

**Buncombe County Democratic Party
County Convention
Resolutions Being Put Forward
April 8, 2017**

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR INCLUSIVENESS AT DEMOCRATIC FUNCTIONS

WHEREAS, we, the Democratic Party, are, and wish to be recognized for, inclusiveness; and

WHEREAS, religion-specific invocations or prayers at Democratic functions may be divisive to those who have different beliefs or non-beliefs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Democratic Party functions be inclusive and respectful of all beliefs.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional District Executive Committees by
Richard Wasch, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S COMMITMENT TO RACIAL JUSTICE

WHEREAS, confronting racial inequality and oppression are essential for our global humanity; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that our strength lies in our racial and cultural diversity, and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured; and

WHEREAS, aware that the United States has outlawed racial discrimination, but in practice our national and statewide crisis regarding pervasive racism and mistreatment – from voter suppression, discrimination in public education, jobs, government, law enforcement (recurrent killings of people of color), our justice system, and our political process – is regrettable; and

WHEREAS, affirming deeply that our North Carolina Democratic Party believes in opportunity for every American, responsibility from every American, and building one America to eliminate discrimination and show the world that people of all genders, racial and ethnic backgrounds, faiths and creeds, cannot only work and live together, but can enrich and ennoble both themselves and their purpose [modified from NC 11th Congressional District Democratic Executive Committee NC Democratic Party "*Beliefs Brochure*", 2003]; and

WHEREAS, fully believing that our North Carolina Democratic Party has a moral obligation to strengthen our racial and cultural diversity, and also support nomination and election processes to have more representation of the multicultural demographics of our party;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party affirms its commitment to

the implementation of national and local policies to protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all races; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party shall recruit and develop leaders and support nominees of all races, without discrimination, in the election processes in our region and our state.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional District Executive Committees by
David Harney and Larry Dodson, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S COMMITMENT TO ETHNIC EQUALITY
AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

WHEREAS, confronting ethnic inequality and oppression are essential for our global humanity; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that our strength lies in our ethnic equality, social inclusion and cultural diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured; and

WHEREAS, aware that the United States Department of State has outlined policies (see <https://www.state.gov/p/wha/rt/social/>) stating racial and ethnic equality, gender equity, and social inclusion are critical to democratic stability, requiring participation by all stakeholders, including central and local governments, law enforcement, multilateral organizations, civil society, businesses, and academia, but in practice, our national and statewide crisis regarding pervasive discrimination in access to employment, adequate health care, education and training, goods and services, basic security and human rights– is regrettable; and

WHEREAS, affirming deeply that our North Carolina Democratic Party believes in OPPORTUNITY for every American, RESPONSIBILITY from every American, and BUILDING ONE AMERICA by eliminating discrimination, and showing the world that men and women of all ethnic backgrounds cannot only work and live together, but can enrich and ennoble both themselves and their purpose; and

WHEREAS, fully believing that our North Carolina Democratic Party has a moral obligation to strengthen our ethnic equality, social inclusion and cultural diversity, and also support nomination and election processes to have more representation of the multiethnic demographics of our party;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NC Democratic Party shall work towards the implementation of national and local policies to protect the civil, political, economic, social and

cultural rights of all ethnicities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NC Democratic Party shall recruit and develop leaders of all ethnicities and support nominees, without discrimination, in the election processes in our region and our state.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional District Executive Committees by
Beverly Kimble, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S COMMITMENT TO LGBTQ EQUALITY

WHEREAS, confronting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer ("LGBTQ") inequality and oppression are essential for our global humanity; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that our strength lies in our LGBTQ diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured; and

WHEREAS, aware that the United States has outlawed discrimination, but in practice, our national and statewide crisis regarding pervasive mistreatment – from discrimination in public education, housing, jobs, government, law enforcement, our justice system and our political process – is regrettable; and

WHEREAS, affirming deeply that our North Carolina Democratic Party believes in OPPORTUNITY for every American, RESPONSIBILITY from every American, and BUILDING ONE AMERICA by eliminating discrimination and showing the world that men and women of all sexual orientations and gender identity, cannot only work and live together, but can enrich and ennoble both themselves and their purpose; and

WHEREAS, fully believing that our North Carolina Democratic Party has a moral obligation to strengthen the rights of citizens to ensure no person is denied their rights or equal access to public services based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, and also support nomination and election processes to have more representation in our party;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party shall work towards implementation of national and local policies to protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all LGBTQ citizens, by in part, enacting laws prohibiting child placement agencies receiving state funds from discriminating based on sexual orientation or gender identity when placing children, ensuring that state family leave laws are applied equally to LGBTQ citizens,

banning the practice of so-called “conversion therapy” on minors, prohibiting private health insurance from denying or limiting coverage based on sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBTQ plan enrollees, and prohibiting businesses that provide public accommodations from discriminating based on sexual orientation or gender identity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party shall recruit and develop leaders of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and support nominees, without discrimination, in the election processes in our region and our state.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional District Executive Committees by
Beverly Kimble, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S COMMITMENT TO AGE EQUALITY

WHEREAS, confronting age inequality and discrimination are essential for our global humanity; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that our strength lies in our age diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured; and

WHEREAS, being aware that the United States has outlawed age discrimination, but in practice, our national and statewide crisis regarding pervasive ageism and mistreatment – from discrimination primarily in employment opportunities – is regrettable; and

WHEREAS, affirming deeply that our North Carolina Democratic Party believes in OPPORTUNITY for every American, RESPONSIBILITY from every American, and BUILDING ONE AMERICA, that we seek to eliminate ageism and show the world that men and women of all ages cannot only work and live together, but can enrich and ennoble both themselves and their purpose; and

WHEREAS, fully believing that our North Carolina Democratic Party has a moral obligation to strengthen our age diversity and also support nomination and election processes to have more representation of the various age demographics of our party;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buncombe County Democratic Party calls upon the North Carolina Democratic Party to affirm the implementation of national and local policies to protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all ages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Buncombe County Democratic Party urges the North Carolina Democratic Party to recruit and develop leaders of all ages and support nominees, without

discrimination, in the election processes in our region and our state.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional District Executive Committees by
Beverly Kimble, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S COMMITMENT TO THE AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT

WHEREAS, confronting disability inequality and oppression are essential for our global humanity;
and

WHEREAS, recognizing that our strength lies in our ability diversity and that we must work toward
a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured; and

WHEREAS, aware that the United States has, through the Americans with Disabilities Act,
outlawed disability discrimination, but in practice, our national and statewide crisis regarding
pervasive mistreatment (even mocking) – from discrimination in public education, jobs,
government, law enforcement our justice system and our political process – is regrettable; and

WHEREAS, affirming deeply that our North Carolina Democratic Party believes in *opportunity* for
every American, *responsibility* from every American, and *building one America*, that we seek to
eliminate ability discrimination, and show the world that men and women of all abilities cannot
only work and live together, but can enrich and ennoble both themselves and their purpose; and

WHEREAS, fully believing that our North Carolina Democratic Party has a moral obligation to
strengthen our diversity, and also support nomination and election processes to have more
representation of the varied ability demographics of our party;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we call upon the North Carolina Democratic Party to affirm the
implementation of national and local policies to protect the civil, political, economic, social and
cultural rights of people of all abilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the North Carolina Democratic Party to recruit and
develop leaders of all abilities and support nominees, without discrimination, in the election
processes in our region and our state.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional District Executive Committees by

Beverly Kimble, Buncombe County

April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO REEXAMINE THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S GOALS, VALUES, AND INTERNAL PROCEDURES

[Identifying our base of support and ideals; and adapting to a new political reality]

WHEREAS, the political landscape of this nation has been changed dramatically by the continuous pressure of anti-progressive forces, particularly since the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, centrist political elements in the United States have been absorbed into "rightward" and "leftward" shifting political blocs, resulting in extreme polarization of political opinion; and

WHEREAS, U.S. citizens on the left and on the right have dramatically different positions on a number of issues; including economics and economic justice, national security, voting rights, public health, healthcare access and women's health rights, rights of gender identity and sexual preference, education (support, availability, subject matter and "quality" control), energy policy, environmental protection, workplace safety, international humanitarian law, human rights (generally), criminal justice, the US role in international affairs, the separation of church and state, gun rights, and the interpretation of our Constitutional protections (and others); and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party has generally, but not always, supported progressive candidates and positions on these issues, while often attempting to maintain the appearance of a more centrist position in order to appeal to a no longer existent group of semi-independent "moderates," who have largely moved rightward in the political spectrum; and

WHEREAS, there is another large, and growing group of US citizens (particularly among young voters), who embrace a moderate and democratic form of socialism, and who have been demonized by our adversaries and largely ignored by the Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, our adversaries have successfully taken over many statehouses and governorships (having done this both through their own efforts and our negligence), so that they are now able to dramatically gerrymander voting districts, and restrict voting rights; even planning to modify the Electoral College itself, so that they can maintain a permanent legislative majority and permanent control of the Presidency; and

[Examining our internal procedures for consistency with our values and goals, and effecting a reconciliation with the more progressive wing of the Party]

WHEREAS, the political wellbeing of a party depends on its ability to attract candidates who represent its values (political and ethical), have the ability to connect positively with the largest number of voters, and have the personality and temperament to be effective leaders, legislators

and jurists; and

WHEREAS, a party's ability to attract candidates that have the above characteristics depends on how clearly the party states its values, and how fairly the candidates are treated by party procedures; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 3 of the US Constitution prohibits a religious test for Federal office, but this ban is of little relevance if political parties are allowed to introduce a candidate's religious beliefs (or lack thereof) into the public debate; and

WHEREAS, internal party prejudices and efforts to influence the primary electoral process can not only unfairly influence the outcome of a particular election, they can also discourage desirable candidates from participating in the future, and drive away many voters from the following general election (perhaps, from many subsequent elections); and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party has established a commission to consider previously submitted resolutions and other proposals to deal with the electorally distorting systems of super-delegates, and closed primaries, but this commission may not realize the urgency of closure in these matters; and

WHEREAS, for our Party's long term political success it is not sufficient to see our adversary's policies fail, the Democratic Party must also create and project a vision for our nation that is persuasive; and

WHEREAS, if the Democratic Party fails to block and reverse the undemocratic efforts of its adversaries, and if the Party cannot be reconciled with its more progressive wing, the Democratic Party may not survive as an effective political entity, thereby allowing our adversaries to become the sole or dominant political force in our nation, at least until another party emerges;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee assemble a Task Force, generally constituted to include all major Party factions in their representative proportions, in addition to a group of consultants who are by training ethicists, economists, and political scientists; and

RESOLVED, that this Task Force shall develop a clear and concise statement identifying the values and goals of the Democratic Party in greater detail than is currently contained in the Party's Charter and Bylaws; and

RESOLVED, that this Task Force shall propose a detailed ethical framework for Party business and for its candidates; one that promotes openness, inclusiveness, and fairness; and which includes specific penalties for violations (including those of corruption, and moral lapse); and

RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall propose a mechanism to reach out not only to all party supporters and potential Party supporters, but also to those who presently are not likely supporters; and

RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall make revisions to the current Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party that include a clear statement of the Party's values, goals, and ethical expectations of the Democratic National Committee and Democratic candidates, and that these recommended revisions and additions be promptly approved by the Democratic Party; and

RESOLVED, that the existing Committee charged with recommending changes to the process by which the Party selects its Presidential candidates be required to complete its business quickly and openly, and that the Democratic National Committee act quickly and positively to affirm their recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these proposed actions be completed before the next mid-term election, so that voters can better understand the goals, values, and commitment of the Democratic Party, and so that confidence in the fairness of its processes can be restored.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional District Executive Committees by
Steve Pohl, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO ENHANCE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PUBLIC COMMUNICATION, NATIONALLY AND
LOCALLY

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party seeks to improve the lives of all Americans, not only the wealthiest; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party seeks to address all threats to the wellbeing of Americans, not only those presented by armed adversaries, but also those presented by climate, geologic forces, and disease; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party seeks to stand for the highest ideals of political, economic and social justice; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party seeks to ensure each citizen a safe environment and workplace; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party seeks to ensure to each citizen a right to education, employment, access to healthcare, dignity, and fair protection under the laws of our nation and each of its states; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party seeks to have an inclusive, representative, and fair electoral system; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party seeks to use objective facts, science and reason in stimulating a national dialogue; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party seeks to be recognized as a protector of freedoms, liberty and justice, within the context of a social contract and our Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The Democratic Party hasn't consistently and forcefully communicated its beliefs, values, and objectives to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party's political adversaries have been able to maintain an effective (if irrational) offensive against Democratic ideals and programs; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party's political adversaries are leading our nation over a fiscal and environmental cliff; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party's political adversaries have undermined essential services, attacked safeguards of our environment and public health, ignored international humanitarian law, insulted minorities and dissidents, restricted freedom of information; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party's political adversaries have effectively used false rhetoric to blame, or share the blame with, the Democratic Party for their own errors or obstinacy; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party's political adversaries have offended our allies and trading partners, and thereby lowered the esteem of our nation that promotes goodwill and our national power;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party develop a comprehensive program to communicate its visions with the American people, that the program use all modalities (internet--augmenting current web-site and blogs), regular town meetings, films, radio talk shows and televised presentations, and written media and communication¹; and

RESOLVED that this new communication program be ongoing and year round, supplementing campaigns in support of individual candidates, and individual issues; and

¹ The format will depend on topic and target audience. It should be easily understandable, grab attention, reach out and touch the audience. Some communications can take on a strictly educational format, some can be presented as dramatizations, and others may be interactive.

RESOLVED that the program be planned, designed and implemented by a collaboration between representatives of the people, scientists, economists, and media/communication experts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in addition to promoting Democratic values and programs, it also respond to attacks by adversaries.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Steve Pohl, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE EASIER ACCESS TO AND GREATER TRANSPARENCY FOR LOCAL, STATE
AND NATIONAL PARTY INFORMATION

WHEREAS, we, the Democratic Party presents itself as the party that encourages every American to make his or her voice heard at the poll and

WHEREAS, I, an individual who has moved around this country throughout her life and am a life-long registered Democrat and have never received any information about the local or state Democratic Party and was completely unaware of the local, county and state organization and its structure until two weeks ago and thus never invited to “participate” and

WHEREAS, We, the Democratic Party need to reach out to both registered Democrats and Independents for the purpose of expanding our voter base and future election turnout to recapture the state legislature, Congress and the White House,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party will design and implement a method to contact every Registered Democratic and Independent Voter in North Carolina with an easy to read and understand explanation of the structure and function of the local, county and state organizations with an invitation to participate and a mechanism to request additional information.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Teri Stahara, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING TO RECRUIT AND SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR ALL
CONTESTS

WHEREAS, almost one-third – 53 of 170 seats – of all North Carolina legislative races were given to Republicans in 2016, 40 in the House and 13 in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the North Carolina Democratic Party to transparently locate and recruit viable Democratic candidates for all reasonably competitive North Carolina House and

Senate races; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Democratic Party to seek, recruit and support candidates that represent diverse demographics; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to the future of the North Carolina Democratic Party to transparently secure financial and any/all necessary legal means of statewide support for candidates that represent and support the NCDP party platform that run in all viable races in the state;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Democratic Party calls upon the North Carolina Democratic Party to transparently seek and recruit viable Democratic candidates for all reasonably competitive seats in the North Carolina General Assembly; and

RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Democratic Party calls upon the North Carolina Democratic Party to transparently seek, recruit and support by all legal means Democratic candidates running for national offices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Democratic Party calls upon the North Carolina Democratic Party to transparently distribute funds and allocate all legally available means of support to assist recruited candidates in running competitive campaigns for future North Carolina legislative campaigns in the future.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Kristen Goldsmith, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO UPGRADE THE NCDP WEB SITE'S USER INTERFACE AND IMPROVE ITS CONTENT

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of North Carolina should have an excellent web site and integrated social media platform that informs voters of the values, goals and programs of the Party, and motivates and excites voters in this state to vote in the next election; and

WHEREAS, in addition to informing voters, the site should also provide useful information for current staff and volunteers, and potential staff and volunteers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party shall create a new, colorful, fact-filled web site and integrated social media platform that correctly and effectively reflects the values and mission of the Party.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Beverly Kimble, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE DATE OF ELECTION OF STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization provides in Section 4.02, Elected Officers, that officers of the State Executive Committee shall be elected prior to March 1 of each odd numbered year; and

WHEREAS, the state chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party is provided with discretion to call for the election of officers of the State Executive Committee at any time between January 1 and the last day of February in a year in which officers are to be elected; and

WHEREAS, the election of officers of the State Executive Committee may and has occurred prior to the election of delegates to North Carolina Democratic Party county and district conventions and the election in that year of members of the State Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, such early calling for the election officers of the State Executive Committee is inconsistent with a timely grassroots process of selecting officers of the State Executive Committee;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 4.02 of the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization be amended to provide that officers of the State Executive Committee shall be elected in each odd numbered year in its first meeting after the completion of the county and district conventions and the election of members of the North Carolina Democratic Party state executive committee, but no later than ninety (90) days after the election of members of the State Executive Committee; and

RESOLVED, that the provisions of Sections 4.07 and 4.08 of the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization shall continue without disruption.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Joshua Martin and Jeremy Wood, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE DATE OF ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States provides that members of the Democratic National Committee shall be elected by the state executive committee in each year of a presidential election; and

WHEREAS, the terms of such members of the Democratic National Committee commence after adjournment of the Democratic Party National Convention of that presidential year and, therefore, exert power and control over the processes governing the selection of a Democratic Party

presidential candidate four years hence; and

WHEREAS, the state executive committee in North Carolina and potentially in other states is elected in odd number years; and

WHEREAS, members of a state's executive committee who are elected in odd number years are selecting Democratic National Committee members who will preside over the selection of a Democratic Party presidential candidate five years into the future; and

WHEREAS, such a process, in effect, favors a perpetuation of current leadership within the Democratic National Committee and does not reflect the most current will of the party membership, particularly as that will may be affected by the outcome of the most recent selection of a presidential nominee by the Democratic Party;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the executive committee of the North Carolina Democratic Party resolve to the Democratic Party of the United States that the Charter and Bylaws thereof be amended to require that, whenever a state's executive committee membership is elected in odd numbered years, the election of members to the Democratic National Committee representing that state is to be conducted at the first meeting of the state's executive committee following the election of members to that state's executive committee taking place subsequent to the prior year's presidential election; and

RESOLVED that the executive committee of the North Carolina Democratic Party resolve to the Democratic Party of the United States that the Charter and Bylaws thereof be amended to require that, whenever a state's executive committee membership is elected in even numbered years, that state's election of Democratic National Committee members by its executive committee membership take place during the presidential election year but subsequent to the date of the presidential election.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Joshua Martin, and Jeremy Wood, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATIONS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

WHEREAS, the language we use to describe our vision for America, our values, beliefs, goals and intentions matters; and the specific words we use can make our message effective and thereby strengthen our position and outcomes; and

WHEREAS, other organizations have for decades dispersed information in a consistent and consciously planned way, much of which has undermined progressive Democratic values and outcomes, and for this reason we need to provide communication that provides a simple,

compelling vision and unity of purpose; and

WHEREAS, the systematic spread of untruths to the public in the face of science, research, and analysis is harmful to our country, our children, and our environment, and the Democratic party needs a system of immediate corrections that will ensure information stated by all of their representatives is fact checked and true; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party has to build a strong, bold story never deviating from its core focus; inclusion, and mutual support of American workers and their families as well as the marginalized and dispossessed in society that resonates with all Americans and gets their support and vote; and

WHEREAS, it is important that Democrats understand that the political views about the nation are based on the metaphor of the Nation As Family, with two types of families – strict and nurturing [see George Lakoff], and that this differentiation defines how conflicting family models divide US politics; and

WHEREAS, civility has often times been negated, so we need to develop a stronger will that will fortify the need for and the delivery of civility in all communication;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party shall establish a comprehensive communications system consisting of two main components: a technical component that supports sending out messages to all who need them over the Internet; and an academic school for teaching the basic concepts and definition of terms to all Democratic candidates running for office.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Beverly Kimble, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO REFORM SUPER DELEGATES

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party presents itself as the party that represents every American, no matter their religion, race, creed, or social status; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party presents itself as the party that fosters the preservation of voting rights; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party presents itself as the party that represents justice and equality for all; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party has often challenged other political organizations for lack of transparency in their processes; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party presents itself as desiring openness in governing; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party presents itself as the party that encourages every American to make her or his voice heard at the polls; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party has a system of “super delegates” who are under no obligation to support the candidate receiving the most votes in the primary election process; and

WHEREAS, super delegates currently constitute about 15 percent of the total number of delegates at the national convention and are therefore able to influence the selection of the Democratic presidential candidate; and

WHEREAS, the Party’s selection of super delegates is often concealed from the public; and

WHEREAS, the Party has never offered a clear explanation of the purpose of super delegates; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party’s system of super delegates can, in fact, serve no purpose other than to thwart the voice of the voters in primary elections and caucuses; and

WHEREAS, the Party’s system of super delegates contradicts the image the Party wishes to present, and it contradicts basic principles of democratic suffrage;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the super delegate system be eliminated, unless the Democratic Party presents to the public a cogent argument for its preservation, along with a transparent process for the selection of super delegates, and a reasonable formula for the number of super delegates relative to the number of “committed” delegates selected by popular vote; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the system of super delegates is to be preserved, super delegates will be required to cast their votes for each candidate in the same proportion as the committed delegates selected by voters.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Rebecca Crandall, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE BUNCOMBE COUNTY COMMUNITY (92)

WHEREAS, it is clear that there are still discriminatory practices that exist within Buncombe County;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we strive to be an inclusive community.

Submitted to Buncombe County by
Emory Underwood, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT IMMIGRANTS IN ASHEVILLE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Asheville be encouraged to express its esteem and concern for our immigrant population and its safety; and

RESOLVED, that the City of Asheville be encouraged to gain input from that population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Asheville be encouraged to pursue the best solution to provide for the safety and well-being of our immigrant population.

Submitted to the City of Asheville by
Vijay Kapoor, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT LOCAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE LAWS

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision has unleashed hundreds of millions of dollars of anonymous corporate spending on political campaigns across North Carolina and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has held repeatedly that disclosure of campaign funding is constitutional and essential to the public's faith in our democratic process; and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to hide their funding of election activity, large political actors across the country have been funding such activity through nonprofit organizations and other entities that generally do not have to disclose their funding sources (hereafter "dark money"); and

WHEREAS, the rise of dark money undermines our election disclosure laws, preventing transparency of campaign contributions and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, dark money has grown exponentially at the federal and state levels, has begun to be employed on local levels and is likely to expand rapidly in the future if not addressed; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has been a prime target for dark money spending; and

WHEREAS, There is a movement nationally to promote local action and establish regional autonomy over Campaign Finance Disclosure; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party supports transparency in the financing of political elections; and

WHEREAS, The Democratic Party supported the DISCLOSE Act legislation, which would broaden the definition of “express advocacy” to include advertisements that are the functional equivalent of express advocacy as judged by a reasonable person; expand the electioneering communications window from 30 days before a primary and 60 days before a general election to 120 days before a primary through the date of a general election; require immediate reporting of significant independent expenditures and electioneering communications; strengthen coordination rules; obstruct the use of shell corporations in political spending; and require all corporations and organizations described in section 501(c) of the IRS tax code (except 501(c)(3) corporations), along with labor groups and any political organization under section 527 of the IRS tax code who have spent more than \$10,000 in aggregate in an election cycle to disclose their donors who have contributed more than \$10,000 to the organization for the purposes of political spending; and

WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Democratic Party acknowledges and understands that cumulative local action can change State and Federal policy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Democratic Party shall draft model legislation for Campaign Finance Disclosure relevant to City and County governments using, as a basis, the Disclose Act, The California Advertising Disclosure Bill, and the Austin Texas Dark Money Resolution; and

RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Democratic Party shall actively seek to enact such legislation in Buncombe County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Buncombe County Democratic Party shall share its draft legislation with the State Party and work with the State Party to have the legislation passed in as many Counties in the State as is possible.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Steve Pohl, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO BAN TRANSPORT OF HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE THROUGH WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is traversed by two Interstate highways (I-40 and I-26), as well as the I-240 spur, all of which carry a high percentage of local traffic; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is also traversed by rail lines, with an active rail yard adjacent to the French Broad River and a growing number of businesses; and

WHEREAS, these transportation links carry shipments of materials and wastes between nuclear sites, but not currently highly radioactive “spent” nuclear fuel rods or the residues from them; and

WHEREAS, nuclear waste corporations are targeting Andrews County in Texas and Eddy and Lea Counties in New Mexico for new sites for 40 years or more of storage for the nation’s most dangerous nuclear reactor waste, which could lead to dangerous de facto permanent dumps, and importing high-level radioactive waste would put millions of people at risk for financial and health impacts from potential accidents or incidents; and

WHEREAS, transporting high-level radioactive waste for the purpose of consolidated storage would unnecessarily increase risks of accidents or terrorism activity, and some of the waste going to Texas or New Mexico would likely travel through Western North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, high-level radioactive waste should remain secured at or near the site of generation and be transported only once, when a scientifically viable permanent isolation site is operational; and

WHEREAS, high-level radioactive waste consists of irradiated (spent) fuel from nuclear power reactors and/or weapons production that includes uranium, plutonium and other radioactive elements that must be isolated for thousands of years or longer and the waste on a single train car would likely contain as much plutonium as was in the bomb dropped on Nagasaki; and

WHEREAS, exposure to radioactivity is known to lead to birth defects, genetic damage, and cancers and unshielded exposure to high-level radioactive waste could give a lethal dose; and

WHEREAS, our lives, land and rivers must be protected from radioactive contamination which could result from accidents, radiation releases or leaks, or terrorist actions during the thousands of high-level radioactive waste shipments that would occur for a period of 24 years if consolidated storage is licensed; and

WHEREAS, an accident releasing only a small amount of radioactivity could contaminate a 42-square mile area, and a US Department of Energy (“DOE”) study found that cleanup could cost

\$620 million in a rural area, and \$9.5 billion in the most heavily contaminated square mile of a large city; and

WHEREAS, the same DOE plans to ship highly radioactive waste in LIQUID form as well as solid; and

WHEREAS, the DOE has demonstrated its incompetence by pursuing a permanent nuclear waste repository in Nevada instead of disqualifying the site under DOE siting guidelines and the regulations established by other federal agencies and honoring the wishes of the people of that state;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party does not support or consent to the inter-state transportation of high-level radioactive waste on our railways or highways for the purpose of consolidated storage or permanent disposal of high-level radioactive waste in Texas or New Mexico or to the failed repository proposed for Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Veronika Gunter, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO DEVELOP A LIGHT RAIL TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, Western North Carolina is recognized for its scenic natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, Asheville has become known for its charm, hospitality, access to natural areas, regional folk and classical music, arts and crafts, restaurants and regional attractions, clean and safe environment, and diversity; and

WHEREAS, a large number of people have moved to Asheville and surrounding areas because of the above; and

WHEREAS, tourists have been flocking to Asheville (The Lonely Planet has predicted that Asheville will be the #1 US tourist destination of 2017); and

WHEREAS, residential communities are quickly developing to the West (as far as Waynesville), North (beyond Weaverville), and South (approaching Hendersonville); and

WHEREAS, urban development in Western North Carolina has brought increased traffic that has stressed the region's highway system; and

WHEREAS, Interstate Highways have also brought increasing numbers of cars and trucks through the area; and

WHEREAS, the combination of increasing interstate and increasing resident and tourist traffic, and (ironically) the road work to attempt to expand the capacity of our road network, have together resulted in increasing numbers of traffic accidents as well as significant traffic delays; and

WHEREAS, increasing local traffic, and traffic delays that create long slowly moving lines of vehicles transiting the area cause air and water pollution that threaten the health of the people and the wellbeing of the regions diverse ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, increasing local traffic in downtown Asheville has often made it difficult to find parking spaces in the downtown area; and

WHEREAS, difficulty finding parking spaces discourages residents and tourists from patronizing downtown businesses or attending entertainment events in the downtown area; and

WHEREAS, the problems outlined above will continue to get worse, until Asheville and Western North Carolina are no longer desirable places to live and visit; and

WHEREAS, a regional transit system would benefit all of the areas communities both economically and environmentally;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will encourage the governments of Asheville and Buncombe County to form a Regional Transit Area Consortium with the governments of other Western North Carolina counties and communities, and

RESOLVED, that this Consortium shall form a task force that will be responsible for the development of a comprehensive regional transit plan, centered on a light rail system carrying people from the city of Asheville's downtown northward toward the UNCA campus, Weaverville and Mars Hill, westward toward west Asheville communities, Brevard, Canton and Waynesville, and southward toward Arden, the Asheville Regional Airport and Fairgrounds, and Hendersonville, and

RESOLVED, that at least 80% of the power used by this light rail system be produced locally from solar and wind sources, and

RESOLVED, that the task force will develop a system of parking nodes and feeder bus routes to enable people to access the light rail system from their respective communities, and

RESOLVED, that the task force explore possible connections with regional transit systems that

might later be developed in central and eastern North Carolina, in Georgia, and in Tennessee, and

RESOLVED, that the task force will conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis of various equipment and routing options, and

RESOLVED, that the task force will preferably identify routing options that use existing (public or commercial) right-of-way (such as highway medians, and existing, but underutilized, rail lines for example), rather than routes that require the acquisition of a great deal of new land, and

RESOLVED, that the task force will submit an interim report to the sponsoring regional governments within one year and a final report within two years, and

RESOLVED, that the sponsoring regional governments seek funding through public and private sources, including the issuance of regional bonds, and funds federally allocated for the support of national infrastructure development, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, after receiving funding, the Consortium of regional governments shall implement the plan without delay, since any delay will allow a) further environmental degradation, b) a loss of land availability for routes and parking nodes, and c) an escalation of costs.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees, City of Asheville, and Buncombe County by
Steve Pohl, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Asheville Metropolitan Area is growing at a rapid rate, particularly in the unincorporated areas of Buncombe County and in the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, tremendous growth in hotels and visitor stays contribute to pressures on traffic and parking; and

WHEREAS, the various communities and unincorporated areas of the Asheville Metropolitan Area are tightly connected, economically and physically; and

WHEREAS, lack of transportation options contributes to the housing affordability challenges our community faces;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Democratic Party endorses formation of

a Metropolitan Transit District, unifying the transit systems of Buncombe, Haywood and Henderson counties and the cities and towns of Hendersonville, Waynesville, Weaverville, Marshall, Mars Hill, Swannanoa, and Black Mountain, so as to optimize resource use in providing a comprehensive mass transit service to the people of the greater Asheville metropolitan area.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees, Buncombe County, the City of Asheville, Haywood County, and Henderson County by
Lawrence Holt, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO CONTROL COST OF PRIVATE TRASH COLLECTION IN UNINCORPORATED PARTS OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY

WHEREAS, publicly funded collection of waste is not available to households located in unincorporated parts of Buncombe County; and

WHEREAS, residents are left to their own devices with regard to proper disposal of their trash and recycling;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that greater competition be encouraged in bidding for waste management contracts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the contract for waste management vendors be renegotiated more frequently than every 10 years.

Submitted to Buncombe County by
Marjorie Smith, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO ADD ALTERNATIVES FOR TRASH COLLECTION IN UNINCORPORATED PARTS OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY

WHEREAS, publicly funded collection of waste is not available to households located in unincorporated parts of Buncombe County; and

WHEREAS, residents are left to their own devices with regard to proper disposal of their trash and recycling; and

WHEREAS, the cost for hiring a private contractor can be burdensome to low-income families who often resort to open burning of household trash in violation of county statutes; and

WHEREAS, Western North Carolina has been facing severe drought conditions resulting in high risk for forest fires; and

WHEREAS, burning of household waste releases pollutants into the environment; and

WHEREAS, there is only one transfer station serving the entire county, which is not centrally located;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that three new transfer stations be added; and

RESOLVED, that the county will emphasize, reduce, reuse, and recycle practices for non-commercial and commercial users; and

RESOLVED, that the county be divided into quadrants and that one transfer station be made available in each quadrant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that fees for non-commercial dumping be waived for residents and paid to the private contractor by the county.

Submitted to Buncombe County by
Marjorie Smith, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO EXTEND WATER AND SEWER SERVICES TO THE ENKA-CANDLER COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the Enka-Candler Fire Department has no access to water in a large portion of the Enka-Candler Fire District, Enka-Candler pays higher fire insurance rates due to limited access to water, and all Buncombe County Fire Departments must respond with pumper trucks to large fire emergencies within the no-water service areas; and

WHEREAS, poor well water quality in areas with no public water require costly filtration and maintenance; septic systems servicing older trailer parks, businesses and homes are at risk of failure and threaten stream water quality; many older home and business lots do not have septic repair areas; commercial businesses and shopping centers currently are not able to be fully rented due to small septic system size, limiting area jobs, future business expansions, and County tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, developers agree that high land cost due to site scarcity in Buncombe County is the biggest obstacle facing development of affordable housing, business expansion, or attracting new businesses in Buncombe County; and

WHEREAS, Enka-Candler has two census blocks both with no public water or sewer access that have greater than 50 percent low-moderate income populations; many residents must live in sub-standard housing due to the high cost of well and septic installation, as well as a lack of high-density affordable housing in underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, Enka-Candler has only one major employer, the least in Buncombe County; Enka-Candler cannot attract major employers or high-density affordable housing developments in underserved areas without public water and sewer access, and all other regional areas of Buncombe County have public water and sewer access to the County lines along major state highways paralleling a Federal Interstate;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Democratic Party supports public water and sewer expansion in the underserved areas of Enka-Candler all the way to the Haywood County line, and asks the Buncombe County Commissioners to commission a feasibility study for water and sewer expansion in said areas that can be used to apply for multiple currently available grants to pay for the installation and tap fees of these underserved Enka-Candler residents and businesses.

Submitted to Buncombe County and the City of Asheville by
Lynn Miller, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO BUILD A COMMUNITY CENTER AND PUBLIC PARK FOR THE ENKA-CANDLER COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the Enka-Candler community is the only area of Buncombe County that does not have a community center or a public park that is primarily for community residents and not rented to outside sports groups; and

WHEREAS, Enka-Candler area has two census blocks both with greater than 50 percent low-moderate income populations; Enka-Candler has very limited, small space options in affordable public event spaces and many residents don't have transportation to drive to other public parks in Buncombe County; and

WHEREAS, Enka-Candler does not have a low-cost public facility to host youth crime prevention programs recommended by the Sheriff's Department as a way to lower crime rates in the Enka-Candler area; studies have shown that juvenile criminal rates can decrease up to 25% when the community has a recreation center for adolescents to attend; and

WHEREAS, Community Centers can strengthen and grow communities by offering a space that builds new relationships between neighbors with like interests; Community Parks add value to local properties, build healthier communities by encouraging more youth and the community

outdoor physical activity and help lower crime rates due to having more “eyes on the street” in town centers; and

WHEREAS, Community Centers and parks can offer an enormous variety of educational, social and recreational activities, tailored to what the members of the community are interested in; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County already owns two tracts of land that are at least four acres in size in the Enka-Candler community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Democratic Party supports Buncombe County building a community center and neighborhood recreational park to service the Enka-Candler community.

Submitted to Buncombe County and the City of Asheville by
Lynn Miller, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CONTEMPT OF CONSTITUENCY LAW, OR THE HONEST POLITICIAN
ACT

WHEREAS, citizens deserve to receive honest information from their elected representatives; and

WHEREAS, too many citizens believe that most, if not all, elected representatives are dishonest and corrupt; and

WHEREAS, it is a criminal offense to lie in a court of law or before a Congressional hearing or to misrepresent information on a federal application; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this policy position will result in significant political advantages for democrats in future contests for elected offices;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party include a Contempt of Constituency position in the North Carolina State Party Platform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will work to bring legislation to the North Carolina General Assembly to make it a criminal offense for an elected representative to intentionally and knowingly lie or misrepresent information to the constituents.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Ashley McClelland, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AND REMOVE THE RATIFICATION
TIME LIMIT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution does not explicitly guarantee that all the rights it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex and the only right it specifically affirms to be equal for men and women is the right to vote in the 19th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause has not been interpreted to guarantee equal rights for women in the same way the Equal Rights Amendment ("ERA") would, by situating sex as a suspect category invoking strict judicial scrutiny, just as race, national origin and religion do; and

WHEREAS, state laws are not uniform and federal laws are not comprehensive; additionally these laws can be repealed or reduced; and

WHEREAS, the Amendment would help correct systemic sex discrimination; and

WHEREAS, women have been seeking full constitutional equality since the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in 1923; and

WHEREAS, the ERA was passed by Congress in 1972 and ratified by 35 of the 38 states necessary to put it into the Constitution, yet was assumed to have expired in 1982; and

WHEREAS, recent legal analysis supports the conclusion that the Constitution imposes no time limit for ratification of amendments; Congress can alter time limits in the proposing clauses of amendments; the deadline for ERA appeared only in the preamble and not in the actual legislation; and ratification of the Madison (27th) Amendment 203 years after it was first proposed supports the premise that state ERA ratification votes since 1972 are sufficiently contemporaneous; and

WHEREAS, the ERA ensures that women will have equal rights under the U.S. Constitution, and the 2016 Democratic National Platform reaffirmed women's rights as civil rights and reaffirmed its continuing support of the ERA; and

WHEREAS, in the North Carolina General Assembly on February 14, 2017, Senator Floyd McKissick introduced S.85 and Representative Carla Cunningham introduced H.102, legislation to ratify the ERA; and

WHEREAS, United States Representatives G.K. Butterfield, David Price, and Alma Adams co-sponsored bills in the 114th Congress to pass an ERA and to lift the time limits on the states for ratifying the ERA;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports ratification of the ERA by the state of North Carolina; and

RESOLVED, that the state party staff communicate to all Democratic elected officials that their support is needed to ratify the ERA; and

RESOLVED, that we call on all members of the U.S. House and Senate to cosponsor, support, and pass into law Senate Joint Resolution 5 and House Joint Resolution 53 that will remove the time limit for ratification of the ERA so that ratification shall be achieved upon the affirmative vote of 38 states, of which 35 have already ratified; and

RESOLVED, that we call on all members of the NC House and Senate to support and pass into law S.85 and H.102; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party pursue grassroots and legislative strategies for passage of the ERA and support of the three-state strategy to put the Equal Rights Amendment into the Constitution.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Laura Bryson, Kristen Goldsmith, Nancy Baker, Jeffrey Vanderlip, Vijay Kapoor, Emory Underwood, David Harney, Teri Stahara, Terri Wells, Marjorie Smith, and Howard Bridges, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM THE DIGNITY OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER
PEOPLE, AND REPEAL SESSION LAW 2016 - HOUSE BILL 2

WHEREAS, we believe every North Carolinian has the right to participate fully and equally in society and enjoy its benefits and freedoms; and

WHEREAS lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) North Carolinians suffer pervasive discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations including public restrooms, and education because of homophobia and a lack of legal protection; and

WHEREAS, non-discrimination laws help to ensure that LGBTQ people have equal access to the same opportunities and protections granted to others, such as the ability to use a public restroom safely without fear of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina does not have a statewide non-discrimination policy covering sexual orientation and gender identity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that public buildings will provide restrooms that are available to all people regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender assigned at birth; and

RESOLVED, that House Bill 2 will be repealed in its entirety due to its discriminatory nature towards the LGBTQ citizens of North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the passage of comprehensive non-discrimination legislation that would make discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity illegal in employment, housing, education and public accommodations including public restrooms.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Laura Evans and Jeffrey Vanderlip, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REPEAL NC HB-318 TO HELP UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

WHEREAS, the current administration in Washington endeavors to cause harm to undocumented immigrants by denying them due process; and

WHEREAS, NC HB-318 (2015) limits the ability to use a consular ID card or local ID card to prove residency; and

WHEREAS, NC HB-318 limits a municipality's ability to create a sanctuary community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NC HB-318 be reconsidered and repealed by the State Legislature.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Marjorie Smith, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR TEACHER EDUCATION AND COMPENSATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, a just, humane, imaginative, well-educated and industrious citizenry is essential to a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, public education has long been recognized as an essential function of government; and

WHEREAS, free public education provides tangible benefits for individuals, the community and the economy;

WHEREAS, a high quality public education requires that the State of North Carolina recruit, train and support teachers of outstanding character and intellect; and

WHEREAS, the compensation and benefits currently offered public school teachers in North Carolina denigrate their abilities and commitment, discourage entry into the profession, and lead teachers to seek employment elsewhere;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the recruitment, training, empowerment and compensation of a high quality teaching force is regarded as the top priority in the expenditure of revenues of the State of North Carolina; and

RESOLVED, that in addition to significant increases in the regular budget devoted to the preparation and support of a high quality teaching force for the public schools, any budget surpluses are to be devoted to making teachers' compensation competitive with any other state, encouraging the enrollment of the best and brightest in teacher preparation, the provision of adequate instructional supplies, and the reduction of student-teacher ratios; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina General Assembly and the U.S. Congress should increase funding for public education from PreK through College.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Rebecca Crandall, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO STOP STRIPPING PUBLIC FUNDS FROM NORTH CAROLINA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the North Carolina constitution says that taxpayer money be used "exclusively for establishing and maintaining a uniform system of free public schools," (*Asheville CitizenTimes*, "Growing Interest in School Voucher Program in WNC," 7/31/15); and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Supreme Court still ruled in favor of a voucher program – The Opportunity Scholarship Program – providing up to \$4,200 per student to attend private schools for families of four whose annual income is below \$59,667 family; and

WHEREAS, in Buncombe County last year, just 13 students received scholarships, where 113 students have applied for scholarships for the 201516 school year; and

WHEREAS, in many cases the \$4,200 scholarship fails to cover the total cost of the private schools and ultimately leaves some students still not able to attend the private school, therefore possibly leading to segregation of schools by economic levels; and

WHEREAS, most of the tax dollar scholarships have been going to religious schools, for example, the Trinity Christian School in Fayetteville (receiving \$118,230 of public school funds), the Greensboro Islamic Academy (receiving \$279,300 of public school funds), and in Buncombe County, the Temple Baptist School, with 28 applicants; and

WHEREAS, Republicans have tried to remove income requirements so everyone can attend the private school of their choice with public school funds; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, HB-535 proposed allocating \$1 million per year to Parents for Education Freedom in NC (“PEFNC”), a nonprofit funded by the Walton family established to distribute taxpayer dollars to new charter schools in NC without public oversight; and

WHEREAS, when once a student transfers to a private school but drops out, the money has not been transferred back to public schools; and

WHEREAS, critics of money being taken away from the public schools point out that there is a lack of standards and accountability at private schools as to the curriculum; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina public school funding has been cut drastically in the Republican budgets coming out of Raleigh to give tax cuts to high income corporations and households instead; and

WHEREAS, local school districts like Buncombe’s have had to subsidize public schools to make up for Raleigh’s drastic funding cuts; and

WHEREAS, local governments may need to raise local taxes to maintain the quality of their schools in the face of the General Assembly’s failure to provide adequate funding, and due to charter school scholarships diverting funds from public schools to private schools;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina legislature follow the state constitution and stop withdrawing money from public education, which impairs North Carolina public schools’ ability to be successful; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina legislature implement other proven methods of improving public schools, including refraining from furthering any voucher systems, rather than diverting funds for a select few to private schools.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard and Rebecca Crandall, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR TUITION-FREE PUBLIC COLLEGES

WHEREAS, education beyond the high school level has become increasingly important for today's jobs and those of the future; and

WHEREAS, college education is now priced out of the reach of many willing and qualified students; and

WHEREAS, the prospect of being unable to afford a college education is a disincentive to high school students who see little point in extra effort to excel, or even in graduation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Democratic Party support the allocation of public funds to support affordable or tuition free policies at public colleges, community colleges and universities in North Carolina and nationwide, for academically qualified students.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Julie Montanea and Janet Betke, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY IN NORTH CAROLINA BY 2035

WHEREAS, the need for energy is essential to maintaining a good quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the need for clean energy is essential for protecting our air, water, and land resources; and

WHEREAS, adopting renewable resources are essential to maintaining the economy of the future; and

WHEREAS, climate change has increased the global average surface temperature by 1.00 degrees Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) since 1880; and

WHEREAS, climate change is expected to increasingly impact North Carolina's temperatures, precipitation and sea level with harmful consequences in coming years; and

WHEREAS, climate change and global average temperature increases are primarily due to human-caused fossil fuels emissions, including coal, oil and natural gas, according to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, National Academy of Science, American Meteorological Society, United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Defense, and numerous other leading scientific, academic and governmental authorities both in the United States and internationally; and

WHEREAS, a final agreement of the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP21), which included the United States and a total of 195 nations, was reached in Paris, France on December 12, 2015, that states the aim is to "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels" and entered into force on November 4, 2016; and

WHEREAS, scientists have concluded the concentration of carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas, in the Earth's atmosphere is currently and consistently over 400 parts per million (ppm) and will likely stay above this level for the indefinite future for the first time in millions of years; and

WHEREAS, sixteen of the seventeen hottest years on record have occurred in the twenty-first century and 2016 is the hottest year on record; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the global average temperature, if not stopped, will have major adverse impacts on both the natural and human-made environments due to longer, more intense heat waves, prolonged droughts, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and more intense and frequent extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, these physical effects are expected to lead to water scarcity, food insecurity, increasing numbers of refugees, increased poverty, and mass extinctions of species; and

WHEREAS, studies completed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Risky Business Project, Duke University, and others point to the severe economic costs of climate change and continuing use of fossil fuel, estimating billions of dollars a year in costs nationally and trillions globally; and

WHEREAS, leading economists, policy experts, and business leaders conclude that transitioning to a clean energy economy available for all would create millions of green jobs nationally, improve our living standards, and boost economic growth in coming years; and

WHEREAS, low-income communities and communities of color in North Carolina and the United States are inordinately exposed to pollution, that causes serious health problems such as cancer and asthma, from fossil fuels, including the dirtiest coal-fired power plants which produce coal ash, are disproportionately located in communities of color; and

WHEREAS, a Stanford University and University of California-Davis study concludes the United States energy supply could be based entirely on renewable energy by the year 2050 using current technologies and 80% renewable energy by 2030 while creating numerous green jobs; and

WHEREAS, municipalities, organizations, businesses, and academic institutions throughout the

world have set a goal to achieve carbon or climate neutrality by 2035 or earlier; and

WHEREAS, over 600 American colleges and universities have made a commitment to reduce greenhouse gases, including Appalachian State University, Blue Ridge Community College, Carteret Community College, Catawba College, Central Carolina Community College, Davidson College, Duke University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, Guilford College, North Carolina Central University, Queens University of Charlotte, Southeastern Community College, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Wake Technical Community College, and Warren Wilson College; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina installed 1,140 MW of solar electric capacity in 2015, ranking it second nationally; nearly \$17 billion was invested on solar installations in North Carolina, a 159% increase over the previous year; there are currently more than 200 solar companies at work throughout the value chain in North Carolina, employing some 6,000 people; North Carolina ranks third in the nation in installed solar capacity, enough to power 260,000 homes; and solar photovoltaic system prices in the U.S. have dropped by 66% since 2010; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has more offshore wind energy potential than any Atlantic state; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report recommended a global goal of achieving near zero greenhouse gas emissions or below, which is necessary to stabilize the global average temperature to avoid climate catastrophe;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, to avoid climate catastrophe, to promote job creation and economic growth, and to protect the Earth for current and future generations from climate catastrophe, the Buncombe County Democratic Party endorses the State of North Carolina and the United States establishing a transition from a fossil fuel-based economy to one based on 100% clean renewable energy for all energy sectors, by December 31, 2035.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Catherine Mitchell and David Harney, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO BAN HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

WHEREAS, the safety of natural resources is of great concern to public health; and

WHEREAS, the biggest risks to human health from hydraulic fracturing, hereinafter referred to as “fracking,” are water and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, scientific research, including the EPA's study “Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas:

Impacts from the Hydraulic Fracturing Water Cycle on Drinking Water Resources in the United States,” has concluded that the management of these risks has not prevented significant contamination of drinking water resources;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party include a ban on fracking in the North Carolina State Party Platform, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will work to bring legislation to the North Carolina General Assembly to ban fracking in the state of North Carolina.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Lawrence Holt, Laura Evans, and Jeremy Wood, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO ACHIEVE A LITTER FREE NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, litter free roads, streets, highways and byways are an essential asset that needs to be protected; and

WHEREAS, litter free roads, street, highways and byways enhance the appeal of traveling in North Carolina for residents, travelers, and visitors of our state; and

WHEREAS, litter can create road hazards which may cause serious damage to vehicles and accidents, injuries and potential death to people traveling on roadways in the state of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, litter may create an additional environmental hazard in combination with run-off siphoning into streams, wetlands, and natural areas; and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with litter removal crews and the potential hazards to those engaged in the pick-up of letter are extremely high; and

WHEREAS, adequate enforcement and significant fines would offer the potential to significantly reduce the ugly litter that is strewn, and generate revenue from penalties/fines that could be used to enhance and beautify the scenic roadways in North Carolina for all to enjoy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party include a “Litter Free North Carolina” provision in the Party Platform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will work to bring legislation to the North Carolina General Assembly to eliminate litter throughout the State of North Carolina, to establish an educational program to inform the public of the dangers and nuisance of litter, and

develop an adequate penalty/fine system to help achieve this goal throughout the State of North Carolina.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Nancy Baker, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A PUBLIC BANK OF NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the inequity that exists between the very rich and the poor in the United States rests, in part, with the disproportionate salary plus bonuses of many corporations' highest executives, particularly in the financial industry; and

WHEREAS, we need to counter this disparity by providing a bank in our state that would function for the good of the people of North Carolina, and give them an alternative to the large banks of Wall Street; and

WHEREAS, an institution like the state-owned Bank of North Dakota (BND), a socialist relic that has been in existence since 1919 and is thriving, providing reasonable priced loans for community banks, businesses, consumer and students, while also delivering a significant profit to its owners – the 700,000 people of the state of North Dakota, is needed in our state;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party actively support the creation of a public Bank of North Carolina.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Beverly Kimble, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO CREATE BENEFIT CORPORATIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the purpose of our economic system is or should be to provide fair living wages to all workers in an environmentally sustainable manner; and

WHEREAS, traditional C corporations have been free to maximize profits while reducing employment opportunities and/or living wages for workers, and often imposing significant environmental costs on local communities and on society at large; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, thirty states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws allowing the creation of benefit corporations, also known as B corporations; and

WHEREAS, benefit corporations are designed to have a positive impact on society, workers, the

community and the environment in addition to profit as their legally defined goals; and

WHEREAS, a benefit corporation's directors and officers operate the business with the same authority as in a traditional corporation, but are required to consider the impact of their decisions not only on shareholders, but also on society and the environment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will support legislation before the North Carolina General Assembly to legalize benefit corporations and to encourage their formation and the conversion of existing corporations to benefit corporation status.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Laura Evans and Jeremy Wood, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO LEGALIZE INDUSTRIAL HEMP

WHEREAS, currently, more than 30 nations grow industrial hemp as an agricultural commodity, which is sold on the world market; and

WHEREAS, hemp fibers in these countries have been used to manufacture hundreds of products that include fiber for injected/molded composite materials, twine, paper, construction materials such as Hempcrete, carpeting, clothing, and animal bedding. Seeds have been used in making industrial oils, cosmetics and other personal care products, and medicines. Hemp seed or oil can be found in cooking oil, salad dressings, pasta, and snack products. This crop has also generated great interest among pharmaceutical and medical researchers. (Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service); and

WHEREAS, currently there is no large-scale commercial production in the United States and the U.S. market depends on imports; and

WHEREAS, industrial hemp could be a very significant cash crop for N.C. farmers; and

WHEREAS, in addition to work for farmers, the large-scale commercial production of industrial hemp would provide business and employment opportunities for many 1000s of citizens in North Carolina in such things as many varied processing and manufacturing plants, distribution and transportation networks, new entrepreneurial enterprises and retail stores and artisan activities; and

WHEREAS, Hempcrete has been demonstrated to reduce substantially the construction and operating (from high insulation aspects) costs in buildings; and

WHEREAS, industrial hemp is a fast-growing, renewable resource, and

WHEREAS, it is urgent that we move to a lower energy, green economy as rapidly as possible,

increasing local production of industrial material and reducing our dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, there are only miniscule amounts of the psychoactive substance THC in industrial hemp, as marijuana and industrial hemp are different varieties of the same plant species, and *Cannabis sativa* L. Marijuana typically contains 3 to 15 percent of THC on a dry-weight basis, while in contrast, industrial hemp contains less than 1 percent (Blade, 1998; Vantreese, 1998); and further, most developed countries that permit hemp cultivation require use of varieties with less than 0.3 percent THC;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party and its candidates for public office support laws that allow the growing of industrial hemp and the manufacture of industrial hemp products.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Kristen Goldsmith and Lynn Miller, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR EXPANSION OF MEDICAID IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, since January 1, 2014, North Carolina has rejected \$4.9 million per day that would provide coverage for over 500,000 uninsured people, according to the NC Justice Center; and

WHEREAS, our state can use the money earmarked in the Affordable Care Act to close this coverage gap for struggling parents and adults without children, and

WHEREAS, the lack of Medicaid coverage for people caught in the Medicaid gap penalizes and is a drain on hospitals and tax payers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina legislature quickly pass the expansion of Medicaid recommended by Governor Cooper.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Rebecca Telberg and Hugh Stephens, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, there are many components that contribute to good health, including the ability to respond to illness, disease and injury; and

WHEREAS, achieving the goal of living a healthy life is not possible without the ability to access health care; and

WHEREAS, healthcare should be available to everyone; and

WHEREAS, the lack of available healthcare is a barrier to success, opportunity and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, North Carolinians should not be divided between those who can afford to be healthy and those who cannot; and

WHEREAS, North Carolinians should not be divided between those who have hopes and dreams and those whose sickness, disease or injury robs them of hopes and dreams and the ability to contribute to society;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party include Universal Health Care for all North Carolinians in the North Carolina State Party Platform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will work to bring legislation to the North Carolina General Assembly to refer to the voters a measure creating an equitable, comprehensive, high quality, affordable, publicly funded health care system serving everyone in North Carolina. The system should be fully transparent, accountable, and involved meaningful public participation, and be affordable for families, businesses and all residents of North Carolina.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Nancy Baker, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR OPIOID PRESCRIPTION REGULATION AND OPIOID TREATMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, opioids are the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S, drug overdoses kill more people than car crashes, overdose deaths from synthetic opioids including fentanyl have significantly increased in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, 259 million opioid prescriptions were written in 2012, enough for every American adult to have their own bottle of pills; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina did not pass Medicaid expansion resulting in a gap of coverage for opioid addiction programs now only available to pregnant women, poor children, and seniors; and

WHEREAS, four North Carolina cities are listed in the 2016 report of the top 25 worst cities in the US for opioid abuse; and

WHEREAS, opioid abuse costs the U.S. economy nearly \$56 billion and costs employers approximately \$10 billion from absenteeism and lower productivity alone; and

WHEREAS, four in five new heroin users started out misusing prescription painkillers and the American Society of Addiction Medicine reported that the amount of opioid prescriptions sold in 2010 was four times that of 1999;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party asks the General Assembly of North Carolina to put in place stricter regulations of opioid prescriptions and fund an opioid treatment and recovery program for all 100 North Carolina Counties.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Lynn Miller and Kristen Goldsmith, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO LEGALIZE MEDICAL CANNABIS IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, Medical Cannabis has been demonstrated to be an effective drug for treatment of chronic pain and certain other human ailments

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that Medical Cannabis cures and/or greatly improves cancer, arthritis, pain, fibromyalgia and a myriad of other maladies; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina current law denies doctors the right to treat patients by prescribing Medical Cannabis; and

WHEREAS, most states (28) have legalized Medical Cannabis, with several more likely to this year, (<http://medicalmarijuana.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000881>); and

WHEREAS, many other treatments legally prescribed by doctors to treat similar symptoms are known to have side effects, and to be extremely dangerous when misused;

WHEREAS, the pharmaceutical companies do not include Medical Cannabis in their prescription models; and

WHEREAS, patients are currently not allowed to make informed decisions about their own health care based on the fact that their choices are limited to chemical-based drug treatment, while an earth-based, non-toxic plant like marijuana is not offered as an alternative to harmful prescriptions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party and its candidates for public office support the legalization of Medical Cannabis, and thus grant licensed medical doctors, psychologists and nurse practitioners the legal right to prescribe Medical Cannabis in the same way they prescribe other drugs, and to extend this right to licensed chiropractors who treat patients with chronic pain; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Medical Cannabis be sold in state sanctioned stores across North Carolina under the supervision and guidance of legally appointed MDs and psychologists and the State Legislature.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Kristen Goldsmith, Rebecca Telberg, and Lynn Miller, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, a 2013 Princeton University political science study found that state supreme court justices who don't face voters are generally more effective than their elected counterparts (see <https://www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S36/13/85O91/>); and

WHEREAS, partisan elections attempt to further politicize the already problematic process of judicial elections; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has had good success with its nonpartisan elections for appellate court judges; and

WHEREAS, the recent return to partisan elections for the courts is unnecessary and tends to politicize races which ought to be based on candidates' records and reputation as impartial jurists;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the state of North Carolina should return to nonpartisan elections for all North Carolina state appellate courts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party shall work toward nonpartisan elections for all judicial elections.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Rebecca Crandall, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NONPARTISAN REDISTRICTING REFORM #1

WHEREAS, our government works best when all voices are equally represented and heard in the political process; and

WHEREAS, the drawing of voting district lines has a long history of political gerrymandering with each party attempting to maximize its votes through targeted adjustment of district boundaries; and

WHEREAS, gerrymandering is a way of gaming the electoral system to create an artificial and unrepresentative majority for one party; and

WHEREAS, gerrymandering reduces the breadth of conversation necessary for a democracy to function; and

WHEREAS, voting districts in North Carolina are drawn by the party having the legislative majority; and

WHEREAS, that party is likely to draw lines that will protect its own power by gerrymandering; and

WHEREAS, electoral districts are developed which have little cultural, economic, or geographical aspects in common; and

WHEREAS, communities, and even college campuses, have been split to dilute the power of opposition party votes; and

WHEREAS, the current voting turnout is low due to district geographic areas that lead to noncompetitive races; and

WHEREAS, every vote does not have the same impact, which disenfranchises some citizens of the State; and

WHEREAS, over 20 states have created nonpartisan commissions to draw district voting lines;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party work actively to advocate for a nonpartisan commission be created to redefine the districts at all levels to create a representative cross-section of the electorate; and

RESOLVED, that the state of North Carolina look at models, such as the plan advanced by the Duke Sanford School of Public Policy and Common Cause panel, used to create nonpartisan voting districts; and

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party commit its actions, time, ideas, energy,

treasury and prayers toward ensuring the creation of nonpartisan voting districts within the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, if not already enacted, this measure should be placed on the ballot for a statewide referendum in 2018.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Lawrence Holt, Catherine Mitchell, Bob Ballard, Beverly Kimble, Jeffrey Vanderlip, Hugh Stephens,
Emory Underwood, Larry Dodson, and Rebecca Crandall, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NON-PARTISAN REDISTRICTING REFORM #2

WHEREAS, one party in North Carolina now can garner 57% of the popular vote but control 79% of its Congressional seats (10 of 13); and

WHEREAS, district lines are currently drawn by majority parties occupying the legislature in decennial redistricting/census years, with no “bi-party” cooperation, and with clear partisan intent and goals; and,

WHEREAS, districts throughout the state have become less and less competitive; and,

WHEREAS, redistricting is often described as “representatives choosing their voters” rather than the generally embraced idea at the heart of democracy that *voters* should select their representatives; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina has drawn some of the most memorable Rorschach-looking districts in the nation and generated some of the most famous court Supreme Court cases on “line drawing”; and,

WHEREAS, distinct cities, coherent economic markets, and contiguous geographic areas have had their influence diminished in the state legislature and the US Congress as they have been either “cracked” or “packed” in bizarre line drawing; and,

WHEREAS, the state has spent tax-payer dollars defending its redistricting decisions in losing court battles, diverting resources that could have been better applied to other programs and services; and,

WHEREAS, other states have successfully implemented various forms of independent and/or truly bi-partisan redistricting commissions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that North Carolina adopt a process of removing active and sitting legislators from the task of drawing state house, state senate, and US Congressional district lines with a form of an “Independent Redistricting Commission” (IRC) modeling it after the “Iowa Model,”ⁱ or one similar to Arizonaⁱⁱ, Californiaⁱⁱⁱ or,

RESOLVED, that North Carolina adopt a redistricting commission plan that is transparently and functionally bi-partisan, yet composed of legislators; through a process mirroring the redistricting commissions functioning in states such as Colorado^{iv}, Hawaii^v, Idaho^{vi}, Missouri^{vii}, or New Jersey^{viii}.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Rebecca Telberg, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

ⁱ Iowa conducts redistricting unlike any other state. The Iowa system does not put the task in the hands of a commission, but rather the legislature does vote on the plans.

Nonpartisan legislative staff develop maps for the Iowa House and Senate as well as U.S. House districts without any political or election data including the addresses of incumbents.

ⁱⁱ The commission on appellate court appointees creates a pool of 25 nominees, ten from each of the two largest parties and five not from either of the two largest parties. The highest ranking officer of the house appoints one from the pool, then the minority leader of the house appoints one, then the highest ranking officer of the senate appoints one, then the minority leader of the senate appoints one. These four appoint a fifth from the pool, not a member of any party already represented on the commission, as chair. If the four deadlock, the commission on appellate court appointments appoints the chair.

ⁱⁱⁱ With the Passage of Proposition 11 in 2008, the process of redrawing California's state legislative districts was removed from state legislative authority and given to a newly established 14 member commission. The commission must include 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 4 members from neither party. Government auditors are to select 60 registered voters from an applicant pool. Legislative leaders can reduce the pool; the auditors then are to pick eight commission members by lottery, and those commissioners pick six additional members for 14 total. For approval district boundaries need votes from three Democratic commissioners, three Republican commissioners, and three commissioners from neither party.

^{iv} Legislature selects four: (speaker of the House; House minority leader; Senate majority and minority leaders; or their delegates). Governor selects three. Chief Justice of Colorado Supreme Court selects four. Maximum of four from the legislature. Each congressional district must have at least one person, but no more than four people representing it on the commission. At least one member must live west of the Continental Divide.

^v President of the Senate selects two. Speaker of the House selects two. The minority leader in both the house and senate party each select one of their number. Those two each select one. These eight select the ninth member, who is the chair. No commission member may run for the

legislature in the two elections following redistricting.

^{vi} Leaders of two largest political parties in each house of the legislature each designate one member; chairs of the two parties whose candidates for governor received the most votes in the last election each designate one member. No member may be an elected or appointed official in the state at the time of designation.

^{vii} There are two separate redistricting committees. Governor picks one person from each list of two submitted by the two main political parties in each congressional district to form the house committee. Governor picks five people from two lists of 10 submitted by the two major political parties in the state to form the senate committee. No commission member may hold office in the legislature for four years after redistricting.

^{viii} The majority and minority leaders of both legislative chambers and the chairs of the two major political parties each choose two. Those twelve then appoint the thirteenth who has not held any public or party office in the state within the last five years. If they cannot agree, they will present two names to the Supreme Court, which will choose the final member.

Source for all the state commission citations is The National Conference of State Legislatures:
<http://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/2009-redistricting-commissions-table.aspx>

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR OPEN SOURCE WEB BASED VOTING SOFTWARE FOR NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, casting a vote for a political candidate typically consists of paper ballots, optical scan machines, punch cards, mail away ballots, and/or direct recording electronic systems; and

WHEREAS, paper ballot options often require manual counting of votes particularly in the case of a recount while electronic systems are almost exclusively based on proprietary software which requires regular and expensive auditing to ensure the software is fair and uncompromised; and

WHEREAS, voting software based on open source, web based technology would be accessible from any internet connected computer, potentially even from a voters own home, which has the effect of increasing accessibility to voting and reducing the time and effort required to collect and tally votes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will work to bring legislation to the North Carolina General Assembly to provide funding to create open source, web-based voting software, and adopt it as the primary means of voting in North Carolina as soon as such software is made available; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will include support for open

source, web-based voting software in the North Carolina State Party Platform.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Jeremy Wood, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ABOLISH CORPORATE
PERSONHOOD

WHEREAS, natural human beings alone are entitled to citizenship and the rights, privileges, and benefits thereof; and

WHEREAS, corporations are not human beings, but “artificial immortal beings,” as defined by Chief Justice John Marshall, and as such are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments that create them and certify their existence; and

WHEREAS, since 1886, the U.S. Supreme Court has granted U. S. corporations the title of persons and progressively over the years increased their power to influence, to lobby and spend excessive amounts of money to accomplish what ordinary citizens are unable to accomplish, thereby subverting the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission*, declared corporations to be persons, and eliminated legal limits on corporate political spending, thereby further subverting the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, money is property, not speech, as nowhere in the U.S. Constitution is money equated with speech, and equating the spending of money with free speech gives those “persons” with the most money the most speech; and

WHEREAS, corporate participation in the political process often conflicts with the public interest, as many invest in campaigns to invalidate or bypass regulatory law intended to protect the public and our natural resources, while many have brought legal action against our federal, state and municipal governments when the latter have attempted to enforce protective laws, thus wasting countless tax dollars, and unfortunately too often corporations have won; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of people and municipalities across the nation have joined together to call for an Amendment to the United States Constitution to abolish corporate personhood and overturn the *Citizens United* decision; and

WHEREAS, artificial entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state should have no rights under this Constitution, and should be subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State and local law;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party and its candidates for

public office support an Amendment to the United States Constitution to abolish corporate personhood and overturn the Citizens United decision, and that this may include, but is not limited to, supporting a ballot measure put forth in the 2018 General Election to be voted upon by the people of North Carolina, and that this ballot measure, known and cited as the “We the People Act,” declares that the people of North Carolina support amending the Constitution of the United States to firmly establish that money is not speech, and that only human beings, not corporations or other artificial entities, are “natural persons” entitled to constitutional rights.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Kristen Goldsmith, Keosha Morgan, Beverly Kimble, Vijay Kapoor, and Lynn Miller, Buncombe
County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO STRENGTHEN AND ENFORCE CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

WHEREAS, caring, thoughtful Americans support a government that represents all the people, not just the wealthy and the powerful; and

WHEREAS, large money donors are overwhelming the voices of everyday citizens, who do not always have the means to resist their power; and

WHEREAS, Americans need to eliminate the presence and power of undisclosed, unaccountable money in politics, and promote complete disclosure and transparency; and

WHEREAS, the voices of the people must be paramount over the voices of corporations and pseudo non-profits;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will fight for campaign finance reform now; and

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court’s decisions in *Citizens United* and *Buckley v. Valeo*; and

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the immediate elimination of “super PACs”; and

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports a system of small donor and public; and

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party and its candidates for public office support an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would limit campaign financing to contributions from

breathing, individual U.S. citizens, and not corporations, not to exceed an amount per year determined by law; and

RESOLVED, that this same amendment lower the cost of campaigns substantially by requiring that all U.S. radio stations and major TV networks that report news to provide free equal time for all candidates during election periods, to be specified by law.
financing of elections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Federal Election Commission must be strengthened to ensure enforcement of campaign finance laws.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard and Lynn Miller, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, a study has shown that the opinions of 90% of Americans have essentially no impact on what laws are passed, yet those who can afford to hire lobbyists are much more likely to get the laws they want; and

WHEREAS, in the last five years the 200 most politically-active companies in the U.S. spent \$5.8 billion influencing government, and those same companies got \$4.4 trillion in taxpayer support; and

WHEREAS, under current law it is perfectly legal to buy political influence with campaign contributions and promises of lucrative jobs, and routine for lawmakers receiving these favors to approve bills written by lobbyists;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports state and federal legislation to make it illegal for lobbyists to give campaign contributions or job offers to government officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports state and federal legislation to require immediate online disclosure of all significant political contributions so that the public knows who is buying political influence.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Jeremy Wood, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR TAX RETURNS OF CANDIDATES FOR FEDERAL OFFICE

WHEREAS, it has been common practice for the last 25 years for candidates for office to the US Congress and Presidency to release their tax returns; and,

WHEREAS, tax returns are one of the only methods to identify personal monetary and business influences for candidates, and

WHEREAS, recent candidates for election and elected offices have not been willing to release their tax returns; and,

WHEREAS, there are currently no laws requiring the release of tax returns for candidates to US offices;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party support laws requiring candidates for Federal office to release their tax returns before they are placed on a public ballot.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Beverly Kimble and Owen Bailey, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A FEDERAL HOLIDAY ON ELECTION DAY

WHEREAS, our goal in America should be to do everything possible to make voting easier and more accessible, and

WHEREAS, any action that promotes this concept should be supported and encouraged;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of North Carolina supports and encourages the establishment of Election Day as a national holiday.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO REFORM THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

WHEREAS, the Founders of the Nation established the Electoral College in an era of limited nationwide communication and information sharing; and

WHEREAS, the Electoral College is premised on an antiquated theory that citizens will have a better chance of knowing about electors from their home States than about Presidential

candidates from out of State; and

WHEREAS, the development of mass media and the Internet has made information about Presidential candidates easily accessible to United States citizens across the country and around the world; and

WHEREAS, citizens now have a far better chance of knowing about out-of-State Presidential candidates than about Presidential electors from their home State; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."; and

WHEREAS, since the Nation's founding, United States citizens have amended the Constitution to expand the opportunity for citizens to directly elect their elected leaders; and

WHEREAS, the 15th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens to vote regardless of race; and

WHEREAS, the 19th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens to vote regardless of gender; and

WHEREAS, the 26th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens 18 years of age and older to vote regardless of age; and

WHEREAS, the 17th Amendment establishes both a precedent and a preference for the direct election of citizens' elected representatives; and

WHEREAS, the Electoral College has become an anachronism; and

WHEREAS, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is an agreement among a group of U.S. states and the District of Columbia to award all their respective electoral votes to whichever presidential candidate wins the overall popular vote in the 50 states and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the compact is designed to ensure that the candidate who wins the most popular votes is elected president, and it will come into effect only when it will guarantee that outcome; and

WHEREAS, as of February 2017, it has been adopted by ten states and the District of Columbia, together accounting for 165 electoral votes, which is 30.7% of the total Electoral College, and 61.1% of the votes needed to give the compact legal force; and

WHEREAS, it will take effect when enacted by states with 105 more electoral votes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that an amendment to the Constitution of the United States be offered that upholds the concept of one person, one vote, and establishes that the candidate who wins the nationwide popular vote shall win the Presidency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina General Assembly pass a bill supporting the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact already enacted in 11 states, and passed by the North Carolina Senate in 2007.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Laura Evans, Janet Betke, Beverly Kimble, Linda Scott-Styles, Sarah Jean Young, Keith Thomson, Kirsten Kramer, James Hobson, Emory Underwood, Richard McConnell, and Rebecca Crandall,
Buncombe County

April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO ENSURE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

WHEREAS, Freedom of the Press is a right guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits the government from interfering with the distribution of information and opinions; and

WHEREAS, Freedom of the Press is essential to ensure transparency in government, which discourages unlawful or inappropriate use of governmental powers; and

WHEREAS, a Free Press is necessary to inform and educate the people, which is essential to a democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Press is currently being attacked and curtailed at a national level, which undermines our Constitution and our very democracy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will respect the right of the Press to investigate and publicize information about leaders, companies, government officials, and government actions even if the information is negative and/or if the sources are anonymous; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress and the Executive Office will not undermine the First Amendment by restricting the Press's freedom to fully participate in official briefings, to investigate and to report on all aspects of our government's activities, unless doing so severely and

clearly undermines our national security.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Jeffrey Vanderlip, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

WHEREAS, our nation was founded by people seeking religious freedom from political and governmental persecution; and,

WHEREAS, our founding fathers were practicing members of various different religions and differing views; and,

WHEREAS, our founders were able to construct a constitution that encompassed all their views and beliefs without reference to religion; and,

WHEREAS, the First Amendment of the Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ..."; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson's intent with the First Amendment was to create a "wall of separation" between Church and State; and

WHEREAS, the tradition of the Separation of Church and State has been upheld in our country throughout history; and

WHEREAS, religious views can be expressed in any forum outside of taxpayer supported government forums;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party does not support discussion of religious values in an official setting, or affiliation with any religious organization; and

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party requires total separation of church and state by all governmental officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, as the Johnson Amendment relates to the separation of Church and State, the Democratic Party will support its maintenance and fight its repeal.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Nancy Baker, Beverly Kimble, and Owen Bailey, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE CHALLENGES TO REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND UNFUNDED
REPRODUCTIVE MANDATES

BE IT RESOLVED, that any future legislation that impacts on women's rights to choose must include mandatory provisions to provide for the resulting child, including health care, nutrition and housing; and

RESOLVED, that such legislation must also mandate that the father of each child shall be identified and be required to provide support to the child and mother until the child is 18 years old; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the mother will receive maternity leave at full pay.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Anne Sayers, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD OR OVERTURNING OF ROE V.
WADE

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Center for Medical Progress - an anti-abortion organization that promotes a complete ban on abortion - targeted Planned Parenthood ("PP") with a series of dramatically altered videos which misrepresented PP as selling fetal tissue - an illegal activity. Even though 12 state-level investigations and other congressional inquiries found no wrongdoing, anti-abortion Republicans continue to pass legislation seeking to defund the 100- year-old health care organization permanently, at both state and federal levels, despite the fact that only three percent of those served by PP receive, abortions and no federal or state funds are used for this service; and

WHEREAS, PP is a critical component of our flawed and inadequate health care system, and is a primary health care provider for one out of five women in our country, including many of our nation's poorest; and 97% of the services provided by PP – birth control, teen pregnancy prevention, cancer screenings and family planning – have nothing to do with abortion; and

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood of North Carolina (PPNC) which has nine clinics across the state serving 25,000 men, women and teens, are able to see patients the very same week while there are 12-to-14-week waits for women to get into the health department for birth control or breast cancer screening; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina, responding to anti-abortion sentiment generated from the video hoax, has already axed funding to PPNC, and without this funding PPNC will have to axe its teen pregnancy prevention and adolescent parenting programs and force its poorest patients to pay

out of pocket; and

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood receives an infinitesimal piece of the annual federal budget and none of it goes toward abortion, nevertheless, the new Trump Administration has vowed to defund Planned Parenthood because they provide abortion care, thereby crippling Planned Parenthood's ability to continue to provide timely and affordable care to the other 97% of the clients they serve; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court ruled in Roe v. Wade that women have a constitutional right to abortion, and the new Trump Administration has vowed to appoint justices to repeal Roe v. Wade which would send millions of teens and women nationwide to the back alleys of the past;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party goes on record in determined and unwavering support of refunding PPNC, and opposing all proposals in Congress and our State Legislature to defund Planned Parenthood and limit their ability to serve 97% of their clients; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic party will work with stakeholders to ensure that our Congressional and Legislative representatives understand our passionate commitment to women's health and constitutional rights, and pledge to oppose any Trump/Pence/Ryan plans to appoint justices who have a record of opposing Roe v. Wade, and/or opposing equal health care rights for all women.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Jeffrey Vanderlip, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

WHEREAS, for over 40 years, people with disabilities have been guaranteed a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE); and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities contribute to our economy and to our society; and

WHEREAS, every child in America should have the right to reach their full potential;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will oppose any attempt to repeal the Individuals with Disabilities Act.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

WHEREAS, throughout the course of history major technological developments have radically reconstituted the structure of societies; and

WHEREAS, the current development and implementation of new technologies are rapidly upending the old order through automation, threatening to create mass unemployment and unprecedented income inequality; and

WHEREAS, this nation is founded upon the premise that all men are created equal; irrespective of their faith, sex, gender, ethnicity, race, or nationality, and that they are endowed with the rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness; and

WHEREAS, any inequality is corrosive to the self determination and self affirmation of the individual, limiting those rights enumerated in this nation's Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, those enumerated rights are inherent to all of humankind, not bestowed by governments, but through man's sovereignty unto himself, and where governments are formed for the sole affirmation of the will of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the proper representation of the citizens and residents of the state, as well as the general welfare of the state, demands the active participation of all citizens irrespective of ownership of property or financial status; and

WHEREAS, citizens oppressed by poverty are hampered through economic circumstance from actively participating in our democracy, and this inequality fosters societal ills that morally assault the individual and the state itself; and

WHEREAS, we are a nation that strives to be without societal class or caste, where all individuals are entitled to an equal opportunity to participate in our government and society and to affirm themselves as individuals, and that no child should be born into poverty or destitution through economic circumstance; and

WHEREAS, the existence of poverty is an inexcusable affront to our democracy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party should introduce into its platform a demand for the institution of a Universal Basic Income such that no citizen should fall or be born into poverty, and that it should advocate that the Democratic National Committee and other state parties should do so as well.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Laura Evans and Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO PROTECT AND FUND SOCIAL SECURITY

WHEREAS, Democrats are proud to be the party that created Social Security – one of the nation's most successful and effective programs as nearly half of America's seniors would be living in poverty without it; and

WHEREAS, nationally, 91% of those over 65 receive Social Security, in North Carolina the numbers are even higher, with 98% over 65 receiving it, and for a third of that group, Social Security is their only source of income; and

WHEREAS, for the past 80 years, millions of working persons in this country, and their employers, have paid into Social Security through payroll FICA taxes in exchange for our government's promise to safeguard these funds, invest them, and use them to provide continuing retirement income starting at age 65; and

WHEREAS, starting in the 1980s*, when Reagan wanted to cover the budget deficit created by tax cuts for the wealthy, payroll taxes were increased ostensibly to provide funds to be invested to cover the projected Social Security deficit in 30 years when baby boomers started retiring, while, in fact, the Reagan administration spent every dollar of the surplus on government operating expenses, and since then, both parties have continued to spend surpluses in the Social Security Trust Fund for non-social security purposes – in effect, stealing \$2.8 trillion from the American people; and

WHEREAS, there are no plans to pay back any of the monies stolen over the past 30 years, and the new Trump administration has called Social Security a “Ponzi scheme,” thereby justifying steps already being taken to weaken, diminish and eventually phase out Social Security, rather than taking steps to find other means of funding Social Security;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party shall fight every effort to cut, privatize, or weaken Social Security, including attempts to raise the retirement age, diminish benefits by cutting cost-of-living adjustments, or reducing earned benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to make sure Social Security's guaranteed benefits continue for generations to come by calling on our Congressional representatives to propose and support a tax increase for those earning over \$250,000 annually to be earmarked for Social Security, and to aggressively research and implement other means of funding Social Security.

* - It is of historical note that when this misuse of Social Security surplus funds started in the

1980s, there were three senators from the Democratic Party who went on the congressional record opposing this practice: Senator Ernest Hollings of SC, Oct. 13, 1989, Senator Harry Reid of NV, Oct. 9, 1990, and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of NY, early 1990.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Jeffrey Vanderlip, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A \$15-PER-HOUR MINIMUM WAGE

WHEREAS, about 17 percent of North Carolinians live below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of children living below the poverty level in North Carolina is nearly one-quarter of all children; and

WHEREAS, living wage studies show that in most cities, the wage needed to meet the most basic expenses for a family of three are more than double, and in some cities, up to triple the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour; and

WHEREAS, the last time the US Congress voted to raise the minimum wage was a decade ago; and

WHEREAS, the minimum wage in North Carolina and the United States has failed to keep pace with inflation for decades; and

WHEREAS, the minimum wage has lost nearly 10 percent of its purchasing power since it last was raised; and

WHEREAS, by some estimates, had the minimum wage kept pace with inflation over recent decades it would exceed \$20 per hour; and

WHEREAS, low wages exacerbate every social problem faced in this state and our nation, including but not limited to housing affordability, child care affordability, healthy diets, and education; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated in cities and states which have increased their minimum wages that the entire economy benefits;

WHEREAS, nearly 38 million workers would get a raise with an increase in the minimum wage, and

WHEREAS, taxpayers bear the burden of helping people who cannot afford food, housing, medical insurance and other necessities, while high-level executives and business owners and stockholders

enjoy the fruits of workers' labors;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Democratic Party supports the establishment of a \$15-per-hour minimum wage in North Carolina and the United States, and supports that wage also being paid to restaurant workers, who have been laboring under a minimum wage of \$2.13 since 1991; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support annual adjustments in the minimum wage to keep pace with inflation.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Veronika Gunter, Julie Montanea, Bob Ballard, Janet Betke, and John Parker, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A GUARANTEED LIVING WAGE

WHEREAS, people working 40 hours a week should be able to provide food, clothing, shelter, and health care for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is unacceptable that people living in the United States struggle for existence under the federal poverty line; and

WHEREAS, national wage policies are documents that express the values of our country; and

WHEREAS, private and public economic enterprises are responsible for and need to be held accountable for the social costs of paying living wages as part of doing business; and

WHEREAS, some corporations seek to minimize labor costs, cut benefits, and seek the cheapest global labor pools as a way of maximizing profits;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party supports the passage of legislation that guarantees workers a living wage that provides adequate food, clothing, shelter, and health care for themselves and their families.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard and Glenda Overbeck, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE MEDICARE PROGRAM

WHEREAS we believe that all persons ought and should be provided equal access to medical care;

and

WHEREAS the Medicare program does provide this access to millions of Americans over the age of 65, including 1.75 Million in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS recent improvements in Medicare were authorized by and are inextricably bound with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and,

WHEREAS at least 55 million Americans over the age of 65, including 1.75 million in North Carolina, have contributed to Medicare all of their working lives; and

WHEREAS these same millions continue to pay Part B and Part D premiums; and

WHEREAS these same millions rely upon the benefits provided by Medicare; and

WHEREAS these same millions have structured their lives, savings and retirement relying on the promise that current Medicare benefits will not be reduced and will continue to be dependable and available to them; and

WHEREAS millions of working people across America are paying into Medicare from each and every paycheck in expectation that they too will enjoy the benefits of the Medicare programs; and

WHEREAS there is currently a great deal of concern and uncertainty over the future of Medicare;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina and the national Democratic Party, in solidarity with millions of Americans over the age of 65, will do everything in their power to preserve and strengthen the current Medicare program, including recent enhancements provided by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and in particular avoiding any reduction of the benefits of the program.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Jeffrey Vanderlip, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR UNIVERSAL SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S.

WHEREAS, increasing healthcare costs and increasing insurance premiums are causing health care to become a luxury in the US; and

WHEREAS, accounting studies and policies indicate that the overhead alone required to operate for private health care is limited by the Affordable Care Act to 20% of expenditures (although there is a discussion/debate about what health vs administrative costs entail); and prior to the

ACA, private insurance overhead ranged into the 30+% range (*New England Journal of Medicine*, August 21, 2003, Woolhandler, Campbell and Himmelstein), while Medicare overhead expenses are around 3% or less (“How to Think About Medicare Administration Costs: Data and Management”, by Kip Sullivan, with references to the Annual Medicare Trustees Report in 2012); and

WHEREAS, current US health care system effectiveness and health conditions statistically are worse than most other developed nations; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America is the only modern democracy which does not provide health care as a basic right; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America is the wealthiest country in the world; and

WHEREAS, as the wealthiest country in the world, we can certainly afford to make health care a basic right of every citizen; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act provision for Medicaid expansion has been refused by the North Carolina state government, costing the state billions of dollars while our federal tax dollars are paid out to states which did participate in the plan; and

WHEREAS, even though the Affordable Care Act expanded health care to many more millions of American citizens, it mainly continues to foster the enrichment of insurance companies while leaving millions of Americans without any care health care, some not even able to get Medicaid assistance, depending on what state they live in; and

WHEREAS, the core structure of a single-payer system already exists in the US, namely the Medicare and Medicaid system, the VA system, and the insurance plans that government officials like Senators and Representatives have, and thus needs only to be expanded to a “Medicare For All System”;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Democratic Party supports expansion of Medicaid in the near term, and the longer term creation of a universal single-payer system for the benefit of all U.S. citizens; and

RESOLVED, that the human right to free (or at least minimal cost) subsidized health care shall be affirmed and promoted by the Democratic Party; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that such a system be made a budgetary priority in comparison to other areas that tend not to enhance real security, health and happiness.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by

Veronika Gunter, Julie Montanea, Laura Evans, and Janet Betke, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE PRIVATIZATION OF MEDICARE AND/OR SOCIAL SECURITY

WHEREAS, Medicare and Social Security are efficiently run programs; and

WHEREAS, no senior citizen should need to worry about whether they can go to the doctor or have a roof over their head as they age; and

WHEREAS, a private company cannot provide benefits at the current available level and make a profit;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party opposes any attempt to privatize Medicare and Social Security.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO REMOVE THE MEDICARE WAGE CAP

WHEREAS, President Trump clearly stated during campaigning that he would not touch Medicare; and

WHEREAS, our District 10 US Representative would like to remove the top 1% wealthiest, making over \$700,000 annually, from paying into and receiving Medicare benefits, because they do not pay enough into Medicare; and

WHEREAS, a voucher system of so much money per year per Medicare person instead of full Medicare payments has been proposed by Republicans;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Medicare wage cap be removed and the top wealthiest 1% start paying on their total gross income into Medicare, like the majority of Americans do, being one solution to start saving Medicare for the future generations, rather than replacing Medicare payments with inadequate vouchers.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Janet Betke, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM AND REFORM, RATHER THAN REPEAL, THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

WHEREAS, a vibrant democracy must have citizens in good health; and

WHEREAS, we believe that all persons ought and should have equal access to the best health care available; and

WHEREAS, there has been a decrease of 20 million uninsured persons in the USA since the initiation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("ACA"), from 48.6 million in 2010 to 28.4 million in 2016 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention); and

WHEREAS, since the initiation of the ACA, the percentage of residents of the USA who are uninsured has declined from 16% (2010) to 8.9% (2016) – the lowest uninsured percentage on record (National Institutes of Health); and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office (January 2017) states that approximately 18 million Americans would lose coverage if the ACA were repealed; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act is NOT and will not in the future adversely affect Medicare (Congressional Budget Office and Kaiser Family Foundation - 2016); and

WHEREAS in spite of best efforts, a number of states have failed to expand Medicaid and approximately 10.9% of the United States population remain uninsured (Gallup Poll, Published Jan. 9, 2017); and

WHEREAS, the cost of medical care to those uninsured is already born by the insured; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a single payer system would shift the locus and distribution of those costs but would not necessarily increase those costs; and

WHEREAS the provision of health care is to the benefit of the nation and individually to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous models from around the world to instruct its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the American people are endlessly creative and capable of implementing a single payer system that avoids the problematic and instructional issues encountered by the above models;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party supports continuation of the Affordable Care Act and working to reform and improve it, including promoting the expansion of Medicaid in

states that have not already done so, and opposing any attempt to repeal it, until the passage of single-payer Medicare for All healthcare system.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Jeffrey Vanderlip, and Glenda Overbeck, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS,
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS, AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, every person deserves health care, which includes services for mental illnesses, substance use disorders and developmental disabilities, all of which are often chronic and disabling; and

WHEREAS, having a mental illness and/or substance use disorder often carries a stigma due to lack of understanding that consolidated ongoing medical treatment is critical; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with substance use/mental health disorders cannot independently access treatment, become homeless and/or are inappropriately placed in jails; and

WHEREAS, developmental disabilities present lifetime challenges; and

WHEREAS, people with developmental disabilities often need extensive, ongoing medical treatment and support to remain at home as children, and residential placement later in adulthood or when aged elders can no longer provide care; and

WHEREAS, these disorders often exist jointly in individuals;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a person-centered continuum of consolidated ongoing medical treatment and support services, including outreach, be available to every person with mental health, substance use disorders and/or developmental disabilities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 as amended by the ACA, continue based on the intent of MHPAE, which is the federal law that generally prevents group health care plans and health insurance issuers that provide mental health or substance use disorders benefits from imposing less favorable benefits for mental health/substance use disorders than those benefits provided for medical/surgical issues.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Marjorie Smith, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR UNIVERSAL PUBLIC PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

WHEREAS, all children should be ready to learn when they start Kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, a significant level of brain development occurs before children start Kindergarten;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will support universal public preschool education for children as young as 3.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO EXPAND WORK STUDY PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the cost of higher education has dramatically increased in the past three decades while general household incomes have been stagnant after factoring in inflation; and

WHEREAS, this economic reality has made it increasingly difficult for members of the working class to attend secondary higher education institutions without taking on egregious amounts of student debt; and

WHEREAS, in today's global economy it is imperative that the United States maintain and increase its skilled labor force to remain competitive; and

WHEREAS, Work Study Programs not only assist students financially, they also provide valuable support for higher education institutions while increasing the student's experience and skill set preparing them for an increasingly competitive workforce;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Federal government should implement, and incentivize participation in, more Federal Work Study programs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Federal and State governments should work to increase the number of Non-Federal Work Study programs, and to incentivize private institutions to do so as well.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO PROTECT SCIENCE AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

WHEREAS, scientific study is key to understanding our world, improving our economic future, and resolving issues facing our nation; and

WHEREAS, many politicians seem to feel they are more qualified to define what is scientifically factual, instead of depending on learned experts to present well-reasoned conclusions from the factual data; and

WHEREAS, not only such politicians doubt the well-reasoned conclusions of these scientists, they threaten their careers, harass them needlessly, act to limit the scientific dialogue by silencing them, and preventing them from publishing; and

WHEREAS, it is important to maintain, preserve, and encourage a well-reasoned scientific dialogue in the country, and in the world;

WHEREAS, the current administration is acting to silence scientists with views different from their own, contrary to the scientific method. Further, many unqualified individuals are forcing their unqualified views in lieu of the scientific conclusions of experts in the field.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will work to enact laws and regulations that prevent political appointees from preventing publishing, discussing or otherwise distributing data and scientific papers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will act to prevent the undue pressure on scientist and enact legislation that restricts non-scientists from changing conclusions, limiting publications, or otherwise obstructing the time honored practice of open scientific debate.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Jeffrey Vanderlip, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, a clean and sustainable environment is critical for the well-being of the nation, the health of our citizens, and the future world our descendants will inherit; and

WHEREAS, clean water, clean air, and stable climate are all important for the well-being of not just our citizens, but all people of the world; and

WHEREAS, it is important to maintain, preserve, the environment. Furthermore, it is important to mitigate past damage to the environment; and

WHEREAS, the current administration is acting to roll back existing law and regulations, or not fully enforce these laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality are critical for the protection of our environment and the enforcement of existing laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a scientific fact recognized by the vast majority of qualified climate scientists, and because of the dire consequences already being predicted as a result of this change;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will act to enforce, and maintain existing environmental rules and regulations, and to pass or promulgate future laws and regulations to maintain, preserve, and mitigate past harm to the environment; and

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will act to prevent the undue reversal of past legislation and will work to prevent the deregulation of existing environmental policies; and

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will act to preserve and maintain these agencies at or above current staffing levels. That we will act to maintain their budgets at or above existing levels. That we will enact laws and regulation that protect career employees from demotion, termination or other punitive acts for faithfully enforcing the existing laws despite orders from political appointees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will act to maintain our participation and commitment to meet the Goals of the Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and that we will act to pass laws and regulations with the goal of limiting the temperature rise from the 1950 baseline to 2 degrees Celsius.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Jeffrey Vanderlip, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO COMMIT TO PROMOTE CHANGES IN HUMAN ACTIVITY IN ORDER TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the majority of environmental scientists, the earth is beginning to undergo radical ecological changes, including: increasing annual temperatures, intensified storm activity, droughts, sea level rises, and their consequent effects on life on Earth; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of climate scientists that these effects are being caused by the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and others; and

WHEREAS, the increased accumulation of these greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is directly related to the increasing use of fossil fuels such as, oil natural gas, and coal, and our demand for and reliance on animal products; and

WHEREAS, increasing global temperatures contributes to a cycle of methane releases into the atmosphere, from deposits previously contained within the permafrost regions and arctic ocean beds thus intensifying greenhouse gas accumulation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the continued study of global climate change and its causes and effects be prioritized and encouraged and not abandoned; and

RESOLVED, that economic incentives to encourage energy conservation, decreased consumption, reuse & recycling of energy and materials and promotion of renewable energy infrastructure such as solar, wind, tidal and geothermal and reduce or eliminate reliance on meat and dairy products be adopted by our government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party supports election and appointment to office of those individuals who will commit to promoting actions that support the concepts expressed in this resolution.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Veronika Gunter, Laura Evans, Linda Scott-Styles, Sarah Jean Young, Keith Thomson, Kirsten Kramer, James Hobson, Emory Underwood, Richard McConnell, and Jeremy Wood, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF HUMAN ACTIVITY ON GLOBAL WARMING

WHEREAS, a majority of scientists has recognized that human activity has contributed and continues to contribute to global warming; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party has taken a major responsibility to develop policies that address the impact of climate change, but recent actions by the current administration indicate that a rejection of the science of climate change will dictate future policy.

WHEREAS, There is widespread agreement that global warming due to human activity is occurring at an ever increasing pace and with catastrophic risks to life on the planet; and

WHEREAS, There is ample and significant scientific evidence - accepted by the majority of scientists and the general public - that greenhouse gas emissions need to be quickly and drastically reduced; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. government and many other governments have recently enacted policies that reduce emissions from fossil fuels and demonstrated significant positive results;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. government will actively support our commitments to the Paris Climate Accords, particularly to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28 percent below the 2005 level in 2025, to make “best efforts” to reduce emissions by 28 percent, and to stick to reporting and financial commitments made within the Paris Accords; and

RESOLVED, that the U.S. government will sustain and strengthen the Environmental Protection Agency, with funding commensurate to the importance of its function for the future of humankind; and

RESOLVED, that the U.S. government will make efforts to continue to minimize and gradually eliminate the use of fossil fuels, while at the same time support and nurture the development of clean energy sources, including instituting a market-based, revenue-neutral fee on carbon pollution (to drive the economy from fossil fuels to clean energy), and rebate the revenues back to the people to cover any rising costs as we transition from fossil fuels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all basic protections enacted to protect clean air, clean water, wildlife, and wildlands, for the benefit of humankind, present and future, be strongly maintained and supported.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Glenda Overbeck, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO DEFEND CLEAN WATER FOR ALL

WHEREAS, clean water is essential to all living things; and

WHEREAS, clean water is a fundamental right of human beings; and

WHEREAS, small streams, seasonal streams, and wetlands are connected to larger bodies of water and affect the quality of those bodies; and

WHEREAS, one in three Americans (117 million) gets their drinking water from systems that depend at least in part to streams which the Clean Water Rule of 2015 protects; and

WHEREAS, President Obama signed the Clean Water Rule to give Federal protection to limit pollution in those smaller or more isolated streams and wetlands from pollutants such as sewage, garbage, biological and radioactive materials, and industrial and agricultural waste; and

WHEREAS, President Trump has appointed a person hostile to the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) as its Administrator; and

WHEREAS, President Trump has stated that he will roll back the Clean Water Rule; and

WHEREAS, President Trump has signed an Executive Order directing the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to review the Clean Water Rule, paving the way for the rule’s elimination;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the north Carolina Democratic Party shall work to support, strengthen, and defend the Clean Water Act, and all efforts to make clean water available to all Americans.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Nancy Baker, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A FEDERAL EXCISE TAX ON CARBON IN FUELS, WITH THE REVENUES
TO BE DISTRIBUTED EQUALLY TO ALL CITIZENS WITH A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

WHEREAS, anthropogenic carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas causing a disastrous increase in the earth's temperature; and

WHEREAS, anthropogenic carbon dioxide is acidifying the oceans, crippling marine ecosystems;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party shall support a Federal excise tax on carbon in fuels, with the revenues to be distributed equally to all citizens with a SSN.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional District Executive Committees by
Veronika Gunter, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND

WHEREAS, we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions drastically in the next four years to

prevent catastrophic risks from climate change; and

WHEREAS, Republicans will control Congress over the next four years, and we need their support to pass significant national climate change legislation; and

WHEREAS, there is a market-based, non-regulatory bipartisan climate change solution that Republicans can embrace that prices carbon as a pollutant to cover its cost to society while returning the money back to the people in the form of a dividend to protect the low-to-middle income classes from rising costs, incentivizes consumers and producers to transition away from fossil fuels with minimal administrative costs and no growth in government, gives more certainty and predictability to the markets while spurring on banks to invest in low-carbon technologies, and will help to grow our economy, jobs, and GDP as well as encourage other countries to adopt the same approach;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party should extend a uniting hand to Republicans in support of this bipartisan solution called a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend that has the best option of passage in the near future.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Linda Scott-Styles, Sarah Jean Young, Keith Thomson, Kirsten Kramer, James Hobson, Emory Underwood, and Richard McConnell, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO INSTITUTE A SECOND WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, the original Works Progress Administration was the most successful domestic job stimulus package that the United States has ever implemented; and

WHEREAS, the current state of the nation's infrastructure is unacceptable and unsustainable, with many dams, bridges, and roads consistently failing to pass inspection or meet suggested standards; and

WHEREAS, this state of affairs is not only dangerous, it is unacceptable and oxymoronic in the wealthiest nation on the planet; and

WHEREAS, an infrastructure stimulus package such as this would create a boon for economic development in many of the rural regions of the nation that have not benefited from the 2008 economic crisis recovery, as well as the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, as of January, 2017, the nation's unemployment rate still stood at 4.8%, and an infrastructure and economic stimulus package such as a second WPA would do a great deal to

address each of these pressing issues;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States should create a second Works Progress Administration for the purpose of rebuilding and repairing the nation’s dams, bridges, roads, and other public utilities, as well as other public infrastructure developments.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO STANDARDIZE OPERATING CONDITIONS AND EQUIPMENT OF OUR NATIONAL
ELECTRIC POWER GRID

WHEREAS, the integrity of our national electric power grid is vital for the wellbeing and security of our citizens, and

WHEREAS, our national electric power grid is vulnerable to major disruptions due to a “wide variety of threats, including natural, physical, cyber, and space weather;”² and

WHEREAS, there has already been an attempted “coordinated cyber-attack” of a component of our national power grid (California, 2013)³; further, a solar event of moderate magnitude destroyed equipment and disrupted a major portion of the Canadian power grid (Hydro-Quebec, 1989), and even “normal” earth weather (e.g., an ice storm) has occasionally been responsible for a major regional disruption of the grid; and

WHEREAS, our national power grid is made up of a number of federally regulated private regional grids, with differing operating conditions (i.e. with a mix of single-phase and three-phase equipment, production voltages ranging from 115 to 765 volts, and transmission voltages ranging from 34.5 Kv. to 765 Kv.);⁴ and

WHEREAS, large power transformers that are a critical component of the power grid are exceedingly large, heavy and expensive (110-325 tons, \$2-7.5 million each (that is in addition to transportation and installation costs) – Further note, power transmission efficiency is influenced by transmission voltage, and system reliability is influenced by transformer design (shell vs. core form) – both influencing costs)⁵; and

² “Large Power Transformers and the U.S. Electric Grid,” Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration Office of Electric Delivery and Energy Reliability, U.S Department of Energy, April 2014 Update

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

WHEREAS, because of the lack of system uniformity, these large and expensive power transformers must be custom designed and built for specific installations; and

WHEREAS, had the 1859 Carrington solar event happened today⁶, or had the July 2012 solar event not narrowly missed us⁷, it is likely that most of our electric power grid would have been destroyed; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant probability of such a massive event occurring each decade⁸; and

WHEREAS, as things currently stand, it could take a decade to recover from a truly massive failure, and the economic loss during such a failure could be in the tens of billion dollars each day; and

WHEREAS, addressing the reliability and security of our national power grid, a DOE working group cited the following efforts: a) the development and implementation of mandatory “physical security standards;” b) the development of reliability standards that include “operating procedures that can mitigate the effects” of a geomagnetic disturbance, coupled with “initial and ongoing assessments;” c) manufacturers who are “exploring” a variety of “mitigation and hardening options,” d) a “Spare Equipment Database,” to facilitate sharing “transformers across North America during an emergency;” and e) the development of a “lighter..., smaller, and easier to transport” transformer that is compatible with “ninety percent of transformers in [its] voltage class’ (emphasis mine)⁹; and

WHEREAS, no consideration appears to have been given to the standardization of operating conditions (phase and voltage) across the entire grid, and the use of modularity (using multiples of standardized units to accommodate differences in regional power demand); and

WHEREAS, standardization of equipment and operating conditions would reduce cost, and allow interchangeability;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Congress authorize the creation of a government-industry working group to determine to what degree standardization is feasible, and

RESOLVED, that the working group shall develop a plan for the optimum standardization of our power grid, and

RESOLVED, that the working group shall conduct an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the various options it considers (including an analysis of the contribution of each option to the

⁶ Gretel Kauffman in “The Christian Science Monitor,” January 23, 2017

⁷ Science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2014/23jul-superstorm

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ “Large Power Transformers and the U.S. Electric Grid” (see reference #1)

“hardness,” and resiliency of our grid), and

RESOLVED, that the working group shall develop a feasible timeline for the implementation of their plan, and

RESOLVED, that the working group shall present its interim findings and recommendations within six months, and its final recommendations within two years of the group’s formation, and

RESOLVED, that Congress will be asked to promptly implement the national electric power grid standardization plan, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President will be asked to explore the possibility (e.g., through discussion and negotiation with Canada and Mexico) of extending the plan across the North American continent.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Steve Pohl, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE TERMINATION OF THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, an educated public is essential to a healthy community and informed citizens; and
WHEREAS, the responsibilities of the Department of Education are essential to our democracy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party opposes any attempt to terminate or dissolve the federal Department of Education, such as threatened by U.S. Bill H.R. 899.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WHEREAS, the majority of scientists agree that climate change is real, and is a result of human activity; and

WHEREAS, for decades our nation’s environment has improved because of the work of the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”); and

WHEREAS, clean air and clean water are essential to life;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party opposes any attempt to dissolve the federal Environmental Protection Agency, or to dilute its authority or mission; and

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party supports the mission of the EPA to improve our environment and reduce the causes of climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party opposes any attempt to stifle scientific research of any kind or in any way.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO RESTRICT THE EXPANSION OF U.S. MILITARY SPENDING

WHEREAS, the U.S. is the largest exporter of conventional armaments in the world; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has had a military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan and has been providing weapons to the Middle East for years including billions of dollars in arms to Israel and Egypt and supplying Saudi Arabia with weapons to attack Yemen and Syria; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. maintains nearly 800 military bases in more than 70 countries; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the most recent year available, the United States led the world in military spending at \$610 billion, spending more than the next eight highest spending countries combined according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS); and

WHEREAS, results of this military spending include massive loss of life, injury, destruction of infrastructure and damage to the natural environment and dubious security benefits for the U.S. or its allies; and

WHEREAS, the only parties to benefit from such expenditure are the weapons related industries and the governments who trade with them; and

WHEREAS, critical human and environmental challenges are facing our country including but not limited to housing, healthcare, education, infrastructure, air, water and soil pollution, go unmet; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of spending for other discretionary budget items including education, transportation, housing, energy and environment, veterans' benefits, Medicare and health are in

the single digits; and

WHEREAS, real and long term security and survival results from investment in human needs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will call to restrict the expansion on U.S. military spending.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Laura Evans, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A TRANSITION FROM A WAR ECONOMY TO A PEACE ECONOMY

WHEREAS, in 2014, the most recent year available, the United States led the world in military spending at \$610 billion, spending more than the next eight highest spending countries combined according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. maintains nearly 800 military bases in more than 70 countries; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has had a military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan and has been providing weapons to the Middle East for years, including billions of dollars in arms to Israel and Egypt and supplying Saudi Arabia with weapons to attack Yemen and Syria; and

WHEREAS, U.S. military presence and support has not resulted in resolutions of conflicts in those countries and a return to normalcy for those nations; and

WHEREAS, results of this military spending include massive loss of life, injury, destruction of infrastructure and damage to the natural environment and dubious security benefits for the U.S. or its allies, and

WHEREAS, the only parties to benefit from such expenditure are the weapons related industries and the governments who trade with them, and

WHEREAS, critical human and environmental challenges are facing our country including but not limited to housing, health care, education, infrastructure, air, water and soil pollution, go unmet, and

WHEREAS, 54% of the U.S. budget's discretionary spending (spending allocated by lawmakers each year) is for military purposes, and

WHEREAS, the percentage of spending for other discretionary budget items including education, transportation, housing, energy and environment, veterans' benefits, Medicare and health are in the single digits, and

WHEREAS, real and long term security and survival results from investment in human needs, now therefore be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will promote reduction in the U.S. military budget and an increase in discretionary budget items that support human needs, infrastructure and environmental integrity.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Veronika Gunter, Linda Scott-Styles, Sarah Jean Young, Keith Thomson, Kirsten Kramer, James Hobson, Emory Underwood, and Richard McConnell, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, THE NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES, AND THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

WHEREAS, in February, the White House Budget Office published a list of organizations currently being considered for elimination in the Administration's 2018 budget; and

WHEREAS, included on this list for defunding were The National Endowment for the Arts, The National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the U.S. Department of Economic Analysis reported that arts and cultural production contributed \$704 million to the U.S. Economy which equals 4.2% of GDP, a total contribution that exceeded that of the construction, transportation and warehousing industries; and

WHEREAS, as of 2013, arts and cultural institutions employed 4.74 million workers, a fact which is in keeping with the President's commitment to the American worker; and

WHEREAS, the combined current federal budgets for The National Endowment for the Arts, The National Endowment for the Humanities, and The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is \$741 million, less than one-tenth of one percent of the total federal budget; however the return on this federal investment is multiplied many times over in our states and communities through the nurturing and strengthening of museums, theaters, dance companies, folk arts programs, music, opera and creative writing programs, and various other arts and cultural industries; and

WHEREAS, now in their 52nd year, the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities were

created in 1965 and signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson; and

WHEREAS, now in its 50th year, The Corporation for Public Broadcasting was created in 1967 and signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Democratic Party Platform states that the party “will continue to support funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and for programs providing art and music education in primary and secondary schools” and also stated that “the entire nation prospers when we protect and promote the unique artistic and cultural contributions of the women and men who create and preserve our nation’s heritage;”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Democratic Party strongly encourages Congress to renew the budgets for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and The Corporation for Public Broadcasting for 2018.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
David Harney, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR BANK RE-REGULATION

WHEREAS, the major national banks of the United States made terrible investment decisions which would have led them to bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, these banks were considered too big to fail without bringing down our entire financial system with them; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government and U.S. taxpayers had to bail these banks out to save them and the nation's economy; and

WHEREAS, these banks are now even bigger and are still much too big to fail;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party and its candidates for public office support laws that break up these oversized banks into smaller corporations, and re-regulates them to split them into savings and investment banks, and make any other changes required to guarantee the taxpayers that banks will never need government bail-outs again.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Kristen Goldsmith and Lynn Miller, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE DIVERSION PROGRAMS TO CURB RECIDIVISM

WHEREAS, the United States of America has the highest incarceration rate in the developed world; and

WHEREAS, many of those incarcerated individuals are imprisoned for non-violent offenses; and

WHEREAS, mentally ill individuals without the means to seek mental health treatment often end up in our prisons and jails, with some committing offenses intentionally as a means of seeking treatment; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the prison-industrial complex is not only economically unsustainable, it is morally reprehensible and must be addressed; and

WHEREAS, it has been proven both domestically and internationally that diversion and rehabilitation programs substantially lower the recidivism rate for first time offenders and the mentally ill;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Federal, State, and local governments should institute, implement, and adopt a variety of economic and societal diversion policies to address the issues enumerated above.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH PRIVATE PRISONS

WHEREAS, the United States of America has the highest incarceration rate in the developed world; and

WHEREAS, many of those incarcerated are housed in private prisons which benefit from contracts with multiple levels of government, and that these contracts cost the nation's taxpayers more than if these institutions were run publicly; and

WHEREAS, these institutions often use inmates as a form of labor compelled against their will, i.e. slavery, the evils of which do not need to be reiterated here, for the expansion of private wealth and with no mind towards the public good; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the prison-industrial complex is not only economically unsustainable it is

morally reprehensible and must be addressed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all levels of government must immediately endeavor to end their contracts with private prisons, and that private prisons should be banned through the form of legislation, and that the lobbying by private prison institutions must also be banned.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO REQUIRE FOR-PROFIT PRISONS AND THE INDUSTRIES THAT USE PRISON LABOR
TO COVER THE COST OF LIFE SKILL AND JOB TRAINING FOR INMATES

WHEREAS, there are 2.4 million Americans currently incarcerated in the United States prison system, 86 percent for non-violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, the average cost to the American taxpayer is \$32,000 per inmate per year; and

WHEREAS, the current recidivism rate for inmates is 70 percent; and

WHEREAS, life skill and job training programs reverse the recidivism rate, at an average cost of \$1,500.00 per inmate per year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party shall support legislation requiring for-profit prisons and the industries that use prison labor to cover the cost of inmate job training and life skill programs until abolished; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if either industry refuses to participate, they shall lose their tax incentives.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Laura Evans, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM WITH A PATH TO CITIZENSHIP

WHEREAS, many of our ancestors were immigrants; and

WHEREAS, America is a country populated and built by immigrants; and

WHEREAS, immigrants provide a valuable resource for America;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party supports common-sense immigration laws that provide a path to citizenship and voting rights for currently undocumented immigrants.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE A BORDER WALL

WHEREAS, the number of undocumented immigrants has actually fallen over the last several years; and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants are an integral part of our economy; and

WHEREAS, our nation is in need of many things to which our available resources can be better put;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party opposes construction of any additional border barrier, wall, fence or moat of any kind.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE A NATIONAL TRAVEL BAN

WHEREAS, refugees should be welcomed to America; and

WHEREAS, there is no evidence that refugees from specific countries make us any less secure; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party values our national security, and believes that the ban against entry to the United States by travelers from Muslim majority (or any other specific) nations does little to enhance our national security, and may in fact place us in greater danger;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party opposes any travel ban that targets specific nationalities, religions, or other populations from immigrating to the United States.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Bob Ballard, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A TWO STATE SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. government support the two state option in accordance with United Nations resolutions, as the fairest and most peaceful resolution to the too long standing conflict.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Glenda Overbeck, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FULL PARTNERSHIP OF NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERSHIP

WHEREAS, the individual voter is the essence of grassroots Democratic Party organization in our North Carolina Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, the precincts and clusters, supported by party leadership, are responsible for developing, educating and expanding the Democratic Party's voter base; and

WHEREAS, both the State and National party leadership can and should strongly support and advance the efforts of the County parties; and

WHEREAS, in past get-out-the-vote efforts there has been some lack of transparency and possible miscommunication among party entities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all national, state, and local Democratic Party entities pledge to fully partner in absolute, fully accountable and transparent fashion, to promote, support and work cooperatively to achieve common objectives to ensure best the possible Democratic voter turnout in every future election.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Henrietta Dillingham, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

WHEREAS, the ability to vote in any public election is fundamental right of each eligible citizen; and

WHEREAS, only registered voters are allowed to vote in public elections; and

WHEREAS, states, such as Oregon, have successfully implemented automatic voter registration; and

WHEREAS, efforts are underway by law makers to restrict access to voting and voter registration for eligible citizens by statute, gerrymandering or both;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will commit to the practice and enablement of automatic voter registration; and

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will include in its platform the passing of laws that will automatically register every eligible citizen at state-run departments of motor vehicles during the processes of driver license grant, renewal or state identification issuance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that citizens may voluntarily opt out of such registration by notifying their state elections offices within a reasonable period of time.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Julie Montanea, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION AGAINST CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, a study has shown that the opinions of 90% of Americans have essentially no impact on what laws are passed, yet those who can afford to hire lobbyists are much more likely to get the laws they want¹⁰; and

WHEREAS, in the last five years the 200 most politically-active companies in the U.S. spent \$5.8 billion influencing government, and those same companies got \$4.4 trillion in taxpayer support¹¹; and

WHEREAS, under current law it is legal to buy political influence with campaign contributions and promises of lucrative jobs, and routine for lawmakers receiving these favors to approve bills written by lobbyists; now, therefore, be it

¹⁰<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/perspectives-on-politics/article/div-classtitletesting-theories-of-american-politics-elites-interest-groups-and-average-citizensdiv/62327F513959D0A304D4893B382B992B>

¹¹represent.us

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party support the “Conflicts of Interest and Political Bribery” provisions of the American Anti-Corruption Act¹².

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Julie Montanea, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REPEAL S-786, ENERGY MODERNIZATION ACT

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party (“NCDP”) “opposes any and all efforts to implement or expand the dangerous practice of fracking in our state” and supports preservation of the environment and air and water quality control [from 2016 NCDP Platform]; and

WHEREAS, the legislature in North Carolina has created the Energy Modernization Act S-786 which permits fracking in North Carolina, prevents disclosure of the chemicals used during the fracking process, prevents local governments from using zoning, health and safety regulations to protect citizens from the adverse effects of fracking; and

WHEREAS, the latest *Compendium Of Scientific, Medical, And Media Findings Demonstrating Risks And Harms Of Fracking* (November 2016) presents research backed data which scientists assert proves fracking causes air pollution, water contamination, occupational health and safety hazards, radioactive releases, public health effects which include, respiratory, neurological and skin ailments, noise pollution, light pollution, and stress, earthquakes and seismic activity, flood risks, threats to property value and mortgages, risks;

WHEREAS, the NCDP believes the North Carolina General Assembly should refrain from overreaching in local government decisions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party seek legislation to repeal Energy Modernization Act S-786 in its entirety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party seek legislation to ban fracking in North Carolina.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Laura Marlow, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017

¹²anticorruptionact.org

A RESOLUTION TO PREVENT CONSTRUCTION OF ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party (“NCDP”) “opposes any and all efforts to implement or expand the dangerous practice of fracking in our state” and supports preservation of the environment and air and water quality control [from 2016 NCDP Platform]; and

WHEREAS, Duke Energy and, now, Southeastern energy providers propose the Atlantic Coast Pipeline be built to transport fracked gas, and that it pass through part of eastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the NC Democratic Party supports development of sustainable energy and a reduction in fossil fuel dependency;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party seek legislation to prevent construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Submitted to the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts Executive Committees by
Laura Marlow, Buncombe County
April 8, 2017