

**District 4 Democratic Convention Resolutions
Presented on May 21, 2022**

Alamance County Resolutions

Resolution Declaring Commitment to District Voting in Alamance County.

Declaring total commitment to promoting District Voting in Alamance County, which will ensure fair representation and ensure major groups have a strong voice on local boards and commissions.

Whereas, fair representation within local government, commissions and boards should be afforded to all voters. Voting rights are fundamental rights because they are protective of all other rights. At-Large voting systems make it easy for the largest group in the county to win all or most all seats. This limits the ability of people in other groups or areas from electing people who represent them.

BE IT RESOLVED, that fair representation is critical to ensuring the voices of those that live in certain areas of the county have a voice when making critical decisions that affect where they live and work. District voting is more fair for counties as a county is divided into districts of equal population and allow for a representative that lives in the district to represent the voters in the given district. This is especially important where groups with varying interest are geographically concentrated in particular parts of the county, whether those groups are defined by income levels, race, ethnicity, urban vs. rural, or other factors.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alamance County Democratic Party & the Melville 3 Precinct now declare to commit to supporting all measures locally and statewide that fair representation is afforded to all county voters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NC Democratic Party make this one of its top priorities for 2022.

Submitted by Precinct Melville 3

Similar resolution submitted by The North Newlin Precinct

Durham County Resolutions

Durham County Democratic Party Convention

March 19, 2022

Resolutions Submitted By Precincts for Consideration by the Convention:

Elections and American Democracy

1. A Resolution for a Campaign Against Misinformation (P16)

WHEREAS, a stable democracy relies upon a free and fair press and an educated citizenry; and

WHEREAS, misinformation has significantly proliferated in the recent past; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party has often failed in fighting misinformation campaigns;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party condemn misinformation and make efforts to combat the spread of misinformation by supporting free and fair journalistic coverage and support prosecuting news organizations or individuals who knowingly create or spread misinformation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party organize and support media campaigns that educate citizens on how to research their sources and identify factual information from misinformation.

2. A Resolution in Support of the January 6th Committee (P16)

WHEREAS, the assault on the United States Capitol made January 6th, 2021, one of the darkest days in American history; and

WHEREAS, the events of January 6th were nothing less than an attempted insurrection on our democracy and an attempt to overturn a fair and free election;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party support the continued investigation of the events of January 6th, 2021, and that the Party encourage the Department of Justice to fully investigate the events and to fully prosecute those who broke the law for their part in the January 6th insurrection.

3. A Resolution in Support of Free and Fair Elections (P16)

WHEREAS, elections are a foundational to functional democracies; and
WHEREAS, free and fair elections have been historically attacked throughout the course of United States history, particularly to diminish the voting rights and political power of low-income, Black, Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x), Indigenous, and other traditionally marginalized people; and

WHEREAS, elections have increasingly been under attack;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party support the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party support abolishing the U.S. Senate filibuster in order to pass voting rights legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party research further methods to lower barriers for people to access voting registration, such as automatic registration when individuals turn 18, or other practices, such as those implemented by many European democracies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party support efforts to end partisan gerrymandering and create a non-partisan commission responsible for drawing congressional district maps in the state of North Carolina and nationwide.

4. A Resolution to Adopt Ranked Choice Voting in North Carolina (P40)

WHEREAS, current law in North Carolina requires runoff elections in primaries if no one receives at least 30 percent of the votes cast. There was at least one runoff election in 2020; and

WHEREAS, runoff elections are notoriously low in participation rates, reducing voter opportunity to choose their candidates. Runoff elections require the same expense as regular elections. Durham County anticipates a possible runoff election in 2022 in two contests; and

WHEREAS, 43 jurisdictions used RCV in their most recent elections, and more than 50 jurisdictions are projected to use RCV in their next elections, as of November 2021.

Those upcoming users represent two states, one county, and 29 cities outside of Utah,

while in 2021, 23 Utah cities voted to use RCV and more could do so in the state's next municipal elections in 2023;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Durham County Democrats ask our state representatives to support the use of Ranked Choice Voting in primaries in North Carolina and that Ranked Choice Voting be available as an option for all local elections.

The Environment

5. A Resolution Supporting Efforts to Combat the Climate Crisis (P16)

WHEREAS, the earth is experiencing a climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis disproportionately impacts low-income communities and Black, Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x), Indigenous, and other traditional marginalized people; and

WHEREAS, addressing the climate crisis is essential to advancing anti-racist policies and combating environmental racism;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party support the Green New Deal and the Build Back Better bills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party support incentives to encourage people to switch to electric vehicles and other actions to address climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City and County of Durham make efforts to address the climate crisis, such as encouraging and advocating for funding for Durham Public Schools to upgrade their bus fleet to zero emission vehicles, encouraging GoTriangle to upgrade their bus fleet to utilize zero emission vehicles, the passage of a Green and Equitable Infrastructure Bond Issue to support sustainable development throughout the entire county, and other such efforts as may deemed necessary.

6. A Resolution To Support Water Supply and Quality (P46)

WHEREAS, water is a finite resource; and

WHEREAS, water pollution in NC has been well documented; and

WHEREAS, Durham, Charlotte, Raleigh and other N.C. cities are experiencing unprecedented growth resulting in concentration of the population sharing resources in a limited geographic area;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party advocates testing and otherwise monitoring water sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party advocates transparency about the longevity of water resources and the long-term consequences of population growth and development on the water supply; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party advocates conservation and good stewardship of water and other natural resources.

Economic Justice, Education, and Public Welfare

7. A Resolution To Advocate for Free and Affordable High Quality Childcare (P46)

WHEREAS, families are disproportionately affected by food and even diaper insecurity; and

WHEREAS, the cost of quality childcare is prohibitive for many people; and

WHEREAS, this can lead to neglect, unhealthy, or dangerous situations for children; and

WHEREAS, the early years are arguably the most important for a child's development; and

WHEREAS, adequate child care contributes to readiness for school; and

WHEREAS, children represent the future of the state;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party advocates for accessible free or affordable childcare; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that childcare specialists receive professional training and development to encourage the social and intellectual growth of all children.

8. A Resolution To Support Public Education (P46)

WHEREAS, the Republicans have underfunded the education system; and

WHEREAS, the Republicans have attempted to control the content of education; and

WHEREAS, the need for early screening and intervention to prepare all children for learning;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of NC advocates for full funding; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that schools should have appropriate facilities to create an environment that fosters learning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of NC actively combat efforts to undermine best practices of education by advocating for a rich education system so that all students can develop to their full potential.

9. A Resolution Calling for Federal Relief for Student Loan Debt (P43)

WHEREAS, throughout the United States student loan debts are a very heavy burden upon students, former students, and their families; and

WHEREAS, in the last twenty years, budgetary support by state governments for higher education has steadily declined, while tuition has steadily risen; and

WHEREAS, Nobel Prize-winning research in economics has shown that investing in education is one of the most reliable and effective ways for governments to boost individual and national incomes; and

WHEREAS, in March, 2020 presidential candidate Joe Biden pledged to provide \$10,000 of relief from each student's debt burden; and

WHEREAS, providing debt relief for students is popular with the American people; and

WHEREAS, student debt relief is particularly popular with people of color, whose lower family incomes increase the burden that student loan debt imposes on their households; and

WHEREAS, the President has the authority to act upon this measure without requiring the consent of the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, promises made should be promises kept;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party call upon the President to immediately implement his own promise to the American people and provide this debt relief, and shall explain to the American people how families, communities, and the American economy will benefit from this reduction of student debt burdens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic party call upon the President to make the resolution of the national crisis surrounding the provision of affordable

higher education a domestic policy priority of his administration and act to create a long-range solution to this problem.

10. A Resolution to Expand Rural Broadband (P26)

WHEREAS, rural Durham County residents would realize tremendous benefits from reliable high-speed internet access, including increased access to labor markets, improved standards of living, and better educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS rural Durham County communities are underserved by large corporate providers who will not expand services into lower profit rural markets; and

WHEREAS there is money allocated in the Bipartisan Infrastructure and Jobs Act for broadband;

BE IT RESOLVED, that monies received by Durham County from the Bipartisan Infrastructure and Jobs Act be allocated to expand broadband into the rural areas of the county that do not have it.

Human Rights

11. Resolution to Abolish the Death Penalty (P40)

WHEREAS, the death penalty is no more a deterrent to murder than available alternative sentences such as life without parole; and

WHEREAS, the death penalty has been shown to be applied in arbitrary and capricious ways that increase the chances that racism and classism will be factors in its use, making it chiefly a punishment for poor and/or black persons: and

WHEREAS, in North Carolina, at least twelve persons sentenced to death have been later found innocent and freed; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 139 persons on death row in North Carolina and nearly two-thirds of them are over the age of 50; and

WHEREAS, the state has not executed anyone since 2006, but three persons received death sentences in 2019; and

WHEREAS, when offered a range of sentence options, respondents in public opinion polls have consistently shown a preference for imprisonment rather than execution; and

WHEREAS, the cost to prosecute a death penalty case in North Carolina has skyrocketed to a far greater cost than life imprisonment prosecutions in an imperfect attempt to eliminate the arbitrary and capricious use of this sentence and still we find that innocents have been convicted and sentenced; and
WHEREAS, the death penalty is immoral;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham County Democratic Party calls on all our state representatives to seek the abolition of the death penalty and a review process for all persons currently sentenced to death so their sentences are swiftly revised to a suitable alternative.

12. A Resolution Calling Upon the North Carolina General Assembly to Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution (P40)

WHEREAS, women make up 51.4% of the North Carolina population; and
WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution, the highest and most formal statement of our human rights principles, does not include a sex equality provision – unlike the statements of principles of most countries in the world; and
WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) would promote the fundamental human rights principle of equality for women; and
WHEREAS, The 14th Amendment’s equal protection clause has not been interpreted to guarantee equal rights for women in the same way the proposed ERA to the Constitution would, as demonstrated by the fact that currently cases of sex discrimination receive only intermediate scrutiny, but with the ERA in the Constitution, they would receive the highest level of strict judicial scrutiny, just as race discrimination does; and
WHEREAS, the ERA was first proposed in 1923, was passed by Congress in 1972 and had been ratified by 35 of the 38 states necessary to adopt it at the time an extended ratification deadline passed in 1982 and 38 states have ratified as of 2022, though five states assert they have revoked their ratifications; and
WHEREAS, legal analysis supports the conclusion that the ERA is still viable and properly before the states for ratification, since Article V of the Constitution imposes no time limit for ratification of amendments;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham County Democratic Party of North Carolina calls on all members of the North Carolina House and Senate to sponsor, support, and pass into law resolutions to ratify and affirm the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as proposed by the U.S. Congress on March 22, 1972, and ratified by 35 state legislatures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Durham County Democrats and the Democratic Party of North Carolina pursue grassroots and legislative strategies for passage of the ERA.

13. A Resolution in Support the HER Act for Global and Local Women's Health (P40)

WHEREAS, The Global Gag Rule remains one of the most odious policies ever enacted for foreign assistance. When in effect, it strips U.S. funding from foreign health care providers if they offer abortion services, counseling, or referral for abortion services, or engage in political advocacy around the issue of abortion—even if they undertake these activities with their own, separate, non-U.S. funding. It prevents organizations from speaking out about the impact of unsafe abortion in their own countries, despite the fact that unsafe abortion remains a leading cause of maternal death and injury in many low- and middle-income countries; and

WHEREAS, efforts to eliminate funding for much needed Planned Parenthood clinic services in North Carolina have previously been denied due to opposition to their other, non-state funded, abortion services; and

WHEREAS, The Global Health, Empowerment and Rights (HER) Act of 2021 provides that a foreign nongovernmental organization shall not be disqualified from receiving certain U.S. international development assistance solely because the organization provides medical services using non-U.S. government funds if the medical services are legal in both the United States and the country in which they are being provided. Such foreign organizations shall not be subject to requirements relating to their use of non-U.S. funds for advocacy or lobbying activities, other than those that apply to U.S. nongovernmental organizations;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham County Democratic Party of North Carolina calls on all North Carolina congressional representatives and senators to support the Global HER act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Durham delegation to the North Carolina General Assembly sponsor, support and pass into law measures to guarantee health services in this state similar to the Global HER Act so that women's health is consistently supported.

14. A Resolution to Close the Prison at Guantánamo Bay (P46)

WHEREAS, a prison was established at Naval Station Guantánamo Bay in 2002 in order to detain and interrogate captives outside the purview of American courts, constitutional safeguards, and international law; and

WHEREAS, the continuing existence of the prison after twenty years constitutes a fundamental betrayal of American values and our commitment as a country to the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, only 39 of 800 original prisoners remain incarcerated in the prison, at a cost of \$500 million each year, - \$13 million per prisoner or 350 times the cost in a maximum security prison in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, twenty of the current prisoners have been cleared for release, yet remain in prison; and

WHEREAS, military commissions at Guantánamo Bay prison are a failed experiment, are constitutionally dubious, and have produced few convictions while undermining the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, federal trials, by contrast, have produced more than 400 convictions of terrorists since 9-11, and have set a standard of justice before the world; and

WHEREAS, the halting pace of justice is painful for victims and survivors of terrorist attacks on 9/11 and against the *USS Cole*; and

WHEREAS, the office of the Special Envoy for Guantánamo Prison Closure established in the State Department by President Obama was closed by President Trump, and the Biden administration has failed to appoint a new envoy as yet; and

WHEREAS, a 2019 report by the Center for Victims of Torture and Physicians for Human Rights, entitled *Deprivation and Despair: The Crisis of Medical Care at Guantánamo*, found that "Guantánamo's medical care system has long been broken in a number of respects. . .[and that the] legacy of U.S. torture—and in particular medical complicity in that unlawful and immoral project—is at the root of many of the medical care deficiencies. . . and continues to exacerbate all of them."

BE IT RESOLVED, that President Biden restore the office of the Special Envoy for Guantánamo Prison Closure tasked with

- arranging the speedy and safe release of all prisoners who have been cleared for release to countries where they will be treated as free men; and
- ensuring meanwhile that all prisoners, including the "forever prisoner," Abu Zubayda , are not held in solitary confinement, but are treated humanely, allowed ample opportunity to have confidential communication with their lawyers, and are accorded medical care that complies with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), i.e. that prisoners should enjoy the same standards of health care as are available in the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a bill be introduced in Congress to allow the 19 or fewer prisoners who shall not have been cleared for release from Guantánamo to be transferred to US prisons to await trials in civilian courts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the extra-territorial prison at Naval Station Guantánamo Bay be permanently closed.

15. A Resolution for Investigation of North Carolina's Role in the CIA's Rendition and Torture Program (P46)

WHEREAS, torture is a blatant violation of human and civil rights, violating legal, faith, and ethical traditions, the U.S. Constitution, and international treaties such as the Convention against Torture, to which the U.S. is a signatory; and

WHEREAS, in the words of Senator John McCain, "The use of torture compromises that which most distinguishes us from our enemies, our belief that all people, even captured enemies, possess basic human rights,..."; and

WHEREAS, according to *The New York Times* and numerous well-respected experts, Aero Contractors, a company established in 1979 at the Johnston County Airport in Smithfield as a CIA surrogate, undertook a leading role during the Bush-Cheney administration in transporting captured or kidnapped detainees to secret prisons in several countries for indefinite detention and torture, and was responsible for the rendition to CIA black sites of a minimum of 34 detainees and for the rendition of at least 15 others to foreign governments known to practice torture; and

WHEREAS, Aero Contractors continues to operate from Johnston County airport in Smithfield for purposes unknown; and

WHEREAS, Johnston County Airport is funded by North Carolina taxpayers as well as well by revenue from Aero Contractors;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the State of North Carolina require the closure of all operations by Aero Contractors at North Carolina airports; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation investigate possible conspiracies involving Aero Contractors and any of its personnel living in North Carolina to commit the crimes of kidnapping, false imprisonment, and torture in black sites and prisons around the world.

16. A Resolution Asking the President to Instruct the CIA to Release Information on Torture Flights and Victims (P46)

WHEREAS Congressman David Price sent a letter to CIA Directors Gina Haspel and William Burns in October, 2020, and again in December, 2021, requesting information "related to activities under the CIA's Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation (RDI) program that were conducted in North Carolina and relied upon the private citizens and public infrastructure of North Carolina"; and

WHEREAS the information sought is based on investigation by a non-governmental, non-partisan citizen-led North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture (NCCIT) into operations of the CIA-front airline, Aero Contractors, based at Johnston County airport, that published its report, "Torture Flights: North Carolina's Role in the CIA Rendition and Torture Program" in September, 2018; and

WHEREAS the NCCIT heard testimony from many witnesses, including victims of rendition and torture, but lacked access to government records and classified information; and

WHEREAS the NCCIT found that there has never been an accounting for approximately 49 persons rendered by the CIA for detention and interrogation in other countries, including Syria, Egypt, Morocco, and Libya, some known to have been tortured by security forces, whose exact number and whose experiences and fates remain unknown;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that President Biden instruct the CIA to declassify and release information as follows:

- a) the number and names of persons rendered under the RDI program to which countries;
- b) the fate of those prisoners during RDI, and what is known of their current locations;
- c) how many of the prisoners ever were convicted of an offense under the receiving nation's criminal justice system;
- d) identification of the airplanes used for the rendition missions and whether they were flown by Aero Contractors or another company;
- e) Information as to whether any of the following procedures were used either by CIA officers or by private contractors in preparation for or during the transport of those prisoners: involuntary cavity searches, involuntary sedation, involuntary sensory deprivation, or physical violence such as beatings, kicking, or painful restraint;
- f) Whether there is now a contractual relationship between any federal agency and Aero Contractors; and
- g) Whether Aero Contractors currently is involved in forcible transport of detainees within or outside the United States, and whether other private North Carolina companies are participating with them.

17. A Resolution to Restore the First Amendment Right to Boycott (P30-1)

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of *NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co.* affirmed that boycotts are protected free speech under the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, boycotts were an effective, non-violent means of protest in the 1960s to oppose segregation and Jim Crow laws in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, boycotts were an effective, non-violent means of protest in the 1980s to pressure South Africa to end apartheid rule; and

WHEREAS, boycotts are a non-violent means of protest to help restore the full human rights of

the Palestinian people as stated in the North Carolina Democratic Party platform; and

WHEREAS, Session Law 2017-193, part I. DIVESTMENT FROM COMPANIES BOYCOTTING ISRAEL, passed into law in 2017, places undue burden on North Carolina businesses

seeking to contract with North Carolina state government and entities that also participate in constitutionally protected free speech to restore full human rights of the Palestinian people; and

WHEREAS, General Statute, § 147-86.84 provides that:

(a) A State agency shall certify that a company that attempts to contract with the State or political subdivision of the State is not a restricted company at the time the bid is submitted or the contract is entered into, renewed, or assigned. The term "attempts to contract" shall include any contract renewal or assumption. A State agency shall include certification information in the procurement record. If a State agency and the same company enter into multiple contracts or multiple contract renewals or assumptions within 180 days after a certification is made, a new certification need not be made.

(b) A company that contracts with the State or a political subdivision of the State, including a contract renewal or assumption, shall not utilize on the contract with the State agency any subcontractor that is a restricted company.

(c) Upon receiving information that a company has been certified as required by subsection (a) of this section is in violation of the certification, the State agency shall review the information and offer the company an opportunity to respond. If the company fails to demonstrate that the company should not have been identified as a restricted company within 90 days after the determination of the violation, then the State agency shall take action as may be appropriate and provided for by law, rule, or contract.; and

WHEREAS, this amounts to state imposed speech on private companies in favor of a foreign country; and

WHEREAS, similar laws passed by state governments in Kansas, Arizona, Texas, and Arkansas have been found unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, in the case of *Koontz v. Watson* in Kansas, the court held that “Under the First Amendment, states cannot retaliate or impose conditions on an independent contractor ““on a basis that infringes his constitutionally protected freedom of speech.”””; and

WHEREAS, in the case of *Jordahl v. Brnovich* in Arizona, the court held that “A restriction of one’s ability to participate in collective calls to oppose Israel unquestionably burdens the protected expression of companies wishing to engage in such a boycott. The type of collective

action targeted by the Act specifically implicates the rights of assembly and association that Americans and Arizonans use “to bring about political, social, and economic change.”; and

WHEREAS, in the case of *Amawi v. Pflugerville Independent School District* in Texas, the court held that “In the First Amendment context, however, plaintiffs are neither required to formally submit a contract nor have a contract rejected to have standing to bring a facial challenge to a law allegedly infringing the right to free expression . . . This is because the First Amendment harm alleged—chilling of speech—occurs regardless of whether a plaintiff is denied a benefit on the basis of protected expression; the possibility of denial is enough.”; and

WHEREAS, public disclosures show there to be a coordinated campaign by the Israeli government to undermine fundamental First Amendment rights in the U. S., including:

- Israeli ambassador to the U.S. and the U.N., Gilad Erdan as then-head of the Ministry of Strategic Affairs, publicly took responsibility for passage of these anti-boycott laws in various states;
- Disclosures by the Israeli government showed direct funding through the Ministry of Strategic Affairs to organizations which lobbied for the passage of anti-boycott laws without registering as a foreign agent as required under Foreign Agents Registration Act;
- One of the organizations that received direct funding from Israel and promoted passage of similar unconstitutional anti-boycott law in Tennessee was identified as an anti-Muslim hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center;
- Georgia State Representative Deborah Silcox brought in Israeli Consular Officer Harold Hersberg to the state House Governmental Affairs Committee to advise on how to amend the state’s anti-boycott law shows close coordination by the Israeli government behind these unconstitutional laws; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party platform makes a commitment to “restoring full human rights for the Palestinian populations”; and

WHEREAS, repeal of this unconstitutional law will be essential to achieve the platform’s goals;

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the repeal of Chapter 147, Article 6G of the North Carolina General Statutes, “DIVESTMENT FROM COMPANIES BOYCOTTING ISRAEL” (§ 147-86.80 - § 147-86.84) for being an unconstitutional law infringing upon the First Amendment right to free speech.

The Democratic Party

18. A Resolution to Professionalize the Role of State Party Chair (P16)

WHEREAS, the success of any organization depends on professional and competent leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the State Democratic Party is currently a volunteer position; and

WHEREAS, the role of Chair is a significant responsibility and requires a considerable time commitment; and

WHEREAS, paying individuals for roles that have traditionally been volunteer expands equity in access to such roles by making it easier for individuals from more socioeconomic backgrounds to step into such roles; and

WHEREAS, equitable access to the roles of Party leadership is an important value of the Democratic Party and promotes the Party's leadership mirroring the population of registered Democrats and individuals the Democratic Party seeks to support through policy;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party provide at least a living wage payment to the State Party Chair and explore pathways to providing more financial support for all leadership positions in the State Party.

Congressman David Price

19. A Resolution Thanking Congressman David Price (P46)

WHEREAS, Congressman David Price will retire at the end of the current session of Congress in January, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Price has served the fourth district for seventeen terms with outstanding success, with dedication to goals of the Democratic Party, and with exceptional openness and responsiveness to his constituents; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Price has been a leader in Congress for promotion of democracy worldwide, as co-founder and chairman of the House Democracy Partnership; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Price is recognized as a leading advocate for human rights, voting rights, consumer protection, tax fairness, low-income housing, Middle East peace, and funding for science and health research, and has received many honors for his achievements from organizations dedicated to causes that he has advanced;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of North Carolina expresses its admiration and deep gratitude for David Price, and thanks him for his many years of serving and leading the party.

Orange County Resolutions

Orange County Democratic Party 2022 Resolutions, as approved by the Resolutions Committee

1. RESOLUTION TO REDUCE THE LONG-TERM COST OF ORANGE COUNTY'S TRANSPORTATION FLEET THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF ELECTRIC POWERED VEHICLES

Whereas it has been shown that particulate matter and gasses such as carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and oxides of nitrogen present in the exhaust of internal combustion vehicles damage the health of both children and adults; and

Whereas the Orange County Democratic Party recognizes that the continued use of fossil fuels is unsustainable and harms the environment and its natural resources, and supports reducing fossil fuel dependency by adopting sustainable and renewable energy sources, as well as by improving the energy efficiency of government facilities; and

Whereas the use of electric vehicles reduces the use of fossil fuels, and can reduce vehicle fuel consumption costs by as much as 80% and vehicle maintenance costs by as much as 90%; and

Whereas state, county, and municipal governments around the country have purchased electric vehicles and obtained substantial fuel and maintenance savings per vehicle; and

Whereas the Orange County Democratic Party understands that convenient charging infrastructure that meets the capacity requirements of the Orange County fleet is necessary to realize the full potential of electric vehicles.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Orange County Democratic Party supports

Replacing all end-of-life Orange County vehicles (including sedans, police cars, ambulances, fire trucks, garbage trucks and any and all other County vehicles) with an electric vehicle equivalent, if one is commercially available; and

Purchasing electric vehicles, if available, as the need to increase the County vehicle fleet arises; and

Installing Class 2 and Class 3 charging stations at all County facilities, including, but not limited to, police stations, schools, and government offices: and

Retraining all County employees who service and maintain internal combustion vehicles as their services become unnecessary.

2. RESOLUTION TO RESTORE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Whereas in 2013, the North Carolina Legislature made draconian cuts to all unemployment benefits to achieve solvency for the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund

Whereas these cuts were the most severe enacted by any state in the 80-year history of Unemployment Insurance and resulted in less than 10% of jobless workers in NC receiving unemployment before COVID, for an average of less than 10 weeks (ranking 45th in the country) and receiving on average just \$216 each week of the \$350 maximum, replacing only 23 cents for every \$1 in lost income, and

Whereas when cuts were instituted, the authors of the legislation claimed that benefits would be restored when the fund became solvent, and the Trust Fund balance now exceeds \$2 billion, and

Whereas North Carolina's employers pay the 4th lowest unemployment taxes in the country, and this renders NC unable to adequately assist workers.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Democratic Party supports providing critical assistance to laid-off workers by providing enough funds to cover families' rents, mortgages, utilities and other necessities, and that this be achieved by

- Returning to the pre-2013 method of calculating weekly benefits, basing them on the worker's highest quarter wages and increasing the maximum duration of

benefits to 26 weeks, like the majority of states,

- Increasing the maximum benefit amount to the percentage of weekly insured wages prior to the 2013 cuts (66.75%), starting immediately with 50% of the current average salary of \$1,002, which would be \$500 per week,
- Restoring the “Attached Worker” status to pre-2013 rules to allow employers to file attached claims for their workers between assignments for every break in employment instead only once a year.

- Restoring spousal relocation, undue family hardship and health reasons as good causes for leaving employment and addressing roadblocks that prevent part-time workers from receiving benefits, such as increasing the earning allowance, and adopting work-sharing and short-time compensation options for employers, which allows an employer to reduce hours instead of laying off workers and is an option in approximately 30 states.

3. RESOLUTION TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Whereas many of the community mental health services available in the past have been eliminated due to a lack of funding, or have been privatized often leading to the facility closing or charging higher fees for service; and

Whereas there has been a high need for such services due to covid and the many economic and psychological crises to which people have been subjected,

Therefore, be it resolved that the NC General Assembly act to provide additional recurring funding to:

- ensure that every school has access to psychiatric nurses and social workers to help identify, and provide services for children in need,
- create outpatient health services in areas of the state that are currently

- underserved, and
- provide more psychiatric beds in hospitals across the state.

4. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EDUCATORS WHO TEACH CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Whereas Democrats are committed to quality public education, and the mandate of educators to utilize their pedagogical skills to provide the best education possible to North Carolina students; and

Whereas competent educators endeavor to teach their students critical thinking skills, including encouraging open classroom discussion of society's shortcomings as well as its strengths, to enable those students to develop their own informed opinions and to contribute to innovation and the advancement of the society they inhabit; and

Whereas some conservative politicians are proposing laws that would stifle those efforts and constrain educators; and

Whereas current attacks on the work of K-12 teachers and professors in North Carolina have had a chilling effect on educators who strive to encourage their students to ask questions, think critically, and examine the society around them,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Orange County Democratic Party supports teaching these concepts in North Carolina schools. We decry any efforts to deprive educators of their livelihood by enacting laws that would threaten discipline or termination of employment for those who teach their students the full range of historical, scientific, and social facts—however discomforting—and encourage the use of critical thinking skills to question societal structures and practices that result in disenfranchisement of members of marginalized groups, and

Be it further resolved that the Orange County Democratic Party calls on Governor Cooper to veto any legislation that would impede, intimidate, police, or discipline educators who use established pedagogical approaches, including Reflective and Inquiry-Based Learning, to present an accurate and inclusive accounting of historical, scientific, and social facts, concepts, theories, and principles.

5. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OUR EDUCATORS AND SCHOOL BOARDS

Whereas the right to a quality public education is enshrined in the North Carolina Constitution, in the interest of having an educated populace able to meet the challenges of our times, not just as a workforce but also as a knowledgeable citizenry that can exercise its civic responsibility in our democracy by making well-informed decisions that determine the future of our state and nation; and

Whereas 21st-Century education must equip students with skills in problem-solving, analytic thinking, creativity, scientific inquiry, civic responsibility, global awareness, collaboration, communication, and discernment in order that they may process new information from numerous sources, analyze that data, conduct factual research, work in partnership with others, and apply what they learned effectively; and

Whereas classroom teachers are professional educators who undergo extensive training to use existing core content with well-established resource material to teach these 21st-Century skills; and

Whereas there is a disturbing trend of small but vocal groups that disregard 21st Century educational principles and exploit misinformation, political gamesmanship, personal and cultural biases, and gender and racial animus to attack school boards and to interfere with and restrict what teachers may cover in their classrooms, what educational materials they may use, sabotaging the important work of professional educators; and

Whereas parents have the right to choose a different school or homeschool their children, but they do not have the right to deny other students the right to a quality education that prepares them for life, work, and citizenship,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Orange County Democratic Party strongly supports the work of our trained professional educators and stands ready to defend our duly elected school board members and their role in the education of our children, and urges Democrats in other counties to do the same, and

Be it further resolved that the Orange County Democratic Party will encourage its members to be present at school board meetings to offer a strong rebuttal to

any attempts to restrict the authority of our educators or intimidate our school board members and urges Democrats in other counties to do the same.

6. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic caused alarming childhood hunger spikes that were partially addressed by the US Department of Agriculture and Covid 19 relief funds, providing every student with free meals, and these programs will expire in less than five months at the end of the 2021-2022 school year, while families are still trying to recover from the health and economic impacts of the crisis; and

Whereas, even before the pandemic, childhood hunger was a significant problem, with too many needy families not receiving school meals for which they qualify due to barriers such as a lengthy application process and the required disclosure of sensitive personal information, which especially affect communities of color and immigrant families; and

Whereas, with greater student participation across society, local educational agencies are more likely to find the political will to make deeper investments in high-quality, nutritious school food, which will provide relief to all families, particularly women, who continue to bear a disproportionate share of the burden, struggling with lower pay, increased childcare, disproportionate unemployment, and triple the time fathers spend on meal-preparation; and

Whereas studies show that students with access to free breakfast have improved attendance rates and perform better in school, and that free and accessible school meals reduce financial stress for students and families, improve health outcomes in students, and lead to fewer behavioral incidents and lower suspension rates; and Whereas, California and Maine have already passed universal school meal programs, which starting in fall 2022 will provide free school breakfast and lunch to approximately 6.5 million students, regardless of their families' incomes,

Therefore, be it resolved, that

- Governor Cooper and the North Carolina Legislature support a state Universal

Meal Program to help address childhood hunger in our state and urge the Federal Government to also establish a national, permanent, universal school meal program that strengthens families, boosts educational outcomes and invests in a bright future for our state and our country.

- the NC Democratic Party call on Congress to pass the Universal School Meals Program Act, which provides long-term, cost-effective solutions to childhood hunger, would help boost children's nutritional intake, decrease food insecurity, reduce the stigma of poverty, address racial inequities and would ensure that all children have access to nutritious meal in order to learn and thrive year-round after the pandemic.

7. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN ADEQUATELY FUNDED AND STREAMLINED IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

Whereas, the current immigration system has proven harmful to the social and economic interests of North Carolina and the United States, and especially to immigrant and refugee families as well as the communities where they live and work; and

Whereas, years of anti-immigration legislation and under-funding have failed to provide reasonable and timely legal avenues to unify families, and protect refugees from persecution, or meet the labor needs of many sectors of the US economy; and

Whereas the exploitation of workers based on their immigrant status impacts all workers, and undocumented workers are unable to legalize their status under current immigration laws, including severe backlog of lawful family and employment visa applications,

Whereas millions U.S. citizen children suffer from a range of harms, disadvantages, and lost opportunities as a result of an inability of their parents to legalize their immigration status,

Therefore, be it resolved that the OCDP calls upon Congress to enact legislation that

includes reasonable eligibility standards satisfied by realistic evidentiary burdens to afford applicants full access to judicial review in the event applications for citizenship are denied, and should include spouses and children of program beneficiaries, and

Be it further resolved, that OCDP supports modifying existing immigration quotas and sufficiently increasing funding for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service and U.S. consular offices to affect a massive reduction in back-logged immigration-related applications, and with the goal that no application or petition for immigration benefits filed by eligible applicants take more than six months to adjudicate.

8. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO CREATE A NON-PARTISAN REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Whereas the NCDP platform calls for “the implementation of non-partisan, independent redistricting commissions...” which would “... shift power from self-interested politicians, back to the people, and allow voters to choose their representatives, rather than politicians choosing their voters...”

Therefore, be it resolved that the Orange County Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina State Legislature to put on the ballot for North Carolina voters an amendment to the North Carolina constitution requiring that a non-partisan redistricting committee be created to implement redistricting at all levels of government.

9. RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE PROCESS FOR APPOINTING THE UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND BOARDS OF TRUSTEES TO ALLOW FOR BALANCED MEMBERSHIP

Whereas the mission of the university system in NC is dedicated to serving diverse communities across the state, including its 250,000 students: and

Whereas previously, the Governor of North Carolina shared power with the

North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA), appointing four members of the Boards of Trustees (BOT) at each individual institution; and

Whereas the NCGA has stripped the governor of any power in electing BOT members, concentrating decision-making in the BOG, and the NCGA therefore currently elects all 24 members of the Board of Governors: and

Whereas the NCGA does not proportionately represent the political views and demographics of North Carolina's population currently due to the effects of gerrymandering, with the result that both the NCGA and the BOG has membership that is politically and demographically skewed; and

Whereas a truly representative Board of Governors would include not just political diversity, but also racial, gender and geographic diversity. Nearly 70% of Board members are white men, but just 24% of UNC System students are white men, according to UNC System enrollment data. The Board has 25% women while 57% of students in the system are women: and

Whereas this concentration of power and decision-making at the UNC System has led to decisions based on political interests rather than on the University's mission to "...serve as a center for research, scholarship, and creativity and to teach a diverse community of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to become the next generation of leaders", and these decisions have been detrimental to faculty morale and to the university's mission "...to enhance access to learning and to foster the success and prosperity of each rising generation", especially for faculty and students of color

Therefore, be it resolved that the Orange County Democratic Party calls for establishing balanced appointments to the UNC BOG and individual institutional BOTs by allowing the Governor and members representing different constituencies within the NCGA to choose more representative leadership on the UNC BOG and at individual institutions to better reflect the state's interests and populations; and

Be it further resolved that the Orange County Democratic Party calls on Governor Cooper to veto any future legislation that would allow state lawmakers and lobbyists to exert even more control over UNC Board of Governors.

10. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEDICARE EXPANSION AND THE CREATION OF A SINGLE-PAYER UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the United States has the worst maternal and infant mortality rates in the developed world, Black women are [three times as likely to die during](#) or within a year of childbirth than their white counterparts, Black babies [are twice as likely](#) to die as white babies, Black people suffer higher instances of [diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, and have a shorter life expectancy than white people](#), 30 million residents are underinsured, 40 million are underinsured (as of 2019 before major COVID job loss) a disproportionate share of whom are Black and brown. This is more than a decade after [the Affordable Care Act](#) and while spending a greater percentage of our GDP than any other country in the world.

WHEREAS the Commonwealth Fund's recurring report of 11 high-income countries finds the US healthcare system costs a much higher percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) than any other country, while performing dead-last in all measured domains (care access, administrative efficiency, income-based equity, health outcomes) except one (care process). The US has the highest infant mortality rate and lowest life expectancy of all countries studied. Only a major redesign, that removes corporate profit as the driver of our healthcare system will enable us to improve the return on our investment. <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2021/aug/mirror-mirror-2021-reflecting-poorly>;

WHEREAS, HR1976 Medicare For All Act of 2021, the single-payer universal healthcare system legislation currently on the table, reduces redundant paperwork and administration, resulting in fewer workers needed, the legislation also provides 5 years of funding to support workers whose jobs would not be needed through severance pay, education, retraining, and employment placement services (such as for our many BCBSNC workers here in NC). https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1976/BILLS_117hr1976ih.pdf;

WHEREAS, the conservative-led (George W. Bush-appointee) Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which estimates the current and future budget and spending impacts of proposed legislation in Congress, has studied 5 illustrative single-payer universal healthcare models, and for the 2nd time, has determined they would likely cost less,

cover everyone, and benefit workers and the economy

<https://www.cbo.gov/publication/57637> and <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/56811> “■

The composition of workers’ labor compensation would change because employers would no longer provide health care benefits and would pass along the savings to employees, increasing their taxable wages.

- Households’ health insurance premiums would be eliminated, and their out-of pocket (OOP) health care costs would decline.
- Administrative expenses in the health care sector would decline, freeing up productive resources for other sectors and ultimately increasing economywide [sic] productivity.
- Reduced payment rates to providers would increase productivity and efficiency in providing health care; however, some of the reduction in payment rates would be passed through to workers’ wages in the health care sector and throughout the supply chain.
- Longevity and labor productivity would increase as people’s health outcomes improved.
- [Long Term Services and Supports] LTSS benefits would further reduce OOP spending, provide payments for care that is currently unpaid, increase wages among workers providing care, and allow some unpaid caregivers to increase their hours worked at their primary occupation.”

WHEREAS, the issues currently addressed in the NC Democratic Party platform would be solved by universal single-payer system by including comprehensive mental, dental, hearing, vision, and reproductive care (including ending the Hyde amendment) at no cost to patients <https://www.ncdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-NCDP-Platform-1.pdf>;

WHEREAS millions of people ration healthcare and medications and tens of thousands die each year in the US as they delay or do not seek needed healthcare because they don’t have the money, making them sicker and poorer, millions of people have private insurance coverage so inadequate that a major illness leads to financial ruin, with medical bills contributing to two-thirds of all bankruptcies and one-third of GoFundMe campaigns in the US;

WHEREAS, a single-payer not-for-profit system like the one presented in the

[Medicare for All Act of 2021 \(HR 1976\)](#) would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States, including every person in North Carolina, for all preventative and necessary medical care, including doctor office visits and prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care with NO co-pays, deductibles, or out-of-pocket costs. It would also create an Office of Health Equity that would ensure that there is equitable investment into traditionally underserved areas and populations and would provide freedom and choice to patients by removing insurance companies and healthcare networks from their relationships with doctors and other healthcare providers, medical offices, and hospitals, allowing them to get the care they need anywhere in the country.

WHEREAS, recent polling shows that a majority of Americans across the political spectrum support elements of a universal single payer system that were included in Build Back Better, such as prescription drug price negotiations, expanding Medicare to include vision, dental, hearing. Democratic candidates embracing practical change to health care hassles are likely to turn out more non-voters in important elections.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1k_xxntmBlMQ1kOK5BaHsx_6538QOSRyj?usp=sharing;

WHEREAS, we have no idea the societal impacts of [post-COVID](#) and long COVID issues that will be coming and the implementation of a universal single-payer system will enable us to confront the issues that are coming across a significant portion of the population, and our system redesign could ensure a reasonable response to chronic care needs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges our Congressional and Senate delegation to vocally support, champion, and pass a universal, single-payer healthcare system like the one presented in HR 1976 - Medicare For All Act of 2021 (and a future equivalent Senate bill) which will show tangible evidence of the pro-women and supportive of marginalized stance of the party;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party will strengthen the healthcare platform plank to show active support for a single payer, not-for-profit system that will control costs, create universal coverage, address racial health disparities, help us better prepare and respond to

public health crises, and will improve the economy.

Person County Resolutions

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CLOSURE OF UNC'S COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT

WHEREAS the University of North Carolina is the last of North Carolina's 53 public and private colleges and universities, which still operates its own coal-fired power plant;

WHEREAS coal pollutants contribute to 4 of the 5 leading causes of death in the United States: heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic lower respiratory diseases;

WHEREAS the University of North Carolina's coal-fired power plant is currently located on West Cameron Avenue adjacent to two historically black neighborhoods;

WHEREAS numerous studies have found that polluting industries are far more likely to locate in communities of color, thus raising environmental justice concerns;

WHEREAS the University's most recent permit for this coal plant requested an increase in the heat output limit of the plant, rather than a decrease;

WHEREAS coal plants produce 1/5 of global greenhouse gas emissions - more than any other single source;

WHEREAS many of the nation's largest utility companies, including Duke Energy, have already implemented plans to end their use of coal in the near future;

WHEREAS global warming, largely caused by the burning of fossil fuels, is a major threat to our coastline, with damaging flooding expected to occur more frequently over the next 3 decades;

WHEREAS a 2018 report by the International Panel on Climate Change concluded that the difference between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius in warming could mean substantially more poverty, extreme heat, sea level rise, habitat loss, and drought;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly, the University of North Carolina Board of Trustees, The North Carolina Utilities Commission, and all other offices, agencies and departments of the State government, to work towards closing the University of North Carolina's coal-fired power plant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly, and the University of North Carolina System's Board of Governors to require the University of North Carolina, and all schools within the UNC system, to pursue sources of renewable energy.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR LOCAL CONTROL OF LANDFILLS

WHEREAS on June 15, 2018, the North Carolina Legislature ratified House Bill 56, which relaxed regulations on landfills and allowed for “life-of-site” operation;

WHEREAS North Carolina law permits that the lifespan of a landfill may be as much as 60 years.

WHEREAS waste management firms have faced numerous lawsuits brought forth by citizens and environmental organizations, due to their disregard for neighboring communities;

WHEREAS numerous studies have found that polluting industries are far more likely to locate in communities of color, thus raising environmental justice concerns;

WHEREAS many materials that end up as “waste” contain toxic substances which leach into our soil and groundwater, and become environmental hazards for years to come;

WHEREAS organic materials, such as food scraps, often end up landfills where they release dangerous methane gasses;

WHEREAS landfills often take in materials, such as coal ash, and medical waste ash, which the adjacent communities may not be aware of;

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the local government to protect the health and well-being of its citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly and the offices, agencies and

departments of the State government to work towards a policy which empowers citizens and local governments, by ending “life-of-site” landfill permitting in North Carolina.