



2024 State Convention
June 1st, 2024 | Jamestown, NC & Zoom

State Convention Packet



www.ncdp.org/convention

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rules of the Day.....	3
General Rules	3
Rules for Elections	6
Rules for Debate.....	7
Rules for Platform, Resolutions and Amendments	9
Proposed Meeting Agenda.....	11
2022 State Convention Minutes.....	12
Elections.....	19
Resolutions Platform Committee Report.....	20
Local Issues.....	23
State Issues	24
National Issues.....	42
International Issues	59
Internal Party Matters	67
Other Issues	67
Party Platform	68

RULES OF THE DAY
2024 NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
STATE CONVENTION

GENERAL

RULE 1. Chair. The State Chair shall have general direction of the North Carolina Democratic Party State Convention meeting on June 1, 2024 who shall call the state convention to order and who shall serve as Convention Chair under the Plan of Organization (“PoO”) §6.02 and shall be authorized to take such action as is necessary to maintain order.

- a. The Chair, with the guidance of the Parliamentarian designated at the convening of the Convention by the Chair, shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any delegate.
- b. Priority of meeting Rules shall be (a) the Plan of Organization, (b) Rules of the Day adopted by the State Convention, and (c) Robert’s Rules of Order (Newly Revised, 12th Edition), provided that on matters concerning the election of Presidential Electors and Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the 2024 Democratic National Convention, the 2024 Delegate Selection Plan (“DSP”) as it may be amended from time to time shall take first priority.
- c. In the physical or consented to absence of the Chair, the vice chairs of the state executive committee in order of succession, the secretary and the treasurer shall, in order of succession, preside over the convention; provided that said officers may consent to being considered “absent” and thereby (i) to the election of a permanent convention chair to be elected from among the delegates by the convention or (ii) to the designation of the Chair of the Resolutions & Platform Committee (“RPC”) as a delegate to serve as Convention Chair in the absence of the officers.

RULE 2. Meeting Setting. The 2024 State Convention is being conducted using a hybrid of the Zoom remote meeting app which will be providing audio, visual, text, and voting capabilities for this meeting. Each Delegate shall be responsible for their audio and internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of or poor quality of a Delegate’s individual connection prevented participating in this meeting.

RULE 3. Agenda and Rules. The Agenda shall be followed as adopted by the Convention. To the extent that the Agenda contains times certain for any or all

events and Agenda items, such times shall be treated as Special Orders of the Day and may be suspended only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Convention.

While pending, the Agenda may be amended by majority vote. After adoption, the Agenda may be amended by two-thirds vote. The rules shall be valid only for the 2024 State Convention. While pending, the Rules of the Day may be amended by majority vote. After adoption, the Rules may only be amended by two-thirds vote, provided that the Chair, in its discretion, may modify the Agenda to allow for speakers, to report votes, to take up items occurring later on the Agenda during vote counting, and for incidental matters.

Rule 4. Credentialed Voting and Voting of Counties. Credentials shall be provided to convention delegates at the time of registration. Pursuant to the North Carolina Party Plan of Organization Section 12.05, proxy voting is not allowed at the state convention. Credentialed delegates may vote if present in the SEC Meeting room and physically casting a vote, or remotely using the procedures of ElectionBuddy.

The Chair, in its discretion, may take voice votes, standing votes, or ballot votes or remote votes for any or all votes, unless a mode of voting is specified in the Party Plan of Organization or in these Rules or, if applicable, the DSP. Pursuant to PoO §6.02, nothing herein shall prevent the state convention from adopting temporary rules, making nominations, holding elections, and conducting business by voice vote or by acclamation where a vote of counties is not demanded by twenty-five percent (25%) of the delegates present, which percentage shall be determined in the discretion of the Chair.

Pursuant to PoO §6.02, the delegates who attend a state convention shall be entitled to vote the full strength of their county upon all matters of business which come before the respective state convention, and each such delegate present from a particular county shall cast an equal number of votes which the county is entitled to cast. All votes, which the county is entitled to cast, shall be divided equally among all the delegates in attendance representing that county.

Each Delegate shall be entitled to vote from among the At-Large Elector nominees. Voting will be conducted using the ElectionBuddy app as set forth herein.

RULE 5. Quorum. Both Section 6.02 of the Plan of Organization and the DSP establishes a quorum for the State Convention as one (1) official delegate from fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the organized counties.

Once a quorum is established, the continued presence of a quorum is presumed to exist. If a lack of a quorum is suggested by a delegate, the Chair may (a) ask that the County Delegation Chairs stand and raise their hands; if the Chair is in doubt as to a quorum, the Chair or its designee shall read the names of the counties present. When the Chair reaches fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the counties present, quorum shall be declared.

The Chair or its designee shall note the time a quorum is present and no inquiry as to quorum may be made for one (1) hour after that time. Time spent by guest speakers or elected officials, unless part of official business or debate on motions, shall not be included in calculating the one (1) hour limitation.

RULE 6. Orders of the Day and Adjournment. The State Convention shall convene at 12:00 PM on Saturday, June 1, 2024 for the purposes set forth in the agenda, except that no election of National Delegates may take place until 12:30 PM o'clock.

The Convention shall take up the business of the election of National Delegates as set forth in the Agenda, but may pause after electing groups of delegates to take up the non-Delegate Election business on the agenda from time to time, including recognitions, speeches of candidates, election of Presidential Electors, and items set for later on the Agenda. Once votes are tallied for periodic National Delegate elections, the Conventions shall resume voting on National Delegates in groups of Delegates.

The Convention shall not adjourn until (a) the delegates and alternates to the National Convention are duly elected by the Convention, (b) the Congressional District Caucuses elect 14 Congressional District Electors and the Convention elects two (2) at-large Electors as provided by State and Federal law.

RULE 7. Ballot and Vote Counting.

- a. The Chair may take voice votes, use Zoom's "raise hand" feature (*9 if joining on a phone), zoom polling, google forms, or other electronic voting methods or conduct voting by ElectionBuddy . The Chair's announcement of the results of non-voice votes shall include the number of members voting on each side of the question, both on-line and in person. Business may be conducted by unanimous consent and without objection except as set forth herein.
- b. *Ballots* shall be counted from both in-person Delegates and Zoom/electronic remote Delegates using the Election Buddy app as further instructed on the day of the State Convention. Election Buddy will assist in registration, credentialing, providing unique keys for each individual Delegate, training the Delegates on voting procedures, running and monitoring vote-casting,

providing voting certification, certifying the results of the elections and votes, and working with the Chair and Parliamentarian.

- c. Candidates for National Delegate or Alternate or At-Large Elector may, but are not required to, have no more than one (1) observer each in the ElectionBuddy processing and Vote Counting area who shall conduct themselves in an orderly and courteous manner.

ELECTIONS

RULE 8. Elections of Presidential Electors.

- a. **Electors by 2024 Congressional Districts.** Each Delegate shall be given a ballot using ElectionBuddy to cast their votes for Presidential Elector from their respective 2024 Congressional Districts.
- b. **Elections of Two (2) At-Large Presidential Electors.** Pursuant to PoO §6.02 and the DSP, the 2024 State Convention shall nominate from among the active Democrats in the State, two (2) Presidential Electors and a first and second alternate to serve in case any of the nominated Presidential Electors from the Congressional Districts or At-Large are unable to serve. There are no demographic requirements for such Elector provided that they are an active registered Democrat. Nominations are made by the Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Committee; additional nominations from the floor are not permitted. Any candidate may submit a biography not to exceed fifty (50) words to be read by the State Chair. If an At-Large Elector candidate receives a weighted majority vote on the ballot, such person shall be elected as a Presidential Elector. The runner up in each election shall be elected as the State Party's official alternate.

RULE 9. Elections of Delegates and Alternates to the 2024 Democratic National Convention. The State Convention shall adhere to the DSP and shall use its best efforts to meet the delegate participation goals set forth in the DSP.

RULE 10. Automatic Selection of Unpledged Delegates. Under the DSP, the following individuals shall constitute the unpledged delegate positions:

1. North Carolina DNC members; and
2. The Democratic Governor; and
3. All former Democratic Presidents, Vice Presidents, Democratic Majority

Leaders of the US Senate, and Democratic Speakers of the U. S. House of Representatives and all former chairs of the Democratic National Committee that legally reside in the North Carolina; and

4. All Democratic Delegates of the US House of Representatives and the US Senate; and
5. All former Democratic leaders of the U.S. Senate and all former Democratic Minority Leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives.

RULE 11. Election of Candidates for National Convention Delegate. The State's fourteen (15) pledged Party Leader/Elected Official delegates, its twenty-four (25) At-large delegates and its nine (10) At-large alternates shall be selected by the State Convention. Pursuant to the DSP, one nominee for each National Delegate position will be reported to the Convention as candidates for National Delegate and presented for election. Any candidate for delegate in each election who receives more than 50% of the vote for each Delegate or Alternate position shall be declared elected as a national convention delegate. Per Robert's Rules abstentions will not count against nominees.

DEBATE

RULE 12. Obtaining Recognition.

- a. Delegates Present in the Convention Room. Except in the case of physical challenge (when a microphone will be brought to the delegate upon request), any delegate who is about to address the Chair, shall rise, approach a microphone, and await recognition by the Chair. The Chair may inquire the purpose for which the delegate rises if the purpose is not apparent from the context or if the delegate does not state their purpose in rising. If the delegate's purpose is in order, the Chair may recognize the delegate.
- b. Delegates Present by Remote Access by Zoom. A delegate who wishes to address the Chair and is using the Zoom Application shall use the "raise hand" feature to obtain recognition. A delegate using the "dial-in number" method shall choose *9, (star 9) to obtain recognition. The order in which Zoom attendees "raise their hand" shall not determine the order in which they are recognized. Delegates shall not speak until recognized by the Chair which recognition will be facilitated by the Chair's designees, namely North Carolina Democratic Party staff or officers unless otherwise stated by the Chair. The

Chair shall inquire the purpose for which the delegate desires recognition. If the delegate's purpose is in order, the Chair will recognize the delegate.

- c. Upon recognition, the delegate shall state that delegate's name and county or, where appropriate, that delegate's position in the party. The time spent by a delegate in identifying themselves and their purpose shall count toward the time limits for debate.

RULE 13. Limitations on Debate. No delegate may speak in debate more than once on the same question or for longer than one (1) Minute. The Chair shall use its best efforts to alternate between speakers who support and those who oppose the matter being debated and shall call on Zoom participants to assure on-line participation including, without limitation, calling on every third speaker to be from the Zoom attendees. The Parliamentarian or its appointed Clerk shall keep and call time for each speaker and for the total time of debate.

After five minutes of debate on any matter before the Convention, debate shall close, except that:

- a. On an issue designated by the Platform and Resolutions Committee ("PRC") as "Extended Debate", the time limit shall be ten (10) Minutes;
- b. The Chair may, in its discretion, extend debate for one (1) Minute to equalize the number of debaters on each side of the issue;
- c. With the Chair alternating between favorable and opposed, if three speakers speak on one side or the other consecutively in the absence of contrary debate, debate shall cease;
- d. A properly made "Motion for the Previous Question," may, if approved by a two-thirds majority, bring the Convention to an immediate vote on the pending matter

Upon expiration of debate, or if, the Chair may call the vote without a Motion for the Previous Question.

In the event the Chair requests an extension of time, such extension may be made upon the approval of a simple majority of the Delegates.

Chat in the Zoom meeting will only be to communicate with on-line moderators as designated by the Chair.

Ad hominem arguments will not be tolerated by the Chair, who may, in its discretion, curtail the remaining time of the speaker.

Privileged motions. Neither "Point of Order" nor "Question or Point of Personal Privilege" shall be used to debate a matter that is before the body.

A "point of order" shall be made only if the 2024 DSP if applicable, PoO, Rules of the Day, or Robert's Rules of Order are not being followed by a delegate or by the

Chair. A Delegate must be prepared to state immediately the point of order being violated when recognized or will be ruled out of order.

A “point of personal privilege” shall be made only if it concerns the rights of the assembly or the individual’s ability to hear or otherwise participate and is urgent in nature; otherwise, a “Point of Personal Privilege” will be out of order.

An appeal of the decision of the Chair shall be in order only if demanded by twenty-five percent (25%) of the delegates present, which percentage shall be determined at the discretion of the Chair.

PLATFORM, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

RULE 14. General. Pursuant to PoO § 8.01, For a resolution or platform to be considered by the Delegates, said resolution or platform must receive a favorable recommendation from a majority of the members of the Resolutions and Platforms Committee present and voting.

A resolution or platform that does not receive a favorable recommendation from the Resolutions and Platforms Committee may be brought to the floor of the biennial state convention or the state executive committee meeting for consideration only after a motion to consider said resolution or platform is adopted by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of those delegates or members present and voting.

A resolution or platform may be proposed from the floor or virtually for consideration only after a motion to consider said resolution or platform is adopted by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of those delegates or members present and voting and said resolution or platform has been submitted in writing to the secretary of the state executive committee and staff.

RULE 15. Platform. The Chair of the Resolutions and Platform Committee (“PRC”) shall report the Platform as reported out of the RPC for vote by the Convention. Such report shall automatically be deemed a Motion to approve the entire Platform not requiring a second.

- a. Consent Platform. The “Platform” submits the recommended Platform to the Convention for adoption without debate unless more than twenty-five (25%) of delegates, determined by the Chair in its discretion, desire to debate or Amend a “Consent Platform,” in which event the RPC Chair shall “pull” the platform from the Consent Platform.
- b. The “Pulled” Platform provisions shall be referred to the Platform and Resolutions Committee for consideration.

RULE 16. Resolutions. The Chair of the Resolutions & Platform Committee (“RPC”) shall report on the “Resolutions Package,” as recommended by the RPC, for vote by the Convention; the RPC Chair’s Report shall be deemed a “Motion to Approve the RPC’s Report,” and does not require a second.

- a. Consent Resolutions. The “Resolutions Package” submits all recommended resolutions to the Convention for adoption without debate (“Consent Resolutions”) unless more than twenty-five (25%) of delegates, determined by the Chair in its discretion, desire to debate or Amend a “Consent Resolution,” in which event the RPC Chair shall “pull” the resolution from the Consent Resolutions.
- b. The “Pulled Resolutions” shall be referred to the Platform and Resolutions Committee for consideration.

PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA
2024 NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE
CONVENTION

- I.** Call to Order
- II.** Moment of Silence
- III.** Land Acknowledgement
- IV.** Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the N.C. Flag
- V.** Declaration of Quorum
- VI.** Approval of the 2024 State Convention Agenda
- VII.** Approval of the 2024 State Convention Rules of the Day
- VIII.** Approval of the 2022 State Convention Minutes
- IX.** Elections (no earlier than 12:30 PM)
 - A. DNC Convention Delegates
 - 1. At-large Delegates
 - 2. PLEO Delegates
 - 3. Alternates
 - B. Presidential Electors
 - 1. Electors by 2024 Congressional Districts
 - 2. At-large Electors
 - 3. Alternate Electors
- X.** Platforms and Resolutions Committee Report: Platform
- XI.** Platforms and Resolutions Committee Report: Resolutions
- XII.** Adjournment

2022 STATE CONVENTION MEETING MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

JUNE 18, 2022

NCDP State Chair Dr. Bobbie Richardson called the Convention to order at 1:16PM.

Durham County Commissioner Brenda Howerton and NC Central Chancellor Dr. Johnson Akinleye welcomed the Convention.

NCDP Parliamentarian Sybil Mann read the Party's Statement of Inclusion.

NCDP First Vice Chair Floyd McKissick led the Convention through a period of silent meditation after he had invited everyone to focus on remembering deceased Democrats and worldwide suffering. Then he delivered an uplifting and motivational speech. Sixth Congressional District Chair Saleeta Urena led the Convention in the Pledge of Allegiance and in the Salute to North Carolina.

Curtis Owens spoke to the Convention urging Delegates to join in a dynamic campaign to elect his wife, the Honorable Cheri Beasley, to the United States Senate.

Secretary Melvin Williams delivered the Quorum Report. He explained that a Quorum for the State Convention consists of the presence of Delegates from "a majority plus one of the counties which are organized." Currently 97 counties are organized. Therefore, Delegates from 49 counties must be present to constitute a Quorum. Williams happily reported that Delegates from 62 counties were present and, therefore, a Quorum was present.

The Convention moved to discuss approval of the Agenda.

Soren Pederson moved to strike the Platform and Resolutions from the Agenda. Matthew Sadinsky seconded the motion. NCDP Second Vice Chair Matt Hughes spoke against this motion.

Parliamentarian Sybil Mann advised the Convention that Soren Pederson's motion was out of order. Then the State Chair ruled that his motion was out of order. Eva Lee made a motion to strike the Platform & Resolutions from the Agenda. The State Chair ruled that her motion was also out of order.

Chris Hardee made a motion to approve the Agenda. Ben Spencer seconded the motion. This motion to approve the Agenda was approved by a voice vote.

The next item on the Agenda was voting on the Rules of the Day. Betsy Wells introduced an amendment to the Rules. Her amendment was to add a Subsection E to Rule 6. This subsection would require that Delegates must adopt, reject or send back to the Committee each part of the Rules that will be voted upon. The Chair ruled that Betsy's amendment was out of order.

Betsy Wells then made a motion to adopt the Rules. Jesse Goslen seconded her motion.

Randell Herson spoke against this amendment. Matt Hughes asked everyone to approve Betsy's amendment. Darek McCullers spoke against the amendment because he said the Convention must be able to debate democratically. Nazim Uddin urged the Convention to adopt the amendment.

State Senator Joyce Waddell called for the question. Surlutta Anthony seconded the motion. A man who did not give his name objected to the motion to call for the question. Armin Jancis who has been on the SEC for 30 years pointed out to the Chair that a man had been recognized but that man had never been allowed to say anything.

The Chair did not allow that man to speak. With a voice vote the Convention approved Senator Waddell's motion to call for the question

The Convention went back to Betsy Wells' amendment that the Delegates must either vote to pass, vote to defeat, or vote to return an item to the Platform & Resolutions Committee – with no modification of items allowed.

Betsy's amendment was approved on a voice vote.

Ryan Jenkins made a motion to adopt the Minutes of the January 29, 2022 meeting. Surlutta Anthony seconded the motion. A discussion ensued during which it was determined that the minutes that needed to be approved were actually the minutes of the last State Convention which was held on June 6, 2020.

Chris Telesca made a motion to adopt the Minutes of the June 6, 2020 State Convention. Ben Spencer seconded the motion.

The motion to adopt the Minutes was unanimously passed by a voice vote.

Matt Hughes, Chair of the Platform and Resolutions Committee, came to the podium to begin giving his committee's report on Resolutions. Matt said the committee met

for about 20 hours over two days. He told the Convention that the committee had received and discussed about 150 Resolutions.

Matt made a motion to adoption the Resolutions which had been approved by the Platform and Resolutions Committee

Soren Peterson made a motion that the Convention take a 30 minute recess so Delegates could read and study the Resolutions Committee's report. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Jerry Makatos who has been on the SEC for more than three decades addressed the Convention about the Resolutions Committee report. He was ruled out of order.

Randy Henson of Madison County made a Point of Order saying people need time to read the Resolutions. He said Delegates had not been able to even see the Resolutions yet. He was ruled out of order.

A Delegate who did not identify himself said the Resolutions had not been on the party website and the Delegates need to have a chance to read them before they are called on to vote. He was ruled out of order.

At this point the resolutions were displayed on screen.

Matt Hughes made a motion to adopt the Resolutions and the Chair ruled that the Resolutions had been adopted.

Matt Sadinsky made a motion to pull all three resolutions dealing with Israel and Palestine. The motion to pull means the resolutions will be pulled for discussion or returned to the Resolution Committee. 25% of the Delegates present and voting must vote to pull a resolution in

order for a resolution to be pulled. The Chair ruled that Matt Sadinsky's motion was out of order. She ruled that each resolution must be considered individually.

The Chair announced that the three Resolutions about Israel and Palestine will be numbered as follows:

#1 – Resolution in Support of Human Rights in Israel/Palestine

#2 – Resolution to Commemorate May 15th as NAKBA Remembrance Day

#3 – Resolution for an Independent Investigation of the Killing of Shireen Abu Akleh.

The Chair called for everyone who wanted Resolution #1 pulled to vote by a voice vote. After the voice vote was taken she stated she could not determine if 25% wanted this Resolution pulled.

Therefore, she called for a standing vote. After the standing vote, the Chair ruled that 25% did not stand.

This ruling by the Chair was challenged by Eileen Paroff. Her motion to have another count was seconded by a Delegate who did not say their name clearly.

Then the Convention had a debate about how many people would be needed to constitute 25%. Many people expressed their viewpoints on this matter without giving their names.

The Parliamentarian reported that 332 people had registered for the Convention. A man who did not give his name said that many people had registered for the Convention in advance but not all of them had come to the Convention. He said there definitely were not 332 Delegates present in the room at this time.

After a long recess, the Chair announced that there were 278 Delegates present at this time. Since 85 (31%) of those Delegates had stood to vote for pulling this resolution, Resolution #1 was pulled.

Second District Congresswoman Deborah Ross and 13th District congressional candidate Wiley Ross addressed the Convention.

Chris Telesca asked that the Resolution on Ranked Choice voting be pulled. A Delegate from Madison County seconded the motion.

Only 47 Delegates voted to pull this motion, so it was not pulled .

Matt Sadinsky made a motion to pull Resolution #2 "Resolution to Commemorate May 15th as NAKBA Remembrance Day." Betsy Fox seconded this motion.

Paul McCallister said there needs to be justice for Jews and Arabs.

David Hammond spoke in favor of sending this Resolution back to committee.

Nazim Uddin spoke against returning this Resolution back to committee.

Mike Schaul spoke against this Resolution.

84 Delegates (33%) voted in favor of pulling this resolution. Therefore, Resolution #2 was pulled and sent back to Platform and Resolutions Committee. It was never passed during the Convention.

Chris Telesca made a motion to pull the Resolution about the reallocation of Democratic Primaries for study by the State Executive Council. His motion was seconded by Jesse Goslen.

6 Only 7 Delegates voted to pull this Resolution so it was not pulled. Then an unidentified lady stated that this Resolution was not on the big screen nor in Delegate packets. Paul McCallister, President of the Inter-Faith Caucus, said his caucus would be willing to facilitate discussions between the supporters of Palestine and the supporters of Israel.

Supreme Court Justice Sam J. Ervin IV and Supreme Court Justice candidate Lucy Inman addressed the Convention.

Fifth Congressional candidate Kyle Parrish spoke to the Delegates.

Eileen Paroff tried to speak about her feelings but the Chair ruled her out of order.

Cliff Moone spoke to the Convention giving some parliamentary advice.

A lady asked for a Quorum Call but her call was denied.

The Delegates then took up Resolution #3 which was entitled "Resolution for an Independent Investigation of the Killing of Shireen Abu Akleh."

David Hammond made a motion to pull this Resolution. Betsy Fox seconded his motion.

Only 44 voted to pull this Resolution. Therefore, the Resolution was not pulled. It continued to be part of the Resolution packet.

Platform and Resolutions Chair Matt Hughes made a motion to approve all Resolutions which were still in the package. By a voice vote the Convention voted to approve all Resolutions which were still in the package.

The Convention then moved to consider the two Resolutions which had been pulled which were Resolutions #1 and #2.

The Convention moved back to consider Resolution #1 which was entitled "Resolution in Support of Human Rights in Israel/Palestine."

Matthew Sadinsky urged the Delegates not to be divisive. 7 because it would hurt the Democratic ticket in the November election.

Soren Petersen said the Party needs to support this resolution. Eileen Paroff spoke against this Resolution. Nazim Uddin asked the Delegates to support this resolution. Tyler Beale spoke about this Resolution.

Leslie Cohen made a motion to pull Resolutions #1 and #2 for later consideration. The Chair ruled that she was out of order.

The Convention then voted on Resolution #1. 175 of the 278 Delegates voted to approve Resolution #1. The Chair ruled that it was adopted.

The Chair then recognized Dr. Lavonia Allison who had entered the Convention and was sitting on the front row (as she always did at every state Democratic meeting for several decades.)

The Convention went back to consideration of Resolution #2 which was entitled "Resolution To Commemorate May 15th as NAKBA Day of Remembrance."

Paul McAllister said there is a need for justice for Arabs and Jews.

David Hammond called for the Convention to send this Resolution back to committee to take out inflammatory language.

Matt Sadinsky said this Resolution should be moved back to Resolutions Committee.

Mike Schaul spoke against passage of this Resolution.

The Convention voted on Resolution #2. 147 Delegates voted to send Resolution #2 back to committee which was more than 25%. Therefore, Resolution #2 was referred back to the Resolutions Committee.

Paul McAllister said the Interfaith Caucus is willing to facilitate discussion between supporters of Palestine and supporters of Israel.

Platform Committee Chair Matt Hughes came to the microphone to present the Platform Committee Report. He moved for the adoption of the report.

A lady who did not say her name clearly moved to adopt the 8 Platform and adjourn.

Randy Henson of Madison County said that Delegates can't see the platform.

Ryan Jenkins moved to adopt the Platform Committee Report.

Randy Voller said that the Platform should include a plank about income inequality. Matt Hughes said that income inequality is covered in the Resolutions. Jerry Markatos spoke about the need to combat structural racism.

Soren Pederson said the 2022 Platform is on the NCDP website. Ted Benson said that income inequality is in the Platform. Dr. Tobias LaGrone spoke to inform people about his pro-life views and said that abortion should not be codified into law. The Convention then voted to approve the 2022 Platform. The Convention was then addressed by:

- Congressman G. K. Butterfield
- Senator Natalie Murdock
- State Representative Vernetta Alston
- Secretary of State Elaine Marshall

NCDP First Vice Chair Floyd McKissick then took over presiding for the rest of the Convention so Chair Dr. Bobbie Richardson could make last minute preparations for the Unity Banquet.

He invited Julia Buckner to speak about the Building Blue organizing program and the work she does as Training Director.

Everyone was encouraged to buy a brick.

Carolyn Smith, who is the Director of the 2022 Coordinated Campaign, addressed the Convention.

Floyd McKissick closed the event by giving an uplifting speech after which he adjourned the Convention.

***Respectfully submitted,
Melvin Williams, State Secretary North Carolina Democratic Party***

ELECTIONS

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER APPLICANTS

Point your smartphone's camera at the QR code below to meet the DNC Member applicants or go to www.ncdp.org/2024-stateconvention/



Resolutions and Platform Committee Report For the Old North State Democratic Party 2024

Chaired by Senator Floyd McKissick

Approved and recommended by the RPC on 5/12/2024

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	20
1. LOCAL ISSUES.....	23
1.1 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO ELIMINATE COMMUNITY MEDICAL DEBT.....	23
1.2 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE FAIR VALUATION IN TAX ASSESSMENTS.....	23
1.3 RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF LOCAL CONTROL OVER RETAIL PACKAGING.....	24
2. STATE ISSUES.....	24
2.1 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION AGAINST PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS.....	24
2.2 RESOLUTION TO REVISE REGULATION & ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS..	24
2.3 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHILD CARE AFFORDABILITY & CHILDCARE WORKER LIVING WAGES.....	25
2.4 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION FOR A LIVING WAGE FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES....	25
2.5 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION THAT PUBLICLY FUNDED SCHOOLS NOT BE RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED.....	25
2.6 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS & REFORM.....	25
2.7 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF CITIZEN BALLOT INITIATIVES IN NORTH CAROLINA.....	26
2.8 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES.....	26
2.9 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION ON STATE TAX REFORM FOR A PROGRESSIVE TAX SYSTEM	27
2.10 RESOLUTION ON FIREARM PERMITS.....	27
2.11 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING.....	27
2.12 RESOLUTION TO REPEAL S.L. 2023-106.....	28
2.13 RESOLUTION ON OPIOID OVERDOSE HARM REDUCTION.....	28
2.14 RESOLUTION TO RESCIND NC SALES TAX ON MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS.....	28
2.15 RESOLUTION TO REACH OUT TO THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR EXPANDED MEDICAID.....	29
2.16 RESOLUTION TO CREATE A NEW REVENUE STREAM TO FUND EDUCATION.....	29
2.17 RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS THE CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS....	30
2.18 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RURAL BROADBAND.....	30
2.19 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING.....	30
2.20 RESOLUTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERAN TREATMENT COURTS.....	31

2.21 RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN.....	32
2.22 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A BAN ON MASS BALLOON RELEASES.....	32
2.23 RESOLUTION FOR THE FUNDING OF HBCUs.....	33
2.24 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION ENDING JAIL FEES FOR DETENTION.....	34
2.25 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION TO RENEW EFFORTS TO DESEGREGATE SCHOOLS.....	34
2.26 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ARTS IN NORTH CAROLINA.....	34
2.27 RESOLUTION ON STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH ORGANIZED LABOR.....	34
2.28 RESOLUTION TO PROFESSIONALIZE THE NC STATE LEGISLATURE.....	34
2.29 RESOLUTION REQUIRING ADEQUATE READING TIME FOR LEGISLATIVE ITEMS.....	35
2.30 RESOLUTION TO RESPECT THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS LEGALIZING CANNABIS.....	36
2.31 RESOLUTION ON THE ISSUE OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN (MMIW).....	38
2.32 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WORKFORCE HOUSING LEGISLATION.....	40
2.33 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION TO ADD A REFERENCE TO DEMOCRACY TO THE UNC MISSION STATEMENT.....	41
2.34 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT STUDENT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AT UNC SCHOOLS.....	41
2.35 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION ON DIABETES REDUCTION.....	41
2.36 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF POLICY-BASED REPARATIONS.....	41
2.37 RESOLUTION FOR DIABETES TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS.....	24
3. NATIONAL ISSUES.....	42
3.1 RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF RESTORING THE ROE V. WADE ABORTION RIGHTS FRAMEWORK.....	42
3.2 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF ABOLISHING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.....	43
3.3 RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF ABOLISHING THE FILIBUSTER IN THE U.S. SENATE.....	43
3.4 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ENDING HEDGE FUND CONTROL OF AMERICAN HOMES.....	43
3.5 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATEHOOD FOR WASHINGTON D.C.....	43
3.6 RESOLUTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY & RIGHTS.....	43
3.7 RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN ELECTING LEGISLATURES.....	44
3.8 RESOLUTION ON FEDERAL TAX REFORM.....	44
3.9 RESOLUTION ON FINANCIAL REFORM.....	44
3.10 RESOLUTION FOR ONLINE ACCESS TO CONSEQUENTIAL FEDERAL CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.....	45
3.11 RESOLUTION TO PROTECT TRADITIONAL MEDICARE (TM).....	46
3.12 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE 2023 GREEN NEW DEAL.....	46
3.13 RESOLUTION TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR LONG-COVID RESEARCH.....	47

3.14 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PUBLICLY-OWNED WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS.....	47
3.15 CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE BY PASSING CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION.....	48
3.16 RESOLUTION ADDRESSING THE FENTANYL CRISIS.....	48
3.17 RESOLUTION FOR GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE.....	49
3.18 RESOLUTION TO SHIFT TAX BURDEN.....	49
3.19 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE.....	50
3.20 RESOLUTION FOR WORK AUTHORIZATION WHILE AWAITING CITIZENSHIP PROCEEDINGS.....	50
3.21 RESOLUTION PROMOTING POLICIES TO PREVENT MASS SHOOTINGS.....	51
3.22 RESOLUTION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING/HOMELESS INITIATIVES.....	51
3.23 RESOLUTION ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE.....	51
3.24 RESOLUTION FOR THE STANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS.....	52
3.25 RESOLUTION TO END YOUTH CURFEWS.....	53
3.26 RESOLUTION REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE THRESHOLDS BE BASED ON TOTAL SEATS..	53
3.27 RESOLUTION TO END THE NATURAL BORN CITIZEN CLAUSE.....	54
3.28 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FAIR ELECTIONS.....	55
3.29 RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS THE TAX NEEDS OF THOSE ON FIXED INCOMES.....	55
3.30 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING VETERANS' CARE.....	56
3.31 RESOLUTION TO DENY PERMITS TO LIQUID NATURAL GAS FACILITIES.....	57
3.32 RESOLUTION AGAINST STRIKE-BREAKING AND UNION-BUSTING ACTIVITIES.....	58
3.33 RESOLUTION FOR MEASUREMENT AND REDUCTION OF INCOME INEQUALITY.....	59
4. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.....	59
4.1 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES' COMMITMENT TO NATO.....	60
4.2 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE.....	60
4.3 RESOLUTION TO BLOCK NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO SAUDI ARABIA.....	60
4.4 RESOLUTION HONORING ALEXEI NAVALNY.....	60
4.5 RESOLUTION PROTECTING LGBTQI+ RIGHTS.....	60
4.6 RESOLUTION PROTECTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS.....	61
4.7 RESOLUTION FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS WITH FULL SUFFRAGE IN ISRAEL.....	61
4.8 RESOLUTION ON THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.....	62
4.9 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NEW ELECTIONS IN PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES.....	63
4.10 RESOLUTION TO STRENGTHEN NATO AND SUPPORT UKRAINE.....	64
4.11 RESOLUTION ON THE WAR IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE.....	64
5. INTERNAL PARTY MATTERS.....	67
6. OTHER ISSUES.....	67

1. LOCAL ISSUES

1.1 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO ELIMINATE COMMUNITY MEDICAL DEBT

WHEREAS more than 1 in 10 Americans have medical debt in collections, and two thirds of bankruptcies cite medical debt as a cause; and

WHEREAS community and faith organizations throughout North Carolina have banded together to purchase and forgive medical debt in collections, while certain hospital systems doing business in North Carolina have refused to sell their medical debt to programs that would forgive it;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourages communities to eliminate medical debt in their areas on a voluntary basis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party advocates the creation of a legal structure that allows non-profits to purchase medical debt for the purpose of forgiving it.

1.2 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE FAIR VALUATION IN TAX ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS North Carolina state law requires that all property be valued at market rates; and

WHEREAS the North Carolina County Boards of Equalization and Review responsible for valuation of property are volunteer boards; and

WHEREAS the owners of commercial property routinely challenge valuations that must be defended by resource-constrained county attorneys;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the allocation of state funds to help counties strengthen their capacities to accurately assess properties and to confront expensive legal challenges to the Assessments.

1.3 RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF LOCAL CONTROL OVER RETAIL PACKAGING

WHEREAS current North Carolina law prohibits local governments from prohibiting or regulating single-use plastic bags or styrofoam containers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party advocates for legislation to permit local governments to regulate or prohibit the use of single-use retail packaging and to set fees or taxes on the use of such containers.

2. STATE ISSUES

2.1 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION AGAINST PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS

2.2 RESOLUTION TO REVISE REGULATION & ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

WHEREAS North Carolina has more than 200 charter schools in operation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party is committed to high-quality public education for each North Carolina student; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for the State Board of Education to hold North Carolina charter schools to the same standards that traditional public schools are held to, including curriculum requirements, professional training and development, and student standardized testing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party strike from its platform the language calling for the reinstatement of the 100-school cap on charter schools and that the North Carolina General Assembly consider the passage of legislation which establishes a maximum number of charter schools per county; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the per-pupil funding for any student who leaves a charter school for a traditional public school be prorated and returned to the traditional public school system.

2.3 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHILD CARE AFFORDABILITY & CHILDCARE WORKER LIVING WAGES

WHEREAS childcare in North Carolina is unaffordable for nearly three fourths of North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS childcare workers in many places in NC earn less than the rate deemed to be a “living wage” for their municipality;

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party advocates for the State of North Carolina to directly support high-quality childcare options for North Carolina parents, in a way that will reduce costs and increase wages for childcare workers.

2.4 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION FOR A LIVING WAGE FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

2.5 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION THAT PUBLICLY FUNDED SCHOOLS NOT BE RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED

2.6 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS & REFORM

WHEREAS the 2001 state mental health reform law, and subsequent reform attempts, have failed to deliver the promised benefits to the intended service recipients; and

WHEREAS private enterprise, operating subject to market forces, has proven unable to adequately meet the mental health needs of North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS fragmented and siloed service delivery is a recognized barrier to care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports a comprehensive assessment of the state’s behavioral health workforce, including but not limited to: psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, primary care providers engaged in behavioral health treatment, licensed professionals delivering direct behavioral health services (LCSWs, LMFTs, LPCs, etc.), Peer Support Specialists, Qualified Mental Health Professionals, Mental Health Paraprofessionals, Mental Health Associate Professionals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports a comprehensive assessment of the services settings and programs through which this workforce is delivering care to North Carolinians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports a comprehensive needs survey, conducted to identify service gaps and barriers to care for underserved communities and populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports full public funding for the training and education necessary to develop a workforce sufficient to staff the full continuum of care necessary to meet the mental and behavioral health needs of North Carolinians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the full funding and staffing of local health departments to meet their service mandates, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the development, funding, and staffing of the full continuum of care to fill identified service gaps and remove identified barriers to care for underserved communities and populations.

2.7 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF CITIZEN BALLOT INITIATIVES IN NORTH CAROLINA

2.8 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports expanding on Governor Cooper's order, mandating all new state vehicles be zero-emissions vehicles by 2035; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports investment in the infrastructure required to charge/fuel and maintain these vehicles.

2.9 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION ON STATE TAX REFORM FOR A PROGRESSIVE TAX SYSTEM

2.10 RESOLUTION ON FIREARM PERMITS

WHEREAS North Carolina has the 14th highest rate of gun violence in the US with an average of 1,588 people dying and 3,530 others wounded by guns annually and in North Carolina, the rate of gun deaths increased 47% from 2012 to 2021, including a 91% increase in gun homicides; and

WHEREAS researchers estimate that deaths and injury due to gun violence costs North Carolina \$19.5 billion annually and firearms are the leading cause of injury-related death for children and youth in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS from 2015 to 2022, mass shootings in which four or more people were killed and in which an assault weapon was used, resulted in nearly six times as many people shot, more than twice as many people killed, and 23 times as many people wounded on average compared to those that did not involve the use of an assault weapon; and

WHEREAS in March of 2023, the North Carolina General Assembly passed S. L. 2023-8 which no longer requires that persons buying or selling a handgun must get a pistol purchase permit from their local sheriff's office and otherwise substantially deregulated firearms sales in North Carolina;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the NC General Assembly to reinstate the requirement for pistol purchase permits to ensure that thorough criminal and mental health background checks are conducted prior to all gun transactions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the NC General Assembly to require purchase permits to obtain "long guns" such as shotguns, rifles, and assault weapons, whether through private sale or licensed gun dealers.

2.11 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

2.12 RESOLUTION TO REPEAL S.L. 2023-106

WHEREAS S.L. 2023-106, which is sometimes known as either the Parents' Bill of Rights or the "Don't Say Gay" bill, creates an environment of uncertainty, fear, silence, and exclusion for LGBTQ+ students, families, and school staff; and

WHEREAS the rights of parents are already well-established in state law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for the immediate repeal of S.L. 2023-106.

2.13 RESOLUTION ON OPIOID OVERDOSE HARM REDUCTION

WHEREAS an estimated 200 people in the US died each day from an opioid overdose, and there were more than 4,000 drug overdose deaths in North Carolina in 2021, a 22% increase in fatalities from 2020 to 2021, and a 72% increase since 2019; and

WHEREAS illicitly developed Fentanyl has no regulated dosing and is being illegally distributed throughout NC and the US; and

WHEREAS Naloxone, a known successful harm reduction drug which is a non-addictive prescription medication which reverses opiate overdose, and cannot be misused nor cause overdose, and has a rapid onset of only 1-3 minutes;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party actively supports the free and open distribution of proven harm reduction strategies in areas known to have significant opioid-related deaths, and that NC elected officials promote and strengthen policies which address the key protective factors for family engagement and support, social connectedness, age of first use focus, safe housing, food security, and healthcare access to work towards a rapid de-escalation of the morbidity and mortality caused by the opioid/fentanyl problem.

2.14 RESOLUTION TO RESCIND NC SALES TAX ON MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

WHEREAS no person considers products necessary for their monthly menstrual cycle to be a 'luxury' item; and

WHEREAS most medical supplies are exempt from NC state sales taxes;

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party shall work strenuously to have sales taxes removed from all menstrual products in the State of North Carolina.

2.15 RESOLUTION TO REACH OUT TO THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR EXPANDED MEDICAID

WHEREAS for the most part, Social Services and health departments expect people to register online or in person and don't have capacity to reach all people who need to sign up;

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party advocates for funding for a coherent outreach program including, but not limited to, a verification of income and employment program "VIE" coordinated by health departments and social services, both state and local, to facilitate Medicaid enrollment of all eligible persons.

2.16 RESOLUTION TO CREATE A NEW REVENUE STREAM TO FUND EDUCATION

WHEREAS North Carolina schools need greater funding so they can provide each child an adequate education, as well as pay better salaries to teachers and staff; and

WHEREAS many of our school facilities, especially in rural areas, need capital construction and/or repair; and

WHEREAS NC farmers are still in need of a cash crop to take the place tobacco once held in our state's economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a dedicated stream of revenue be created in addition to North Carolina's constitutionally mandated requirement to adequately fund public education to be based on the taxing and regulation of the recreational use of, farming of, and selling of marijuana within the State of North Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Resolutions and Platform Committee loves the author of this resolution.

2.17 RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS THE CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

WHEREAS access to healthcare requires affordability as well as availability;
and

WHEREAS the shortage of doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers
affects both rural and urban regions of our state alike; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports legislation
increasing the number of nursing programs in order to increase the supply of
trained nurses in the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic party supports
legislation providing free tuition for in-state students attending public
universities and state operated community colleges training medical
professionals, provided all students agree to work in areas of North Carolina
affected by a shortage of medical providers, for a period of five years.

2.18 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RURAL BROADBAND

2.19 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Whereas, the North Carolina Democratic Party recognizes the critical need for
affordable housing across the state of North Carolina; and

Whereas, access to safe, stable, and affordable housing is a fundamental
human right and essential for the well-being of individuals and families; and

Whereas, the lack of affordable housing disproportionately affects
low-income households, communities of color, seniors, individuals with
disabilities, and other marginalized groups; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party:
Strongly supports municipal and county actions to prioritize the development
and preservation of affordable housing units, including but
not limited to

- Establishing zoning policies that require a percentage of new residential developments to be affordable to low and moderate-income households;
- Providing incentives to developers who build low-income housing
- Investing in the rehabilitation of existing housing stock to improve affordability and prevent displacement.
- Investing in high quality clean water and sewage systems
- Collaboration and or the regionalization of public utility systems

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party:
Calls upon elected officials and policymakers at the state level to enact legislation that empowers municipalities and counties to implement and enforce effective affordable housing policies, as well as provide adequate funding and resources to support these efforts.

Urges the North Carolina General Assembly to provide local governments with greater authority to allocate sufficient funding for the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund and other affordable housing programs that assist low-income households with access to safe and affordable housing options.

Encourages collaboration among local government agencies, non-profit organizations, developers, community stakeholders, and residents to develop comprehensive and inclusive strategies for addressing the affordable housing crisis across the state of North Carolina;

Commits to actively advocating for policies and initiatives that advance affordable housing goals and promote equitable and inclusive communities

2.20 RESOLUTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERAN TREATMENT COURTS

WHEREAS, Veteran Treatment Courts are established in nearly 600 Counties across the United States, including eight Counties in North Carolina: and

WHEREAS, they are proven to be an effective way to treat veterans who have committed nonviolent felonies, inasmuch as those who have completed participation in the two year Veterans Treatment Court program have a

recidivism rate of 15% as opposed to the general recidivism rate in North Carolina of 40%; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party support the establishment and full funding of Veteran Treatment Courts in each Judicial District in North Carolina.

2.21 RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

WHEREAS NC Session Law 2023-134 changed the procedures used by the State of North Carolina for returning codified provisions, to permit the provisions to be returned without request of the agency administering those regulations.

WHEREAS Following the passage of that law, the Rules Review Commission [RRC] returned 30 rules of the Coastal Resources Commission [CRC], effectively striking them from the laws and regulations of the state of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS the CRC by emergency action reinstated 16 of the 30 rules returned for removal by the RRC until March 1, 2024 while allowing 14 of the rules to be determined by ongoing litigation about the rulemaking procedures; and

WHEREAS some of the returned rules included removing the designation of Jockey's Ridge State Park as well as Permuda Island Reserve [in Onslow County] as AEC(s) with their accompanying requirements for protecting their natural and geological conditions, allowing increased development at these sites and threatening the environmental integrity of these unique coastal geological formation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Coastal Resources Commission should exercise its legal authority to the maximum extent feasible to reinstate regulations that were proposed to be deleted by the Rules Review Committee.

2.22 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A BAN ON MASS BALLOON RELEASES

WHEREAS mylar, latex, and biodegradable or photodegradable balloons are harmful and often fatal when swallowed by our coastal wildlife, birds, waterfowl, fish, sea turtles and other marine animals, as well as being

destructive to the natural vegetative environment of our oceans, lakes, and rivers; and

WHEREAS ten other states, including the State of Virginia, and several coastal cities have currently enacted legislation banning the mass release of lighter than air balloons

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NC Democratic Party calls on the N C General Assembly to pass legislation that shall make it unlawful for any person, organization, firm, or legal entity to intentionally release, organize the release, or intentionally cause to be released any non-biodegradable or non-photodegradable balloons.

2.23 RESOLUTION FOR THE FUNDING OF HBCUS

Whereas, HBCUs in our state continue to be woefully underfunded; and

Whereas, between 2010 and 2012 alone, 61 percent of land-grant HBCUs established through the Morrill Act of 1890 did not receive sufficient funding to meet the one-to-one match of other state land-grant institutions; and

Whereas, between 1987 and 2020, this inequity has resulted in HBCUs missing out on \$12.8 billion in funding for 18 states. For North Carolina A&T State University, the largest HBCU in the nation, the funding discrepancy has been found in almost every facet of institutional funding, from research allocations to instructional expenses and student services; and

Whereas, North Carolina State University received nearly twice the allocations as North Carolina A&T State University; and

Whereas, rising college costs, student debt, and federal budget cuts are all factors that position higher education finance as a critical issue in the United States. This is especially true for historically underfunded and under-resourced minority serving institutions like HBCUs; and

Whereas, compared to peer institutions, HBCUs operate with fewer resources and much smaller endowments, resulting in HBCUs spending only 57 percent of what other institutions spend on instruction, 63 percent on student services, and 49 percent on academic support functions; and

Whereas, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are vital to higher education, yet, many land-grant HBCUs have received lower levels of funding since their inception;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina General Assembly address the inequities in funding of all HBCUs in our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these inequities in funding be addressed expeditiously to support the education of North Carolina students at all HBCUs

2.24 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION ENDING JAIL FEES FOR DETENTION

2.25 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION TO RENEW EFFORTS TO DESEGREGATE SCHOOLS

2.26 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ARTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

2.27 RESOLUTION ON STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH ORGANIZED LABOR

BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the rights of working people, and will fight to stop the war on U.S. labor unions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the enactment and enforcement of legislation that protects workers and which furthers the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party and petitions the Democratic Party to strongly support the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.

2.28 RESOLUTION TO PROFESSIONALIZE THE NC STATE LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, Both the North Carolina State House and Senate are considered part-time legislative bodies; and

WHEREAS, This part-time designation provides legislators with less pay, resources, and staff than they would have in a full-time position; and

WHEREAS, Factors such as no-notice, in-person votes on legislation, legislative sessions that can be lengthened indefinitely, and large constituency bases

requiring varied constituent services, make this part-time status incompatible with the real-world requirements of the office; and

WHEREAS, The base legislative salary of \$13,951 annually is incongruous with the ideals of a “citizen legislature” and, instead, limits legislative service to only those who can afford to otherwise supplement their legislative income;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports movement towards a professional legislature model

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the pay, resources, and staff of the state legislators be increased to match the additional work that would be required by this change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that additional voting methods be explored to allow for the greater participation of physically absent legislators.

2.29 RESOLUTION REQUIRING ADEQUATE READING TIME FOR LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

WHEREAS, The 2023 rules adopted in the North Carolina State House and NC Senate allows less than 24 hours notice period between a favorable report by a committee and a vote by the House or Senate chamber as a whole relating to a bill which received a favorable committee report; and

WHEREAS, Since multiple pieces of legislation are scheduled for discussion each day, and legislators frequently do not have sufficient time to read and consider legislation before it is voted on by the relevant committee; and

WHEREAS, under current circumstances legislators may not have sufficient time to read, understand and vote upon legislation coming before a committee for consideration; and

WHEREAS, This rapid consideration of legislation may not allow for legislators or their constituents to adequately consider the impact of proposed legislation nor does it provide an opportunity to confer with relevant experts or other sources that may be relevant in considering the implications of proposed legislation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That future versions of the House and Senate rules include language to ensure that adequate reading time be given to read and analyze proposed legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That motions to suspend chamber rules relating to the consideration of legislation prior to a vote require that any such suspension only be approved by a vote of at least 2/3rds of members present in the chamber when the motion for suspension is considered.

BE IT RESOLVED that actions used to disrupted the regular order of legislation be curbed to prevent such action from being effective in averting proper reading of new legislation by our representative officials

2.30 RESOLUTION TO RESPECT THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS LEGALIZING CANNABIS

WHEREAS, The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) is a sovereign nation with the right to govern themselves and pass such laws as their duly elected government and their enrolled members see fit, without federal, state, or local interference; and

WHEREAS, On September 7, 2023, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, a federally recognized tribe in North Carolina, approved a ballot measure to legalize recreational marijuana use by a vote of 70% to 30%; and

WHEREAS, The measure allows for the possession and use of marijuana for adults 21 years of age and older within the Qualla Boundary; and

WHEREAS, The measure also provides for the EBCI Tribal Council to develop legislation to regulate the cannabis market; and

WHEREAS, On December 6th, 2023, President Biden issued Executive Order 14112: Executive Order on Reforming Federal Funding and Support for Tribal Nations to Better Embrace Our Trust Responsibilities and Promote the Next Era of Tribal Self-Determination, which states, "My Administration is committed to protecting and supporting Tribal sovereignty and self-determination, and to honoring our trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations. We recognize the right of Tribal Nations to self-determination, and that Federal support for

Tribal self-determination has been the most effective policy for the economic growth of Tribal Nations and the economic well-being of Tribal citizens;” and

WHEREAS, Representative Chuck Edwards (R-NC11) sought to interfere with tribal self determination and tribal sovereignty by filing H.R. 5323, which would withhold federal highway funds from tribal governments who legalize cannabis; and

WHEREAS, Senators Tillis and Budd have inappropriately sought to interfere with tribal self-determination and tribal sovereignty by issuing a letter soliciting commitments from federal, state, and local agencies to interfere with EBCI cultivation, transportation, and distribution of cannabis; and

WHEREAS, This interference by federal legislators violates long standing legal precedent of respect of tribal sovereignty and rights to self determination; and

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence unequivocally states that legitimate governments derive “their just powers from the consent of the governed;” now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party recognizes and respects tribal sovereignty and their right to govern themselves and pass such laws as their duly elected government and their enrolled members see fit, without federal, state, or local interference; and

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party condemns the use of Federal, State, County, or Municipal funds or resources for discriminatory application of law to interfere with tribal self determination; and

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party objects to all discriminatory attempts to interfere with tribal sovereignty, including but not limited to:

- Any action by the Treasury department action limiting EBCI access to banking industry products or services;
- Any action by the Justice Department to interfere with tribal sovereignty through discriminatory enforcement of state or federal law with respect to cannabis prohibition;

- Any attempt by the Justice Department to hold Qualla Enterprises LLC liable for the behavior of individual customers;
- Increased surveillance of activities on or around the Qualla Boundary.
- State or federal authorities taking disciplinary or punitive action against medical professionals cooperating with tribal programs and procedures regulating medical cannabis;
- Any municipal, county, state, or federal entity acting to delay or interfere with transfer of lands into trust for purposes aligned with laws passed by a tribal government;
- Any increase, from historic averages and enforcement patterns, to traffic stops along routes used for transportation related to cannabis industry activities between land held in trust by tribal governments;
- Any action by the District Attorney's office to interfere with tribal sovereignty through discriminatory enforcement of state or federal law with respect to cannabis prohibition;
- Any action by the Sheriff's Department to interfere with tribal sovereignty through discriminatory enforcement of state or federal law with respect to cannabis prohibition;
- Any action by the National Indian Gaming Commission to interfere with tribal sovereignty through discriminatory consideration of cannabis industry activity when applying regulatory authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the efforts of the Eastern Band to enter the medical cannabis or adult cannabis fields with careful and thorough consideration of all the legal and policy implications of this industry.

2.31 RESOLUTION ON THE ISSUE OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN (MMIW)

WHEREAS, The researchers with We are Resilient have identified thirty two known cases of missing and murdered indigenous women of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and

WHEREAS, Ten of these cases occurred on the Qualla Boundary; and

WHEREAS, Seven of these cases remain unsolved and one of these people remains missing; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues published a paper on Elimination and Responses to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse of Indigenous Girls, Adolescents and Young Women in which they state "Indigenous women and girls' experiences of violence are closely linked to the history of colonization, poverty, and exclusion of their wider communities - best contextualized in terms of the intersections of race, ethnicity, disability, age, sex and location and mutually reinforcing forms of inequalities. These conditions ensure that they do not benefit to the same extent as their non-indigenous counterparts from services which would otherwise protect them from violence and enhance their ability to seek redress when it does occur;" and

WHEREAS, The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005 was the first version of this critically important legislation to introduce plans to address violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls, mandating the Attorney General consult with tribal governments on a yearly basis so they can make recommendations to the AG regarding the federal administration of tribal funding for programs offered under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA); and

WHEREAS, The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 added provisions to restore tribal criminal authorities' ability to target and address violence inflicted upon Indigenous women and girls by non-Indian perpetrators on tribal land through the Special Domestic Violence Court Jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, The VAWA limits tribal prosecution of non-Indian perpetrators to those with prior connections to the tribe and neglects to uphold and advance tribal sovereignty. As a result, VAWA does not adequately address the significance of violence towards Indigenous women and fails to address the systemic causes and mediators of gender-based violence; and

WHEREAS, According to a study by the National Institute of Justice, 97% of Indigenous women have been victims of violence at the hands of at least one non-Indian perpetrator during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, Congress recognized "special Tribal criminal jurisdiction" over an expanded list of "covered crimes" that includes - in addition to the VAWA 2013 crimes - assault of Tribal justice personnel, child violence,

obstruction of justice, sexual violence, sex trafficking, and stalking. This expanded recognition of Tribal sovereignty was enacted by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022, signed into law by President Biden on March 15, 2022;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party recognizes and respects tribal sovereignty and tribal rights to govern themselves and pass such laws as their duly elected government and their enrolled members see fit, without federal, state, or local interference; and

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports full restoration of criminal justice authority to these sovereign nations; and

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports removal of all barriers to tribal government authorities' enforcement of tribal laws, regardless of enrollment status of the perpetrators or jurisdiction in which crimes against Indigenous people are committed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports federal and state funding at levels sufficient to ensure tribal government authorities' ability to enforce tribal laws and ensure the safety and security of enrolled members and the public.

2.32 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WORKFORCE HOUSING LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, The 2022 median family income for the state was \$67,481; and

WHEREAS, 28% of North Carolina households, according to the North Carolina Housing Coalition, are cost-burdened; and

WHEREAS, 13% of North Carolina's population currently lives below the poverty line; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party commit to actively pursuing and supporting legislative initiatives aimed at addressing the workforce housing crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Party shall prioritize efforts to draft and advance legislation that promotes affordable housing options for low-to

moderate-income individuals, as well as missing middle housing options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Party, by working collaboratively with policymakers, stakeholders, and local communities, will enact meaningful reforms that improve access to safe and affordable housing for all members of our workforce. Including but not limited to Yes In My Back Yard (YIMBY) initiatives.

2.33 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION TO ADD A REFERENCE TO DEMOCRACY TO THE UNC MISSION STATEMENT

2.34 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT STUDENT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AT UNC SCHOOLS

2.35 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION ON DIABETES REDUCTION

2.36 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF POLICY-BASED REPARATIONS

Whereas, fearless advocacy for reparations for Black people led to the consideration and adoption of a resolution by the High Point City Council to create a One High Point Commission.

Whereas, members of that commission worked for a year and a half to wrestle with the painful and distributing contemporary effects of the past.

Whereas, subject matter experts engaged to conduct research, synthesize data, and make policy recommendations to respond to the hard truths that were discovered and confirmed.

Whereas, the council showed leadership and courage in approving a process to document past race-based harms and propose policies to end and restore their deleterious effects.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party acknowledges and supports policy-based reparations initiatives to end race-based harms following the model created by HighPoint. Furthermore we support efforts and policies to end the deleterious effects of race-based

harms and that other municipalities and localities in North Carolina advocate the following:

- (1) Address housing disparities
- (2) Address health disparities
- (3) Address education gap
- (4) Address economic opportunity
- (5) Address transportation access
- (6) Review and revise municipal operations

2.37 RESOLUTION FOR DIABETES TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS

RESOLUTION FOR DIABETES MEDICAL TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party hold that all Law Enforcement Officers in North Carolina be trained

3. NATIONAL ISSUES

3.1 RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF RESTORING THE ROE V. WADE ABORTION RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party holds that reproductive freedom, including the right to abortion, is a fundamental human right;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party supports the codification of *Roe v. Wade* abortion rights framework into federal and state law.

3.2 REAFFIRM RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF ABOLISHING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

3.3 RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF ABOLISHING THE FILIBUSTER IN THE U.S. SENATE

WHEREAS current U. S. Senate filibuster and cloture rules are undemocratic mechanisms whereby a minority of senators can impede federal legislation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party supports a reform of the US Senate rules to abolish the filibuster and supermajority cloture votes.

3.4 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ENDING HEDGE FUND CONTROL OF AMERICAN HOMES

WHEREAS there is a severe shortage of affordable housing in North Carolina, and in the United States more broadly; and

WHEREAS hedge funds and other investors are driving up housing prices by purchasing large portfolios of residential homes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party supports the consideration of legislation which would limit the ability of hedge funds and/or similar legal vehicles to invest in portfolios of residential housing and/or direct ownership of the same

3.5 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATEHOOD FOR WASHINGTON D.C.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party calls for statehood for the District of Columbia.

3.6 RESOLUTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY & RIGHTS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party holds that environmental safety, access to clean air both in and out of doors, and access to clean water are fundamental rights of all human beings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party advocates for the codification of these rights into both Federal and State law.

3.7 RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN ELECTING LEGISLATURES

WHEREAS electing representatives using a first-past-the-post system, wherein the candidate with the most votes in each district wins, undermines

the legitimacy of government by leaving supporters of the losing party in a district without representation in the legislature; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party supports the consideration of legislation which would allow for proportional voting in North Carolina.

3.8 RESOLUTION ON FEDERAL TAX REFORM

WHEREAS the Federal government has been shifting more of the tax burden on individuals and lightening or eliminating the burden on corporations; and

WHEREAS high-income earners and corporations regularly avoid paying tax;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic party works to:

- Fully fund the IRS's enforcement efforts to increase audits, with the additional tax collected exceeding the cost of enforcement;
- Reform the individual and corporate income tax system to eliminate preferential treatment for high income earners and corporations; and
- Consider legislation to make Social Security benefits tax exempt for retired individuals.
- Hedge funds and private equity to pay taxes on gains as an ordinary income as opposed to claims income as capital gain
- Eliminate the ability of corporations to repurchase stock

3.9 RESOLUTION ON FINANCIAL REFORM

WHEREAS the financial sector has seen diminishing regulations leading to increased risk and inequality and the Glass-Steagall Act, which had prohibited commercial banks from engaging in investment banking, was repealed in 1999; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party works to:

- Implement financial reforms focused on transparency, accountability, and fairness;
- Implement Senator Sanders' Real Wall Street Reform, including breaking up too-big-to-fail banks, reinstating the Glass-Steagall Act, capping interest rates and fees, and eliminating high frequency trading;

- Urge Congress to enact the Ban Conflicted Trading Act to prevent Members of Congress and senior congressional staff from trading individual stocks and holding positions on corporate boards and define “corporate lobbyists” to include lobbyists compensated by 501(c)(6) organizations such as chambers of commerce; require paid lobbyists to wait at least 5 years before taking government jobs; criminalize lobbying for foreign entities by United States citizens.

3.10 RESOLUTION FOR ONLINE ACCESS TO CONSEQUENTIAL FEDERAL CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

WHEREAS the American public has a right to transparency in the courtroom and to witness consequential and historic proceedings, and a lack of transparency creates a perception of secrecy unworthy of the judicial branch of government; and

WHEREAS with limited exceptions, such as the protection of a minor, courtrooms in federal criminal proceedings include a presumptive right of public access and are open to the public to attend onsite; and

WHEREAS a bipartisan group of Senators have introduced S. 833, the Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2023 (2023–2024) to allow the public to view courtroom proceedings by allowing cameras with live online access in federal criminal court proceedings;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party recognizes the importance of broad public acceptance of the proceedings and supports providing the public the opportunity to view the trials and appellate level proceedings by the passage of S. 833, the Sunshine in the Courtroom Act, or by passing a law like Pub. Law No. 118–37, 1/26/2024, (the Pan Am bombing case);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party supports live online access of any consequential and historical trials of interest to the general public.

3.11 RESOLUTION TO PROTECT TRADITIONAL MEDICARE (TM)

WHEREAS corporate for-profit health insurers offering Medicare Advantage (MA) plans use restricted medical provider networks that limit choice and cause patients to experience significant delays, cost significantly more per enrollee than traditional Medicare, and, according to the Congressional

Budget Office, overcharge the government by an estimated 140 billion USD per year; and

WHEREAS more MA beneficiaries report having trouble paying medical bills or getting care through Medicare Advantage programs.

WHEREAS studies show that Black, Asian, and Hispanic enrollees in MA continue to be offered and enrolled in plans with lower quality ratings than those of White MA enrollees; and

WHEREAS using the savings from MA payment reforms could expand Medicare benefits to cover comprehensive dental, vision, and hearing care for all Medicare beneficiaries;

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges Congress to support, champion, and strengthen Medicare by increasing oversight and regulation of insurance companies and their Medicare “Advantage” plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party urges Congress to hold health insurers that offer MAs accountable for misleading advertising and deceptive practices.

3.12 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE 2023 GREEN NEW DEAL

WHEREAS the Green New Deal ensures that new programs support its overarching goals of creating good-paying jobs, promoting justice and equity, and acting on climate with the urgency and scope demanded by the science;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party supports passage of the Green New Deal.

3.13 RESOLUTION TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR LONG-COVID RESEARCH

WHEREAS Long COVID is a multisystemic illness with impact on multiple organ systems, that the illness has different symptoms across individuals, affects persons of all ages, and varies in onset and time course, and that some long-haulers are so severely affected they are unable to work and may suffer lifelong disabilities; and

WHEREAS funding during the pandemic focused on observations rather than clinical research, current diagnostic and treatment options are insufficient, no validated effective treatments are available, and funding is woefully inadequate to conduct the many clinical trials critical to understanding Long COVID;

BE IT RESOLVED that to advance our understanding of Long COVID and how to treat it, Long COVID health crisis requires priority funding like resources allocated during the HIV/AIDS crisis, with vastly increased funds for clinical research;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party supports long-term policies to ensure that people with Long COVID receive care and social support and recognizes the need for a focused effort to educate the biomedical community, as well as a communications campaign to overcome vaccine hesitancy and inform the public of the risks of Long COVID; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party encourages the designation of a center within the National Institutes of Health that will provide durable funding and a coordinated research agenda to address complex chronic conditions such as Long COVID.

3.14 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PUBLICLY-OWNED WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

WHEREAS access to safe drinking water and sanitation have been declared to be human rights by the United Nations; and

WHEREAS the private, for-profit ownership of water and wastewater utilities results in an increase in rates for water and wastewater services, a decrease in accountability, transparency and responsiveness to water and wastewater consumers; and

WHEREAS the most effective way to ensure accountability, affordability and quality of water and wastewater services is public ownership and governance of water and wastewater utilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party calls for all efforts by local, state, and federal government to be focused on establishing and

maintaining publicly owned and governed drinking water and wastewater utilities through grant funding, affordable financing, and incentives for interconnection to existing publicly owned utilities by investor-owned utilities in order provide operational economies of scale, sharing of management and water quality expertise, and optimizing affordability for water and wastewater customers.

3.15 CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE BY PASSING CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, North Carolina Democratic Party is committed to addressing climate change and is committed to protecting residents from the effects of climate change and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Climate change poses a serious threat to the State of North Carolina in terms of the economy, public health, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation will greatly help fight climate change, and is a net economic boost to residents of the State of North Carolina and its vicinity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party works to address climate change by passing a Carbon Fee program similar to Canada's.

3.16 RESOLUTION ADDRESSING THE FENTANYL CRISIS

WHEREAS, illicitly manufactured fentanyl and its dangers, while well-documented by health professionals and law enforcement, are largely unknown to the general population; and

WHEREAS, fentanyl is very cheap, extremely addictive and deadly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the NC General Assembly and the US Congress to increase funding for public awareness of fentanyl; drug enforcement directed at fentanyl; and substance abuse treatment and mental health services for individuals harmed by fentanyl.

3.17 RESOLUTION FOR GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Democratic Party supports legislation protecting the right to gender-affirming care for minors. Gender-affirming

care such as, including but not limited to puberty blockers, testosterone, and HRT.

3.18 RESOLUTION TO SHIFT TAX BURDEN

Whereas the richest top 0.1% has seen its share of American wealth nearly triple from 7% to 20% between the late 1970s and 2016, while the bottom 90% has seen its share of wealth decline from 35% to 25% in that same period¹; and,

Whereas the families in the top 0.1% are projected to owe 3.2% of their wealth in federal, state, and local taxes this year, while the bottom 99% are projected to owe 7.2%²; and,

Whereas The 1200 most profitable US firms report more than \$100 million in profits to their shareholders but pay little to no taxes due to a maze of tax breaks and deductions; and,

Whereas both North Carolina and the Federal government have been shifting more of the tax burden onto individuals and lightening or eliminating the burden on corporations; and,

Whereas more than half (53%³) of North Carolina and half ⁴ of Federal Tax revenue comes from individual income tax, with only 6.4% of NC and 6% of Federal revenue coming from corporations; and,

Whereas the misleadingly-named "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017" provided massive tax cuts to the wealthy and to corporations and minor tax cuts or even increases to lower-income individuals; and,

Whereas an Ultra-Millionaire Tax would tax the wealth of the richest Americans and apply only to households with a net worth of \$50 million or more—roughly the wealthiest 75,000 households, or the top 0.1%; and,

Whereas the Ultra-Millionaire tax on roughly 75,000 households would bring in \$3.75 trillion in revenue over a ten-year period;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party considers the passage of legislation which would impose a tax upon Ultra-Millionaires at an

appropriate level to address inequalities in the tax burden imposed upon low and moderate income earners.

3.19 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

WHEREAS the State of North Carolina Democratic Party has always included strong support of unions and their activities to organize and improve the rights and benefits of working North Carolinians, while opposing any legislation that weakens or undermines those activities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party directs our members of Congress to actively support the Pro Act.

3.20 RESOLUTION FOR WORK AUTHORIZATION WHILE AWAITING CITIZENSHIP PROCEEDINGS

WHEREAS the Global Migration Center at the University of California Davis reported that in 2021 there were 2 million fewer working age immigrants than before the pandemic in 2017; and

WHEREAS the US economy has experienced increases in growth in part fueled by the addition of foreign-born workers filling the gap needed for growth in the labor market; and

WHEREAS the Congressional Budget Office reported in February 2023 that net immigration will help to grow the labor force by 5.2 million people over the next ten years; and

WHEREAS the Economic Policy Institute in 2023 analysis found that half of the year over year growth was from foreign born workers; and

WHEREAS federal law requires migrants who arrive in the US without prior approval to wait for six months after filing for asylum, to receive a work permit,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party urges its members to allow migrants seeking asylum with a definite hearing date to receive a work authorization immediately.

3.21 RESOLUTION PROMOTING POLICIES TO PREVENT MASS SHOOTINGS

Whereas, the high number of mass shootings in the United States is a tragic distinction among nations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the passage of legislation that prevents the availability of military-grade weaponry among the general population shall be encouraged; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that increased funding and support for mental health programs should be made available.

3.22 RESOLUTION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING/HOMELESS INITIATIVES

Whereas, we continue to see the number of individuals and families that are homeless increasing; and

Whereas, affordable housing is a critical need in our community to address the crisis with un-housed individuals and families; and

Whereas, Veterans who fought for our country are experiencing homelessness at an alarming rate along with mental and physical health problems;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party supports:

- Increase funding that will assist with building affordable housing in our communities;
- Provide more funding for mental health needs in our community;
- Insure the well-being of our children by providing safe, decent, and sanitary housing; and
- Reduce and eliminate homelessness in our communities.

3.23 RESOLUTION ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE

Whereas, reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy are essential human rights; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has recently overturned fifty years of settled law on a partisan basis in order to return the issue of reproductive rights to the states; and

Whereas, pregnancy and childbirth pose enormous physical, emotional and mental risks to the life, health and mental welfare of pregnant persons; and

Whereas, maternal mortality rates in the United States are worse than in most other industrialized nations in the world; and

Whereas, the total maternal mortality rate in North Carolina was 44 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2023, as opposed to the national rate of 32.9 deaths per 100,000 live births, according to the CDC and National Center for Health Statistics; and

Whereas, data from 2021 indicate that the maternal mortality rate nationwide was 69.9 deaths per 100,000 live births for Black women, compared to a rate of 26.6 per 100,000 live births for white women, according to the CDC and National Center for Health Statistics; and

Whereas, in North Carolina, where 22% of the population is Black, approximately 43% of pregnancy related deaths were among Black women between 2020 and 2021; and

Whereas, the dangers posed by pregnancy and childbirth far outweigh the risks of abortion procedures; and

Whereas, in 2023 the North Carolina Assembly passed legislation restricting reproductive rights;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party demands that the North Carolina General Assembly rescind SB 20, the ratified bill "Women's Right to Know Act," now Session Law 2023-14.

3.24 RESOLUTION FOR THE STANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

Whereas, all people and life forms require a healthy, robust and balanced environment to sustain health and well-being; and

Whereas, local and state governments are empowered to make decisions that critically impact the current and future outcomes of the quality of our air, water delivery systems, rivers, forests, wetlands, riparian areas, human health and building practices; and

Whereas, descriptions of economic development favor emphasis on human-centered activities, traditionally narrowed concepts of human prosperity, and weak descriptions and considerations of nature's life-supporting relevance via networked ecosystems of life;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party encourages state and local officials to consider the proposed impact of an economic development decision on the environment.

3.25 RESOLUTION TO END YOUTH CURFEWS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party oppose the creation, expansion, and existence of non-emergency youth curfew laws.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party call on our elected officials across the country to oppose youth curfew laws.

3.26 RESOLUTION REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE THRESHOLDS BE BASED ON TOTAL SEATS

WHEREAS, In order to address the business of government, state, territorial, and national legislative bodies require a quorum of members - most often a majority - be present in order to function; and

WHEREAS, Until such quorum is determined to have been lost, the work of the given legislative body is done via votes based on the fraction of "present and voting" members rather than fraction of total seats of the body; and

WHEREAS, The determination of voting thresholds by present and voting members rather than by total seats effectively disenfranchises the communities whose legislator is absent or otherwise unable to participate; and

WHEREAS, Legislative bodies often strategically "garage" votes until absences cause thresholds to fall as a way of bypassing the will of the majority to pass legislation or do other business that would normally not have the necessary support; and

WHEREAS, The absence of a legislator should not be taken as that community's disinterest or neutrality in the given business of government; and

WHEREAS, The threshold of votes fluctuating based on attending members leaves vulnerabilities in our democratic government in which actors supporting the passage of unpopular legislation can artificially lower the

necessary thresholds of affirmative votes by blocking the attendance of opposed members;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party and all its elected members support changing the threshold requirements of public legislative bodies from present members to total seats of the body in all cases except under legislative emergency as dictated by the constitutions of the operating political entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That additional voting methods be explored to allow for the greater participation of physically absent legislators.

3.27 RESOLUTION TO END THE NATURAL BORN CITIZEN CLAUSE

WHEREAS, Article Two, Section One of the Constitution of the United States states that “No Person except a natural born Citizen... shall be eligible to the Office of President;” and

WHEREAS, This clause alone permanently disqualifies approximately 50 million Americans, approximately 28 million of which are current citizens, from ever becoming President based solely on where they were born; and

WHEREAS, Birthplace, in itself, has no bearing on the qualities or allegiances of any person to any nation; and

WHEREAS, Limitations on who can hold public office are inherently antidemocratic and must only exist where absolutely necessary;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party and all its elected members support amending the Constitution of the United States to remove the language creating the natural born citizen clause.

3.28 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FAIR ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, Our parents and grandparents fought for democracy in World War II against fascism and authoritarianism; and

WHEREAS, Democrats shall continue the fight for democracy, the Constitution of the United States, the rule of law, and the right for all eligible people to vote; now, therefore, be it

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That, as Democrats, we shall continue to fight against gerrymandering and the vast amount of corporate money in our politics, in order to make the North Carolina and national elections fairer and more representative of our diverse electorate.

3.29 RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS THE TAX NEEDS OF THOSE ON FIXED INCOMES

WHEREAS, The definition of a fixed income shall be any income given to a person through a government program, retirement account, or any method where an individual cannot support themselves through the traditional means of labor and thus cannot increase said income through employment; and

WHEREAS, An individual on fixed income shall mean anyone who lives off a retirement account, receives social security, or receives any other governmental payments on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, A large population of the North Carolina community are individuals who receive a fixed income that cannot be increased; and

WHEREAS, That many of these persons are senior citizens and land owners within North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, an increasing percentage of North Carolina residents' income are going to property taxes; and

WHEREAS, That this increase in property tax has been disproportionate to the fixed incomes of persons who rely upon them, causing these persons to choose between necessary means of living and paying their taxes; and

WHEREAS, This has occurred at the county and municipal level across the state;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party by and through its leadership and the Affiliated Organizations by and through their leadership undertake necessary action to understand this increase in property tax and how it affects our citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party by and through its leadership and the Affiliated Organizations by and through their leadership use their means and knowledge of politics to pressure local leaders, elected or not, into adopting ordinance or legislation to address the needs of those who cannot increase their income.

3.30 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING VETERANS' CARE

WHEREAS, The ongoing privatization of medical and psychological care to veterans provided by the Veterans' Administration Healthcare System (VHA) is being undermined by outsourcing it under the provisions of the MISSION Act, and is a threat to the VHA's four missions: healthcare for veterans; education for physicians and other healthcare professionals; research; and national preparedness; and

WHEREAS, Approximately one-third of veterans are now referred to providers in the private, for-profit sector under the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP) authorized under the MISSION Act and the cost has more than doubled since 2014 to over \$18 billion; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has publicly stated that the rate of outsourcing care under VCCP is not sustainable; and

WHEREAS, Only VHA is equipped to deal with veteran-centric issues such as military Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, (PTSD), military sexual trauma, exposure to toxic agents such as Agent Orange and chemicals from burn pits, traumatic brain injuries, and its continued existence as a robust institution is essential to the health of today's and future veterans; and

WHEREAS, There are no independent reviews of the cost and quality of care in the VCCP, while VHA facilities constantly undergo publicly-available reviews by the Veterans Administration Inspector General and other government agencies such as the Congressional Accountability Office; and

WHEREAS, VA hospitals outperformed non-VA hospitals on all ten core patient satisfaction metrics, including overall hospital rating, communication with doctors, communication about medication and the willingness to recommend the hospital, according to Medicare's latest nationwide survey of patients; and

WHEREAS, Numerous peer-reviewed studies show that VHA care is more timely, equal to, and often superior to private-sector care; and

WHEREAS, A survey by the VA showed the 90 percent of VHA patients are satisfied with the care they receive in VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, The cost of war must always include caring for those who answered the call to duty;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Democratic Party calls on Congress, the President, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pause the growth in outsourcing of veterans' care to private providers under the VCCP until an independent and thorough study can be completed on the cost and quality of care provided under the VCCP, and such a study can evaluate the impact of the VCCP on the continued viability of VHA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Democratic Party calls on Congress, the President, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to fully staff all VHA positions as one of its top priorities so that veterans who choose VHA as their provider can receive in-house care at VA facilities.

3.31 RESOLUTION TO DENY PERMITS TO LIQUID NATURAL GAS FACILITIES

WHEREAS, Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is primarily composed of methane, a much more potent greenhouse gas in the short term compared with CO₂; and

WHEREAS, Methane can leak anywhere along the supply chain from the production wellhead to processing plants, pipelines, and more; and

WHEREAS, The process of liquefying gas to make it suitable for transport is extremely energy intensive, creating yet more emissions; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party at all levels shall support the Biden Administration's pause of any new LNG export terminals and ask the Department of Energy to consider the denial of permits for said LNG storage facility projects, highlighting a commitment to thoroughly examine the impact of said proposed construction and prioritizing the health of humans in those communities and the ecosystems LNG terminals will impact.

3.32 RESOLUTION AGAINST STRIKE-BREAKING AND UNION-BUSTING ACTIVITIES

Whereas, the right of workers to engage in collective bargaining and peaceful strikes is fundamental to the principles of fair labor practices;

Whereas, strike-breaking activities and union-busting tactics undermine the rights of workers to organize, collectively bargain, and advocate for better working conditions;

Whereas, recognizing the detrimental impact of such practices on the well-being and rights of workers, leading to increased inequality and exploitation;

Whereas, understanding that the strength of labor unions lies in their ability to collectively negotiate for fair wages, improved working conditions, and job security;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The North Carolina Democratic Party unequivocally opposes strike-breaking and union-busting activities as a violation of the fundamental rights of workers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The North Carolina Democratic Party condemns any attempts to undermine the collective bargaining power of labor unions and supports the right of workers to organize and engage in peaceful strikes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The North Carolina Democratic Party pledges to actively advocate against and raise awareness about strike-breaking and union-busting practices, striving to protect the rights and dignity of workers.

3.33 RESOLUTION FOR MEASUREMENT AND REDUCTION OF INCOME INEQUALITY

WHEREAS, timely and well publicized measurements of Income Equality are not readily available; and

WHEREAS, those measurements that have been published by the World Bank and

CIA for previous years indicate that income equality in the US ranks at the top of the lowest third (33rd percentile) among countries; and

WHEREAS, industries are rising prices at a higher rate than rising costs and increasing profits as well;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party shall work to decrease income inequality in the US to at least the 50th percentile amongst countries in this decade, while also working to ensure that timely measurements of income inequality are publicized and working to end all subsidies to industries engaged in price gouging.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USA will end the reduced tax level for Capital Gains and replace it with specific rewards for increased employment, continued employment and contribution to reducing Income Equality through higher wages and fair pricing.

4. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

4.1 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES' COMMITMENT TO NATO

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party recognizes the critical importance that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) plays in ensuring the safety of the United States and its allies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party is committed to the United States' continued leadership in and support of NATO regardless of whether individual members meet contribution and defense spending targets.

4.2 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party advocates for the United States to support Ukraine with the maximum funding, arms and materiel consistent with the security requirements of the United States' armed forces.

4.3 RESOLUTION TO BLOCK NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO SAUDI ARABIA

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party supports restricting the transfer of nuclear technology to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that can be used in a future nuclear weapons program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party supports denuclearization of the region including the eradication of existing nuclear weapons programs in states such as Israel and Iran.

4.4 RESOLUTION HONORING ALEXEI NAVALNY

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party mourns the death and honors the memory of Russian democratic leader Alexei Navalny; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats should be inspired by Navalny's example in our own work to protect and strengthen democracy in the United States and around the world.

4.5 RESOLUTION PROTECTING LGBTQI+ RIGHTS

WHEREAS LGBTQI+ people are criminalized by many governments, including Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iran, Afghanistan, Mauritania, northern Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates, Palestinian Authority, and Hamas, including capital punishment in many cases;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party strongly supports the human rights, freedom and dignity LGBTQI+ people, to include the right to safety, bodily autonomy and to live free from persecution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party condemns all parties, both States and non-State groups, that persecute, harm or otherwise abridge the rights of LGBTQI+ people.

4.6 RESOLUTION PROTECTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

WHEREAS the rights of women around the world are under attack by various states and non-state groups, such as Iran, Afghanistan, the Islamic State of Iraq, ISIS, and others;

BE IT RESOLVED the Democratic Party strongly supports the human rights, freedom and dignity of women, to include the right to safety, bodily autonomy, and freedom from persecution and oppression;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party condemns all parties, both States and non-State groups, that fail to protect women's rights and safety and seek to repress the human rights of women.

4.7 RESOLUTION FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS WITH FULL SUFFRAGE IN ISRAEL

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party believes in the defense and expansion of democratic principles, and opposes efforts to implement barriers to voting in the United States and abroad; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party believes that the expansion of suffrage rights and democratic participation within a society makes that society's government more stable

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party endorses open democratic elections in Israel which, at minimum, any person who fulfills all five of the following criteria should be allowed to vote.

1. The person lives in an area that Israel claims sovereignty over and which the United States of America acknowledges is part of Israel.
2. The person was born in an area that Israel claims sovereignty over and which the United States of America acknowledges is part of Israel.
3. The person is subject to Israeli laws and is required to pay taxes to the Israeli government.
4. The person is of legal age to be considered an adult.

4.8 RESOLUTION ON THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

WHEREAS, The ominous danger of destructive damage by the use of nuclear weapons is an existential threat to everyone on the planet; their potential for complete devastation doesn't discriminate between nuclear or non-nuclear states. This reality is evident daily by the ongoing war in Ukraine where Russian leadership has repeatedly threatened possible use of nuclear

weapons. Such use, whether intentional or accidental due to human error or equipment failure could quickly become catastrophic and dramatically impact all of current life on our planet earth; and

WHEREAS, Use of the weapons about which all leaders of nuclear countries have declared we don't want to use these weapons, humanity is faced with a standoff precipitated by one member of the U.N. Security Council: Russia. Faced with this intractable situation, nuclear countries continue the development and refinement of existing nuclear weapons, investing tens of billions, misusing funds that could provide support for their own sorely needed domestic needs - building more nuclear weapons that no one wants to use! Diverting those funds to domestic needs, yet keeping enough of them to continue the Build Down procedures in compliance with the former Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty would be an enormous contribution to U.S. and worldwide security, health, and safety;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That to implement and enhance U.S. security by diverting the cited funds as proposed and to fully address the existing opportunity to recognize and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition Of Nuclear Weapons that is now recognized by over 100 countries and ratified as international law by 71 countries worldwide, and for the U.S. to assiduously work to bring other nuclear powers to participate in this effort.

4.9 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NEW ELECTIONS IN PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

WHEREAS, New presidential elections and legislative elections for the Palestinian National Authority - the governing body of the Palestinian territories - have not taken place since 2005 and 2006 respectively; and

WHEREAS, Without serious pressure from the international community, Palestinian President Mahmood Abbas has been able to repeatedly and indefinitely postpone new elections, most recently after polling and internal reports showed that a free and fair contest would likely result in his personal loss and/or the victory of candidates who would not be personally loyal to himself; and

WHEREAS, The lack of government accountability created by almost two decades with no new elections has produced a system in which widespread corruption, cronyism, and political favoritism are allowed to flourish; and

WHEREAS, Arab allies of the Abbas regime have used their regional influence to prevent new elections where their preferred candidates were projected to lose;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That, in furtherance of our commitment to democracy around the world, the United States join the United Nations in calling for new Palestinian presidential and legislative elections along with neutral observers to verify that such elections remain free, fair, democratic, peaceful, and credible; and

RESOLVED, If elections continue to be postponed, that the United States work with its allies to assist in overcoming the obstacles causing further delay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Once elections are held and are verified to have been conducted in a free, fair, democratic, peaceful, and credible manor, that the United States affirm a duly elected Palestinian National Authority's right to take over Palestinian governance and policy implementation from the current Palestinian National Authority and Abbas regime.

4.10 RESOLUTION TO STRENGTHEN NATO AND SUPPORT UKRAINE

WHEREAS, Russia has embarked on an expansionist policy since 1992; and

WHEREAS, Russia has intervened in the internal affairs of Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022;

WHEREAS, Sixteen European states, fearing Russia might attack them, have joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since 1992; and

WHEREAS, NATO, with American support, has formed a bulwark against this expansion and prevented the possibility of a major war; and

WHEREAS, A leader of a major American political party is taking steps to weaken NATO and inviting Russian aggression against NATO member states, potentially involving the United States in a major war;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party gives full support to the American efforts to strengthen NATO and provide aid to Ukraine in its war against Russia, with the hope of sustaining a free people and avoiding wider war.

4.11 RESOLUTION ON THE WAR IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Whereas, the war in Israel and Palestine, as well as settlers violence in the West Bank has been a source of immense suffering for both Israeli and Palestinian people;

Whereas, the ongoing war and the continuing hostage crisis, starvation, destruction, indiscriminate targeting of civilians by both sides, West Bank settlers violence, and humanitarian crisis, etc. are matters of international, national, and local concern;

Whereas, anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian hatred and violence is on the rise across the U.S.;

Whereas, Hamas's unjustifiable October 7, 2023 attack on Israeli civilians was the deadliest attack against Jewish people since the Shoah;

Whereas, the Israeli government's military response to Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack has resulted in immense and unjustifiable Palestinian civilian casualties, forced displacement leading to a refugee crisis, and famine conditions in Gaza;

Whereas, Democrats have deep commitments to principles of human rights, international law, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts;

Whereas, international law forbids the intentional targeting of civilians, hostage-taking, use of human shields, genocide, collective punishment, forced displacement, using humanitarian funds and hospitals to support war efforts, mass starvation, the cutting off of water and electricity to civilians,

and denial of humanitarian funds and aid, and the carpet bombing of Palestinian civilians;

Whereas, the North Carolina Democratic Party platform states its support of policies and programs that restore our moral status in the world by promoting human rights and democracy;

Whereas, the North Carolina Democratic Party platform states its commitment to restoring U.S. leadership in international institutions such as the United Nations and other alliances;

Whereas, President Biden and his administration, having previously worked to secure humanitarian pauses in the ongoing war and to deliver humanitarian aid to Palestinian civilians, continue to work for a ceasefire and hostage release agreement, and continue to vehemently oppose the escalation of Israeli combat operations in Rafah and elsewhere in Gaza;

Whereas, the continuing, unjustified loss of life of civilians in Palestine has led to protests and direct action across the U.S., including protests at a number of college and university campuses;

Whereas, the right to free speech is fundamental and core to shared American values, and students should be able to exercise it peacefully;

Whereas, not all Jews are Israelis; not all Jews are Zionists; not all Israelis are Jews; not all Israelis are Zionists; not all Muslims are Arabs; not all Arabs are Muslim; not all Palestinians are Muslim; and the Democratic Party understands that while perspectives regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict are varied and complex across its broad coalition, anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian bigotry have no place in the Democratic Party or in American civic life;

Whereas, as of the drafting of this resolution, the hostage crisis continues, as does the unjustifiable suffering and loss of life of Palestinian civilians as well as the suffering of Palestinians prisoners held by Israel, including approximately 12,000 who have never been charged, including children;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the North Carolina Democratic Party:

Expresses its immense sorrow over the loss of innocent lives and the suffering endured by civilians in Gaza, Israel, and the broader region;

Calls for an immediate ceasefire prioritizing the protection of civilian lives;

Calls for the immediate release of all Israeli hostages taken by Hamas;

Calls for the immediate release of Palestinian hostages taken by Israel;

Condemns any and all acts of terrorism perpetrated Israel or Hamas, or by any side to the war, and other organizations which have been designated terrorist organizations by the US Government, as of October 8th, 1997, as designated by the US Secretary of State in accordance with Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended;

Calls for the condemnation of all war crimes, including but not limited to rape and sexual assault as a weapons of war;

Urges the international community, including the United States, to actively support and engage in diplomatic efforts to remove from power and bring to justice those who perpetrated the October 7th massacre;

Urges the international community, including the United States, to actively support and engage in diplomatic efforts to remove from power and bring to justice those who have committed war crimes in the course of the ongoing war in Gaza;

Stands in solidarity with the people of Israel and Palestine, who are suffering from the violence and hostilities;

Supports equality and political participation for all Palestinians and peoples in Israel;

Calls upon the United States and international governments to facilitate a peaceful resolution to the war in Israel Palestine;

Calls on North Carolina Democrats to recognize the humanity of both Palestinian and Israelis people when commenting on the ongoing war and

hostage crisis, and, while respecting the fundamental right to peacefully protest, condemns rhetoric that leads to violence;

Calls on lawmakers, law enforcement, and college and university leaders to respect the fundamental rights of North Carolinians to peacefully protest;

Calls on the North Carolina congressional delegation to advocate for a comprehensive and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that respects the rights and aspirations of all parties;

Commits itself to raising awareness about the Israeli-Palestinian issue and fostering dialogue and understanding within our own party and among our constituents; and

Supports President Biden's continuing efforts to seek a peaceful resolution to the War on Gaza and the ongoing hostage crisis.

5. INTERNAL PARTY MATTERS

6. OTHER ISSUES

PARTY PLATFORM

Civil Rights and Racial Justice

We believe that an efficient civil justice system is necessary to protect individual rights, to maintain a stable business environment, and to promote social order. As Democrats we understand that we must support law enforcement agencies and their guardianship of peace and public safety for all persons in North Carolina while working to protect the fair, neutral, application of our laws and constitution to all members of our communities. Specifically, we believe in the following actions:

- Address systemic racism in all areas of American life, including housing, education, healthcare, criminal justice, and economic opportunity, and eliminate discriminatory practices and policies.
- Invest in communities of color by directing resources towards programs and initiatives that promote economic opportunity, affordable housing, quality education and healthcare, and support small businesses owned by people of color.
- Reform the criminal justice system to eliminate racial disparities in policing, sentencing, and incarceration, and promote alternatives to incarceration, such as community-based programs and restorative justice.
- Support racial justice initiatives and oppose discriminatory practices and enforcement.
- Increase representation of people of color in leadership positions and decision-making roles at all levels of government, including the judicial system, law enforcement, and public education.
- Provide support and resources for Black and minority-owned businesses, entrepreneurs, and workers, including access to capital, training, and mentorship.
- Promote voting rights and civic engagement in the Black community, including combating voter suppression and gerrymandering, and expanding access to early voting, mail-in voting, and polling places in underserved communities.
- Forbid the use of Ghost Cars by Law Enforcement.
- Address health disparities by expanding access to affordable healthcare and investing in community-based health programs
- Promote amending the NC Constitution to allow for citizen ballot initiatives.

- Adopt the Genuine Progress Indicator proposed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to measure the overall wellness and happiness of North Carolinians.
- Mandatory curriculum on African American, Native American and civil rights history.
- Explore Non-partisan redistricting models.
- Implement Leandro.
- Support the enfranchisement of prisoners as stripping individuals of voting rights is a violation of democracy.
- Promote the passage of laws protecting data privacy and prosecuting violators of such laws, which should include active opt-in rather than opt-out for sharing data (that is, you must actively consent to having your data shared, rather than it being assumed).
- Adjust internal metrics of success for law-enforcement agencies (LEAs) to encourage only taking action in response to violent crime or property crime.
- End focus on minor crimes/"broken window policing."
- End no-knock warrants immediately.
- Establish Independent Civilian Boards for all hiring, firing, promotion, reviews, disciplinary actions, subpoena power, composed of volunteers and/or paid professionals (as necessary) chosen by the community.
- Eliminate School Resource Officer (SRO) positions.
- Immediately end all military training and the acquisition of any military hardware by LEAs. End the Pentagon 1033 Program.
- Significantly expand the scope of expungeable criminal offenses once a person has served their sentence. This does not remove the information from LEAs or the judicial system.
- Prohibit deployment of SWAT teams, and similar groups, except in response to an escalating situation where a more heavily armed and armored team is required, specifically hostage-barricade and active shooter situations.
- Body cameras must be worn and activated in all cases, footage shall be released within 1 week of a public records request.
- Constant training must become a part of the law enforcement officers' (LEOs) daily lives, including de-escalation, use-of-force training, and adoption of a duty-to-intervene.
- End all assistance to and cooperation with ICE which is not federally required.

- Establish Safe Injection Sites, coupled with cops no longer enforcing laws against personal possession, run by health departments or substance abuse treatment facilities.
- Require all LEOs on law enforcement duty (as opposed to undercover, investigating incidents, or providing personal security) to wear identifiable uniforms and use marked vehicles. Marked Vehicles means clearly visible and with sirens mounted on top. Agencies without uniforms must have identification and badges worn visibly.
- Grant Whistleblower Protection for all LEOs who are attempting to disclose corruption, misconduct and systemic misconduct, or abuses of power by other LEOs.
- Require rotating duties to reduce trauma
- LEOs must be paid above a living wage to ensure they can live and raise families in the communities they serve without requiring a second job, especially as second jobs decrease sleep and increase stress.
- Standardized required, regular mental health check-ups for all LEOs, an annual mental physical, with free, confidential, follow-up treatment, with a secondary aim of normalizing engagement with mental health treatment.
- Predictive analytic algorithms are only as accurate and unbiased as people. Given the systemic racism of law enforcement there can be no world in which these algorithms do not produce racially-biased results given racially biased input data. Ban all predictive analytics and use of compstat predictive analytic software.
- Restrict LEAs' access to private company databases without warrants. For Example, LEAs access private databases without warrants to determine people seeking abortions across state lines. This includes smart doorbells.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts shall include information on race in its data reporting.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts shall require racial equity training for court system personnel.
- Shift responsibility for many emergency calls to more appropriate professionals- mental health, substance abuse, report writer, etc. These will not be police. They will be in a separate, unarmed, organization.
- Establish, expand, and fully-fund state-run Mobile Crisis services, routed through 911 operators and a series of services for mental health and drug abuse.

- Technology should be used to further limit encounters with LEOs whenever possible (e.g. License plate readers for speeding tickets, thereby reducing the number of Terry Stops).
- Cutting police budgets and redirecting those funds towards community programs, education, and public services, after shifting responsibilities and establishing new and expanded social services.
- Require all LEOs hired from this point forward to have a Bachelor's or equivalent degree.
- All LEOs must disclose their entire disciplinary record from all jurisdictions publicly.
- Restrict law-enforcement Unions to negotiating terms and conditions of employment. Unions should not use tactics that interfere with the administration of justice or which delay investigations relating to the conduct of law enforcement officers or those involved with conducting investigations.
- Establish a state-wide database which identifies the dates, approximate times and locations of all incidents involving excessive use of force, sexual misconduct, or the withholding or manipulation of evidence by all LEOs. Require mandatory reporting within 30 days of each incident, with updates within 30 days for any updates or substantial changes of status. The entire database must be online and accessible to the public. A national database must also be established with the same parameters and guidelines.
- Eliminate cash bail and Pretrial Detention with exceptions for violent crimes or flight risks.
- Mandate that all fines levied and assets forfeited, civil or criminal involving state court matters be invested in the local community. We further support the elimination of seizures and forfeitures in Terry Stop matters.
- Eliminate private prisons.
- Eliminate the carrying of firearms by alcohol law enforcement officers.
- Modify Qualified Immunity to fit the new, narrowed, scope of police responsibilities. The parameters for what allows suspension of qualified immunity must be drastically expanded, as Colorado has done.
- Require the purchase of one million dollars of insurance to cover claims against cities, counties, or other forms of municipalities for claims in which government entities would assert sovereign immunity as a defense.

- Require the NC Administrative Office of the Courts who work with the NCGA to establish policies which will allow Judges discretion in establishing court costs, fines, and fees based upon the financial status of the individual circumstances in cases coming before them.
- Public Defenders must be fully funded to enable attorneys to fully and effectively represent the interests of their clients.
- Decriminalize adult prostitution, gambling, homelessness, and the possession of drugs by users. Decriminalize non-violent crimes that pose no threat to the community or individual lives, liberty, or property.
- Legalize and tax cannabis.
- Establish a sustainable path to recovery for those guilty of crimes of poverty and fully fund it without exception. This will include access to safe affordable housing, adequate food, access to the internet, job-skills training, and medical care.
- Study the reformation of Law Enforcement Agencies to fit the new, narrowed scope of police responsibilities. This will also sever the connection to the historical racism inherent in the formation of LEAs.
- Abolish the death penalty in North Carolina.
- Require the NC Department of Corrections (NC DoC) to adopt policies and programs which place emphasis on the rehabilitation of inmates rather than retribution.
- The NC DoC should be required to eliminate solitary confinement of inmates. NC DoC shall, to the extent reasonable or feasible, use outside, 3rd party investigators to investigate the death of inmates held in custody. Counties in NC should be enabled to establish civilian boards that will provide oversight of local or regional jail facilities.
- Adopt the Mandela Rules- This includes strict limits on who may be put in solitary confinement (i.e. pregnant women), limiting the maximum number of days someone can be placed in solitary confinement, etc. in compliance with UN recommendations.
- Support statehood for D.C. and Puerto Rico.

Economic Policy

As North Carolina Democrats, we believe that economic growth expands opportunity for everyone. While we recognize that providing government services and benefits is not free, the

mechanisms that lead to general prosperity for our residents are an efficient government operating in a regulated but free market economy. Workforce development and economic development will help to achieve prosperity for all North Carolinians. Specifically, we believe in the following actions:

- Study the establishment of a system that rewards state and federal agencies that are able to reduce their expenditures and to reward the agency with an amount equivalent to 1% of the savings they were able to create.
- Support free community college and trade school education for all NC residents.
- Reverse the 2013 dismantling of unemployment insurance/benefits in North Carolina and reinstatement of prior law as it relates to the term of benefits and the amount of compensation.
- Adopt Senator Sanders Real Wall Street Reforms.
- Equitable increase in taxes on the wealthy and corporations.
- Work towards sustainable economic growth and development.
- Change North Carolina's weekly benefit calculation to supply a living wage.
- Increase the maximum benefit amount.
- Mandate living wages and ban all sub-living wages, including for disabled workers.
- Increase the maximum duration someone can receive benefits.
- Address roadblocks created by the state's low "earnings disregard."
- Adopt Work-Sharing/Short-Time Compensation Option for Employers (These are effectively alternatives to lay-offs which benefit both employers and employees).
- Adopt Verify 4 in North Carolina.
- Adopt strong measures to combat wage theft and punish those who engage in it.
- Support small businesses and occupational retraining centers.
- Address and remove economic barriers to re-entry by those who have served their time in the prison system.
- Immediately implement a ban on balance billing and surprise bills in healthcare.
- Oppose any and all attempts to cut/limit Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

- Support student loan forgiveness and efforts to make education and professional trades more accessible to all.
- Study and develop what economic policies are determined to best serve the people of North Carolina.
- Implement universal and high quality childcare options for all North Carolina parents.

Education

Strong communities, a robust economy, and a brighter future are only possible when we prioritize the education of every child in our state . The public education system is the bedrock of the future for every child in North Carolina. As Democrats, we must provide public schools that deliver quality, accessible, and developmentally appropriate education for every child in our state. Specifically we believe in taking the following actions:

- The elimination of all school meal debts that have been incurred in North Carolina.
- Establishment of free-of-charge, nutritionally balanced breakfast and lunch each school day to all students pre-K to 12th grade in all publicly funded schools.
- Increasing per-pupil funding so that it is among the top 10% of ranked states.
- Investing in our teachers by providing competitive salaries and benefits, professional development opportunities, and resources to ensure they have the support they need to provide the best education possible for our students.
- Increase pay for teachers in hard-to-staff schools.
- Increase pay for all staff when responsibilities increase.
- Ensuring that all students have access to high-quality early childhood education.
- Invest heavily in STEM and civics education.
- Increasing funding for K-12 education to improve student outcomes and reduce achievement gaps.
- Providing additional resources for public schools in low-income and rural areas to ensure that all students have access to the same educational opportunities.

- Ensuring that our public universities and community colleges have the resources they need to provide tuition-free, accessible, and high-quality higher education opportunities for all North Carolinians.
- Ensuring that all households with children have broadband access.
- Strongly oppose the politicization of school boards.
- Working for a statutory language amendment to NC General Statutes § 116-1 to change the University of North Carolina mission statement to read "...to discover, create, transmit, and apply knowledge to address the needs of individuals and a democratic society."
- Actively encourage civic engagement in all schools and voting in all universities, while removing barriers to the same.
- Develop recruitment and retention programs to attract and keep the best teachers.
- Support scholarships for minorities who seek to become educators.
- Democrats believe in making North Carolina public schools the best in the nation for overall student success by raising per-student funding up from under \$11k per student currently, to the \$20k per student that our schools need to succeed. We oppose all voucher schemes, both for private and religious institutions, which have been used since the 1950's by Segregationists to thwart the racial integration of public schools, and which move public funds out of public schools.
- Democrats support maintaining honest, accurate, and factual curricula for North Carolina students.
- We oppose all attempts to censor what is being taught in public schools across the nation, and all legislative efforts to discriminate against our LGBTQIA+ students.
- Continue to address the economic and racial funding gaps that have hurt students for too long, so that every child gets a high-quality education, no matter where they live.
- Support early childhood education programs.
- Support vocational education and training.
- Provide equity and trauma counseling training for all public school teachers.
- Oppose Book Bans.

- Oppose the NC General Assembly from establishing new criteria that restrict classroom curriculum.
- The NC Democratic Party endorses the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individual with Disabilities Education Act, access and reasonable accommodation, and Free Appropriate Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) especially in underserved communities.

Environment

The Democratic Party has consistently supported serious and effective measures to protect our environment and natural resources, while acknowledging the needs for global economic development and opportunities for our North Carolinians. We must take steps to reduce global warming and combat climate change which we know is harming our statewide natural resources. Specifically we believe in taking the following actions:

- Massive public investment in local solar, battery storage, and wind power as well as energy efficiency and transportation infrastructure which reduces or eliminates carbon emissions.
- Developing a constituency of environmentalists that will promote the Green New Deal and a Just Transition to clean energy as well as legislation while championing new and more advanced endeavors as science allows.
- The support and development at the municipal and state levels of co-op owned renewable energy providers, insulation firms, etc.
- Urging all policy makers at all levels to keep the climate crisis in mind and to always seek to minimize or negate negative impacts.
- Prioritizing environmental justice and equity including recognizing that low-income communities and communities of color will be the first, but not the last group to deal with climate catastrophes.
- Funding by the state and federal governments for publicly-owned wind, solar (or homeowner owned), geothermal power generation as well as storage resources, with the goal of US energy production becoming 100% carbon neutral by 2040.
- Urges all candidates for and holders of public office to refuse all donations from fossil fuel interests or any PACs associated with them, and or any independent expenditure groups.

- The passage of legislation instructing the State Treasurer to divest, with due diligence, from fossil fuel companies for state and local employee pension funds.
- Urges that the selection of appointees to the NC Utilities Commission be committed to moving away from fossil fuels, and towards wind, solar, and geothermal sources, as well as storage resources.
- That any new poultry Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) should be required to obtain a permit to operate and to develop and submit an animal waste management plan and obtain approval from the Department of Environmental Quality (DoEQ) prior to beginning operations, and that such operations with 30,000 or more birds shall develop and submit such a plan annually in order to continue operation, and that funds shall be made available to the DoEQ Division of Water Resources to develop educational resources and provide technical assistance for owners and operators of dry litter poultry facilities in complying with these requirements.
- Actively and aggressively call for a long-term, state-wide plan for climate resilience.
- Develop and implement an effective highway litter management program.
- Actively protect all remaining old growth forests in the state.
- Immediately ban the production and use of single-use plastic bags as well as requiring all plastic makers to account and pay for all plastic recycling in North Carolina.
- Develop and implement comprehensive climate crisis education mandatory for all NC students, in public, private or charter schools.
- Banning glyphosates, a herbicide heavily linked to cancer in humans.
- Study redesigning or redesignating streets to create bike lanes, sheltered bus stops, safe and lit crosswalks, and that street- calming strategies be implemented to lower traffic, while also working to de-emphasize gas-powered automobiles in favor of green alternatives.
- Calling on members of Congress to address climate change directly and immediately, specifically passing a Carbon Fee and Dividend Bill, as well as whatever else is required.

- Investment in solutions to climate change, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and transportation infrastructure that reduces or eliminates emissions.
- Prioritize environmental justice and equity, recognizing that low-income communities and communities of color are often disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation.
- Strongly advocate for significant environmental protections at all levels of government.
- Roll out a massive public investment in decarbonization infrastructure and services.

Healthcare and Mental Health

As Democrats we believe that everyone is entitled to comprehensive universal healthcare including, physical, mental, and behavioral medical care. Until we achieve universal healthcare, we support the expansion of Medicaid, the improvement of Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act, and oppose any efforts to reduce their coverage or benefits. We believe that eliminating systemic monopolies in the provision of prescription drugs and health care services would improve access and lower costs for the healthcare medicines and treatments needed by our North Carolina residents. Specifically we believe in taking the following actions:

- Ban Balanced Billing and Surprise Medical Bills.
- Enact the End of Life Option Act which allows adults sound of mind, diagnosed by two qualifying physicians as suffering from incurable, terminal illness likely to result in death within six months to willingly terminate their lives in a controlled medical manner, and exempting from prosecution any third parties who aid them in this.
- Condemn and actively oppose laws, medical misinformation, and the interference of elected officials in the civil rights of Americans to receive medical and surgical treatments in consultation with their physician.
- Enact Universal Healthcare via Medicare for all ; we oppose any discrimination in the provision of health care services because of age, disability, race, color, natural hairstyle, citizenship, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, healthcare status, familial status, veteran

status, religious affiliation, religious clothing/hairstyle, creed, cultural or subcultural affiliations, or spiritual beliefs.

- Strongly oppose any and all attempts to cut Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.
- Support Medicaid coverage of abortion.
- Actively defend the Affordable Care Act and work to expand it.
- Support and destigmatize mental healthcare.
- Expand mental health care workforce through funding for masters level mental health education programs, and enhanced reimbursement for Peer Support Services and services delivered by Qualified Mental Health Professionals.
- Support robust protections and enforcement for mandatory mental health parity coverage.

Housing

Democrats believe that all Americans are entitled to live in safe, affordable housing, that accommodates diverse populations, allows people with different income levels to live as neighbors, opposes discriminatory practices in housing such as redlining, and encourages the dream of homeownership, for all the people of North Carolina, regardless of economic status, race, ethnicity, age, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, familial status, or veteran status. We believe that counties and municipalities should be granted flexibility by the North Carolina General Assembly to address these issues. Specifically, we believe in the following actions:

- Pass the Housing Survivors of Major Disasters Act (H.R., 3037, 2022) to address barriers preventing access to FEMA aid, and provide that expanded options for proving home ownership apply retroactively.
- Pass federal legislation to permanently implement HUD's Mixed-Status Rule to provide access to federal housing assistance and modify it to function regardless of immigration status of their family members.
- Promote state and local rental assistance programs to provide emergency rental and utility costs assistance and resources for homeowners struggling with mortgage payments, as well as funds for the repair of existing housing units, including weatherization/energy efficiency.

- Enforce the federal Fair Housing Act (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968), as well as requiring landlords to accept Section 8 housing vouchers.
- Advocate for comprehensive green energy policies in housing.
- Support and enforce fair housing provisions of the North Carolina Human Right Act, as well as all North Carolina laws that apply to persons discriminated against because of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, national origin, physical or mental handicaps, or economic, veteran or familial status.
- Pass a Public Housing Act, to retrofit public housing, provide workforce training, and workforce training subsidies for residents, and to address the housing barriers for the nearly one in three Americans with a criminal record.
- Support transitional housing for unhoused people.
- Support aging in place initiatives.
- Create a federal Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC) modeled after the HOLC provided in Roosevelt's New Deal to offer loans to all and permit refinancing for defaulted mortgages instead of foreclosure
- Provide for the requirements of special needs populations.
- Repeal of the Faircloth Amendment which bans any net increase in public housing units by artificially limiting the number of public housing units that authorities can build to avoid 'pockets of poverty'.
- Increase block grants to states to build, rehabilitate, or preserve housing targeted to extremely low incomes (ELI) households, in rural areas and on Native American tribal lands, through programs at HUD and USDA.
- Enact civil and criminal penalties for mortgage holders and mortgage service providers for deceptive practices during repackaging and refinance negotiations.
- Require mortgage originators to explain optional payback choices, such as paying at the end of loan term.
- Join with the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLICH) to support the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF), a coalition working to increase resources for affordable housing and community development.
- Publicize the availability to North Carolina jurisdictions of HOME-ARP funds from the America Rescue Plan to assist vulnerable populations such as those

who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and encourage NC jurisdictions to use the funds they have been allocated under these programs.

- Increase the supply of affordable housing by including housing investments for America's low-income and working households in any infrastructure package.
- Encourage public transit-oriented developments.
- Require net zero carbon footprints in new housing construction in North Carolina by 2050.
- Support the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act, in order to increase the chance of land being maintained within a family.
- Study the viability of restructuring tax laws, including property taxes to equalize benefits of tax deductions and exemptions between homeowners and renters, as well as reducing taxes for individuals who own only one residence by establishing a progressive property tax on those owning multiple properties, which are rented out at market value or more.
- Require private sector landlords to offer a portion of units at an affordable rate equal to the poverty rate of the county in which those units exist (i.e. if the county has 50% poverty, 50% of the units must be offered at an affordable rate for that county), and establish and/or expand low barrier shelters across NC using best practice models and input from served populations in order to provide an effective, safe and humane response to homelessness.
- Allowance of accessory dwelling units in all 100 counties.
- Increase the supply of affordable housing of all types.
- Zoning to allow for high density, mixed-use, affordable housing.

Immigration

At our core, America is a nation of immigrants, and the North Carolina Democratic Party believes that immigrants are a vital part of our state and our progress. While we recognize that immigration laws are enacted at the Federal level, in the face of growing tension, threats, and conflict over immigration, the North Carolina Democratic Party is proud to stand for the rights of our foreign-born citizens and non-citizens to protection, security, and prosperity under the laws of the United States of America, including humane treatment at our borders. We oppose using Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, agreements between local

law enforcement and Federal agencies like the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to compel NC law enforcement to enforce immigration laws as part of their responsibilities. The North Carolina Democratic Party strives for comprehensive immigration reforms, which include a path to citizenship for immigrants currently in the United States without documentation.

- Authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles to permit residents of North Carolina to take the required drivers' license tests and receive restricted drivers' licenses upon passage without regards to immigration status.
- Impose an immediate moratorium on placing immigrants in detention until detention centers are able to operate in a humane and safe manner and prohibit the use by federal agencies of for-profit immigration jails.
- Reunite all children with their families immediately and end separation of families at the US Border.
- Utilize alternatives to detention whenever possible.
- Study permanently replacing mandatory detention and criminal prosecution of undocumented migrants with detention only for those entering the US with suspicion or history of human trafficking, terrorism, or serious criminal activity, determined on a case-by-case basis and only in circumstances to be specified by Congress.
- Allow immigration judges the discretion, during deportation or removal proceedings, to consider individual circumstances and revisit decisions made under prior harsh immigration laws and enforcement efforts.
- Provide funding and staffing needed to clear immigration court backlogs and alleviate pressure on the orderly processing of cases through the U.S. immigration system.
- Enact a new federal immigration law which includes the provisions of the Dream Act and the New Way Forward Act.
- Allow previous deportees whose criminal activities or offenses were not felonies or involve violence or terroristic actions, to apply to return to the U.S.
- Revise or equalize per-country limits for visas/permanent resident green cards/immigration to eradicate discrimination based on nationality.
- Release or parole all immigrants being held for non-violent or drug charges.

Infrastructure

We support increased investment in repairing North Carolina’s crumbling infrastructure, as well as new investment for disaster preparedness and the consequences of climate change. We believe that regional cooperation between and among counties and municipalities can facilitate addressing critical needs for stormwater management, reuse water, potable water, and sanitary sewer systems as well as equitable access to broadband which should be considered a “utility” in North Carolina regardless of income or zip code. Specifically, we believe in acting to:

- Create bike lanes, sheltered bus stops, and safe/lit crosswalks all throughout NC as part of maintaining our rural, suburban, and urban road network.
- Establish high-quality rural broadband statewide.
- Implement street-calming strategies to lower traffic.
- De-emphasize transportation based only on automobiles in favor of green alternatives as well as by discouraging the influence of the fossil fuel industry from a role in carbon planning.
- Invest in sustainable infrastructure as well as provide financial incentives to limit further climate change, including renewable energy systems, such as solar, wind, tidal, and geothermal, energy efficiency in all infrastructure construction (including educational facilities), and transportation infrastructure, such as expanding convenient charging infrastructure to meet the capacity requirements for North Carolina’s fleet(s) using electric vehicles, as well as to realize the potential of electric vehicles across North Carolina.
- Oppose the sale of state parks to private interests.
- Support alternate and green waste disposal methods, especially for agriculture.

International Relations

As Democrats we support increased diplomatic and cooperative measures by the United States government to enable peaceful solutions to international problems, and encourage the expansion of democracy around the world. We support participation in international agreements, such as those to combat climate change, to limit nuclear proliferation, to support the safety and wellbeing of our allies, to defend human rights and to provide humanitarian assistance. Specifically, we believe in taking the following actions:

- Active opposition from all Democrats to any law or measure which opposes or limits the rights of individuals and firms to boycott or otherwise refuse to do business with any individual or group except for members of protected classes, or in unlawful conspiracy in restraint of trade. This is especially important when boycotts or business decisions are to advocate for human rights, public safety/welfare, diversity standards, or the environment.
- Increase funding for diplomatic initiatives and emphasize them whenever it is reasonable.
- Strongly advocate for full diplomatic, military and civilian support for Ukraine in the face of Russian invasion, and demand Russian withdrawal from ALL Ukrainian territory.
- Proactively monitor and report on all human rights violations by nations throughout the world with increasing levels of responses from warnings to condemnations to sanctions, including the suspension of military aid to human rights violators as authorized by the Leahy Amendment.
- Insist upon full and equal measures of security, freedom and prosperity for all Israelis and Palestinians.
- Support a vigorous diplomatic engagement for Middle East peace, with the United States as a mediator between the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority with the goal of guaranteeing security for Israel and Palestine, establishing peace in the region, and ensuring full human and political rights for all Palestinians and Israelis.
- Strongly condemn China's human rights violations.
- Actively work to strengthen and support all alliances and treaty partners, including, but not limited, to NATO.
- Support international aid for healthcare, civil rights and economic development for developing nations.
- Support policies that facilitate sharing pharmaceutical technology and expertise with low income countries.
- Support Intellectual property waivers for the production of vaccines.
- Support for the Global Health Empowerment and Rights Act.
- Ask the President to release information on the CIA's retention, detention and interrogation program.
- Join the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

- Rectify the historical damage the United States has done to the global community.

Labor

The Democratic Party is the party of working people. Meaningful employment at a living wage is critical to the personal security and self-esteem of the people of our State. We believe that economic growth is fully consistent with fair employment practices, fair wages, and a safe, clean, and healthy workplace. We believe workers, including those in professional occupations, are the source of profits and must be able to organize for collective bargaining free of intimidation or coercion. We believe the growing wealth inequality crisis in America must be addressed with the first step to provide a minimum wage to all workers, including agricultural, natural resource, seasonal and migrant workers, tied to the cost-of-living in our communities.

Specifically, we believe in the following actions:

- We believe that we must act urgently to address the growing wealth inequality crisis in America.
- We support a minimum wage tied to the cost-of-living in our communities and believe that all workers should be paid a living wage.
- We support workers realizing the full benefits of their labor.
- We will fight for legislation that criminalizes wage theft on equal footing with the penalties for theft from employers.
- We oppose business practices that circumvent labor and benefits laws that force workers onto public assistance programs, passing tax burdens onto the public.
- We believe all workers in North Carolina, regardless of immigration status, have the right to a living wage, timely payment, and safe working and housing conditions.
- We believe workers are the primary source of profits and must be able to organize for collective bargaining free of intimidation or coercion.
- We support legislation authorizing organizing by public employees. We oppose legislation, policies, and efforts that attempt to restrict these rights.
- We support strong labor laws that protect workers, especially agricultural, natural resource, seasonal and migrant workers, who comprise the backbone of our agricultural system. As these workers increasingly suffer economic

disruption due to climate change, their protection is of the utmost importance.

- We support expanding workplace rights and protections for all workers, including independent contractors and gig workers, in all employment contracts and company policies, including flextime, hazard pay, compensatory time, fair scheduling, work-life balance, worker classification, and paid parental and family leave.
- We support the United Auto Workers (UAW) in any and all efforts to unionize automobile manufacturing and related industries in North Carolina.
- We support the elimination of at-will employment.
- We believe that equal pay for equal work is essential to achieving economic equality and support evidence-based efforts to close gender and race wage gaps.
- We believe the government plays a key role in creating and supporting a vibrant economy through investments in infrastructure and social services. We believe that all businesses and individuals must pay their fair share in taxes to support these systems because they benefit us all.
- We believe all workers have the right to retire with security and dignity. We fully support protections for public retirement systems and maintain that all retirement accounts should be fully funded and protected.
- We support a secure Social Security System with accurate cost-of-living adjustments.
- We support diverse, equitable, and high-quality educational pathways to living wages for all North Carolinians. We further support the creation and maintenance of apprenticeship programs for a wide range of occupations, incorporating collaboration among schools, community colleges, unions, and businesses. We oppose public funding of privately-controlled apprenticeships and training programs.
- We support the NC Division of Employment Security participating in a verification of income and employment "VIE" program in order to provide an alternative platform and pathway for North Carolina residents to obtain access to fair and reasonable credit terms, insurance as well as addressing the growing problem of credit deserts and eliminate friction with obtaining credit.

- We support strong governmental regulation to prevent and correct monopolies and industries considered “too-big-to-fail” because they represent unacceptable economic risks to workers and their families, as we have seen across North Carolina.
- We support efforts to repeal the 2013 changes to unemployment benefits, a vital safety net protecting working people from economic powers outside their control, and increase them to match the needs of the working class.
- We support adoption of Work-Sharing/Short-Time Compensation options for employers to prevent lay-offs.
- We support efforts that will expand economic opportunities in all 100 counties, with a focus on creating sustainable clean energy jobs that provide growth opportunities for employers and employees alike.
- We support incentives for businesses to transition to clean energy and climate-protective operations.
- We strongly support vocational and trade education and training.
- We affirm small businesses are critical to the success of our economy and believe in supporting them by improving access to resources that help them thrive.
- We support programs that facilitate ownership and operating loans, including but not limited to local farmers, ranchers, foresters, and fishers.
- We support prioritizing grants and support for small businesses, especially those owned and operated by Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, who have historically had less access to capital. We further oppose tax structures that protect and insulate big business at the expense of the taxpayer.
- We strongly support the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.
- We recognize that poverty poses a direct, ongoing threat to the exercise of freedom and dignity in a democratic society. A strong, accessible safety net is crucial for the well-being and economic security of all. Social programs must never be privatized, and unnecessary burdens, including means testing, must be eliminated.
- We believe companies must be held responsible for their impacts on North Carolina’s people and environment.

- We support judicial dissolution for companies that intentionally cause pollution, death or destruction, whether from products, practices, or advertising.
- We support prevailing wage laws and project labor agreements.
- We support the establishment and organization of worker cooperatives and worker-managed enterprises.
- Ensure all professionals in North Carolina have the ability to organize and the right to fair compensation.
- Mandate living wages and ban all sub-living wages, including for disabled workers.
- Support the Fair Labor Act 14(c).

LGBTQIA+

LGBTQIA+ rights are human rights. We firmly support the legalization of equal marriage rights to all loving and committed partners as granted in 2015 by the United States Supreme Court and fundamentally reject any efforts to remove these rights which were granted to all North Carolinians and we oppose passage of any laws which seek to force LGBTQIA+ persons to disavow their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, including the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act, also known as HB-2, the “Bathroom Bill,” and its continued discrimination through HB142. We demand the repeal of SB 49, which requires school employees to categorically “out” students who question their gender identity.

- Condemn all portrayals of LGBTQIA+ individuals as mentally ill.
- Repeal the remainder of HB-2 and a restoration of the rights of local communities and public schools to set their own anti-discrimination ordinances.
- Support the dissemination of accurate information and media portrayal about sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.
- Support active protection for the physical and mental well-being of all people and their families against exposure to serious harms caused by public or private anti-LGBTQIA+ efforts.
- Support active progress towards supporting and providing gender-affirming healthcare available to all.

- Pass the federal Equality Act to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, and federally funded programs.
- Support active progress towards passing anti-discrimination legislation and policies at all levels.
- Support a total ban on conversion therapy of any kind, regardless of practitioner or source of funding for all minors.
- Firmly defend the rights, lives and safety of all LGBTQIA+ individuals.
- Oppose banning transgender individuals from active participation in all activities, including athletics, as their gender identity.

North Carolina Government

As the party of inclusion, we pledge to continue efforts to involve as many people as possible in Democratic Party affairs and decision-making, including historically under-represented groups, in order to provide Democratic leaders who will better serve the principles of the Democratic Party when governing this State. Specifically we want our Democratic Leaders when in office here to take the following actions:

- Amending the state constitution to allow the governor to retain executive power when out of state.
- Establish an independent commission for non-partisan redistricting.
- Amend the state constitution to ban slavery and involuntary servitude.
- Amend the state constitution to remove literacy requirements as a prerequisite for registering to vote.
- Banning the sale of military-style assault weapons as well as high-capacity magazines or clips that can hold more than 10 bullets at a time.
- Requiring all gun buyers to pass a criminal background check, no matter how they purchase the weapon.
- Restoring the North Carolina Pistol Permit System to empower local law enforcement to serve as a last line of defense and keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous individuals.
- Close all gun show loopholes that allow gun buyers to avoid the current background check system.

- Implementing “Red Flag Laws,” which are a gun violence prevention tool that permits a state court to order the temporary removal of firearms from a person who they believe may present a danger to others or themselves.
- Repeal the Tiahrt Amendments at the national level, which have had a significant chilling effect, weakening law enforcement efforts to prevent gun crimes and prosecute gun offenders, limiting the public and researchers’ ability to study gun trafficking.
- Supporting the availability and funding of mental health and substance abuse treatment so all individuals who are in need of help have sufficient access to these services, and the support of enhanced mental health services for children.
- To require all confiscated, found, or discovered illegal firearms to be destroyed.
- Safe storage should be made mandatory in NC.
- Any adult gun owner is held liable for safe storage and liable for the consequences of a child’s gun misuse.
- The state shall initiate and fund a mandatory gun safety course for all new buyers of guns.
- Require persons 21 years of age or older to purchase guns only after the individual has proof of having completed a state-sponsored gun safety program. Those owning a gun prior to the passage of the mandatory training program will not be required to take the mandatory gun safety course, but will be encouraged to do so.
- Require liability insurance for all gun owners.
- Ban all firearms in public schools except those in possession of a Law Enforcement Officer.
- Propose reviewing the state’s electoral and succession process for Governor and Lt. Governor and work to establish a joint ticket for the offices.
- Automatic Voter Registration: The implementation of automatic voter registration at all government agencies, including the Department of Motor Vehicles, to ensure that all eligible citizens are registered to vote.
- Extended Early Voting: The expansion of early voting days, to include at least three weeks of Early Voting with allowed same-day registration, to be open from 8AM to 8PM on weekdays and 9AM to 6PM on weekend days to provide voters with more opportunities to cast their ballots.

- Promote Drop-Box Voting: The availability of secure ballot drop boxes at multiple locations in each county to provide voters with a safe and convenient option for returning their ballots.
- Adequate State Funding for Local Boards of Election: Providing the funding for every local and county Board of Election in the State to administer free, fair and accessible elections.
- Support for Citizens' Ballot Initiatives.
- Grant-Funding for Local Boards of Election: The provision of grant-funding to local boards of election to ensure that they have the resources necessary to administer free, fair, and accessible elections.
- Voting Access without Photo ID: The elimination of voter restrictions based on showing photographic identification at the time of registration or voting.
- Support for medically and factually comprehensive, age-appropriate sex-educational programs in our schools and public health agencies.
- Provision for educators to be empowered and permitted to provide scientifically accurate information about safe sexual practices.
- Support for safe, legal, and accessible abortion for all North Carolinians, regardless of ability to pay.
- Allow all licensed bars and restaurants to purchase liquor from any Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) location in North Carolina.
- Encourage the increased support for stem cell research with appropriate ethical controls.
- Include gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation in its list of protections for employment in government offices and for discrimination in general.
- Encourage all Democratic Party officials to carefully consider the sources of all political donations and whether they align with our Democratic Party values.
- Support the reinstatement of the tax check off policy repealed by the NC General Assembly.
- Implement a reviewable Code of Ethics for NC public officials.
- Expand home rule allowances in North Carolina to grant local government greater authority over solving local issues.
- Adopt the Gini index to measure the effectiveness of legislation.

- Support “Sunshine Legislation” enshrining principles of local government transparency and records accessibility.
- Support public financing of elections.
- Require individuals to be informed when they either lose or regain their right to vote.
- Restore the North Carolina Child Dependent Tax Credit to reduce the cost of providing adequate, humane care for dependents.
- Move for adoption and education around the use of ranked-choice voting and proportional representation for state and local legislative bodies.
- Support a “Right to Vote” amendment making voting a fundamental right.

Women’s Rights

Women, and birthing people, deserve complete control over their bodies and healthcare decisions. We believe that a birthing person’s decisions regarding pregnancy should be her own choice and not that of the government. Further, women belong in any and all spaces in society as independent actors. Specific, we believe in the following actions:

- Safe and legal access to abortion for all North Carolinians.
- The inclusion of abortion coverage for Medicaid recipients.
- Increased access to family planning services, including access to affordable birth control and emergency contraception.
- Protect patients, physicians, pharmacists, and other clinicians who provide abortion services to a non-state resident from prosecution or extradition.
- The re-establishment and funding for a North Carolina abortion fund.
- 12 weeks of paid family medical leave without any loss of standing of work.
- Increased funding of domestic violence and rape crisis shelters.
- Adequate funding to address any delays in the processing of rape kits and sexual assault evidence.
- Comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education.
- The right of all North Carolinians to be safe from prosecution for traveling to other states for the purposes of abortion, before or after any legal deadlines.

- The right to be safe from prosecution for North Carolinians who aid patients in travel to other states to receive an abortion past the time that is legal in North Carolina.
- The right of North Carolinians to obtain abortion medications in the mail from out of state.
- Physicians, pharmacists, and other clinicians who provide abortion services to a non-state resident from prosecution or extradition.
- Patients who come to North Carolina from other states for abortions from prosecution or extradition.
- Free universal child care services.
- Immediate ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.
- Repeal of the federal Hyde Amendment.
- Repeal of NC SL 2023-14: 12-week abortion threshold restriction.
- Repeal of NC SL 2015-62: 72-hour waiting period to access abortion.
- Withdrawal of public funding for so-called "Crisis Pregnancy Centers."
- Ensure universal access to prenatal and postnatal care.
- Codify the right to reproductive freedom.



2024 State Convention
June 1st, 2024 | Jamestown, NC & Zoom

THANK YOU!



ncdp.org/2024-stateconvention/

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