before U.S. courts to find favorably for, limit judgments against, or limit sentences for friends of the President;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the North Carolina Democratic Party reaffirms the long-standing principle and need for an independent federal judiciary.

### **RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO ANTI-SLAPP LAWS**

**WHEREAS** Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) are lawsuits filed to silence criticism through expensive, baseless legal proceedings; and

**WHEREAS** the courts are used, or threatened to be used, to intimidate people who are exercising their First Amendment rights of free speech; and

**WHEREAS** Early and expedited judicial review of plaintiff’s claims in a SLAPP suit will reduce the potential for abuse in such suits; and

**WHEREAS** thirty-one states have passed anti-SLAPP laws; and

**WHEREAS** North Carolina does not have an anti-SLAPP law on its books;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges North Carolina to join the other states that are currently enforcing anti-SLAPP laws by putting its own version of such a law into effect; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a newly implemented anti-SLAPP law in North Carolina contain important features of the laws enacted in those other states, such as allowing immediate motions to dismiss the lawsuit if success in the suit is unlikely, expedited hearings to avoid the time and cost of discovery, and imposing legal costs on the lawsuit’s plaintiffs, with additional sanctions to deter the plaintiffs from subsequently bringing similar actions.

#### **IN SUPPORT OF POSTAL SERVICE FUNDING**

**WHEREAS** The United States Postal Service is a vital lifeline of communication and services for the entire country; and

**WHEREAS** Missing or reduced services that are provided by the USPS would have a disproportionate impact on rural and remote citizens;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That Congress must provide a veto-proof majority for emergency funding to help offset loss of revenue due to COVID-19; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That Congress examines long-term solutions for improving performance and profitability.

#### **A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

**WHEREAS** A Constitutional Convention would be without any restrictions and the delegates would be allowed to totally re-write the Constitution of the United States;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Democratic Party will oppose the calling of a Constitutional Convention at both the state and national levels.

#### **A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE REMOVAL OF SENATOR RICHARD BARR**

**WHEREAS** Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), as chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, receiving daily updates on the Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak by late February 2020 did profit from this prior knowledge by selling up to \$1.5 million in stocks directly related to industries adversely affected by Coronavirus COVID-19,

**WHEREAS** Senator Richard Burr did warn members of the Tar Heel Circle, a high-dollar membership organization that is part of the North Carolina State Society of Washington, D.C., of the upcoming pandemic but did not warn the general public or his North Carolina constituents,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That Senator Burr should be removed from his seat as Chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee until such time as investigations by the Securities and Exchange Committee, the U.S. Justice Department, and the Senate Ethics Committee are completed and a determination made,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if the results of the above-mentioned investigations reveal illegal or unethical behavior for his personal enrichment, Senator Richard Burr should donate his pandemic profits towards supplying needed Personal Protective Equipment and Ventilators,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That Senator Burr should RESIGN or face EXPULSION by the U.S. Senate without delay upon the determination by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Senator Burr is guilty of violating Senate Bill S.2038, Public Law No: 112-105 (04/04/2012), also known as the STOCK Act.

## **Voting and Voting Rights**

### **RESOLUTION REQUIRING U.S. PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO RELEASE TAX RETURNS**

**WHEREAS** it is imperative that in a democracy the people must be able to trust the integrity and honesty and incorruptibility of its leaders; and

**WHEREAS** it is imperative that the people know that their president and vice president cannot be blackmailed or bought by either domestic or foreign entities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the North Carolina Democratic Party requests the U.S. House and Senate to pass into law what has long been an informal

and voluntary practice among candidates, that both presidential and vice-presidential candidates must release their tax returns for the 10 years prior to running for office.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the General Assembly of North Carolina consider a law to require that presidential candidates release 10 years of tax returns to qualify for any primary ballot.

**A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO JOIN THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE INTERSTATE COMPACT (NPVIC)**

**WHEREAS** The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is an agreement among a group of U.S. states and the District of Columbia to award all their electoral votes to whichever presidential candidate wins the popular vote in the 50 states and the District of Columbia; and

**WHEREAS** The NPVIC would ensure that the candidate who receives the most votes nationwide is elected president; and

**WHEREAS** As of February 2020, the NPVIC has been adopted by fifteen states and the District of Columbia. and now has 196 electoral votes, which is 73% of the 270 votes needed to give the compact legal force; and

**WHEREAS** Adopting the NPVIC will obviate the necessity of amending the U. S. Constitution to change or delete the Electoral College so that President and Vice President will be elected by popular vote; and

**WHEREAS** In the 2007-08 legislature the Senate passed S 954 authorizing North Carolina to join the NPVIC;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** That the North Carolina Democratic Party will be on record supporting the adoption of the NPVIC; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that our elected Democratic legislators will work for the adoption of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR DAMAGE COLLECTION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS FROM A DEFENDANT(S) FOUND CRIMINALLY LIABLE OF SPECIFIC CAMPAIGN VIOLATIONS**

**WHEREAS** Unlawful activities by campaigns and candidates can taint an election to such an extent that a new election is required, as occurred in Congressional District 9 in 2018; and

**WHEREAS** the costs of a new election are substantial, both to the government and to other candidates; and

**WHEREAS** The General Assembly, after the Congressional District 9 election, mandated primaries for special elections, thus further increasing the costs of a spoiled election leading to a special election; and

**WHEREAS** Members of the North Carolina Democratic Party would find it just and fair to compensate candidates who must fund new elections, including new primaries, as a result of illegal activities that were no fault of their own;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** That the North Carolina Democratic Party declares that when a candidate or campaign's unlawful activities during a campaign taints the election, candidates or any others engaging in that unlawful activity should be made clearly liable under the law for damages, including the costs of new elections due to the unlawful conduct as well as damages to opposing campaigns for their resulting costs; and

**RESOLVED,** That the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to amend HB 1029 to include court-ordered damages to candidates and campaigns with demonstrable proof of damages due to election violations; and

**RESOLVED,** That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the North Carolina General Assembly and North Carolina Board of Elections by ensuring all candidates adhere to campaign finance disclosures for the purpose herein; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that we Democrats commit our actions, time, ideas, energy, treasury and prayers toward ensuring electoral success for Democrats up and down the ballot henceforth and forevermore.

## **NORTH CAROLINA "FOR THE PEOPLE ACT"**

**WHEREAS** there is a historical and ongoing pattern of voter suppression, voter harassment, voter intimidation, and fraud committed against voters in our country and in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS** there is a tidal wave of unlimited and anonymous spending by large corporations, extremely wealthy individuals, and special interests dominating election spending, corrupting our politics, and degrading democracy in our country and in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS** The United States of America House of Representatives has passed the "FOR THE PEOPLE ACT", also known as H.R. 1, in order to protect American Democracy, and remedy these moral and constitutional outrages; and

**WHEREAS** that bill is held up with no vote in the United States Senate by politicians who are kept in power by voter suppression and unlimited and anonymous spending; and

**WHEREAS** Relief from voter suppression and protection from anonymous spending is badly needed in North Carolina;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** The North Carolina Democratic Party supports H.R. 1; and

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED,** The North Carolina Democratic Party urges that the North Carolina delegation to the United States Senate work to bring this bill to the Senate floor for an up or down vote; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED,** The North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly adopt a "For the People Act" for North Carolina including the provisions of US H.R. 1.

## **RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS**

**WHEREAS** Elections must express the will of all of the people; and

**WHEREAS** every voter and every vote must be counted equally; now, therefore, be it

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

1. That the Voting Rights Act of 1965 must be restored; and
2. Every American over age 18 be automatically registered to vote; and
3. Citizens United must be overturned; and
4. Partisan gerrymandering be ended; and
5. Voter ID laws need to be reduced; and
6. Arbitrary changing of assigned polling locations must be ended;

7. Election Day must be designated a national holiday; and
8. The process of absentee voting by mail must be expanded and simplified. for North Carolina Citizens; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that as the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to undermine the integrity of the November 2020 election by suppressing voter turnout, the North Carolina State Board of Elections be allowed to:

1. Expand options for absentee requests; and
2. Establish an online portal for absentee requests; and
3. Establish a fund to pay for postage for returned absentee ballots; and
4. Reduce or eliminate the absentee ballot witness requirement; and
5. Maintain or expand one-stop early voting to reduce close contact with other people; and
6. Increase pay for poll workers; and
7. Designate Election Day as a state holiday.

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE TRANSLATION OF BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY DOCUMENTATION INTO LANGUAGES THAT 5% OR MORE OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA SPEAK**

**WHEREAS** Voter registration forms and absentee ballots, but not sample ballots, are not readily available languages other than Spanish; and

**WHEREAS** The North Carolina Democratic Party has limited or no information available regarding its candidates available in languages other than English;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the North Carolina Board of Elections and the North Carolina Democratic Party provide or expand information available regarding election law, legal documentation and information regarding its candidates and candidate backgrounds in languages other than English; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the North Carolina Democratic Party continues to promote inclusivity by expanding and promoting the availability of facts, information, and voting documentation to those in our community who would benefit from having access to such materials in languages other than English.

## **Economy and Labor**



**RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION ON CORPORATE BOARDS**

**WHEREAS** the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the rights of working people to a living wage, good medical benefits, good working conditions, the right to unionize, and a say in their workplace; and

**WHEREAS** the North Carolina Democratic Party recognizes that the wealth disparity between the lowest paid workers and the corporate officers of large corporations has reached alarming proportions; and

**WHEREAS** representation on corporate boards by elected representatives of employees would give those employees a say in their workplace that would serve to lower wealth disparity, and promote the rights of these employees; and

**WHEREAS** representation on corporate boards by elected representatives of employees would serve to increase constructive collaboration and reduce employee-management conflict in the workplace by improving channels of communication; and

**WHEREAS** successful corporation such as BMW, Daimler and Volkswagen have already included employee elected representatives on their corporate boards (a practice known as codetermination);

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the North Carolina Democratic Party supports Federal legislation mandating that corporations with receipts of a billion dollars or more include members elected by their employees on their boards.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MORE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION IN UNDERSERVED INNER-CITY NEIGHBORHOODS AND RURAL AREAS**

**WHEREAS** Alternative transportation in rural areas (such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and urban greenways) connecting to mass transit systems are wise investments that cost a fraction of the cost to build highways and roads, while providing multiple benefits to society, including mobility, economic, health and climate; and

**WHEREAS** Transportation options such as natural gas powered busses for underserved rural areas can provide similar benefits; and

**WHEREAS** underserved inner-city and rural communities are often neglected except for the most basic public services; and

WHEREAS Mass transit is often limited in urban areas, especially cities under 200,000 population, and in rural areas; and

**WHEREAS** Public and environmental health suffer without alternative forms of transportation, especially in inner-city urban communities, and poor rural areas; and

**WHEREAS** Transportation planning in the last fifty years has served to separate communities in urban areas and rural areas denying accessibility to public investments, human services, and health care; and

**WHEREAS** Car-driven, suburban and rural development is costly and contributes to environmental degradation and climate change; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the NC Democratic Party will support more state and federal funding for alternative transportation in inner-city urban areas, and rural areas, emphasizing underserved communities so often neglected, to make inner-cities more livable; and

**RESOLVED**, That the NC Democratic Party will support alternative measures to counteract the state's current model of car-driven suburban and rural development; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the NC Democratic Party will commit its actions, time, ideas, energy, treasury, and prayers to combat environmental degradation and support public and environmental health by developing patterns of community planning and development emphasizing alternative transportation and mass transit.

**RESOLUTION TO REPEAL S.L. 2015-223 CODIFIED AS G.S. 105-277.02. THE 2016-2017 FISCAL YEAR PROPERTY TAX EXCLUSION AIMED AT RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CALLED THE "BUILDERS' INVENTORY" EXCLUSION)**

**WHEREAS** the property tax exclusion exempts any increase in value attributable to certain improvements on residential and commercial property owned and held for sale by builders from taxation for several years, thus costing counties and the state considerable tax revenue and placing a financial burden on county governments and current residents; and

**WHEREAS** for example, Chatham county is already experiencing repercussions from Chatham Park, Briar Chapel, and other developments; among them are neglected issues of water and wastewater, roads and other infrastructure needs; and

**WHEREAS** county and municipal staffs are burdened with the planning stages and oversight of these developers' properties, and more staff may be needed to protect the county's natural resources impacted by these developments; and

**WHEREAS** repealing this property tax exclusion for developers would help mitigate the need to increase sales and/or property taxes; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina State Legislature to repeal G.S. 105-277.02.

### **CALLING FOR AN INCREASE IN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINIMUM WAGE**

**WHEREAS** the federal minimum wage was last raised in 2009, to \$7.25/hour, and had it merely kept pace with inflation, would be \$10.75/hour now; and

**WHEREAS** those working full-time at the federal minimum wage level would earn about \$14,500 a year, which is almost \$5,000 below the poverty line for a family of four; and

**WHEREAS** North Carolina is one of only 21 states with minimum wages at the federal level, and 29 states, plus the District of Columbia, have adopted increases above that level, including Arkansas, where voters in 2018 approved an increase to \$11.00/hour by 2021, and Missouri, where voters in 2018 approved an increase to \$12.00/hour by 2023; and

**WHEREAS** In August 2014, the Obama administration released a report highlighting "the case for raising the minimum wage" to \$10.10/hour:

- "Raising the minimum wage would benefit about 28 million workers: According to [administration] estimates, about 28 million workers would benefit from an increase of the minimum wage – with more than 19 million earning less than \$10.10 and benefiting directly, and an additional 9 million low-wage workers benefiting from the 'ripple effect' of an increase.
- A minimum wage increase would disproportionately benefit working women: Women account for more than half (55 percent) of all workers who would benefit from increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10. More broadly, only 12 percent of workers benefiting from a minimum wage increase are teenagers and the remainder of the beneficiaries include a wide cross section of families with children, couples, and others.

- Raising the minimum wage would help the economy today: Because low-wage workers are most likely to spend the additional money they earn, increasing their wages would help to increase aggregate demand and strengthen the economy today. For example, a study released by economists at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago found that raising the minimum wage would raise growth by 0.3 percentage points in the short run.
- A \$10.10 minimum wage would lift 2 million out of poverty: Currently, a family of four with one full-time worker earning the \$7.25 minimum wage is 17 percent below the poverty line, including tax credits. A \$10.10 minimum wage would raise that family of four to above the poverty line – and in total, would lift an estimated 2 million families out of poverty; and

**WHEREAS** Not only has the North Carolina state government failed to raise the minimum wage, but it has also enacted a pre-emption law preventing the state’s local governments from doing so; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the North Carolina state government should increase the state’s minimum wage to \$15.00/hour; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the North Carolina law preventing localities from raising their own minimum wage levels should be repealed.

**RESOLUTION URGING TRUE STIMULUS FOR WORKING AMERICANS AND SMALL BUSINESSES**

**WHEREAS** limiting community spread of Covid-19 has resulted in the closure of restaurants, bars, event venues, and retailers across the state of North Carolina, in accordance with county, state, and federal guidelines; and

**WHEREAS** the state of North Carolina does not guarantee paid sick leave, Whereas the increased risk to the LGBTQ+ community has been documented, including in an open letter by over 100 organizations released on March 11, 2020, including the LGBT Center of Raleigh, the Human Rights Campaign, SAGE, the National Center for Transgender Equality, and Equality North Carolina, Whereas LGBTQ+ individuals face higher levels of discrimination in accessing health and government resources\*; and

**WHEREAS** 39% of Small Businesses in North Carolina are minority-owned, and Small Businesses employ 46% of the state’s workforce\*\* ; and

**WHEREAS** the Centers for Disease Control has recommended at least eight weeks of these measures, including social distancing and preventing large groups from gathering; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we applaud the efforts of local and state elected officials to secure protection for individuals in regards to utility access and evictions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we call upon local, state, and federal elected officials to extend these same protections to Small Business owners, including utility guarantees and loan assistance; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call upon our local, state, and federal elected officials to take immediate action to ensure workers' lives are not disrupted, by providing a guarantee of basic income for the duration of this declared State of Emergency; and

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED** that we urge our local, state, and federal elected officials to remember the workers most impacted by these measures, including those who are being laid off or rely on tips for their incomes, by taking immediate action.

### **A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FORGIVE STUDENT DEBT**

**WHEREAS** good jobs require a good education resulting in many people seeking higher education which costs approximately three times more than it did 30 years ago; and

**WHEREAS** 45 million borrowers are crippled with \$1.6 trillion of debt thus deferring marriage and family plans and the purchase of a home and/or a vehicle; and

**WHEREAS** cancellation of such debt would increase the GDP by 86-108 billion dollars per year thereby reducing the wealth gap and promoting economic stimulus;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the \$1.6 trillion student loan debt be forgiven providing borrowers with the possibility of building wealth.

### **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A METHODOLOGY FOR FAIRER CREDIT SCORES AND ACCESS TO FAIR AND REASONABLE CREDIT TERMS**

**WHEREAS** with some variances in locality the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines an "affordable dwelling" as one that a household can obtain for 30 percent or less of its income; And

**WHEREAS** a household is considered "low-income" if it makes less than 80 percent of the median income in the local area which is known as "Area Median Income, or AMI; and

**WHEREAS** a dwelling is considered "affordable" for low-income families if it costs less than 24 percent of the area median income; and

**WHEREAS** traditional credit scoring makes it more difficult for individuals under eighty percent of an area's median income to qualify for loans and competitive interest rates; and

**WHEREAS** it is especially difficult for families under 50% of an area's median income to obtain credit which contributes to millions of Americans being essentially "credit invisible" an outcome that limits housing choices and the ability to obtain affordable insurance and automobile loans; and

**WHEREAS** the current system can trap a family in a credit Catch 22—in order to qualify for credit, you must already have credit; and

**WHEREAS** without a credit report and score families so affected are forced to turn to high-cost lenders which puts them at a disadvantage in the marketplace; and

**WHEREAS** allowing rental payment data in credit reporting has been shown through a study that used such data from the Seattle Housing Authority, the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC), and the Louisville Metro Housing Authority to significantly boost credit scores for low-income families when the rental payment data was reported and the study also determined that many of the participating households would cease being "credit invisible." once their rental payments were added to credit risk models; and

**WHEREAS** the aforementioned study indicated a path to affordable mainstream credit for many HUD-assisted tenants and renters of all types;" and

**WHEREAS** the analysis of the credit scores of more than 9,000 households from these public housing authorities found that reporting the rental payment data led to a significant increase (between 51 and 65 percent) in the number of HUD-assisted tenants with credit scores above 620; nearly eliminated credit invisibility among HUD-

assisted tenants; and in one risk model during the analysis dropped the rate of 'unscorable' tenants from 49 percent to seven percent; and

WHEREAS the availability of healthy and affordable living options is an important element to the vibrancy, resilience and sustainability of any community especially in the aftermath of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS** achieving the goal of affordable living across North Carolina depends upon a number of factors including but not limited to livable wages, access to fair credit reporting; access to reasonable mortgages and mortgage terms, access to reasonable rents; access to reasonable automobile and insurance rates as well as the ability to verify income and employment (VIE) especially for seasonal workers and workers who have multiple jobs and employers; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports reasonable policies within the executive branch of the North Carolina government as well as appropriate legislation from the General Assembly that will a) address the problem(s) of credit invisibility; b) encourage the use of rental payment data to create better and more robust models for evaluating credit worthiness; and c) encourage the North Carolina Division of Employment Security to participate in a Verification of Income and Employment ("VIE") program in order to provide an alternative platform and pathway for North Carolina residents to obtain access to fair and reasonable credit terms.

## Foreign Affairs

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H.R.2407 - PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR PALESTINIAN CHILDREN LIVING UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY OCCUPATION ACT**

**WHEREAS** 'the American people stand united in the belief that justice, human dignity and human rights are values we share and promote'; and

**WHEREAS** U.S. taxpayer funded aid to foreign countries should not be used to deprive or violate the human rights of children; and

**WHEREAS** the U.S. taxpayer funds \$3.8 billion in military aid to Israel; and

**WHEREAS** “The Israeli newspaper Haaretz ran an in-depth expose detailing the detention and mistreatment of Palestinian boys by Israel’s military” who were “seized in the dead of night, blindfolded and cuffed, abused and manipulated to confess to crimes they didn’t commit”; and

**WHEREAS** since the year 2000, an estimated 10,000 or more Palestinian children have been detained by Israeli security forces; and

**WHEREAS** such treatment of children is traumatizing and scarring both emotionally and psychologically and constitutes as child abuse; and

**WHEREAS** H.R. 2407 - Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act seeks to ensure United States funds do not support military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children; and

**WHEREAS** the bill amends Section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.2378d) commonly known as the “Leahy Law” by adding a new subsection that includes a generally applicable limitation prohibiting U.S. military aid from being used by foreign armed forces to support the military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of children in violation of international humanitarian law; and

**WHEREAS** the bill currently has 23 sponsors including Representative Barbara Lee, Representative Mark Pocan, Representative Rashida Tlaib, Representative Ilhan Omar, Representative Ayanna Pressley, Representative Raul Grijalva and Representative Maxine Waters; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges North Carolina members of Congress to support H.R.2407 - Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act and require that United States funds do not support military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children.

## **RESOLUTION TO PROTECT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT ON THE IMPACT OF FOREIGN MILITARY AID**

**WHEREAS** the Leahy Laws are human rights laws that prohibit the U.S. Department of State and Department of Defense from providing military assistance to foreign security force units that violate human rights with impunity; and



**WHEREAS** the NCDP has reaffirmed its support of the Leahy Laws through previous resolutions; and

**WHEREAS** fact-finding missions are crucial to determining if foreign security forces are adhering to human rights laws; and

**WHEREAS** Representative Rashida Tlaib and Representative Ilhan Omar were denied entry by Israel to conduct oversight of military aid and to study if its use in the occupied Palestinian territories violated Palestinian human rights; and

**WHEREAS** such interference by foreign security forces without meaningful consequences undermines US commitment to human rights laws;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports legislation at the federal level that conditions military aid to foreign security forces with unconditional access to members of Congress or their representatives to conduct oversight of the impact of military aid.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports legislation at the federal level that halts military aid and cooperation with the receiving foreign security force if any member of Congress or their representatives are denied or interfered with granting unfettered access to carry out oversight on the impact of military aid.

*\*NOTE: This resolution is not in keeping with the platforms of the Democratic National Committee nor the North Carolina Democratic Party.*

## **RESOLUTION TO REJECT THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN FOR ISRAEL AND PALESTINE**

**WHEREAS** The Trump Administration's proposed plan for Israel and Palestine, titled "Peace to Prosperity" (the plan), ignores international agreements that limit the transfer of populations to conquered territories; and

**WHEREAS** the plan ignores international agreements affirming that people expelled from their homes have the right to return; and

**WHEREAS** the plan ignores the human rights of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza; and

**WHEREAS** the plan ignores prior agreements that anticipate future negotiations to address such issues as the location of the capital of Israel or the capital of Palestine, and the disposition of the Golan Heights; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party rejects the Trump Administration's plan for Israel and Palestine.

### **RESOLUTION TO THANK CONGRESSMAN PRICE RE U.S. ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT**

**WHEREAS** 4th District Congressional Representative David E. Price has joined with 59 other Democratic Representatives to send a letter to Secretary of State Michael Pompeo opposing the Israeli government's home demolitions and displacement of Palestinian families on the West Bank; and

**WHEREAS** the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem reports Israeli military has seized construction materials assembled for a Palestinian town's emergency coronavirus clinic; and

**WHEREAS** the Congressional letter specifically asks Secretary Pompeo to ensure that equipment purchased with U.S. aid not be used in violation of The Arms Export Control Act of 1976 as amended [22 U.S.C. 2751, et. seq.];

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party commends Representative David E. Price for joining in the effort to ensure that equipment purchased with United States aid not be used in violation of The Arms Export Control Act of 1976 as amended [22 U.S.C. 2751, et. seq.]; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCDP urges other NC Democratic Members of Congress to join Representative Price in signing this letter.