

# PLATFORM & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear Fellow SEC Members & Democrats,

It is my honor to present to the State Executive Committee the Report of the Resolutions and Platform Committee.

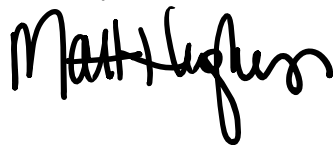
The Committee met twice to consider the resolutions that have come from the grassroots of our party beginning at this year's precinct meetings, county conventions, and district conventions. The Committee received several hundred resolutions that were divided up among subcommittees to study, revise, and recommend a favorable report. The resolutions as part of this report received a favorable report by the entire committee and in most cases a favorable report at the subcommittee level.

The Committee considered prior year's resolutions, current Democratic platforms at the state and national level, and pending legislation to determine if a resolution offered a new or different expansion or support of legislation and/or policies that were consistent with Democratic Party principles and would not be overly divisive amongst Democratic membership. The Committee's purpose is to review resolutions passed at the local level, edit, and recommend resolutions that generally fit that criterion and recommend resolutions that the Committee believed most Democrats would agree could be recommended at the State Executive Committee in order to streamline the resolutions process for the convention.

The report you have before you is a comprehensive policy agenda for the Democratic Party focused on protecting democracy, dismantling systemic racial injustice, bolstering healthcare, supporting public education, addressing our global climate emergency. In short this policy agenda if enacted would mean a North Carolina and country that is better educated, healthier, safer, and puts more money in people's pockets.

Over the next year we will be calling upon each of you to help us craft next year's State Party Platform, which will be the first time the State Party has adopted a platform for the midterm elections in several decades. This will be a team effort that will put our party's platform on the side of North Carolinians who want a government that reflects the popular will of the people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Hughes".

Commissioner Matt Hughes

Chair, Resolutions and Platform Committee

Second Vice Chair, North Carolina Democratic Party

# PLATFORM & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

## RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF SENATOR MARC BASNIGHT

WHEREAS, Marc Basnight, our state's longest serving legislative leader, passed away on December 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Senator Marc Basnight, served in the North Carolina Senate from 1985 through 2011, much of that time as the Senate's President Pro-Tempore; and

WHEREAS, Senator Marc Basnight was a champion of our state's public universities, transportation, and the environment during his time as a legislative leader; and

WHEREAS, Senator Marc Basnight helped found the UNC Cancer Hospital after losing his wife to cancer, believing that North Carolinians deserved a world-class hospital for cancer research and treatment and created the University Cancer Research Fund, a \$50 million annual investment for cancer research; and

WHEREAS, Senator Marc Basnight championed a \$3.1 billion higher education bond issue, which was the largest such bond in American history at the time; and

WHEREAS, Senator Marc Basnight focused on helping rural areas and small communities around the state starting with his 1977 appointment to the State Board of Transportation, where he worked to improve roads and bridges in the northeastern part of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Senator Marc Basnight always made sure rural communities received their share of state resources, including water-sewer bonds, transportation funding, school funding, and economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Senator Marc Basnight believed historic preservation and cultural arts funding was one way rural areas could grow and thrive as communities that would attract tourists and increase economic growth; and

WHEREAS, during his time as a state senator, Senator Marc Basnight would advocate for state agencies to hire local people for projects in his district and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, during his time in the North Carolina Senate, Senator Marc Basnight mentored many of the state's Democratic leaders, including former Governor Beverly Perdue, former U.S. Senator Kay Hagan, and former Lieutenant Governor Walter Dalton; and

WHEREAS, Senator Marc Basnight retired from politics in January 2011 and fought ALS for nearly a decade; and

WHEREAS, as the leader of the North Carolina Senate, Senator Marc Basnight left his mark on both the institution itself and North Carolina as a result; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic recognizes the life and contributions of Senator Marc Basnight for the impact he had on North Carolina and will continue to have on our state for generations to come.



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## RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE MELANIE WADE GOODWIN

WHEREAS, Melanie Wade Goodwin, a devoted wife, mother, and daughter, passed away on September 1, 2020, after a courageous battle with cancer; and

WHEREAS, Representative Melanie Wade Goodwin attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she earned a Bachelor of the Arts in English while also being a member of the all-female a capella group the Loreleis; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation Representative Melanie Wade Goodwin worked for the North Carolina Commission on Women, where she helped domestic violence shelters statewide and served as a delegate to the United Nations 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women in Beijing, China; and

WHEREAS, Representative Melanie Wade Goodwin attended Campbell University where she earned her Juris Doctorate and upon graduation opened her own law firm focusing on family law and representing injured workers in both Hamlet and Rockingham for many years; and

WHEREAS, Representative Melanie Wade Goodwin represented Montgomery and Richmond Counties from 2004 to 2010 in the North Carolina House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Representative Melanie Wade Goodwin sponsored legislation that strengthened investments in public education and rural economic development, helped improve public health and the courts system; and she always championed women's rights and women's health; and

WHEREAS, as Chair of the Elections Law Committee, Representative Melanie Wade Goodwin brought about progressive, good government, voter-friendly changes to North Carolina laws, and proved instrumental in passage of laws that improved the integrity of elections and the campaign process; and

WHEREAS, Representative Melanie Wade Goodwin introduced the legislation adopting the Salute to the Flag of North Carolina as the Official Pledge to the State Flag, codifying the Tar Heel version of the Pledge of Allegiance; and

WHEREAS, Representative Melanie Wade Goodwin was the first legislator to give birth while holding office in the North Carolina General Assembly, which prompted then-Speaker of the House Joe Hackney to set aside an additional office in the Legislative Building for Representative Goodwin to nurse and care for her newborn while still serving as a lawmaker; and

WHEREAS, Representative Melanie Wade Goodwin is survived by her loving husband, former State Insurance Commissioner, former State Representative, and NCDP Chairperson Wayne Goodwin, and their children Madison and Jackson; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the North Carolina Democratic Party recognizes and honors former Representative Melanie Wade Goodwin for her tireless efforts on behalf of hardworking North Carolinians and extends our deepest condolences to the Wade and Goodwin families.



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## RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF NANCY GULLEDGE RORIE

WHEREAS, Nancy Gulledge Rorie, a beloved member of and leader in Democratic Party politics in North Carolina passed away on July 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Nancy invested so much energy and time into her political work, out of a conviction that it would make her community, state and nation a better place for all, serving as the President of the Democratic Women of North Carolina, Chair of the Union County Democratic Party, President of the Democratic Women of Union County, and through her consistent commitment to increasing the Union County Democratic Party she was instrumental in finding and mentoring local candidates to run for local office, Nancy could provide a roadmap on where the candidate should go, events to attend, list of people to meet and learn the important issues. It was always nice to know Nancy was steering the ship and the knowledge she had would never let you swim alone; and

WHEREAS, Nancy served as a delegate to numerous state and district conventions, a member of the State Executive Committee of the North Carolina Democratic Party, a precinct chair for many years, and organized countless local precincts over many election cycles in Union County; and still found time each Sunday after church to drop off bags of food to the Shelter; and

WHEREAS, Nancy was committed to fostering the next generation of Democrats while preserving and celebrating the achievements of those who came before, Nancy served as the Democratic Women of North Carolina's historian, provided guidance in starting new Democratic Women chapters, mentored leaders in our Party at all levels, and advised countless candidates for office; and

WHEREAS, Nancy believed strongly in public service, she worked many years as a court reporter for the Superior Court of the State of North Carolina and continued her service to the party and the public through her appointment as a citizen member of the North Carolina Board of Mortuary Science (now known as the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service); and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her many years of public service and contributions to the state and to her community, Nancy was awarded North Carolina's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2012 by Governor Beverly Eaves Perdue, and was named the Democratic Woman of the Year in 2010 by the Democratic Women of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Nancy touched countless lives, helped numerous candidates, and made our Party and our State better while inspiring others to do the same. Her tireless dedication to the Democratic Women and to the North Carolina Democratic Party will be missed terribly, and the annual Union County fundraiser has been named the Nancy G. Rorie Get Out the Vote Rally in her honor.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Democratic Women of North Carolina that we honor the life and contributions of Nancy Gulledge Rorie--wife, mother, grandmother, loving friend, colleague, leader and loyal Democrat—she will continue to lift us as we pay forward her steadfast commitment to our Democratic ideals. It is by her example that we will strive to leave all better and stronger than we found it.



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## A RESOLUTION IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF CHARLES M. JOHNSON, WORLD WAR II VETERAN AND NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRAT

WHEREAS, Charles Johnson of Nash County was born in Johnston County in 1921 and dedicated himself and his life to freedom and duty. One way he exhibited that dedication was his active commitment and participation in the mission of the North Carolina Democratic Party;

WHEREAS, before then he volunteered for military service in World War 2 in the US Army Air Corps in the field of electronics and radar, and was one of a special group of enlisted chosen to continue their education at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. For over seven decades post-war Charles remained a faithful, lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and the American Legion;

WHEREAS, a long-time friend of thousands of Democrats statewide over the years, Charles dutifully served as a member of the NCDP State Executive Committee and NCDP Executive Council, and was elected as a delegate to many county, district, State, and national conventions over the decades. For example, he remained in continuous service on the executive and finance committees of his local and the state Democratic Party since 1978. Further, he was elected a NC delegate to the Democratic National Conventions in 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012;

WHEREAS, most Democrats remember Charles for two things: His decades of service as Chairman of the Party's Sustaining Fund (and membership on the NCDP Executive Council) and as the World War 2 veteran who regularly led our conventions and State meetings in the Pledge of Allegiance. His patriotism and love of our Country resounded through every word of the Pledge;

WHEREAS, Charles also believed in the power of public education and public investments, as well as the values of hard work, duty, and pursuing opportunities, justice and equality for all. His life was a testament to those goals. For example, Charles served on the Nash County Board of Education in the 1960s and for many years served on the board of trustees for Nash Community College, an institution he helped create and for its students he established multiple scholarships;

WHEREAS, in recognition of his lifetime of unselfish contributions and service - including a 40 year career as a State employee with the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources - then-Governor Beverly Perdue bestowed upon him the Order of the Longleaf Pine, one of the highest honors the Governor can bestow on a North Carolina resident;

WHEREAS, as he entered his 99th year, his dedication and willingness to continue his active participation in NCDP events inspired us all. Recently Governor Roy Cooper appointed Charles Johnson to the Council on Aging;

WHEREAS, Charles passed away on December 11, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, like all who knew him, the NC Democratic Party will miss Charles Johnson's ever-cheerful smile and great insights and tireless contributions to making our State better for future generations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the North Carolina Democratic Party Executive Council hereby considers all of the above and unanimously adopts pass a memorial resolution thanking Charles Johnson, and honoring the service and legacy of Charles Johnson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, and on behalf of the many friends and admirers of this great American, the NC Democratic Party and its officers and Executive Council today joins the family, loved ones, and friends of Charles Johnson in mourning our loss and celebrating his life.



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## RESOLUTION HONORING STATE CHAIR WAYNE GOODWIN FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, G. Wayne Goodwin has served the North Carolina Democratic Party for over half his life, including as president of the Young Democrats of North Carolina, county chair, district chair, chair of the Platform and Resolutions Committee, and most recently state party chair; and

WHEREAS, Chair Wayne Goodwin grew up in humble beginnings in his hometown of Hamlet, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Chair Wayne Goodwin had the opportunity to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Morehead Scholar, where he received both his undergraduate and juris doctorate degrees; and

WHEREAS, Chair Wayne Goodwin was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1996 after representing injured workers and families with insurance claims;

WHEREAS, Chair Wayne Goodwin was a champion for public education, economic development, public safety, clean water and clean air, election reform, and a healthcare bill of rights during his eight years serving in the North Carolina House; and

WHEREAS, Chair Wayne Goodwin was appointed by former Insurance Commissioner Jim Long to serve as Assistant General Counsel and Assistant Insurance Commissioner for four years; and

WHEREAS, Chair Wayne Goodwin was elected Insurance Commission by the voters of North Carolina to succeed Commissioner Long in 2008 and was re-elected in 2012; and

WHEREAS, as Insurance Commissioner saved North Carolina consumers over \$4.2 billion, achieved the lowest automobile insurance in the country; and rejected many insurance rate increases during his tenure that were further upheld by the courts; and

WHEREAS, Chair Wayne Goodwin ran for Chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party following the 2016 election as another step in his long public service career to the state and was elected in 2017 and re-elected in 2019; and

WHEREAS, during his time as chairperson, Wayne Goodwin was instrumental in our state party's break the majority efforts, a historic number of Democratic members of the Supreme Court, the re-election of Governor Roy Cooper; and

WHEREAS, Chair Wayne Goodwin traveled to a record number of counties by a state chair in recent years with a particular interest in rural counties to support our rural Democrats; and

WHEREAS, under his tenure as chair the North Carolina Democratic Party, the party had a record amount in coordination in both 2018 and 2020; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party thanks Chair Wayne Goodwin for his quarter century of service to our beloved Democratic Party.



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## RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FAIR PRIMARY ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party is grateful for the help and support in elections over the years from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC); and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party fully supports fair primary elections to nominate its candidates for partisan office; and

WHEREAS, Our Democratic Party is a grassroots organization; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the right of the Tarheel State's Democrats to democratically choose their candidates without big money influence so that all primary candidates – rich or poor -- have a fair shot at nomination based on their issues advocacy and experience; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly holds that Tar Heel Democrats are best suited to choose candidates who will win elections in the Tar Heel State; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly urges both the DSCC and DCCC to support Tarheel Democrats and the nation by refraining from donations to candidates in North Carolina Democratic Party primaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly urges that the DSCC and the DCCC support All of the NCDP's nominees for Congress and the Senate; and finally

BE IT RESOLVED, the NCDP State Executive Committee requests that the Chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party and the North Carolina Democratic Party representatives to the Democratic National Committee convey this resolution to the DCCC and the DSCC.

## Agriculture, Environment, and Healthcare

A RESOLUTION TO PAY FAMILY CAREGIVERS WHO PROVIDE HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES

**WHEREAS, 2015 was the first year nationally that more money was spent on home care than nursing home care, a trend that will continue as nursing home care becomes too expensive for many American families; and**

**WHEREAS, about 41 million Americans provide care without pay to a family member, and do so for an average of 16 hours per week, according to a 2019 study by the AARP Public Policy Institute; and**

**WHEREAS, family caregivers often are forced to take unpaid leave or quit their jobs to care for a family member, thus losing their paychecks, retirement and pension benefits as well as social security benefits; and**

**WHEREAS, a few programs exist that give stipends/financial aid to family members who care for US military veterans and eligible Medicaid recipients in some states; however, most Medicaid programs do not permit spouses and parents of minor children to be paid caregivers; and**



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**WHEREAS, Medicare pays nothing for in-home care provided by family members and only pays professional home health service providers for intermittent skilled nursing, physical and occupational therapy, medical social services, and home health aide services, leaving the bulk of custodial and personal care to be provided by family members; and**

**WHEREAS, a number of European countries (e.g., Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Sweden) incorporate cash-for-care schemes within the framework of their Long Term Care plans to give disabled or elderly people the opportunity to choose among different kinds of care and care providers, and to allow recipients to compensate and employ family members who provide custodial and personal care; now, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the United States Congress to create a cash-for-care plan for disabled Medicare recipients that allows beneficiaries a certain amount of funds based on their need for care to be spent on securing the necessary care for themselves that is aligned with their medical, financial, and personal circumstances, including the option to employ family members to provide custodial and personal care;**

**RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to revise its Medicaid rules to allow spouses and parents of minor children to be paid caregivers and make free caregiver training and certification available through NC's Community Colleges; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the United States Congress to pass a law that guarantees Social Security Credits for workers who have to spend time outside the workforce to care for dependent children or sick or disabled family members to improve the adequacy of Social Security benefits, as well as work toward gender equality as it is generally women whose gaps in workforce participation lead to fewer years of contributions, lower lifetime average earnings, and consequently lower Social Security payments.**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADOPTION OF NC MOMNIBUS BILL

**WHEREAS, the mortality rate for Moms is rising; and**

**WHEREAS, this crisis is most severe for Black Moms, dying 3 to 4 times the rate of other races; and**

**WHEREAS, we recognize the need for important policies such as 12-month postpartum Medicaid coverage, investments in rural maternal health, the promotion of a diverse perinatal workforce and implementation of implicit bias trainings; and**

**WHEREAS, the NC Momnibus will help fill the gaps in existing legislation to comprehensively address maternal health with a strong focus on the Black Maternal Health Crisis in state and federal laws; and**

**WHEREAS, the national and statewide push is to end preventable maternal mortality and close racial and ethnic disparities in outcomes for all women, their children and all of our communities; and**

**WHEREAS, the pending federal bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other agencies to address maternal health outcomes among**



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minority populations. HHS must (1) establish task forces to address social determinants of health, maternal mental and behavioral health, and other topics; and (2) award grants for maternal mortality review committees, innovative maternity care models, and other purposes. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services must establish a perinatal payment demonstration project. The Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Transportation must report on the impact of housing and transportation during prenatal and postpartum periods, respectively. The Department of Veterans Affairs must submit a plan for maternity care coordination for women veterans, and the Bureau of Prisons must establish programs and award grants to certain prisons and jails to improve maternal health outcomes among incarcerated individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal bill also (1) expands eligibility for certain nutrition programs by increasing the postpartum and breastfeeding periods, and (2) reduces certain funding to states without laws restricting the use of restraints on pregnant women who are incarcerated; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Democratic Party recognizes, as espoused by the Omnibus Act of 2021, the need to address the maternal mortality crisis; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports prompt legislative action in North Carolina as well as in Congress to advance and pass into law the Omnibus Act and NC Omnibus as proposed; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party requests that the Chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party send copies of this resolution to the North Carolina Legislature, Governor Roy Cooper, and the North Carolina Congressional Delegation.

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A NORTH CAROLINA HEALTHCARE CONSUMER PROTECTION BUREAU

**WHEREAS**, healthcare represents nearly 20% of the American economy and a large share of individual households' income; and

**WHEREAS**, patients lack the power, insider knowledge, and resources necessary to remediate disagreements with large healthcare organizations, navigate difficult care decisions, contest surprise medical bills for unknowingly receiving care from out-of-network providers, or dispute claims from debt collectors; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2016 study by the Kaiser Foundation, 70% of those with medical debt reported that they had to cut spending on basic necessities (food, clothes, etc), 59% reported that they had to use most or all of their savings; 41% reported that they had to take a second job; and 37% reported that they had to borrow money; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the CFPB, half of all collections tradelines that appear on credit reports are reported by debt collectors seeking to collect on medical bills claimed to be owed to hospitals and other medical providers, affecting the credit score of nearly one-fifth of all consumers in the credit reporting system; and



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**WHEREAS, medical bankruptcies represent 62% of all personal bankruptcies, as ordinary families often cannot pay for rapidly rising medical expenses;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for the North Carolina General Assembly to create a North Carolina Healthcare Consumer Protection Bureau under the auspices of the State Attorney General's office that provides resources and assistance to North Carolina patient consumers before, during, and after receipt of healthcare services.**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A FEDERAL 'GREEN NEW DEAL' AND RESTORING STATE INCENTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY

**WHEREAS, Democrats in the US Congress have proposed federal legislation in support of investment in railways, 'green' energy, and other sustainable practices; and**

**WHEREAS, the state of North Carolina, under the yoke of the late Republican super-majority in the legislature in Raleigh, backed away from its former progressive support of a sustainable energy future, including tax credits and other incentives for individuals and businesses investing in solar energy, electric vehicles, and other sustainable technologies; and**

**WHEREAS, catastrophic climate change is the REAL national emergency faced by all life on this planet;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party fully supports federal, state, city, and town initiatives that invest in sustainable**

**infrastructure and that provide tax credits and other incentives for individuals and businesses to invest in renewable energy and other sustainable technologies.**

A RESOLUTION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF THE SALE OF NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

**WHEREAS, the ecological integrity of natural areas within the state of North Carolina is dependent on maintaining native species composition and their populations; and**

**WHEREAS, the introduction of non-native invasive species causes impacts that alter, degrade, and have the potential to destroy the state's most valued and environmentally sensitive natural areas; and**

**WHEREAS, the plant nurseries, pet shops, and the exotic animal trade sell and distribute these invasive organisms; and**

**WHEREAS, environmental managers in the state of North Carolina spend significant resources combatting the impacts of invasive organisms, with taxpayer funds and resources;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the state of North Carolina legislate or rule that in order to protect the state's most sensitive natural resources, the sale of nonnative invasive animal and plant species shall be prohibited.**



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## **Civil Rights, Criminal Justice, and Education**

### RESOLUTION IN REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT TO TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

**WHEREAS, Transgender people are, as a community, a valued member of the Democratic Party coalition, and this is affirmed in the Preamble to the NCDP PoO as well as the National Party Platform; and**

**WHEREAS, transgender people and their rights have historically been sacrificed in the name of political expediency; and**

**WHEREAS, Senator Joe Manchin has voted for Amendment 952 to the COVID Relief Act, which, if passed, would have created a nationwide ban on transgender participation in school sports in their identified and lived gender; and**

**WHEREAS, this is a direct attack on the rights of the transgender community that the State and National Party holds to affirm and support;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party shall publicly issue a statement strongly urging Senator Joe Manchin to support and affirm the rights of transgender people in the future, and a statement further affirming the Party's support of the rights of transgender people to live their lives without interference or discrimination; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NC Democratic Party will urge the National Democratic Party to make similar statements.**

### 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 -- it's about basic human decency; it's about the fact that it's impossible to fix something that was never broken in the first place;**



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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party opposes all portrayals of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender nonconforming youth and adults as mentally ill due to their sexual orientation 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 as citizens pledge to protect the physical and psychological well-being of all people and their families, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or gender nonconforming 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 the state to assure 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 therapy; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on NC Governor Roy Cooper, Speaker of the NC House Tim Moore, and President Pro Tem of the NC 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 SUPPORTING ELIMINATION OF THE DEADLINE TO PASS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

**WHEREAS**, women as a group are not protected in the United States Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) - which states "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex" - is the remedy for this injustice; and

**WHEREAS**, there are now the required 38 states who have ratified the amendment;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party endorses and actively supports the elimination of the arbitrary deadline for passage of the amendment by the states, thus making way for the Equal Rights Amendment to become the law of the land.

## RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NCDP PLATFORM TO ADDRESS STRUCTURAL RACISM

**WHEREAS**, systemic, institutional and individual racism has a pervasive impact on the lives of Black, Indigenous and People of Color; and

**WHEREAS**, people of color experience fundamental disparities in every institution of the United States including, and not limited to, health, education, labor, the environment, the military, political access/power and the justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Democratic Party platform acknowledges "structural racism," "race," "racism," "discrimination," and "bias" in numerous, but not all, categories; and



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**WHEREAS, on June 19, 2020, the United Nations Human Rights Council resolved that systemic racism is a global human rights issue;**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democrat Party fully acknowledge the existence of individual, structural and systemic racism;**

**BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party, in collaboration with and guided by selected representatives from Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities, amend the North Carolina Democratic Party platform to reflect the party's position on and tangible goals toward eradicating structural racism in every applicable area.**

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADOPTION OF THE CROWN ACT OR OTHER LEGISLATION PROHIBITING RACE-BASED HAIR DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE

**WHEREAS, North Carolinians pride themselves on being composed of people who value the diversity of backgrounds, cultures, beliefs, and experiences; and**

**WHEREAS, appreciation for diversity in all forms strengthens a community, fosters a welcoming environment, and is a critical component of a thriving, successful state; and**

**WHEREAS, discrimination based upon natural hair texture and/or styles remains a source of racial bias, impacting employment and educational opportunities; and**

**WHEREAS, on February 1, 2021, North Carolina Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) practices under the Office of State Human Resources (OSHR) affirmatively prohibited an employer from failing or refusing to hire or discharging any individual, or otherwise discriminating against an individual, based on the individual's hair texture or hairstyle; and**

**WHEREAS, there continues to be no federal law prohibiting discrimination based on specific hair styles or texture related to race or ethnicity, and changes to EEO practices do not protect all workers in North Carolina; and**

**WHEREAS, a national movement to address the effects of long-term, insidious race discrimination in reaction to hairstyles and textures commonly associated with communities of color is being spearheaded by the CROWN Coalition, a national alliance founded by Dove, the National Urban League, Color of Change, and the Western Center on Law & Poverty; and**

**WHEREAS, with the assistance of the Coalition, a wave of legislation has been enacted across the country over the last eighteen months, both at the federal and state level, which specifically adds race-based hair discrimination to the legal definition of race discrimination; and**

**WHEREAS, beginning in California in July 2019, The CROWN Act ("Creating a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair") has now been adopted in seven states and legislation is under consideration in more than twenty other states, as well as in Congress; and**



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**WHEREAS, at the federal level, the “CROWN Act of 2019”, has been introduced by Representative Cedric Richmond (LA-2) in the form of H.R. 5309 in December 2019 and by Senator Cory Booker (NJ) in the form of S. 3167 in January 2020. The “CROWN Act of 2019” would amend a panoply of existing federal civil rights law prohibiting race discrimination in federally assisted programs, housing programs, public accommodations, employment, and access to equal rights under the law. The stated purpose of the identical bills is “to institute definitions of race and national origin for Federal civil rights laws that effectuate the comprehensive scope of protection Congress intended to be afforded by such laws and Congress’ objective to eliminate race and national origin discrimination in the United States”; and**

**WHEREAS, the pending federal bills include an initial section of Congressional “findings,” providing an eloquent and compelling argument for the necessity of the proposed Act, as follows:**

- **throughout United States history, society has used (in conjunction with skin color) hair texture and hairstyle to classify individuals on the basis of race; and**
- **like one’s skin color, one’s hair has served as a basis of race and national origin discrimination; and**
- **racial and national origin discrimination can and do occur because of longstanding racial and national origin biases and stereotypes associated with hair texture and style; and**
- **for example, routinely, people of African descent are deprived of educational and employment opportunities because they are adorned with natural or protective hairstyles in which hair is tightly coiled or tightly curled, or worn in locs, cornrows, twists, braids, Bantu knots, or Afros; and**
- **racial and national origin discrimination is reflected in school and workplace policies and practices that bar natural or protective hairstyles commonly worn by people of African descent; and**
- **for example, as recently as 2018, the United States Armed Forces had grooming policies that barred natural or protective hairstyles that servicewomen of African descent commonly wear and that described these hairstyles as “unkempt”; and**
- **in 2018, the United States Armed Forces rescinded these policies and recognized that this description perpetuated derogatory racial stereotypes; and**
- **the United States Armed Forces also recognized that prohibitions against natural or protective hairstyles that African-American servicewomen are commonly adorned with are racially discriminatory and bear no relationship to African-American servicewomen’s occupational qualifications and their ability to serve and protect the Nation; and**
- **as a type of racial or national origin discrimination, discrimination on the basis of natural or protective hairstyles that people of African descent are commonly adorned with violates existing Federal law, including provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.), section 1977 of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1981), and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.). However, some Federal courts have misinterpreted Federal civil rights law by narrowly interpreting the meaning of race or national origin, and thereby permitting, for example, employers to discriminate against people of African descent who wear natural or protective hairstyles even though the employment policies involved are not related to workers’ ability to perform their jobs; and**
- **applying this narrow interpretation of race or national origin has resulted in a lack of Federal civil rights protection for individuals who are discriminated against on the basis of characteristics that are commonly associated with race and national origin; and**



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- **in 2019, State legislatures and municipal bodies throughout the United States have introduced and passed legislation that rejects certain Federal courts' restrictive interpretation of race and national origin, and expressly classifies race and national origin discrimination as inclusive of discrimination on the basis of natural or protective hairstyles commonly associated with race and national origin; and**

**WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of governing bodies to advocate on behalf of all of their residents to take action as described by the CROWN Act of 2019, which notes that "clear, consistent, and enforceable legal standards must be provided to redress the widespread incidences of race and national origin discrimination based upon hair texture and hairstyle in schools, workplaces, housing...and other contexts" and to "explicitly prohibit the adoption or implementation of grooming requirements that disproportionately impact people of African descent";**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party:**

- **supports legislative action in North Carolina on the CROWN Act with the bill receiving consideration at the committee level and ultimately being passed into law;**
- **supports legislative action in Congress to advance and pass into law the CROWN Act or other legislation prohibiting race-based hair discrimination in the workplace;**
- **supports Governor Cooper proclaiming July 3rd as CROWN Day in North Carolina; and**
- **requests that the Chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party send copies of this resolution to the entire North Carolina Legislature, Governor Roy Cooper, and the entire North Carolina Congressional Delegation.**

RESOLUTION CALLING ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO ADOPT AN INCLUSIVE NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

**WHEREAS, the protection of all members of our community is vital for the health and safety of our community; and**

**WHEREAS, December 1, 2020, was the date of expiration for a prohibition in House Bill 142 (passed March 2017) that prevented local governments from expanding local discrimination protections; and**

**WHEREAS, House Bill 142 repealed the notorious, discriminatory House Bill 2; and**

**WHEREAS, on April 18, 2016, the City Council of Winston-Salem passed a resolution condemning the discrimination of House Bill 2 on a nearly unanimous vote; and**

**WHEREAS, the municipalities of Hillsborough, Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Durham, and Greensboro, as well as Orange County, have all passed local anti-discrimination ordinances; and**

**WHEREAS, new or expanded non-discrimination ordinances are under consideration in the municipalities of Asheville, Greeneville, Wilmington, Charlotte, and Raleigh; and**

**WHEREAS, all recently passed non-discrimination ordinances have expanded protections for gender identity and expression, defined as having or being perceived as having gender-related identity, expression, appearance, or behavior, whether or not**



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that identity, expression, appearance, or behavior is different from sex assigned at birth; and

**WHEREAS, the ordinance enacted by the City and County of Durham adopted the CROWN Act, a model developed by the CROWN Coalition (including the National Urban League, Color of Change, and The Western Center on Law and Poverty), in order to ensure protection against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles, by extending statutory protection to hair texture and protective styles such as braids, locs, twists, knots, tight coils or curls, cornrows, Bantu knots, and afros in the workplace and public schools; and**

**WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper has signaled he will veto any legislation that attacks discrimination protections, and the General Assembly does not hold the veto-proof majority needed to overturn the Governor's veto; and**

**WHEREAS, a non-discrimination ordinance for all of North Carolina is are important and urgent, and should be inclusive and have an enforcement mechanism;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the adoption of inclusive non-discrimination ordinances, with a robust enforcement mechanism, that prohibits discrimination in places of public accommodation and employment on the basis of race, natural hair or hairstyles (as per the CROWN Act), ethnicity, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin or ancestry, marital or familial status, pregnancy, military status, religious belief or non-belief, age, and medical condition or disability (defined as any genetic information and ADA supported physiological, mental, or psychological condition or disorder, to include but not limited to visual, speech, or hearing impairments, HIV, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, cancer, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities); and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCDP calls for prompt, decisive action to protect the residents of North Carolina.**

## RESOLUTION ON HATE CRIMES

**WHEREAS, the 2019 Briefing Report of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, "In the Name of Hate: Examining the Federal Government's Role in Responding to Hate Crimes," emphasized that the greatest challenges to understanding the severity and magnitude of hate crimes is the lack of sufficient data and lack of police training to report and identify hate crimes; and**

**WHEREAS, the 2019 FBI Report shows a 64 percent increase in Hate Crimes in North Carolina between 2013 and 2017, not including the many more unreported; and**

**WHEREAS, North Carolina's Hate Crimes statute, adopted in 1993, does not require the collection of hate crimes data by law enforcement agencies; and**

**WHEREAS, in 2019 approximately 65 percent of North Carolina law enforcement agencies voluntarily reported to the FBI Hate Crimes Database; however, of the agencies reporting, only 24 percent reported a hate crime--with 76 percent reporting zero incidences of hate crimes; and**



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**WHEREAS, the University of North Carolina School of Government reported that, of the 57 hate crimes charged under current NC Hate Crimes statute in 2019, only 9 resulted in conviction; and**

**WHEREAS, North Carolina's current Hate Crimes statute is one of only 15 in the nation that does not recognize hate crimes based on disability, gender identity or sexual orientation and allows for only a misdemeanor penalty; and**

**WHEREAS, officials overseeing police training in North Carolina recently reported that their recruits spend about 30 minutes of class time on hate crimes; and**

**WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper's 2020 Racial Equity Task Force Report recommended that law enforcement training "include education on improving interactions with diverse populations, developing emotional intelligence skills, de-escalating tense situations and recognizing and addressing implicit bias;" and**

**WHEREAS, the tragedy which occurred in Atlanta, Georgia on March 16th was motivated by the suspect's apparent hatred of Asian Americans and of women and reflected a recent national increase in violence against said groups and others;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to support the adoption of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, HB 354, introduced in the NC House of Representatives by Representatives Nasif Majeed, Verla Insko, Pricey Harrison, and Marcia Morey and in the NC Senate by Senators Jay Chaudhuri, Valerie Foushee, and Mujtaba Mohammed.**

RESOLUTION CALLING ON CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH COMMISSIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

**WHEREAS, in our Declaration of Independence, our founders asserted that "All Men Are Created Equal," and that each had a right to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness, and**

**WHEREAS, in Amendments to our Constitution, our founders and future legislators expanded 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, despite lofty claims to noble enlightenment values, in the period from our founding through the first decade of the twenty-first century, the US committed the following acts in opposition to its professed values:**

- **The "ethnic cleansing" and genocide of native Americans,**
- **The African slave trade and slavery itself,**
- **Medical experimentation on black men,**
- **Eugenic laws and compulsory sterilization,**
- **"Jim Crow" violations of citizenship rights,**
- **Limited or denied admission to Jewish refugees seeking asylum from the holocaust,**
- **The confinement of Japanese American citizens in prison camps during WW2, and**



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- **Torture, extraordinary rendition (the usually secret, transfer of a prisoner to another country for illegal harsh interrogation, torture, or disappearance), and indefinite extraterritorial imprisonment (without legal representation or trial) of combatants captured in Afghanistan and Iraq; and**

**WHEREAS, these are serious human rights violations, some reaching the level of crimes against humanity with international jurisdiction, and**

**WHEREAS, since the US has signed but not ratified the UN anti-torture convention it may claim it is not bound by the convention, however, torture is also prohibited by US law, and**

**WHEREAS, continuing civil rights violations include Police violence against black people, penal codes that discriminate against people of color, economic and educational opportunities that favor whites, and voter suppression efforts directed against BIPOC communities; and**

**WHEREAS, Trump was responsible for the following crimes and torts:**

- **The imprisonment of individuals at our southern border seeking asylum from life-threatening anarchy and criminality in their own countries, and**
- **The forceful separation of young children from their parents, without any record to assure they will ever be reunited with their family, and**
- **The imprisonment of these children in cages at facilities that lack adequate sanitation, privacy, medical care, emotional support, and where children sleep with other children on concrete floors (covered only by emergency mylar-aluminum-film blankets), and**
- **The deportation of parents without their children, making it difficult if not impossible to reunite them, and**
- **The suicide of detained asylum seekers facing seemingly interminable incarceration, and**
- **The detained children who died because of a lack of medical care, and**
- **The delays in implementing court-ordered reunification 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 a disregard for the legal order, and**
- **The emotional suffering and permanent emotional scaring of children and their parents, and**

**WHEREAS, the many deeds described above likely planted seeds of resentment and hate that may pose threats to US security, and the safety of Americans in the future, and**

**WHEREAS, although within his authority, Trump pardoned four military contractors who had been tried, convicted, and imprisoned for murdering 17 unarmed Iraqi civilians (including two children), and injuring 20 more; and**

**WHEREAS, the contractors had committed war crimes and crimes against humanity (among the atrocities, a portion of a young child's brain was shot out in the presence of his father), and like many of the previously described actions, the pardons may justifiably aggravate grievances, resentment, and hatred that may eventually endanger us;**



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**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that North Carolina Democratic Party calls on Congressional Democrats to propose legislation to establish two commissions: the first, to serve as a reconciliation commission to deal with our earlier crimes; and the second, to investigate recent crimes and recommend remedies; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that both commissions shall consist of members of involved minority communities, legislators, legal scholars, Constitutional scholars and ethicists; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Congress shall provide adequate funding, space and staffing to enable the Commissions to carry out their charges, and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commissions shall be required to submit initial reports to Congress within one year and final recommendations within two years, and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that, based on the recommendations of the Commissions, Congress shall prepare legislation clearly defining war crimes, and crimes against humanity covered by the legislation, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, in this legislation, Congress shall define the penalties for the perpetration of these crimes (with definition of the circumstances that might apply directly to the President), and

**BE IT MOREOVER RESOLVED** that Congress shall consider measures recommended to foster reconciliation, that may include reparations, tuition free higher education, low interest business loans, free medical care, etc.

RESOLUTION TO ELIMINATE VOTER REGISTRATION LITERACY TESTS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION

**WHEREAS**, the literacy test, designed in 1899 to disenfranchise Black Americans, still exists in the NC Constitution in Article VI, Section 4, “every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the Constitution in the English language”; and

**WHEREAS**, while not enforceable due to Voting Rights Act of 1965, its mere presence in our State’s constitution is an affront to Black Americans and should be to all residents of NC, in many ways more egregious than confederate flags and statues; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of attempts have been made to eliminate the literacy test, yet, the amendment either died before getting on the ballot or did not get the required majority vote when brought to the people; and

**WHEREAS**, as recently as 2019, HB 314 passed the NC House with bi-partisan support and was supposed to be on the November 2020 ballot, but never made it out of the NC Senate; and

**WHEREAS**, given voter suppression efforts from the White House to NC State House in recent years, NC has the opportunity to show that we are making an effort to rise above our history and move towards respecting Voting as a basic human right for all;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party shall make it a priority to act to bring to the vote of the people the repeal of the literacy test requirement from the NC Constitution.



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## RESOLUTION ON ENDING THE CASH BAIL SYSTEM

**WHEREAS, the arcane system of cash bail is discriminatory in that it keeps poor defendants, who have not been tried or convicted, in jail until their case is resolved (which is often several months or even years), while wealthy individuals are able to post bail and go home; and**

**WHEREAS, the cash bail system deepens economic and racial inequality in that pretrial detention which results in individuals losing their jobs, not being able to take care of their children, and losing contact with loved ones; and**

**WHEREAS, being held pretrial makes both conviction and incarceration more likely, as defendants held pretrial are pressured to plead guilty with the hopes of returning home; and**

**WHEREAS, many of the people held pretrial confinement are not a threat to the public, since most pretrial detainees have been charged with misdemeanors or minor felonies such as possession of drugs and property or public order crimes; and**

**WHEREAS, the for-profit cash bail system strips people of their rights, unduly harms poor people, people of color, their families, and drains money and resources out of their communities; and**

**WHEREAS, thousands of North Carolinians—a disproportionate number of them black and brown people—are kept in jail not because they are guilty of any crime but because they are poor, unable to pay bail or for-profit bail bonds, which often traps them into years of debt; and**

**WHEREAS, the cash bail system costs taxpayers since the US spends 38 million dollars a day to detain people pretrial, costs which could be redirected into education, housing, and economic development which would benefit marginalized communities; and**

**WHEREAS, the US is one of only two countries, the other being the Philippines, to use cash bail;**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports legislation to end the use of cash bail; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCDP supports the inclusion of measures such as the following:**

- **Use of citations and summons rather than arrests for low-risk defendants;**
- **Participation of defense counsels in initial pretrial proceedings;**
- **Early participation by prosecutors (who often have important information about charges that inform the bail decision);**
- **Prompt judicial review of magistrates' pretrial decisions;**
- **A system to provide the services necessary for defendants to show up for their trials;**
- **Allowance of enough time for judicial officials to evaluate risk of flight, risk of serious crime, and conditions of release.**



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## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RACIAL EQUITY IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**WHEREAS, civic protection and care of North Carolina citizens is a public service; and**

**WHEREAS, the federal and local justice and policing complex since its inception has been an aggressively punitive system that brings undue harm and despair to poor citizens and primarily citizens of color; and**

**WHEREAS, one in three children of color born today will serve time in prison during their lifetime as compared to one in seventeen white children; and**

**WHEREAS, North Carolina remains one of only several states that continues to convict and sentence someone to life imprisonment without parole for crimes committed before the age of 18; and**

**WHEREAS, on any given day approximately one in ten Black men in their thirties are in prison or jail; and**

**WHEREAS, the vast majority of convictions in North Carolina are drug-related with a disproportionate number of arrests of Black men; and**

**WHEREAS, the imprisonment rate for Black residents in NC per 100,000 is four times the imprisonment rate of white residents; and**

**WHEREAS, since 1980, the North Carolina prison population has doubled; and**

**WHEREAS, in North Carolina, Court-imposed fees have increased by 400% over the past twenty years, impacting the poor and their families with regard to employment, housing opportunities, basic sustenance, as well as disabling otherwise healthy family relationships; and**

**WHEREAS, between 2013 and 2018, black men in the United States were about 2.5 times more likely than white men to be killed by police; and**

**WHEREAS, nationally, fatal police violence is the 6th leading cause of death among men ages 25-29 across all racial groups; and**

**WHEREAS, there is strong evidence of systemic racism within police forces in North Carolina and nationwide; and**

**WHEREAS, there is evidence of calculated infiltration of white nationalism into police academies and departments with the expressed interest of abusing people of color;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports and demands wide-ranging justice reform legislation to: (1) reduce harsh drug convictions, by making North Carolina a partner in the wholesale reconsideration of drug policy which comprises half of all federal convictions, (2) remove burdensome fines, bail and other court expenses for low-income citizens, (3) reform and reduce sentences for non-violent offenses, (4) maintain an accurate database of policing procedures and outcomes that is accessible on a national level, (5) reform police training to reflect servant leadership, and (6) remove weapons of war as policing equipment; and**



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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourages its legislators in the North Carolina General Assembly to expeditiously enact justice reform legislation in response to Governor Cooper's Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice, led by Attorney General Josh Stein and NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls.

## RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FEDERAL JUDICIAL REFORM

**WHEREAS**, by its explicit terms, the Code of Conduct for United States Judges does not apply to Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court; and

**WHEREAS**, deference to and enforcement of the judgments and rulings of courts critically depends on public confidence in the legitimacy, integrity, and independence of judges and justices; and

**WHEREAS**, courts are in danger of losing legitimacy when the public loses faith that judges and justices are ethical, unbiased, and fair; and

**WHEREAS**, there is before the United States Congress, sec. 7001 of H.R.1, For the People Act of 2021, which has passed the U.S. House of Representatives, and which would require a Code of Conduct be issued for all federal judges, including U.S. Supreme Court Justices;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party (NCDP) supports sec. 7001 of H.R.1 which would require a Code of Conduct be issued for all federal judges, including U.S. Supreme Court Justices; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCDP supports extending the Code of Conduct to U.S. Supreme Court Justices, and providing a formal mechanism for review of conflicts by sitting Justices and lower federal court judges; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCDP supports strengthening ethical rules in the Code of Conduct for all U.S. Judges and Justices to ensure that judges and justices recuse themselves when they have conflicts of interest, and to ensure accountability for judges who violate these rules; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCDP supports transparent review of all federal judicial candidates by legislatively requiring the Judicial Conference of the United States to publicly post judicial nominees' financial reports, recusal decisions, and speeches, and by requiring the IRS to provide retrospective disclosure of five years of federal and state tax returns by all federal judicial candidates; and the extension of this transparency to all appointed candidates while they serve on the bench; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports strengthening disciplinary actions available to the federal Judicial Conference to prevent judges from escaping misconduct investigations by leaving the court or by elevation to the United States Supreme Court.

## RESOLUTION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL & EQUITABLE CRIMINAL COURT FINES, COSTS & FEES IN NORTH CAROLINA

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 7A, Article 28 of the North Carolina General Statutes stipulates the imposition of monetary sanctions upon defendants in every criminal case, when the



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**defendant is convicted, or enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or when costs are assessed against a prosecuting witness; and**

**WHEREAS, these monetary sanctions are comprised of fines levied as punishment for criminal offenses, plus criminal court costs and fees, assessed on a by-use basis throughout the criminal justice process in accordance with the Criminal Court Costs and Fees Chart; and**

**WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Constitution delegates authority to the North Carolina General Assembly to define criminal court costs and fees and set corresponding financial obligations, as detailed within the Criminal Court Costs and Fees Chart; and**

**WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Constitution also delegates authority to the General Assembly to determine how revenue emanating from the collection of criminal court costs and fees is allocated; and**

**WHEREAS, the largest share of revenue from the collection of criminal court costs and fees is directed to the state General Fund and subsequently allocated to fund a range of government programs unrelated to the court system; and**

**WHEREAS, criminal court costs and fees have risen exponentially over the past two decades, while the state repealed its estate tax, implemented a modified flat income tax, and reduced the corporate income tax rate; and**

**WHEREAS, despite state and federal constitutional protections prohibiting punishment of an individual for their poverty, payment of criminal court fines, costs, and fees is enforced through draconian penalties with collateral consequences that trap people in a perpetual cycle of debt, including additional monetary sanctions, probation extensions, exclusion from anti-poverty programs, driver's license revocation, and incarceration; and**

**WHEREAS, under this economically-skewed system, low-income people routinely receive harsher punishments than high-income people for similar criminal offenses; and**

**WHEREAS, judges have a constitutional obligation to inquire about an individual's financial status before imposing criminal court fines, costs, and fees, but judges waived criminal court fines, costs, and fees in less than five percent of applicable judgements statewide in 2018; and**

**WHEREAS, over the past ten years, the state has implemented numerous administrative and procedural requirements to restrict the capacity of judges to waive criminal court fines, costs, and fees; and**

**WHEREAS, racial disparities exist at every stage of the criminal justice system, including the imposition and collection of criminal court fines, costs, and fees; and**

**WHEREAS, the financial burden of criminal court fines, costs, and fees is disproportionately felt by low-income people and people of color; and**



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**WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 650,000 people held unpaid criminal court debt in North Carolina as of 2020; and**

**WHEREAS, the N.C. Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice on December 14, 2020 recommended several policy changes relating to the imposition and collection of criminal court fines, costs, and fees, including: assessing a defendant's ability to pay prior to levying any criminal court fines and fees, reducing use of criminal court fines and fees, eliminating state government reliance on criminal court fines and fees, and developing a process to eliminate criminal justice debt; and**

**WHEREAS, State reliance on the collection of court costs, fines, and fees is a form of regressive taxation disproportionately imposed upon people of color;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the General Assembly, the Office of the Governor, and the state Judicial Branch to consider all avenues to rework the current process of imposing and collecting criminal court fines, costs, and fees, including: uniform assessments of a defendant's ability to pay, expansion of judicial authority to grant waiver, statewide investment in criminal debt relief and restoration clinics, end the suspension and revocation of driver's licenses for failure to pay, and reduction of criminal court fines, costs, and fees generally.**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HB 261: RAISE MIN AGE / JUVENILE JURISDICTION

**WHEREAS, North Carolina has the lowest minimum age limit in the US that allows for children as young as six to be sent to juvenile court; and**

**WHEREAS, a 6-year-old was referred to juvenile court in NC in 2021 for picking a flower out of someone's yard while waiting for the school bus and was given crayons and a picture to color because his attention span was so short when he appeared in court; and**

**WHEREAS, the criminalization of children's behavior reveals a distinct racial and gender bias; for example, Black residents are 22 percent of North Carolina's**

**population, but nearly half of the juvenile complaints filed against children ages 6 to 11 from 2015 to 2018 were against Black children, overwhelmingly boys; and**

**WHEREAS, a growing body of longitudinal neuroimaging research demonstrates that the human brain continues to develop well into a person's 20s, and it shows that the frontal lobe, responsible for executive functioning (such as long-term planning, working memory, and impulse control), is among the last areas of the brain to mature (suggesting that it is developmentally inappropriate for a child to be held accountable for misconduct in a criminal legal sense); and**

**WHEREAS, the National Center for Juvenile Justice recommends that the minimum age at which children should be brought before a judge in juvenile court be raised to age 14, a standard set forth by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as the most common minimum age of criminal responsibility internationally; and**



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**WHEREAS, many children who find themselves in the juvenile legal system for breaking laws and rules often have cognitive-communication disorders (CCDs) that go untreated or unidentified; and**

**WHEREAS, a 2018 article in the Journal of Gender, Social Policy and the Law on CCDs and the school to prison pipeline, found that more than 80% of young people affected by zero-tolerance policies were found to have a CCD, a learning disability, or some combination; and**

**WHEREAS, N.C. State Rep. Marcia Morey (D-Durham) filed H.B. 261 on MARCH 11, 2021 to raise the minimum age for juvenile jurisdiction from age 6 to age 10; now, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the efforts of H.B. 261 to raise the age at which a child can be brought before a judge from 6 to 10 as a good first step in dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to form a committee to continue investigating ways to further dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, including:**

- **further increasing the minimum age at which a child is brought before a judge on delinquency charges to 14 years old;**
- **allocating resources to close the gap in services that requires parents to seek assistance by bringing their child in front of a judge on undisciplined minor charges; and**
- **having the child's cognitive-communication abilities assessed by a licensed and accredited speech-language pathologist or psychologist before that child is adjudicated to determine the best treatment and dispensation of justice for the child.**

## RESOLUTION ON THE SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the safe return of students to school is essential to the economic recovery of our communities from the COVID-19 pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to fund and fully support the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), physical enhancements and ongoing operational costs required to provide a high level of safety for our students, staff and visitors to

conduct in person learning to those families who want it, and to not require in-person attendance in order to receive an equitable learning experience.

## RESOLUTION ON FIGHTING COVID-19 BY FULLY FUNDING SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to correct the pre-existing deficit in maintenance and operation funding of county school systems; and



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WHEREAS, the SARS-CoV-2 virus is airborne, and while vaccines offer hope, knowledge is incomplete regarding their efficacy over time, and against current and potential variants; therefore, to keep teachers, students and community members safer, a layered risk reduction approach is critical, and this includes proper ventilation and/or filtration of shared indoor spaces in schools; and

WHEREAS, it can be challenging or impossible to achieve reasonable distancing and air cleanliness in the absence of proper funding; and

WHEREAS, some of the same mitigations that can help keep students and teachers safer from this virus can also help keep them safer from other dangerous indoor pollutants such as volatile organic compounds; and

WHEREAS, the need for appropriate ventilation and filtration of shared indoor spaces will still be critical for health and learning after the threat from Covid-19 may be reduced; and

WHEREAS, NC statute mandates that the state funds school salaries and programs, and the counties fund infrastructure; however, the NC General Assembly has underfunded salaries for school teachers and staff, and this has placed pressure on county budgets to supplement the state's funding resulting in underfunding infrastructure maintenance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the goal of funding the maintenance and operation of school facilities throughout North Carolina at the level of the national industry standard; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to adequately fund teacher and staff salaries so that North Carolina County Boards of Commissioners can provide steady ongoing funding for infrastructure maintenance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports that, if funds may come available from the United States federal government and if those funds could properly be apportioned toward the goal of maintenance and operation of statewide school facilities at the level of the national industry standard, a reasonable amount shall be so apportioned.

## RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OUR TEACHERS AS PUBLIC SERVANTS AND HEROES

WHEREAS, our public-school teachers have continued to perform their duties under the extreme adverse conditions of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina teachers' salaries are well below the national average, and our teachers have received little or no raises in the past few years; and

WHEREAS, using tax money for private schools undermines our already underfunded public schools,

Be it therefore resolved, that the New Hanover Democratic Party supports the right of teachers and all public sector workers to organize and bargain for better pay, benefits and safety protections; and

Be it further resolved, that the NC and NHC Democratic Parties will work to raise teacher pay in North Carolina to the national average or above; and

Be it further resolved, that the NC and NHC Democratic Parties will oppose any expansion of the Opportunity Scholarship Program or any other use of tax payer monies for private schools; and



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Be it further resolved, that the NC and NHC Democratic Parties will fight to prioritize the use of pandemic relief funds and NC state rainy day funds to compensate teachers and other school staff for their continuing efforts to provide the best possible education for our children during the pandemic.

## **Economy and Labor**

### A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service provides essential services to residents of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service provides services to low-income and rural areas that otherwise would not receive service from the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party supports equal access to public services; and

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service continues to face concerted efforts to privatize or otherwise hinder its functions and its financial solvency; and

WHEREAS, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, enacted by the 109<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress in 2006, has greatly hindered the capacity of the United States Postal Service to execute its core functions through the imposition of unreasonable requirements, including 50+ years pre-funding of retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS, Trump donor and political appointee Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has sabotaged United States Postal Services operations by ordering dismantling of sorting machines and eliminating overtime for postal deliveries; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of internet sales has cut into United States Postal Services profits, and the COVID-19 Pandemic has added to United States Postal Services costs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party stands in support of the United States Postal Service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports efforts to unburden the United States Postal Service from the unreasonable retirement funding requirements imposed through the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for the removal of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for supplementary funding for the United States Postal Service to restore fast and efficient mail delivery.

### A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVING STATE ROADS

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

**WHEREAS, safe and drivable roads are necessary for all communities; and**

**WHEREAS, the painted lines on some roads cannot be seen at night; now, therefore, be it**



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**RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to provide sufficient funding to repaint and maintain all state roads and roads owned and maintained by Counties and/or municipalities for the sake of public safety.

## RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REFORM OF WORKERS COMPENSATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina's Workers Compensation Program is intended to provide critical medical and income support to workers injured or made sick on the job; and

**WHEREAS**, Workers Compensation Programs across the United States only cover an average of about 21% of the overall financial cost of workplace injuries and illnesses, with remaining costs of workplace injuries borne primarily by the injured workers, their families, and taxpayer-supported components of the social safety net; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina's Workers Compensation Program only provides for a maximum of 2/3 of lost wages, without considering inflation, and reimbursement of medical costs at less than average market rates to provide treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, injured workers bear all the burden and expenses of filing for compensation and obtaining legal services needed to advocate for all benefits for which they are eligible, without considering reimbursement for those expenses, and instead forcing the deduction of those costs from funds intended for treatment and care of injured workers; and

**WHEREAS**, only a fraction of injured workers eligible for Workers Compensation ever receive any benefits through Workers Compensation Programs, with studies indicating that less than 40% of eligible workers ever apply for Workers Compensation benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina's Workers Compensation Program has moved from some of the best benefits in the nation to some of the worst benefits over the past eight years; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges our State Legislature to reform our Workers Compensation Program to fully compensate 100% of actual medical costs, lost wages and legal expenses of workers injured in North Carolina; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to eliminate legal costs for workers who apply for workmen's compensation; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to close loopholes under current legislation that endanger a large number of workers in North Carolina while at

the same time reforming the current law to better accommodate the needs of small businesses operating with three or less employees.

## RESOLUTION ON THE CONTINUATION OF COVID RELIEF ACT PAYMENTS

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the national economy and left millions of working families without jobs and adequate resources to pay rent, make car payments, buy prescription drugs, etc.; and



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**WHEREAS, millions of Americans have been forced from their jobs due to closures that have lasted for almost a year with little or no savings to rely on for daily expenses; and**

**WHEREAS, the COVID Relief Plan offers workers a \$300.00 weekly benefit to offset the loss of jobs and mounting expenses with approximately forty (40) percent of the added benefits going to households with income below fifty (50) percent of the federal poverty level and nearly two-thirds of these aforesaid benefits will go to households with children; and**

**WHEREAS, restaurant workers for example will be forced to go back to work for a wage of \$2.14 per hour plus tips at a time when these same workers are already financially devastated and trying their best to hang on to their homes and/or lodging;**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party is opposed to any and all austerity minded legislation in the United States Congress and/or North Carolina General Assembly that intentionally or unintentionally shortens the payout timeline of the much-needed benefits provided by the COVID Relief Plan to the people of North Carolina; and**

**Further be it resolved that the North Carolina Democratic Party is opposed to legislation in the United States Congress and/or North Carolina General Assembly that in effect forces the working people of North Carolina back to work for low paying wages with little to no benefits.**

RESOLUTION ON THE CAUSE & EFFECTS OF RUNAWAY INEQUALITY & THE NEED TO STOP IT

**WHEREAS, the US emerged from the Great Depression and World War II as the world's greatest superpower because of its roaring economy that was a direct result of a business climate that was dictated by trade unions that forced corporate management to be competitive in acquiring workers by paying them good wages and good benefits; and**

**WHEREAS, around 1972 the Keynesian Iron Law of Economics was broken when the Republican Party embraced neoliberalism (the idea that getting rid of all the regulations that encumber business) would allow so much money to be made that it would raise all boats and could not help but trickle down; and**

**WHEREAS, the minimum wage for workers has not seen an increase in over a decade and those working at the stagnated rate of \$7.25 are working at a poverty rate; and**

**WHEREAS, the Chicago School of Business Model, or Neoliberalism, or Trickle-Down Economics has led to a rigged economic system that benefits those at the top and is crushing the idea of the American Dream for those in the middle and at the bottom of the economic ladder; and**

**WHEREAS, this has moved the US from a progressive tax system where those at the top pay more because they can easily more afford to pay the lion's share to a regressive system where those at the bottom pay more taxes and those at the top enjoy tax relief; and**

**WHEREAS, financialization or Corporate Strip Mining is the practice of raiding corporate resources, for example, by borrowing money for stock buybacks to raise stock prices for the benefit of corporate officers paid in stock options, and by**

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acquiring corporations using loans repaid by the corporations that are acquired. Corporations do not have to pay taxes on the borrowed funds; and

**WHEREAS, financialization or Corporate Strip Mining by corporate raiders is responsible for the stagnation of workers' pay while corporate CEO pay has skyrocketed from the 1947 ratio of 1 to 47 to today's average of worker to CEO at 1 to 847 and stock buybacks have gone from being outlawed as stock manipulation to being a common business tactic used by all major corporations; and**

**WHEREAS, the US currently has only one public bank, the Bank of North Dakota that serves the state of North Dakota and has served it well by granting low-cost loans and not involving itself in speculation on derivatives;**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports any and all legislation to combat the causes and effects of runaway income inequality and**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party admonishes the continued monetary practices of trickle-down economics and advocates for policy to limit runaway inequality; and**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports a raise in the minimum wage from the current rate of \$7.25 per hour to \$15.00 per Hour; and**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party advocates a return to a progressive tax plan for both state and federal, where those who have the most can pay the most and those who have the least would also pay the least; and**

**BE IT RESOLVED for the North Carolina Democratic Party to advocate for legislation at both the federal and state level that would make Corporate Strip Mining or Stock buybacks unlawful again, thereby eliminating the single greatest cause of runaway inequality; and.**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party advocates for legislation to establish a state government-controlled bank modeled after the Bank of North Dakota that would offer services to all NC citizens.**

## **Immigration, Foreign Affairs, and Military Affairs**

A RESOLUTION ON FAITH ACTION ID

**WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party believes the immigrant community strengthens our state; and**

**WHEREAS, the Faith Action ID is an identification card issued by the community, sometimes in concert with law enforcement to provide card holders with a reliable form of good-faith identification that can be used as a tool by law enforcement, city departments, health centers, schools, businesses, and cultural arts organizations to better identify, serve, and protect us; and**



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**WHEREAS, the Faith Action ID program would build greater understanding, trust, and cooperation between our diverse community and local law enforcement and other public agencies;**

**WHEREAS, dozens of law enforcement agencies, city and social service agencies, health centers, schools, businesses and cultural arts organizations support the program and participate in Faith Action ID drives with a common goal to create safer, more inclusive, and united communities; and**

**WHEREAS, the Faith Action ID card is not a state-issued form of identification or a driver's license, it cannot be used to vote and does not entitle card holders to any social welfare benefits, it does not prevent prosecution of those engaged in an illegal activity, and it does not impact an individual's immigration status; and**

**WHEREAS, many residents of North Carolina, including many citizens, do not possess the necessary resources to obtain state-issued identification; and**

**WHEREAS, residents of North Carolina without reliable identification may not be able to identify themselves to law enforcement, participate in the cultural and business life of their community, or receive urgent services from schools, health centers, city departments, and social service agencies; and**

**WHEREAS, the Faith Action ID program benefits a diverse set of residents, including: new immigrants and refugees, homeless and elderly individuals, people recently returning from jail, as well as faith and city leaders, teachers, health and social service workers, and many others; and**

**WHEREAS, over 15,000 individuals have obtained a Faith Action ID card in either North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, or Ohio; and**

**WHEREAS, participants of the Faith Action ID program must attend an ID drive to participate in an orientation on the benefits and limitations of the card and sign a Memorandum of Understanding, and**

**WHEREAS, to obtain Faith Action ID, participants must also provide proof of identity from a list of acceptable documentation, including: embassy ID, national ID card, passport, or driver's license, and proof of address from a list of acceptable documentation, including: utility bill, medical record, bank statement, or lease agreement; and**

**WHEREAS, law enforcement officers attend each Faith Action ID drive to engage with program participants, listen to the needs and concerns of the community members, and educate the community; now, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges jurisdictions within the State to recognize the Faith Action ID as a legal form of identification, promote access to the Faith Action ID through publicly-supported community events, and partner with local non-profit organizations to distribute Faith Action ID cards.**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS



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**WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party believes that the immigrant community strengthens the state of North Carolina; and**

**WHEREAS, House Bill 829 of the North Carolina General Assembly 2019-2020 Session was referred to the Committee On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House, but did not advance any further; and**

**WHEREAS, House Bill 311 of the North Carolina General Assembly 2021-2022 Session would have permitted undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver's license in North Carolina; and**

**WHEREAS, expanding eligibility to obtain driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants would help ensure that drivers are properly licensed, informed of traffic laws, and operate registered, inspected, and insured vehicles, thereby improving safety on roads and highways and within communities; and**

**WHEREAS, expanding eligibility to obtain driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants would strengthen trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, permitting law enforcement to fulfill their duties more efficiently and effectively; and**

**WHEREAS, expanding eligibility to obtain driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants would help lower insurance premiums for all drivers; and**

**WHEREAS, expanding eligibility to obtain driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants would improve overall economic conditions within North Carolina by allowing undocumented immigrants to overcome present barriers to transportation that restrict their options for employment; and**

**WHEREAS, expanding eligibility to obtain driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants would further integrate immigrant communities and allow undocumented immigrants to participate and contribute more fully to their local community; and, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED, that the State of North Carolina, in order to maintain safe and secure roads and communities, shall authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue restricted Drivers Licenses to any resident of North Carolina regardless of immigration status; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Legislature pass HB 311 - The Safe Roads and Communities Act of 2021.**

A RESOLUTION TO BUILD BRIDGES TO AAPI COMMUNITIES SUFFERING FROM COVID-19 AROUND THE WORLD

**WHEREAS, The Asian American and Pacific Islanders Caucus of the NCDP (AAPI-NC) is a valued member of the Democratic Coalition in North Carolina and important to the fabric of the American story; and**

**WHEREAS, AAPI voters in various districts were key to electing the first woman of African American as well as Asian American descent as Vice President of the United States; and**



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**WHEREAS, The Biden/Harris Administration has proven itself extremely competent in handling the responses to COVID-19 domestically; turning a disastrous response from the previous administration into massive logistical success in the first 100 days in office; and**

**WHEREAS, President Biden rejoined the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) on January 22, 2021; a move that was widely noted as important for the United States to retain leadership in global health in the world; and**

**WHEREAS, COVID-19 and medical misinformation spread by various actors is still ravaging nations large and small across the world, including Asia and Pacific Island Nations; and**

**WHEREAS, COVID-19 will not be the last pandemic to face the international community; and**

**WHEREAS, It is the platform of the North Carolina Democratic Party to support policies that strengthen our diplomatic bonds and that enhance the lives and health of free and democratic people all across the globe, while still defending our American Interest and Values; and**

**WHEREAS, It is among the signature initiatives of the AAPI-NC Caucus of the NCDP to be concerned with humanitarian controversies that prevail in all countries, and also to seek freedom from harm within the family, the village, and the country of origin; now, therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party value good faith positive engagement and culturally sensitive, educational dialogues that will continue to help communities at home and abroad find good health outcomes to the COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will urge elected officials at all levels to work appropriately with economic and development partners towards sharing logistical, technological, and pharmacological assistance with Asia and the Pacific Islands as they combat the COVID-19 pandemic.**

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE ANTI-IMMIGRATION BILLS IN NC HOUSE AND SENATE

**WHEREAS, Senate Bill 101 of the North Carolina General Assembly 2021-2022 Session is an anti-immigrant "show me your papers" bill that circumvents the local authority of sheriffs by requiring them to cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and assist in the federal government's deportation pipeline or face criminal charges; and**

**WHEREAS, House Bill 62 of the North Carolina General Assembly 2021-2022 Session is also an anti-immigrant bill that would further would allow anyone in North Carolina to sue their local government if they believed that it the government was enacting any kind of pro-immigrant "sanctuary" policy; and**

**WHEREAS, there is no legal definition of "sanctuary" policies, so the intent of these bills is not compliance with the law, but to force punish sheriffs or other local elected officials to cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement who choose to put community needs over federal immigration enforcement; and**



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**WHEREAS, House Bill 62 of the North Carolina General Assembly 2021-2022 Session, driven by racism and xenophobia, would open local governments to an unlimited number of groundless suits from citizens and anti-immigrant groups, draining valuable time and money from the government; and**

**WHEREAS, members of immigrant communities would be more fearful of government and therefore less likely to trust law enforcement or other local governmental agencies; and**

**WHEREAS, The Immigrants' Rights Alliance of North Carolina, a coalition of 30 organizations dedicated to protecting and defending the rights of immigrants in North Carolina issued a statement on Senate Bill 101 and House Bill 62 of the North Carolina General Assembly 2021-2022 Session, "We strongly urge the North Carolina General Assembly to reject SB 101 and HB 62. North Carolinians deserve better from their elected officials than these divisive and harmful proposals"; now, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges all lawmakers to oppose Senate Bill 101 and House Bill 62 of the North Carolina General Assembly 2021-2022 Session and any similar bills that aim to undermine relationships between local governments and immigrant communities; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges Governor Roy Cooper to veto Senate Bill 101 and House Bill 62 of the North Carolina General Assembly 2021-2022 Session, should either bill be adopted by the North Carolina General Assembly.**

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO END NORTH CAROLINA'S INVOLVEMENT IN TORTURE

**WHEREAS, there has been no official state effort to acknowledge the illegal actions of the CIA front company Aero Contractors Ltd. for their role in the transport of at least 49 Muslim men and women to overseas torture sites from North Carolina airports in Johnston County and Kinston; and**

**WHEREAS, North Carolina citizens, people of faith, veterans, elected officials, civic groups, labor, various political parties and members of different racial and ethnic groups have called for investigation of Aero since 2005; and**

**WHEREAS, for two years a blue ribbon North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture took the challenge of investigating our state's role in hosting "torture taxis"; they collected public records, testimonies and worked with experts at UNC and Duke law schools resulting in an 83 page document entitled, "Torture Flights, North Carolina's Role in CIA Rendition and Torture Program;" and**

**RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourage members of the North Carolina General Assembly to read the findings in said Report; and be it further**

**RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urge Governor Cooper and other officials to read and issue public statements regarding the Report and to hold anyone involved in this illegal activity accountable for their wrongdoing; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the North Carolina General Assembly reintroduce and pass similar legislation to House Bill 740 (2019-2020), "Ending North Carolina's Involvement in Torture."**



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## RESOLUTION TO RESTORE THE FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT TO BOYCOTT TO SUPPORT PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS (2021)

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States in the case of NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co. unanimously affirmed that boycotts are protected free speech under the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Boycotts were an effective non-violent means of protest in the 1960s to oppose segregation and Jim Crow laws in the US and were an effective non-violent means of protest in the 1980s to pressure South Africa to end apartheid rule; and

WHEREAS, Boycotts are a non-violent means of protest to achieve the North Carolina Democratic Party platform's goal to restore the full human rights of the Palestinian people; and

WHEREAS, Article 6G of Chapter 147 of the N.C.G.S., entitled "*Divestment from Companies Boycotting Israel*," places an undue burden on North Carolina businesses seeking to contract with North Carolina state government and entities that also participate in constitutionally protected free speech to restore full human rights of the Palestinian people; and

WHEREAS, General Statute § 147-86.80(4) calls for the creation of a blacklist of companies as it defines a "*Restricted company*" as "a company that appears on the list of companies that are engaged in a boycott of Israel developed by the State Treasurer under G.S. 147-86.81(a)(1)": **"the State Treasurer shall develop and make publicly available a list of companies it determines to be engaged in a boycott of Israel"**; and

WHEREAS, General Statute § 147-86.81. penalizes companies through divestment of state funds from these companies placed on the blacklist simply for exercising non-violent means of protest to support Palestinian human rights:

- a. ***No more than 30 days after October 1, 2017, the State Treasurer shall adopt a policy prohibiting the North Carolina Retirement Systems or the Department of State Treasurer from investing in any company engaged in a boycott of Israel;*** and

WHEREAS, General Statute § 147-86.82., entitled "*Restrictions on contracts with the State or subdivisions of the State*," specifically bans companies on the blacklist from doing business with the state or local government entities:

- a. ***A company that is identified as a restricted company is ineligible to contract with the State or any political subdivision of the State;***
- b. ***Any contract entered into with a company that is identified as a restricted company at the time of contract is void ab initio;***
- c. ***Upon receiving information that a company that was not identified as a restricted company at the time of contract has later been identified as a restricted company, the State agency shall review the information and offer the company an opportunity to respond. If the company fails to demonstrate that the company should not have been identified as a restricted company within 90 days after notification by the State agency, then the State agency shall take action as may be appropriate and provided for by law, rule, or contract;***



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d. *Contracts in existence on October 1, 2017, with restricted companies shall be allowed to expire in accordance with the terms of the contract; and*

WHEREAS, “State or any political subdivision of the State” include cities, counties, school districts, water and sewer authorities, public works commissions, transit authorities, public housing authorities, public hospitals, sanitary districts, airport authorities, and tourism development authorities (TDA) as well as departments, offices, and other subunits of political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, Article 6G amounts to state-imposed speech on private companies in favor of a foreign country; and

WHEREAS, Similar laws passed by state governments in Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas and Texas have either been found unconstitutional and/or the enforcement of said laws has been blocked by the courts for being in violation of the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Media reporting and public statements show that the Israeli government engaged in a campaign to pass these unconstitutional anti-boycott laws across the United States which include:

- a) Israeli Consular Officer Harold Hershberg advised Georgia state legislator Deborah Silcox and the Georgia General Assembly on how to amend their anti-boycott law, a clear example of Israel working to undermine fundamental American values<sup>1</sup>.
- b) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated “we have promoted laws in most US states, which determine that strong action is to be taken against whoever tries to boycott Israel.”<sup>2</sup>
- c) Israeli Ambassador to the US/UN Gilad Erdan stated “Our efforts are producing results. 27 US states now have counter-BDS legislation. Let’s give a hand to all the governors and state legislators who supported this law. They deserve it.”<sup>3</sup>
- d) Israeli publication Haaretz reported on Israeli government Ministry of Strategic Affairs tasked with opposing the boycott movement by setting up a front company Concert (formerly known as Kela Shlomo) “to conceal the funding [organizations] received from Israel.”<sup>4</sup>
- e) Jewish-American publication The Forward’s investigation uncovered Israeli government funding to various groups to promote these anti-boycott laws with a key concern surrounding disclosure of the lobbying activity for a foreign government under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.<sup>5</sup>
- f) Israel funded an organization through this program that is identified as an anti-Muslim hate-group by the Southern Poverty Law Center and thereby placing Muslim-American lives in danger<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Anti-boycott laws are opposed by prominent figures and organizations including Senator Diane Feinstein, Senator Bernie Sanders, J Street, Jewish Voice for Peace, Center for Constitutional Rights, American Civil Liberties Union, National Lawyers Guild and many others; and

WHEREAS, A 2020 University of Maryland Critical Issues Poll showed that anti-boycott laws are opposed by 80% of Democrats, 76% of independents and 72% of Republicans<sup>7</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Israeli human rights organization B’Tselem declared in January 2021 that Israel is engaged in the crime of apartheid<sup>8</sup>; and



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WHEREAS, Nobel Peace Prize winning organization Human Rights Watch declared in April 2021 that Israel is engaged in apartheid and persecution, both crimes against humanity<sup>9</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Former Israeli Ambassadors to South Africa Ilan Baruch and Dr. Alon Liel both affirmed that Israel is engaged in apartheid<sup>10</sup>; and

WHEREAS, polling commissioned by the Jewish Electoral Institute in 2021 of the Jewish-American community found that 34% agreed that “Israel’s treatment of Palestinians is similar to racism in the United States,” 25% agreed that “Israel is an apartheid state” and 22% agreed that “Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinians”<sup>11</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Article 6G is designed to interfere in the business decisions and prevent the free speech of companies seeking to disengage with doing business with a country accused of practicing apartheid and persecution; and

WHEREAS, Repeal of this unconstitutional law will be essential to advocate freely for the restoration of full human rights for the Palestinian people and ending Israel’s practice of apartheid and persecution as the law is inherently anti-Palestinian; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party work with the Democratic caucus at the North Carolina General Assembly to explore ways to repeal General Statute, Chapter 147 – Article 6G, Divestment from Companies Boycotting Israel (§ 147-86.80 - § 147-86.84) for being an unconstitutional law infringing on the First Amendment right to free speech.

## **Democratic Party, Government, & Voting Rights**

RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF MAX ADAMS

**Whereas Johnnie “Max” Adams was an active and devoted Democrat from 2004 until the time of his death on March 9, 2021; and**

**Whereas Max was active in Precinct 17-05 from 2004 until the time of his death; and**

**Whereas Max was an active participant in many campaigns including but not limited to those of John Kerry, John Edwards, Lindy Brown, Bob Etheridge, Abe Jones, Blair Williams, and Deborah Ross; and**

**Whereas Max served as a member of the NC Democratic Party Executive Committee from 2007 until the time of his death; and**

**Whereas Max was active in the Wake Democratic Men’s Club for over 10 years, serving on the board, a long-time Treasurer, and President from 2017-2019; and also recipient of the 2021 Trailblazer Award; and**

**Whereas Max served as Treasurer of the Wake County Democratic Party from 2013-2019, participating in fundraising, compiling financial reports, advising Wake County Democratic Party Chairs and officers as well as local candidates for public office; and also recipient of the 2018 Mentor of the Year Award, and**



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**Whereas Max further served the community as a state employee for many years and a past President of the Garner Lions Club; and**

**Whereas Max was a friend and ally to hundreds of people during this time, demonstrating effective leadership, wisdom, kindness and judgment;**

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the North Carolina Democratic Party Convention takes a moment of silence for Johnnie “Max” Adams in recognition of his meritorious service to the Wake Democratic Men’s Club and to the Wake County Democratic Party.**

## RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF NICK DIVITCI

**WHEREAS, Nick Divitci studied the issues and candidates, organized, canvassed door-to-door, made the phone calls, sent the emails, staked signs, donated, and attended the meetings; and**

**WHEREAS, Nick held leadership positions within the Democratic Party at the Precinct, County, Congressional and State levels; and**

**WHEREAS, if you were a candidate, shared his values, and were willing to make the sacrifice, then Nick was there to support you; therefore**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party expresses its great appreciation for N.V. “Nick” Divitci’s life-long commitment to Democratic values and service.**

## RESOLUTION ON LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RECOGNITION

**WHEREAS, American Indians, who have inhabited this continent since long before our first contact with English settlers, shared knowledge of our land and its resources, and have continued to play a vital role in the development of the local communities, the State of North Carolina, and the nation; and**

**WHEREAS the NC American Indian population was vastly reduced through genocide, disease, and environmental disruption brought upon it by settlers; and**

**WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to more than 122,000 American Indians, and currently has eight state and federal recognized tribes: Cohaire, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Haliwa Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation, Sappony, and Waccamaw-Siouan; in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes Chapters 71 A-3 through 71A-7.2, these tribes are legally recognized by the State of North Carolina;**

**WHEREAS, the NCDP Headquarters is located on the traditional land of the Tuscarora, Eno and Saponi;**

**WHEREAS the NCDP Native American Caucus was formed in 2019 by the NC Democratic Party to advocate for local, regional, and national American Indian concerns; and**

**WHEREAS, NC Democratic Party acknowledges and honors the state and federal tribes and indigenous people of North Carolina as the ongoing caretakers of these lands; and**



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**WHEREAS NC Democratic Party is an organization that embraces diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice as vital components of educational quality; and**

**WHEREAS the preservation of American Indian histories, lands, and cultures contribute to the intellectual, social, and physical development of our state and county headquarters in a manner that contributes to inclusive excellence and the public good; and**

**WHEREAS, in 2021 the North Carolina Democratic Party Native American Caucus released a Land Acknowledgment statement that encourages other counties, auxiliaries and districts to adopt “acknowledgment statements recognizing the traditional occupants of the land the county and state headquarters are on and incorporating those statements into their formal county, district and state conventions”; and**

**WHEREAS the Land Acknowledgement statement was accepted by the NCDP Native American Caucus; therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party adopt the Land Acknowledgment Statement and Guidelines that recognizes the eight North Carolina and Federally recognized tribes as the ongoing caretakes of these lands; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the attached Land Acknowledgment Statement and Guidelines be promulgated ubiquitously through the NC Democratic Party in forms such as but not limited to, oral statements and ceremonial introductions at local, district and state events, written statements on NCDP webpages, written statements on County and District websites, in NCDP program books and handouts, or on commemorative plaques.**

A RESOLUTION TO EQUITABLY ALIGN SUSTAINING FUND REQUIREMENTS WITH A PRECINCT'S DEMOCRATIC VOTER DEMOGRAPHIC

**WHEREAS, the current formula for determining a precinct's sustaining fund amount includes all registered voters; and**

**WHEREAS, a large portion of North Carolina counties have more Republicans than Democrats; and**

**WHEREAS, most precinct chairs are responsible to raise funds to cover voters who aren't allowed to attend the precinct meetings; and**

**WHEREAS, the burden to distribute these costs falls on a smaller number of people;**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will administer a formula calculated on the number of votes within a precinct for the Democratic gubernatorial candidate; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a formula of 2 cents per gubernatorial vote is more in line with an appropriate amount of money to collect.**



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PUBLIC FUNDING FOR INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM IN NORTH CAROLINA

**WHEREAS, the watchdog function of journalists is vital for the healthy functioning of our democracy; and**

**WHEREAS, the demise of news coverage in our local communities means citizens have little knowledge of their local governments of the significance of those actions; and**

**WHEREAS, local investigative journalism can uncover corruption and provide overall accountability and keep citizens informed; and**

**WHEREAS, local independent journalism can reveal to communities how their tax dollars are being spent, and the reasons for tax increases; and**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports appropriations on the state and national level to support independent, nonpartisan, in-depth, and investigative local news, as an essential public service; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party believes that local news coverage should be treated as an essential public service; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the North Carolina General Assembly, in cooperation with interested charitable foundations, to establish an independent endowment overseen by the Department of Cultural and Natural Resources to support local news organizations.**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RECOGNITION OF THE JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY IN NORTH CAROLINA

**WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest celebration of the emancipation of enslaved African American people, and is so named for the June 19, 1866 adoption of Black Independence Day in Galveston, Texas on the one year anniversary of Union General Gordon Granger proclaiming emancipation in Texas; and**

**WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates America's commitment to liberty and equality following the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, and the ratification of 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of on December 6, 1865; and**

**WHEREAS, the history of African American people depicts a story of great resilience in the face of the brutality of slavery; and**

**WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the day freedom was proclaimed to all enslaved people in the American South by Union General Gordon Granger, on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, more than two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln; and**

**WHEREAS, the celebration of Juneteenth Freedom Day accentuates the ongoing struggle to recognize the freedom and dignity of every human being; and**



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**WHEREAS, for the first time, in 2015, Juneteenth was finally officially recognized in the United States of America when a proclamation recognizing Juneteenth by President Barack Obama and further recognition by resolutions of the United States Congress;**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the North Carolina Democratic Party supports recognition of Juneteenth Freedom Day on June 19 of each year and calls upon the North Carolina General Assembly to take legislative action to make Juneteenth an official holiday in North Carolina; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party requests that the Chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party send copies of this resolution to Democratic members of the North Carolina General Assembly and Governor Roy Cooper.**

## FACILITATING EASIER VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING BY MAIL

**WHEREAS, agencies receiving federal appropriations, such as local Health Departments, Departments of Social Services, libraries, and schools, are required to assist their clients in registering to vote under the National Voter Registration Act; and**

**WHEREAS, voting by mail for some or all voters has been used by a majority of states for many years, including no-excuse absentee voting in North Carolina; and**

**WHEREAS, voting by mail facilitates the exercise of voting rights and promotes participation in democracy; and**

**WHEREAS, the election of 2020 demonstrated that voting by mail can be accomplished safely and securely on a large scale; now, therefore, be it**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the United States Department of Justice to prioritize investigations concerning state compliance of the National Voter Registration Act; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to reduce impediments to voting absentee by-mail, specifically those relating to absentee ballot witness requirements.**

## RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE EXPANSION OF PENALTIES FOR PROTEST AND ASSEMBLY

**WHEREAS the North Carolina House of Representatives recently passed House Bill 805 “Prevent Rioting and Disorder” with the support of 23 Democratic legislators; and,**

**WHEREAS House Bill 805 and similar bills introduced throughout the nation fail to define riot, using only vague terminology, including permitting law enforcement action based on the perception of an “imminent threat” of disorderly conduct; and,**

**WHEREAS not using precise language gives too much latitude to law enforcement officers to detain people based on the perception of disorderly behavior prior to it happening and allows for anyone in the vicinity to be detained and charged regardless of that person’s involvement in any criminal activity; and,**



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**WHEREAS** the United States Constitution guarantees the right to free assembly, which already has reasonable limits, including but not limited to the requirement to obtain permits and adhere to municipal rules; and,

**WHEREAS** assault, disorderly conduct, and vandalism already are crimes for which people can be detained and charged under the law; and,

**WHEREAS** trends in policing demonstrate that so-called anti-rioting measures are likely to have a disproportionate impact on members of the Black community.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the North Carolina Democratic Party oppose enhanced penalties for assembly, protests, or rioting.

**ALSO BE IT RESOLVED**, we call on Democratic members of the North Carolina General Assembly as well as Governor Roy Cooper to reject House Bill 805 or any other such “anti-rioting” legislation.

**ALSO BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the rights of people to exercise their first amendment right to free assembly without fear of law enforcement retaliation.

DECLARING THAT THE NC DEMOCRATIC PARTY OPPOSES THE FILIBUSTER

**Whereas** the filibuster as exercised in the US Senate frustrates the principles of democracy and is contra the concept of majority rule;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for the filibuster rule in the US Senate be completely eliminated or substantially modified to bring it in line with the principles of democracy and the US Constitution.

A RESOLUTION FOR DEMOCRATIC ADVOCACY FOR DC AND PUERTO RICAN STATEHOOD

**WHEREAS**, Nearly four million people call the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico their homes; and

**WHEREAS**, People born in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Voters in both the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have backed referenda and other measures showing support for becoming states; and

**WHEREAS**, By not being states, millions of American citizens are left without voting representation in both the U.S. House and Senate; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Democratic Party of North Carolina and all its elected members back the effort of D.C. and Puerto Rican statehood; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Democratic Party of North Carolina and all its elected members not only back but advocate alongside the people of the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico for their status as full states in the union.



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A RESOLUTION THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS PRIORITIZE AND PASS THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

**WHEREAS, This is an important adjunct to the currently proposed John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2020(S.4263) to restore Federal oversight of proposed laws/practices for states with discrimination history invalidated by Supreme Court in 2013, and**

**WHEREAS, In recent years we've experienced a barrage of new attempts, from White House to State Houses, to restrict voting access especially for people of color with 165 bills pending in 33 states, 19 bills in Arizona and 11 in Georgia alone, in 2021, and WHEREAS, Called "the most significant democracy reform bill in a generation" when 1st proposed in the House in 2019, the reforms are now running in similar pieces of legislation across both congressional chambers including but not limited to:**

- **Expanding voter registration ease/access: same day, online registration/updating, pre-registration for future voters 16 and older, limit purging of eligible voters from rolls**
- **Removing voting barriers: expands voting by mail opportunities, polling places and drop boxes accessible to all, requires states to hold early voting for at least 15 days including weekends, restores votes to felons who've completed prison terms, voter ID requirements eased, eliminating measures making it difficult to vote for students, indigenous people and those with disabilities**
- **Promoting election security: Federal criminal penalties for deceiving/intimidating voters, requires paper ballots to safeguard against hackers, equipment failures, and to provide tangible records, grants to states to upgrade voting systems, safeguards against foreign influence**
- **Providing for states to establish independent, nonpartisan redistricting commissions**
- **Overhauling Federal Campaign Finance Laws: increase transparency, deter corruption, prevent foreign money in U.S. Elections, close loopholes, overturn Citizens United**
- **Strengthening ethics rules for public servants, be it**

**RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the Democratic National Committee, U.S. Senators, and Representatives prioritize work to get passage of For the People Act of 2021 (H.R.1 & S.R. 1) in preparation for 2022 elections.**

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO PASS THE JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2020

**WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 was enacted to ensure the enforcement of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that no one, including federal, state or local government could in any way impede people from registering to vote or voting because of their race or ethnicity, and**

**WHEREAS, Section 5 of the VRA requires states/localities with a history of discriminatory voting barriers obtain advance approval, "preclearance", before enacting any new voting practices/laws, and**

**WHEREAS, In 2013 the Supreme Court, while not invalidating the principle of preclearance, ruled that Section 4(b), which establishes the formula for deciding which states and localities must comply with preclearance, is outdated thus unconstitutional;**



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**yet made clear that a new, updated preclearance formula should be designed & signed into law by congress, and**

**WHEREAS, The Supreme Court decision, that no states or localities are required to comply with preclearance, has led to a plethora of discriminatory changes to voting laws and practices especially disenfranchising people of color, low-income, transgender and those with disabilities, and**

**WHEREAS, Currently 165 voter suppression bills are pending in 33 states; Arizona and Georgia alone with 19 and 11 such bills pending, and**

**WHEREAS, The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act restores, repairs and strengthens the the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by:**

- **detailing a new preclearance formula so that again states/localities with repeated voting rights violations can't make changes to voting laws and practices unless cleared through federal officials**
- **ensuring that last-minute voting changes don't adversely affect voters by requiring officials to publicly announce all voting changes at least 180 days before an election**
- **expanding the government's authority to send federal observers to any jurisdiction where there may be substantial risk of discrimination at the polls on election day or during an early voting period, and**

**WHEREAS, H.R. 4, The Voting Rights Advancement Act, later renamed the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, was passed by a vote of 228-187 in the House in December of 2019 and introduced in the Senate (S.4263) in July of 2020, be It**

**RESOLVED, that the National Democratic Party and U.S. Democratic Senators work to get The John R. Lewis Voter Rights Advancement Act of 2020 passed ASAP to force states with terrible voting records to go through the new preclearance protocol before passing any new voter suppression legislation; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that North Carolina's State Legislators, in agreement with provisions in H.R. 4, develop and pass into law bills that will give voting rights and opportunities to all eligible to vote in North Carolina.**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ABOLITION OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

WHEREAS, the Electoral College was devised by the founders because of their concern that some voters in the 18th century lacked the resources to be fully informed about the candidates, and

WHEREAS, the voters of the 21st century have easy access to information through mass communications, and

WHEREAS, the formula for selecting Electors favors small or less populous states, effectively making votes from some states count more than others, and

WHEREAS, there have now been five presidential elections in which the candidate with the higher number of popular votes has lost the election;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the abolition of the Electoral College.



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