

Democratic Party, Government, & Voting Rights Subcommittee
A RESOLUTION FOR DEMOCRATIC ADVOCACY FOR DC AND PUERTO RICO

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, citizens residing in the District of Columbia have had the ability to vote for President since the ratification of the Twenty-Third Amendments in 1961; and

WHEREAS, citizens residing in American territories, including Puerto Rico, participate in primaries for President for both the Democratic and Republican parties; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia and America's five territories (Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) have a non-voting delegate to the U.S. House, no representation in the U.S. Senate, and no vote for President in the General Election; and

WHEREAS, there has been a decades long movement to admit the District of Columbia as a state to entitle those citizens with voting representation in the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, the residents of Puerto Rico have been a free and fair opportunity to decide its future, including statehood, commonwealth, or independence; and

RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party support the effort for statehood for the District of Columbia and the ability of Puerto Rico to determine the status of its continued relationship with the United States of America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, North Carolina Democratic Party advocate alongside the people of the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico for greater sovereignty over the affairs of their respective jurisdictions as any state would normally have.

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

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.

RESOLUTION REGARDING TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE PROPERTY UPON DEATH

WHEREAS, the most valuable property the average American possesses is their home; and

WHEREAS, the average American works hard and sacrifices to save money in order to purchase a home; and

WHEREAS, upon death most homeowners want to leave their homes to children, other relatives or close associates; and

WHEREAS, in North Carolina it is difficult for one to leave his/her home to a loved one without putting one's ownership in jeopardy by choosing an option that results in someone becoming a co-owner which requires the homeowner to consult with and get approval from the co-owner prior to making decisions about selling his/her property; and

WHEREAS, going through the probate process results in a waiting period and causes recipients to pay exorbitant taxes on the property; and

WHEREAS, twenty-nine (29) states plus the District of Columbia have passed Transfer on Death or Beneficiary Deed laws that allow real estate property to automatically pass on to homeowners' designees; and

WHEREAS, states with Transfer on Death laws include Arkansas, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, the Transfer on Death deeds have the following advantages: (1) they are easy to create, (2) they are revocable, (3) they save family members time and money and, (4) property ownership transfers automatically and immediately upon the death of the homeowner; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to investigate the crafting and approving of a Transfer on Death law for the efficient and unencumbered process of transferring one's property to loved ones upon death.

Civil Rights, Criminal Justice and Education

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 subsequent 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
- 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 scarring 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;

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.

Agriculture, Environment, and Healthcare

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 to* support investment in railways and road vehicles, clean 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 support of a sustainable energy future, including tax credits and other incentives for individuals and businesses to invest in solar energy, electric vehicles, and other sustainable technologies; and

WHEREAS, excavation and use of fossil fuels disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations– including the poor, people of color, indigenous populations and communities already facing environmental degradation,

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, county 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.

Labor and Economy

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, based on inflation, a minimum wage of anything less than \$15 per hour in any area of the United States can only perpetuate poverty, and any minimum wage will lose its effect, in time, due to inflation; and

WHEREAS, the Sub Minimum Wage refers to a provision in the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that allows wages below the minimum wage for various kinds of labor, such as food service, and workers deemed to be physically or mentally “disabled,” and so permits an exploited underclass of labor; 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 more easily 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 even when corporate earnings do not meet investors' expectations. For example, according to Reuters, Humana repurchased \$500 of its stock after a drop of 21% of its income in 2014 (See "The Cannibalized Company, How the cult of shareholder value has reshaped corporate America"); and

WHEREAS, financialization includes acquiring corporations using loans repaid by the corporations that are acquired. Corporations do not have to pay taxes on the borrowed funds. For example, corporate raider Carl Icahn paid for loans used to take over TWA in 1985 by selling the airline's assets. Corporate buyouts rapidly became more common around the world with US deregulation of financial markets. See Runaway Inequality, chapter 4 for more details about how financialization works; 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; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Labor Statistics tracks wage inequality, the Census Bureau tracks income inequality, and the Federal Reserve tracks the distribution of household wealth in the United States; and;

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 a monthly measure of income inequality in the US and in the world be published on the internet by the US Census Bureau so that we can evaluate progress in reducing income inequality; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bureau of Labor Statistics publish on the internet an annual report on wealth inequality based on data gathered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Census Bureau, and the Federal Reserve; 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 national minimum wage-from the current rate of \$7.25 per hour to not less than \$15.00 per hour and the repeal of the Sub Minimum Wage; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the \$15 minimum wage be increased on an annual basis based on the rate of inflation determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; 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.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR JANICE COVINGTON ALLISON

WHEREAS Janice Covington Allison was a trailblazing pioneer of Transgender Rights and an active and devoted Democrat for decades, right up to the date of her death on October 1, 2021 and,

WHEREAS Janice was the first openly-transgender person elected as a Delegate to the DNC Convention in 2012, and

WHEREAS Janice was the first openly-transgender woman to become a member of the Democratic Women of North Carolina through her membership in her home Chapter, the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County, where she played an active role and was elected to serve a term on the Board as Chair of the Hospitality Committee, and

WHEREAS Janice was the first openly-transgender person elected a Precinct Chair and later to represent Mecklenburg County on the State Executive Committee of the North Carolina Democratic Party and,

WHEREAS Janice was the first openly-transgender member of the State Executive Council, and the first ever appointed to the Council Of Review, on which she served until her death and,

WHEREAS Janice was the Founder of the Transgender Political Caucus of the NCDP, the first such Caucus in the nation recognized on a state level by a major political Party and,

WHEREAS by these actions and more, she not only fought for the vision and agenda of the North Carolina Democratic Party, she elevated and increased awareness of transgender people and issues within the Party, opening the doors for other transgender people to take active roles in NCDP leadership,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCDP honors the memory and legacy of Janice Covington Allison, and takes a moment of silence in honor of her courage, her contributions, and her meritorious service.