



2025 Resolutions

Submitted to NC Congressional District 7
as *ADOPTED* by the
NHC Democratic Party
at their Annual County Convention
on April 26, 2025

Officers of the NCDP

Chair: Jill Hopman
1st Vice Chair: Rachel Hatfield
2nd Vice Chair: Javar Avery
3rd Vice Chair: Beth Hanff
Secretary: Simeon Cole

[1] Resolution to Fulfill Constitutional Mandate to Provide Access to a Sound Basic Education and Prioritize Public Schools

Authored by Pam Haddock, W12

Passed by W33, H02 (3/22/2025), H13, and FP04 (3/23/2025), W25 (3/27/2025)

WHEREAS the North Carolina Democratic Party platform states that stronger communities, a robust economy, and a brighter future are only possible when we prioritize the education of every child;

WHEREAS the North Carolina Democratic Party platform states that our state must ensure that our public schools provide quality, accessible, and developmentally appropriate education for every child in our state;

WHEREAS according to *Leandro v. State of North Carolina* (1997), the North Carolina Constitution mandates that the state provides every child with the opportunity to receive “a sound, basic education,” as further defined in the *Consent Order: Leandro v. State of North Carolina* (January 2020), p 9;

WHEREAS *Leandro v. NC* has consistently concluded that thousands of children across the state are being deprived of access to a sound basic education and school districts statewide and early childhood education centers are intended to receive provisions and benefits from the \$5.54 Billion Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan budget in order to implement corrective actions stipulated in the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan;

WHEREAS the persistent lack of adequate funding restricts the academic and vocational opportunities of our youth, undermines economic progress and stability, and contributes to increased incarceration rates, poorer health outcomes, and generational poverty;

WHEREAS, according to *Leandro v NC*, “Thousands of students are not being prepared for full participation in the global, interconnected economy and the society in which they live, work and engage as citizens. The costs to those students, individually, and to the State are considerable and if left unattended will result in a North Carolina that does not meet its vast potential”;

WHEREAS early childhood education is a vital economic driver that supports young children's development, enables parents to work, and helps businesses retain employees;

WHEREAS a strong K-12 public education system is essential to North Carolina's continued success, preparing students for the workforce, fostering informed citizens, and strengthening communities;

WHEREAS the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan fosters a strong educational foundation from early childhood, aligning student learning with vocational training and career readiness;

WHEREAS studies confirm that the most important factor in student success is a well-supported and fairly compensated classroom teacher, necessitating significant increases in funding to fill teacher vacancies and provide competitive pay comparable to neighboring states;

WHEREAS The Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan offers a series of corrective actions and a blueprint and budget of \$5.54 Billion Statewide over eight years;

WHEREAS over 75% of North Carolina's school-aged children attend public schools, highlighting the critical role public education plays in our state's future;

WHEREAS in the 2024-2025 fiscal year alone, more than \$625 million in new funding was allocated by the North Carolina General Assembly to fund private school vouchers diverting millions away from public schools;

WHEREAS the NC General Assembly continues to expand the private school voucher program by eliminating income requirements, allowing any student to attend private school at taxpayer expense, despite the program's original intent to support low-to-moderate-income families;

WHEREAS there is no evidence that the Opportunity Scholarship Program improves academic performance, yet in 2023, the General Assembly expanded it significantly, diverting \$4 billion over the next ten years to unregulated private schools that are not equally accountable to the taxpayers;

WHEREAS only 7% of the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan was funded in the 2023-2024 budget and only 3.8% in the 2024-2025 budget, despite the state's constitutional obligation;

WHEREAS the state of North Carolina has the financial ability to fully fund the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan: Having the 11th largest economy in the United States, yet ranking 49th in public education investment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges each member of The General Assembly, Governor Stein and all elected officials and state employees in the state of NC to act expeditiously in accordance with the NC Constitution and NC Supreme Court decisions over the last 31 years and prioritize the children of our state, cultivate prosperity by investing in the talent of our youth, and support public education by exercising

the full extent of their authority and influence to support the constitutional mandate, uphold the November 4, 2022, NC Supreme Court decision and the Consent Order signed by Judge David Lee in January of 2020, and immediately release the funds required to effectuate The Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan without delay;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges our elected officials to reverse the divestment caused by the state's current private school voucher program, which drains desperately needed funding from public education, and increases accountability for private schools participating in the program.

[2] *RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A STATEWIDE PROCESS FOR CITIZEN BALLOT INITIATIVES AND REFERENDUMS*

Authored by Marlene Barney, FP07

Passed by FP07 (3/23/2024)

WHEREAS the process known as ballot initiatives and referendums, also commonly known as ballot measures, propositions, or ballot questions, allows citizens to place legislation, or legislation recently passed by a legislature, on a ballot for a popular vote;

WHEREAS the process known as ballot initiatives and referendums allows citizens to vote directly on legislation, and is, therefore, a form of direct democracy;

WHEREAS North Carolina is one of twenty-four states that currently does not have a statewide citizen ballot initiatives and referendums process which allows its citizens to place legislation, or legislation recently passed by a legislature, on a ballot for a popular vote;

WHEREAS beginning in 1917, the North Carolina General Assembly granted initiative power to North Carolina's largest cities, including Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro, Raleigh, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem;

WHEREAS notable North Carolina city initiatives include a 1997 measure, sponsored by civil rights activists in Charlotte, that changed city council elections from at-large representation to district representation, and a 1982 measure in Wilmington that changed the zoning laws to prohibit construction of a planned coal storage facility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party (NCDP) requests the North Carolina General Assembly to provide a statewide process for citizen ballot initiatives and referendums similar to processes already provided to North Carolina's largest cities and/or to processes provided by the twenty-six states that allow for citizen ballot initiatives and referendums so that North Carolina citizens have the ability to place legislation, or legislation recently passed by a legislature, on a statewide ballot for a popular vote.

[3] RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RENEWED EFFORTS TO INTEGRATE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Authored by Ed Ablard, W27
Passed by W27 (3/27/2025)

WHEREAS the NC Constitution states that “The people have the right to the privilege of education, and it is the duty of the State to guard and maintain that right.” (Article 1 Section 15);

WHEREAS the US Supreme Court has ruled that segregated schools are inherently unequal;

WHEREAS schools in North Carolina have become increasingly segregated by race and parent income since the 1980s, denying an equal opportunity for education to poor and minority students;

WHEREAS clear evidence exists that all students benefit academically from attending diverse schools;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NC Democratic Party supports efforts to ensure ethnic, racial, and economic diversity in all schools in our state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the effort of Rebecca Trammell in originating and moving forward the project “I Am Leandro” in many parts of North Carolina as shown in the holiday video The Gift Every Child Needs A Chance, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpgE9AF5MY0> is commended and encouraged by the NC Democratic Party;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party commends and encourages the work of Jessica Landes, who has volunteered as the New Hanover County network contact for IntegratedSchools.org, advancing the organization’s mission to support families in school integration efforts.

[4] Resolution to Protect Sledge Forest from Housing Development in Castle Hayne for the New Hanover County Democratic Party

Authored by Nancy Buckingham
Passed by FP04 and FP07 (3/23/2025)

WHEREAS Copper Builders of Charlotte, NC has a plan to turn the 4,038-acre Sledge Forest into a 4,000+ home development called “Hilton Bluffs;”

WHEREAS Sledge Forest is an irreplaceable ecosystem located along the Northeast Cape Fear River and designated as a State Natural Area by the North Carolina Heritage Program;

WHEREAS Sledge Forest is a biodiverse community of plants and animals, including 350 year-old longleaf pine trees more than 60' tall and bald cypress dated more than 500 years;

WHEREAS over 3,000 acres of vital wetlands within Sledge Forest act as natural sponges, preventing floods, controlling erosion, filtering pollution, and replenishing drinking water;

WHEREAS "Hilton Bluffs" could double the population of Castle Hayne, overwhelming area roads, schools, and emergency services;

WHEREAS Sledge Forest sits adjacent to a hazardous waste site and development could disturb the toxic plume from the GE Hitachi plant, posing a serious health risk to nearby communities;

WHEREAS New Hanover County has seen over 80% of its green space already gone and therefore cannot afford to see any further loss of natural habitat;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Hanover County Democratic Party actively advocates for the permanent protection of Sledge Forest from development, or other activities that could harm its ecological value.

[5] Resolution to Form a Climate Committee for the New Hanover County Democratic Party

Authored by Barbara Garrow, FP04

Passed by FP04 and FP07 (3/23/2025)

WHEREAS it is well understood that North Carolina's sea levels are rising, that our climate is getting warmer, and strong storms and droughts are getting more frequent;

WHEREAS it is also recognized that human actions increase the effects of climate change on life in New Hanover County since human activity has caused increased flooding by development in ecosystems like coastal and inland wetlands, by not effectively planning for extreme rain events, by riverine and tidal land dredging that changes the wetland and sand-sharing ecosystems that prevent flooding, and by activities that contribute to overheating our atmosphere like the continued reliance on fossil fuels for energy, and other activities that can be ameliorated;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Hanover Democratic Party authorizes the formation of a County-level Climate Committee in accordance with the NC Plan of Organization that will give us a unified voice to advocate singularly or with other county environmental organizations for actions reducing climate change;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that once organized with a chair, initial members, and a liaison to the Board, the New Hanover County Climate Committee will develop a platform from which

New Hanover Democrats can advocate for actions that ameliorate the adverse effects of climate change.

END
