SOMERVILLE DEMOCRATS

Somerville Democratic City Committee
Resolution: Urging All 2026 Primary Candidates to Take a "People's Pledge"
Submitted by Rand Wilson of Ward 6 on March 15th, 2026
Reported Favorably as amended by the Resolutions Committee by voice vote

WHEREAS: Dark money groups and super PACs which can accept unlimited funds without disclosing their donors harm the transparency and exert undue influence in our elections,

WHEREAS: The Democratic Party should ensure the principle of one-person, one-vote and oppose the disproportionate power of unlimited anonymous donations in our elections,

WHEREAS: A People's Pledge aims to reduce non-party group spending in an election by limiting expenditures to candidates' campaigns and party committees and discouraging independent expenditures by non-party groups to benefit candidates,

WHEREAS: A People's Pledge calling on all outside groups to stop spending in support of either candidate was successfully used by Sen. Elizabeth Warren in her 2012 U.S. Senate election.

WHEREAS: A People's Pledge functions by candidates voluntarily agreeing to pay a penalty from their campaign to a charity of their opponent choice that is equal to half the amount of any outside expenditure by a super PAC; and

WHEREAS: A People's Pledge significantly reduced outside spending in the 2012 election and again in the 2014 primary elections and has been adopted as a model by numerous other state and federal campaigns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Somerville Democratic City Committee urges all candidates running in the 2026 Democratic Primaries to take a People's Pledge and limit -- to the greatest extent possible – the ability of dark money to buy or unduly influence our primary elections; and

SOMERVILLE DEMOCRATS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Somerville Democratic City Committee urges our 2026 State Primary candidates to make a People's Pledge to give voters more confidence that the candidates chosen in our primaries are not beholden to unlimited anonymous donors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Somerville Democratic City Committee shall transmit a copy of this resolution to all candidates who will appear on the 2026 State Primary ballot in Somerville; and the City Committee shall publicize which candidates have taken the pledge.

SOMERVILLE
DEMOCRATS