

1) A RESOLUTION TO CREATE AN ALLOCATION OF ELECTORS TO THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE PROPORTIONAL TO ACTUAL VOTING PERCENTAGES

WHEREAS there is no mandate in the Constitution on how a state should choose its electors; and

WHEREAS the current system of election used in North Carolina ignores thousands of voters by casting all of its electoral votes for one candidate; therefore be it

RESOLVED That the State of North Carolina shall assign its electors proportionally directly based on the percentage of North Carolina votes won by each candidate for President.

A RESOLUTION TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE AND ABOLISH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

WHEREAS the President of the United States represents all of its citizens regardless of which state they live in; and

WHEREAS each citizen's vote for President should count equally and not vary in worth depending on the state where they reside; therefore be it

RESOLVED That the President of the United States shall be elected by direct popular vote and that the Electoral College shall be dissolved.

2) A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NORTH CAROLINA CHARTER SCHOOLS TO BE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

WHEREAS, charter Schools were created in North Carolina to develop new and innovative programs for education that would be later shared with all other public schools; and,

WHEREAS, and very few new and innovative programs have been shared with the public school system to improve student performance; and

WHEREAS, funding for charter schools creates a financial burden for local educational agencies (LEAs) who are mandated to provide an education for all students in their service area; and

WHEREAS, on average, charter schools have a greater failing performance than traditional public schools, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the charter schools be subject to the Department of Public Instruction oversight and be subject to the same regulations as public schools, including having a Board of Education with representatives elected in proportion to their funding from the LEA's the charter serves. Board members shall be elected at the same time as the LEA's board members are elected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any charter school (including any virtual charter school) whose performance lags significantly behind the state average shall be orderly closed and its students returned to their local educational agencies along with their associated funding.

3) A RESOLUTION TO PREVENT THE SITING OF LANDFILLS WHICH WOULD DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACT MINORITY OR LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, African-American communities in North Carolina are twice as likely as others to be burdened with landfills and other solid-waste facilities; and

WHEREAS, In Randolph County, only 7.9 percent of residents live within one mile of a solid waste facility; and

WHEREAS, Over 72 percent of Randolph County's minority community residents live within one mile of a solid waste facility; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, NC General Statute 130A-294. (a) (4) c.9.: "The cumulative impact of the proposed facility, when considered in relation to other similar impacts of facilities located or proposed in the community, would have a disproportionate adverse impact on a minority or low-income community protected by Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964." prevented the disproportionate siting of new landfills near minority communities; and

WHEREAS, Session Law 2013-413 modified G.S. 130A-294 (a) (4) c.9. by adding "This subdivision shall apply only to the extent required by federal law. " ; and

WHEREAS, that modification lifted the protection for minority communities as long as the new landfill is funded without the use of federal money; and

WHEREAS, that modification was used to site the Great Oak Landfill, a 200-acre new landfill that can accept refuse from anywhere in North Carolina, in a location that is already the site of an old leaking landfill and once again mainly impacts minority and low income residents; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That G.S. 130A-294 (a) (4) c.9. be modified by removing the phrase, "This subdivision shall apply only to the extent required by federal law. " ; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That North Carolina landfills will no longer be sited in areas that disproportionately impact minority and low income communities regardless of their source of funding.

4) A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE MANNER OF ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF OF RANDOLPH COUNTY FROM PARTISAN TO NONPARTISAN

WHEREAS, Republican candidates for Randolph County Sheriff have run unopposed for many years; and,

WHEREAS, The Randolph County Sheriff's Office has been decided in the Republican Primary, leaving registered Democrats with no vote for sheriff; and,

WHEREAS, Former employees of the Randolph County Sheriff's Office have claimed on social media that only registered Republicans are considered for openings in the department; and,

WHEREAS, Former employees of the Randolph County Sheriff's Office have admitted on social media that they and their families have been illegally pressured by their employer to maintain their registration as Republicans, to vote for certain candidates, and to make campaign contributions as well as electioneer for the sheriff; and,

WHEREAS, The Randolph County Sheriff has pressured deputies to take an active part in the Randolph County Republican party and vote for certain party officials during the county convention; and,

WHEREAS, The current job selection process for employees of the Sheriff's Department reduces the likelihood of finding an experienced Democratic candidate for Sheriff; therefore be it

RESOLVED, The manner of election for the office of Sheriff of Randolph County shall be changed from partisan to nonpartisan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The party designation will not appear next to the candidate's name.

5) A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A NONPARTISAN REDISTRICTING PROCESS IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, legislators in both political parties have used the current redistricting procedure to give their parties an unbreakable political advantage in elections, and;

WHEREAS, every person's vote should count and the number of wasted votes should be kept to a minimum, and;

WHEREAS, the redistricting process is one that should be conducted with transparency in an open-door manner with opportunities for public dialogue and feedback rather than in secrecy.

WHEREAS, the best interests of North Carolina are served by promoting public confidence in our political system, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That North Carolina will create a Citizen's Redistricting Commission to establish electoral boundaries for the NC House, NC Senate, and US Congressional districts, and;

RESOLVED, That the Citizen's Redistricting Commission will consist of five commissioners from the largest political party in North Carolina, five commissioners from the second largest party in North Carolina, and four commissioners from neither party, and;

RESOLVED, That the Citizen's Redistricting Commission will have the final say in establishing electoral boundaries and those boundaries may not be modified by the North Carolina General Assembly, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Citizen's Redistricting Commission shall draw new district boundaries:

1. That comply with "one person, one vote."
2. That comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act.
3. That exhibit geographic continuity.
4. That exhibit geographic integrity.
5. That exhibit geographic compactness.
6. That result in the least number of wasted votes.
7. That result in the fewest instances of splitting counties where practical and is not in conflict with the previous criteria, the constitution of North Carolina, and the laws of the United States.

6) RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE EXCLUSIVE TEACHING OF SCIENTIFICALLY VALID CURRICULUM IN SCIENCE CLASSES IN ALL SCHOOLS RECEIVING FEDERAL AND/OR STATE FUNDS

WHEREAS, over 90% of American children are educated via the public school system, and

WHEREAS, the Establishment Clause of the US Constitution prohibits the establishment of religion by Congress, and

WHEREAS, the progress and success of the United States is directly linked to its commitment to and investment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, and therefore, be it RESOLVED, that we, the Randolph County Democratic Party will promote standards for science education and curriculum to be exclusively comprised of the accepted scientific consensus.

7) A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE PROHIBITION OF STATE FUNDS FOR THE SUPPORT OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS (THE VOUCHER SYSTEM)

WHEREAS, the educational voucher system provides no oversight of taxpayer monies; and

WHEREAS, these voucher monies can be used to promote ideas and action that are unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, these monies can be used to promote a religion violating the First Amendment to the US Constitution; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the funding of 'voucher systems' for private schools be terminated.

8) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ALLOWING EXPANSION OF VOTING BY MAIL

WHEREAS, The right of all citizens to cast votes in public elections is a societal norm of our democracy, voter turnout is low in North Carolina and convenient voter access is necessary for greater voter participation; and

WHEREAS, Voter turnout in Oregon, which has established voting by mail as the exclusive means of voting, is the highest in the United States at eighty percent (80%); and

WHEREAS, In-person elections are expensive, and voting by mail has saved substantial funds for Oregon; and

WHEREAS, Concerns regarding voter fraud have not proven true in Oregon, which established vote by mail as the exclusive means of voting in 1998; and

WHEREAS, A poll of Oregon voters (2003) noted eight-five percent (85%) of Democrats and seventy-six percent (76%) of Republicans favored this system and that thirty percent (30%) voted more often because they could do so by mail; and

WHEREAS, The State of Washington and the State of Colorado have followed the Oregon model and adopted vote by mail;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to enact voting by mail as the exclusive method of voting in North Carolina.

9) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THOUGHTFUL RESISTANCE TO REPUBLICANS' GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS, Democrats have good reason to object vigorously to local, state and national Republicans' ideas and policies; and

WHEREAS, Democrats need to be the voices of reason lest ill-considered, impractical, unacceptable Republican policies be implemented; and

WHEREAS, Republicans won close elections at the local, state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, many of those elections were decided by conflicted citizens who voted reluctantly for Republican candidates; and

WHEREAS, Democrats need to persuade, rather than alienate, our neighbors who voted for those Republicans; and

WHEREAS, Ill-tempered criticism, whether from Democrats or others, can drive conflicted citizens towards the Republicans who we hope them to oppose in the future;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party is encouraged to oppose, challenge and resist ill-considered, impractical, unacceptable Republican policies in ways that are thoughtful, respectful, informative and inclusive.

10) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A NONPARTISAN JUDICIARY

WHEREAS, Judges at the trial court level are sworn to uphold the law and the Constitution, as they exist, without regard to their personal views or interests; and

WHEREAS, Judges at the trial court level are not lawmakers or makes of public policy; and

WHEREAS, Judges at the trial court level do not issue rulings with broad precedential application; and

WHEREAS, Partisan politics should not play any part in the decisions of a trial court-level judge; and

WHEREAS, Most issues, cases and decisions of a judge at the trial court level have absolutely no relationship to partisan political concerns; and

WHEREAS, the necessity of fundraising for a political campaign creates the possible impression that contributions may affect the rulings of our judges;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that District Court and Superior Court Judicial races should be kept entirely non-partisan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that some system of public funding should be created and maintained for judicial races at the District Court and Superior Court level.

11) RESOLUTION TO RESTORE INTEGRITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVANTS AND RESPECT FOR THEIR CONSTITUENTS

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Constitution clearly states that, “All political power is vested in and derived from the people”; and

WHEREAS, the local Republican Party and national Republican Party have made a calculated effort to undermine grassroots civil rights through gerrymandering and voter suppression; and

WHEREAS, Town hall meetings have been intentionally neglected with the intent to suppress citizen’s dissent; and

WHEREAS, Policy is rushed through the political process without opportunity for voter input; and

WHEREAS, State government has made concerted efforts to undermine city ordinances and government structure;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to have an extended period of no less than five (5) days between the introduction of a bill and the first vote on a bill to allow for voter input; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to enact a policy that requires state senators and representatives to have regular in-person and open town hall meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly urges the North Carolina General Assembly to refrain from encroachment into city government for the sole purpose of partisan political control.

12) RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MANDATORY BODY-WORN CAMERAS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

WHEREAS, Police Officers bear incredible responsibility for ensuring public safety; and

WHEREAS, Police Officers are frequently the subject of close scrutiny of their actions, particularly in the use of force; and

WHEREAS, Body-worn camera footage provides protection for honest officers, by securing evidence to support their justified actions; and

WHEREAS, Body-worn camera footage provides opportunity for oversight and accountability for all officers' actions in the field; and

WHEREAS, Body-worn camera footage provides the greatest opportunity to protect evidence in disputed cases;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourages local and state governmental officials to implement policies and funding that will result in all sworn law enforcement officers in North Carolina being equipped with and required to use body-worn camera systems, while on duty.

13) RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REPEAL OF HOUSE BILL 972 LIMITING ACCESS TO BODY CAMERA FOOTAGE

WHEREAS, Law enforcement agencies are public agencies serving for the public and in the interest of the public; and

WHEREAS, Public access to police footage strengthens the relationship between police and the community, increases the transparency of law enforcement agencies, and helps monitor the effectiveness of body camera programs; and

WHEREAS, Body camera footage serves to resolve issues of fault in officer-involved shootings;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we urge the North Carolina Democratic Party to publicly voice its support for repeal of House Bill 972; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the North Carolina General Assembly to repeal House Bill 972 and all restrictions to public access of police body camera footage.

14) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 146, RAISING THE AGE OF JUVENILE JURISDICTION TO INCLUDE SIXTEEN-AND-SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLDS, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF CERTAIN FELONIES

WHEREAS, In juvenile court systems, youths have greater access to programs which can rehabilitate them while their minds and decision-making skills are still developing; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of teenagers have entered the North Carolina's prison system over the past twenty years, costing the state money and increasing the chance they will offend again; and

WHEREAS, Studies estimate that the State would save up to \$50 million a year by not sending teenagers to adult prisons and by reducing recidivism;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that urges the North Carolina Democratic Party to publicly voice its support for passage of North Carolina Senate Bill 146; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the North Carolina General Assembly to pass North Carolina Senate Bill 146.

15) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY BASED LAW ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, The work of police and sheriff departments to serve and protect the public is best achieved within a context of mutual trust and respect; and

WHEREAS, Direct knowledge of the community members being served and of the law enforcement officers who live and work within the local community fosters such trust and respect; and

WHEREAS, The need to foster trust and respect is of special concern in relation to persons of color and to immigrant groups within our communities; and

WHEREAS, Members of these specific community groups are more likely to be of assistance to the work of law enforcement officers when officers are seen as protecting, rather than threatening, the welfare and safety of community members;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the establishment or continuation of community policing programs and policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports professional development opportunities for local law enforcement officers, including programs focused on better understanding and working with members of such special community groups.

16) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE BUILDING PRACTICES

WHEREAS, Buildings consume the majority of electricity used in the United States and significantly add to emissions contributing to global climate change; and
WHEREAS, Green building practices have been demonstrated to be both environmentally sound and fiscally responsible; and
WHEREAS, The increased development and use of sustainable, renewal energy sources as well as the use of green building materials and techniques create an expanding network of employment opportunities; and
WHEREAS, Governmental building projects can have a significant impact on local building practices, both directly and indirectly, as models for non-governmental projects;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the efforts of local municipalities and counties in their use of green building practices and sustainable energy sources in the construction of all new governmental buildings, as well as in the maintenance and retrofitting of existing governmental properties; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the development of education and training programs, such as those delivered through the community college system, to help prepare citizens for employment within the green building and renewable energy industries.

17) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGAL PROTECTION OF AND DUE PROCESS TO IMMIGRANTS

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Democratic Party recognizes that we are a nation of immigrants, refugees and descendants of undocumented laborers; and
WHEREAS, 65.7% of unauthorized immigrants have been in the United States for 10 years or more and only 14% have been here for less than 5 years; and
WHEREAS, Many unauthorized immigrants have not entered the United States illegally but have, instead, overstayed their visas; and
WHEREAS, Many immigrants come to the United States to escape poverty and conflict in their home countries and are seeking a better life for their families; and
WHEREAS, These immigrants contribute substantially to our economy and pay taxes; and
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to grant legal protection and due process to all those within our borders.

18) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BANNING ASSAULT RIFLES AND MANDATORY BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL GUN PURCHASES

WHEREAS, There is no discernible sporting or self-defense justification for military-style assault rifles; and
WHEREAS, The lethality of these weapons has been demonstrated in multiple mass shooting events;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to pass legislation banning the sale and possession of military-style assault rifles in North Carolina; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to pass legislation mandating background checks for all gun

purchases in North Carolina, without exception, and including sales transacted at gun shows as well as those transacted between private citizens.

19) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BETTER BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR GUN PURCHASES AND OF RESTRICTIONS ON ISSUANCE OF GUN PERMITS

WHEREAS, Guns are rarely used in self-defense; and

WHEREAS, Guns kill many Americans when the weapons are used in murders and suicides; and

WHEREAS, Many Americans are killed each year by accidental shootings;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to enact legislation to tighten background checks for gun purchases and to prohibit individuals diagnosed with a mental illness with suicidal or psychotic tendencies from obtaining a gun permit.

20) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEDICAID EXPANSION

WHEREAS, Healthcare is an important plank of the North Carolina Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, Healthcare should be understood as a right and not a privilege in advanced societies; and

WHEREAS, Those lacking health insurance impose what amounts to a tax on those citizens who do pay for insurance; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina law requires hospitals to provide healthcare services for all those in need of such services, including those who cannot afford to pay for such services; and

WHEREAS, Providing unreimbursed healthcare services to individuals without health insurance or the ability to pay for such services is threatening the viability of community hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Lack of adequate Medicaid coverage for those who cannot pay for their healthcare services and who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid coverage is resulting in the loss of North Carolina jobs; and

WHEREAS, The expansion of Medicaid in North Carolina is vital to the health and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion is both necessary and cost effective for providing healthcare services to the citizens of the State of North Carolina;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to immediately enact Medicaid expansion.

21) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHILD HEALTH INSURANCE

WHEREAS, One in 4 children in North Carolina live in poverty; and

WHEREAS, Poverty is strongly associated with a child's ability to learn and with a child's health; and

WHEREAS, Children who live in poverty rely on the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for their health care; and

WHEREAS, Children are not responsible for their health problems nor can they get health care unassisted; and

WHEREAS, Healthy children improve the health of the community; and

WHEREAS, A healthy and well-educated community is an economically successful community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly encourages the North Carolina General Assembly to provide healthcare coverage to all of North Carolina's children and to continue and expand CHIP in North Carolina.

22) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTING AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, Affordable and comprehensive healthcare should be a right of every American citizen; and

WHEREAS, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009 (ACA) has been responsible for insuring over 20 million Americans who would otherwise be unable to afford health insurance; and

WHEREAS, The Republican Party under President Donald Trump has indicated that they are not willing to take a stand to ensure that people with pre-existing conditions, women, children, veterans, young adults, people with disabilities and struggling families continue to access the affordable coverage they need; and

WHEREAS, As of January 2017, 545,354 moderate-income North Carolinians have purchased private health insurance through the federal marketplace provided by the ACA; and

WHEREAS, A repeal of the ACA will result in a loss of insurance, insurance subsidies and benefits through Medicaid and a decline in the health of our citizens;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly urges the North Carolina General Assembly to support the right of North Carolinians to affordable and accessible healthcare by standing up for its citizens and against the federal government's repeal of the ACA.

23) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SAFE, LEGAL ABORTIONS

WHEREAS, A woman's right to choose to continue or terminate her pregnancy is a personal decision that should be left to her and her attending care provider; and

WHEREAS, A woman's right to abortion has been established by the Supreme Court of the United States of America;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to continue to allow safe and legal abortions.

24) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SB175/HB245 REGARDING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, Since 1999, the number of unintentional poisoning deaths has increased by more than 391%, from 279 deaths in 1999 to 1,370 deaths in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Unintentional poisoning deaths have surpassed motor vehicle deaths as the leading cause of injury death in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina issued a report, entitled "North Carolina Needs to Strengthen Its System for Monitoring and Preventing the Abuse of Prescribed Controlled Substances" and has yet to implement the suggested recommendations; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, doctors and pharmacists used the Controlled Substances Reporting System (CSRS) less than 6% of the time a prescription for a controlled substance was written or dispensed; and

WHEREAS, Nearly half of the accidental drug overdose deaths in 2010 were associated with prescriptions that had been filled within 60 days of the death; and

WHEREAS, Healthcare providers wrote 259 million prescriptions in 2012, enough for every American to have a bottle of pills; and

WHEREAS, Four in five new heroin users started out misusing prescription painkillers; and

WHEREAS, Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, with 52,404 lethal drug overdoses in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Opioid addiction is driving this epidemic, with 20,101 overdose deaths related to prescription pain relievers, and 12,990 overdose deaths related to heroin in 2015; and

WHEREAS, From 1999 to 2008, overdose death rates, sales and substance use disorder treatment admissions related to prescription pain relievers increased in parallel; and

WHEREAS, The overdose death rate in 2008 was nearly four times the 1999 rate; sales of prescription pain relievers in 2010 were four times those in 1999; and the substance use disorder treatment admission rate in 2009 was six times the 1999 rate; and

WHEREAS, A recent report by Castlight Health ranked the top 25 worst cities in the United States for opioid abuse, and North Carolina cities appeared on that list four times, with Wilmington, North Carolina, being the worst city, Hickory, North Carolina, being the 5th worst city, Jacksonville, North Carolina, being the 12th worst city and Fayetteville, North Carolina, being the 18th worst city;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges each member of the North Carolina General Assembly to support the “Strengthen Opioid Misuse Prevention Act of 2017,” also known as the “STOP Act,” (currently SB175/HB245) which seeks to improve opioid prescribing practices, expand opioid antagonist access, strengthen the Controlled Substances Reporting System and provide essential funding for substance use disorder treatment and recovery support services.

25) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING SALARIES AND COMPENSATION FOR TEACHERS

WHEREAS, The most important task handed any generation is education of the next; and

WHEREAS, Students will learn if they have a competent, dedicated, talented professional as their teacher, but cannot learn, if they do not; and

WHEREAS, The teaching profession is the one profession that improves our society every day, one student at a time, one class at a time, one school at a time; and

WHEREAS, Guilford County values its teachers and believes they are deserving of a professional compensation package; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina pays its teachers on a salary schedule set by the state and has also traditionally enhanced that base salary if a teacher has earned an advance degree, thereby encouraging professional growth and development; and

WHEREAS, Between the 2003-04 and 2013-14 years, average teacher pay in North Carolina dropped by 17.2%, the largest drop in public school teacher salaries in the nation; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina teachers’ average salary is now just under \$50K and falls far short of the average national salary for teachers at \$58,064; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina was ranked 46th out of 51 states for per-pupil expenditure placing the state near the very bottom for spending per student; and

WHEREAS, This woeful lack of spending for public education has rendered it extraordinarily difficult for teachers to make a living by earning a livable wage and make it equally difficult for school systems to recruit and retain outstanding teachers, which will soon have a profound effect on student achievement; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina school districts have lost hundreds of teachers throughout this school year to resignations as teachers have made financial decisions to leave the profession or have moved to other states to teach, rendering North Carolina no longer competitive in teacher recruitment compensation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party implores the North Carolina General Assembly to substantially increase the base salary of North Carolina's public school teachers to at least the national average of \$58,064 and to provide a competitive, professional compensation package for all public school teachers within 4 years.

26) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Free public schools available to every child regardless of income, ability, need, English language proficiency, or racial and ethnic identity provide the cornerstones of our American democracy; and

WHEREAS, Our public schools prepare the nation's young people—rich, poor, native- and foreign-born, and of all abilities—to contribute to our nation's society, economy and civic life; and

WHEREAS, All of our students deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child, providing enrichment and addressing social and emotional needs in addition to academic subjects; and

WHEREAS, Children who attend public schools are better prepared to participate in the wider community by virtue of their being in a micro society while in public school; and

WHEREAS, Local accountability for our public schools is necessary to ensure that schools are responsive to the needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Ninety percent (90%) of all American children attend and depend on public schools for their chance to succeed and achieve the American dream; and

WHEREAS, Education policies such as voucher programs diminish the resources needed by traditional public schools to provide the safe and nurturing learning environment that all students deserve in an education system offering fairness and opportunity for all children;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports public education in our community that is high-quality, inclusive and supported with resources that are adequate for its essential responsibility of helping all children achieve, succeed and mature into good citizens who contribute to America's economy, social well-being and the civic life of our democracy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party rejects policies that lead to separate and unequal educational opportunities for our students, that privatize school operations and that undermine local control and accountability for all of our publicly funded schools; and

27) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

WHEREAS, North Carolina has an interest in maintaining clean air, clean water and clean soil for the health and well-being of its citizens, current and future;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly that permits for the drilling for oil, mining the earth, building pipelines and discharging pollutants should only be granted after an evidence-based scientific impact study is done, citizens are informed of the permit request through an open process, a period for citizen comment is allowed and a majority of citizens in the community affected have agreed to the new projects.

28) RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

WHEREAS, The 21st century has begun with many challenges to the middle class, from the outsourcing of our manufacturing jobs and increasing robotic automation to an unprecedented inequality between the wealthiest and the least wealthy in society; and

WHEREAS, Raising the minimum wage is one way to mitigate this problem; and

WHEREAS, The federal minimum wage in America has only increased 22 times since 1938; and

WHEREAS, The minimum wage of \$7.25 was last raised (by Democrats) in 2009 and has lost 9.6% of its purchasing power to inflation; and

WHEREAS, Working families continue to struggle with stagnant wages while prices of life's necessities—food, housing, childcare and utilities, continue to rise; and

WHEREAS, The majority of jobs created in NC over the last seven years pay low wages; and

WHEREAS, 55% of minimum wage earners in North Carolina are over the age of 24; and

WHEREAS, Current efforts to raise the federal minimum wage have stalled on Capitol Hill, and several states and cities are acting on their own to raise minimum pay rates; and

WHEREAS, In an era when Wall Street bonuses are twice the amount earned by all minimum wage workers combined, businesses can afford to boost the pay of their lowest paid workers; and

WHEREAS, raising the minimum wage helps local economies by putting money in the pockets of residents most likely to spend it in their communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports working families and supports passage of HB 238 proposed by Representative Pricey Harrison to raise the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour by 2021.

29) RESOLUTION FOR THE REPEAL OF SECTION 3 AND 4 OF HB142 AND RETURN OF POWER TO MUNICIPALITIES

WHEREAS, the people of Guilford County recognize the inherent dignity and equality of all people; and

WHEREAS, HB142 was never a full repeal or a legitimate compromise to HB2; and

WHEREAS, in enacting HB142, our State's political leaders have taken measures to diminish the legislative authority of local governments; and

WHEREAS, the Republican-led legislature has used the law to codify discrimination and division rather than to advance the rights and dignity of North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, the legislation is inconsistent with the Equal Protection Clause of the US Constitution; which provides that no state shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction “...equal protection of the laws;” and

WHEREAS, House Bill 142 imposes a moratorium preventing changes to non-discrimination ordinances until 2020; and

WHEREAS, in accordance to HB142, state institutions including schools, are forever barred from creating ordinances of access to multiple occupancy restrooms; and

WHEREAS, HB142 eliminates local governments from regulating public accommodations or private employment practices before Dec. 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, HB142 also prevents local governments from creating ordinances designed to protect equal rights for racial minorities, veterans, the elderly, women, unmarried adults, and LGBTQ people until 2020; and

WHEREAS, HB142 was written, rushed through, and signed into law without debate, meaningful input from the LGBTQ community, or civic participation to avoid losing an opportunity to host the NCAA and lose a financial opportunity for the state; and

WHEREAS, most states are providing more protections for their citizens, but HB142 was written to specifically prevent the implementation of such protections; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic people of Guilford County believe all people should be treated equally and no one should ever be discriminated against based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, sex, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status, or disability;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party stands unified to support a repeal of SECTIONS 3 AND 4 OF HB142; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the NC General Assembly to repeal SECTIONS 3 and 4 of HB142 and return power to local governments providing equal protection for all.

30). ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE (ACP)

WHEREAS, The Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) would be disastrous to our climate by requiring the continued use and movement of hydraulic fractured gas that contaminates water supplies and pollutes our air; and

WHEREAS, The scope of this 550-mile proposed construction project crossing through the Blue Ridge Mountains and ending in Robeson County, NC, particularly and unfairly impacts economically depressed communities; and

WHEREAS, Leakage and intentional venting of “natural gas” (mostly methane) will occur all the way from the drilling sites to power plants, endangering the health and safety of people living near the pipeline as well as increasing methane released into the atmosphere to unacceptable amounts; and

WHEREAS, Reliance on fossil fuel detracts from the development of much needed alternative energy sources and delays greater employment and economic opportunities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party oppose the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

31) SUPPORT FOR A NONPARTISAN REDISTRICTING PROCESS (HB 200) IN 2017

WHEREAS, The system for redistricting in North Carolina has historically been unfairly manipulated by the party in power and overwhelmingly favorable to incumbent candidates; and

WHEREAS, The constitutionality of partisan redistricting is questionable; and

WHEREAS, District maps drawn for partisan advantage have led to years of expensive legal wrangling, divisive politics, and voter dissatisfaction; and

WHEREAS, Election districts created by the current partisan-drawn maps do not fairly represent the people of North Carolina and actually subvert the voting power of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, A nonpartisan, independent redistricting process is currently being successfully used in at least 12 other states; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Robert Reives II is a co-sponsor of House Bill 200, which calls for the establishment of a nonpartisan redistricting commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party support this bill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party call upon the North Carolina Democratic Party to endorse this legislation.

32) TUITION-FREE UNIVERSITIES

WHEREAS, Student loan debt has become a national issue; and

WHEREAS, Public education is necessary to sustain democracy and benefit society; and

WHEREAS, Student load debt stifles spending, slows the housing market, and holds back new businesses; and

WHEREAS, College degrees raise incomes and lower unemployment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party urge the North Carolina Democratic Party to stand in favor of tuition-free public universities that would eliminate undergraduate tuition.

**33) RESOLUTION TO CENSURE CERTAIN MEMBERS OF
THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FOR PROVIDING LEGAL COVER FOR DOMESTIC TERRORISM**

WHEREAS acts of violence have occurred at home and abroad, by individuals utilizing moving vehicles to attack pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, these acts of violence have resulted in deaths and serious injuries to persons, specifically, France -July 14 , 2016 resulting in seventy-five people dead and forty hurt; London-March 22, 2017 resulting in five people dead and dozens injured; Berlin, Germany December 2016 twelve people dead and fifty injured as well as other similar attacks; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina House of Representatives Justin Burr is the chief sponsor of North Carolina House Bill 330, legislation that will immunize acts of terrorism by vehicle, when drivers run vehicles into people engaging in activity that is protected by the Free Speech and Assembly provisions of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina House of Representatives of the General Assembly has passed HB 330 conferring immunity for such assaults; and

WHEREAS, this legislation violates the intent of the following statutes: 18 United States Code § 956 prohibiting acts of conspiracy to maim and murder persons; and 18 United States Code § 373 that prohibits solicitation to commit crimes of violence; 18 United States Code § 242 prohibiting deprivation of rights under color of law; and 18 United States Code § 2339A prohibiting providing material support for terrorism,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this convention pass a resolution of censure against North Carolina Representative Justin Burr and all other members of the North Carolina General Assembly who voted in favor of HB 330.

34) RESOLUTION TO ENACT UNIVERSAL VOTER REGISTRATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the right to vote is the heart of American democracy, yet in every election hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians are not registered to vote, and WHEREAS, the other developed democracies have universal voter registration systems with near 90% of voters registered, resulting in a 63% to 90% Western Europe turnout, while in America voter registration is voluntary, much like voting itself, and state and local boards of election register voters resulting in many North Carolinians unregistered, with highly unsatisfactory turnout; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Randolph County NC Democratic Party supports the following changes to the voting registration system to accomplish North Carolina universal voter registration: (1) Use existing government databases to automatically register to vote all U.S. citizens 18 years and older, similar to the new Oregon law which directs its DMV to provide the Secretary of State names of qualified electors to be registered. (2) Create a fail-safe policy to ensure voters left off the rolls can register and vote on election day. (3) Provide every U.S. citizen, upon birth or naturalization, a voter registration number similar to a social security number to be used in all elections and activated when a voter turns 18. (4) Set a voter pre-registration age of 16 years to automatically pre-register youth, tying this policy to a "national voting curriculum" in every high school. (5) Require U.S. citizens to register to vote when completing taxes or actively opt-out of the process. (6) Tie Post Office Change of Address forms to the voter registration database. (7) Require state or local governments to send every residence a notice of those registered at that location. Residents may then make changes as needed and return the updated form. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all North Carolina state legislators, the NC Secretary of State, and the Governor.

35) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 146, RAISING THE AGE OF JUVENILE JURISDICTION TO INCLUDE SIXTEEN-AND-SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLDS, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF CERTAIN FELONIES

WHEREAS, In juvenile court systems, youths have greater access to programs which can rehabilitate them while their minds and decision-making skills are still developing; and **WHEREAS**, Thousands of teenagers have entered the North Carolina's prison system over the past twenty years, costing the state money and increasing the chance they will offend again; and **WHEREAS**, Studies estimate that the State would save up to \$50 million a year by not sending teenagers to adult prisons and by reducing recidivism; **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that urges the North Carolina Democratic Party to publicly voice its support for passage of North Carolina Senate Bill 146; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we urge the North Carolina General Assembly to pass North Carolina Senate Bill 146.

36) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OR PRESERVING AND PROTECTING PLANNED PARENTHOOD

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood is the nation's leading reproductive healthcare provider and advocate; and

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood's Healthcare Clinics provide supportive reproductive care to 2.5 million people each year; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Paul Ryan, with the full support of Vice President Mike Pence and HHS Director Tom Price, have announced that Republicans will seek to strip all federal funding for Planned Parenthood, as part of the process of dismantling the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, Defunding Planned Parenthood would result in the loss of access to birth control, cancer screenings, STD tests, wellness exams and more for millions of women and men; and

WHEREAS, Sixty percent (60%) of Planned Parenthood patients rely on Medicaid and Title X programs to access healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Defunding Planned Parenthood is part of a larger Republican agenda to shut down healthcare centers and make it impossible for women to access safe and legal abortions in America; and

WHEREAS, The American people overwhelmingly support Planned Parenthood and strongly oppose blocking access to care; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina women have a right to access abortion, control their own bodily autonomy and determine their own reproductive destiny, as reaffirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party fully supports the reproductive rights of all women in North Carolina, and urges our legislators at the state and national level to continue to support and fund Planned Parenthood and the reproductive healthcare services that it provides.

37) . A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, Thousands of our citizens die or suffer debilitating conditions because they do not receive quality physical or mental health care; and

WHEREAS, Every other advanced democracy delivers equal or better health care to all of its residents at significantly lower costs; and

WHEREAS, providing such care is our moral duty to our fellow human beings, is a human right to each individual person and is prudent economic practice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party urge the North Carolina Democratic Party to stand in favor of a health care policy that guarantees quality physical and mental health care for all of its residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the aforementioned health care be delivered in the most cost effective way regardless of the ability of individuals to pay.

38) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEDICAID EXPANSION

WHEREAS, Healthcare is an important plank of the North Carolina Democratic Party; and
WHEREAS, Healthcare should be understood as a right and not a privilege in advanced societies; and

WHEREAS, Those lacking health insurance impose what amounts to a tax on those citizens who do pay for insurance; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina law requires hospitals to provide healthcare services for all those in need of such services, including those who cannot afford to pay for such services; and

WHEREAS, Providing unreimbursed healthcare services to individuals without health insurance or the ability to pay for such services is threatening the viability of community hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Lack of adequate Medicaid coverage for those who cannot pay for their healthcare services and who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid coverage is resulting in the loss of North Carolina jobs; and

WHEREAS, The expansion of Medicaid in North Carolina is vital to the health and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion is both necessary and cost effective for providing healthcare services to the citizens of the State of North Carolina;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to immediately enact Medicaid expansion.

39) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHILD HEALTH INSURANCE

WHEREAS, One in 4 children in North Carolina live in poverty; and

WHEREAS, Poverty is strongly associated with a child's ability to learn and with a child's health; and

WHEREAS, Children who live in poverty rely on the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for their health care; and

WHEREAS, Children are not responsible for their health problems nor can they get health care unassisted; and

WHEREAS, Healthy children improve the health of the community; and

WHEREAS, A healthy and well-educated community is an economically successful community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly encourages the North Carolina General Assembly to provide healthcare coverage to all of North Carolina's children and to continue and expand CHIP in North Carolina.

40) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTING AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, Affordable and comprehensive healthcare should be a right of every American citizen; and

WHEREAS, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009 (ACA) has been responsible for insuring over 20 million Americans who would otherwise be unable to afford health insurance; and

WHEREAS, The Republican Party under President Donald Trump has indicated that they are not willing to take a stand to ensure that people with pre-existing conditions, women, children, veterans, young adults, people with disabilities and struggling families continue to access the affordable coverage they need; and

WHEREAS, As of January 2017, 545,354 moderate-income North Carolinians have purchased private health insurance through the federal marketplace provided by the ACA; and

WHEREAS, A repeal of the ACA will result in a loss of insurance, insurance subsidies and benefits through Medicaid and a decline in the health of our citizens;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly urges the North Carolina General Assembly to support the right of North Carolinians to affordable and accessible healthcare by standing up for its citizens and against the federal government's repeal of the ACA.

41) RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH CAUCUSES AT THE PRECINCT LEVEL AND TO ADOPT IN EVERY PRECINCT THE PROCESS OF PRIMARY VOTING BY CAST BALLOT AS THE EXCLUSIVE MEANS TO DETERMINE THE WINNER OF DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTIONS

WHEREAS the Democratic Party supports, promotes and believes in "one person, one vote;" and WHEREAS the Democratic Party also supports the early voting process because of its ability to enfranchise poor and working class voters, minority voters, elderly or disabled voters and others who might not be able to attend a caucus or vote on a specific date at a specific time; and

WHEREAS in a caucus system there is no method in which an absentee ballot may be cast, effectively silencing the voices of military personnel serving overseas, the elderly or infirm who cannot leave their home, expatriates and those traveling abroad for extended periods; and WHEREAS the vote count in a caucus is tabulated by head count, whereas a primary is tabulated via ballots cast and counted via computer and tabulator and less prone to human error or tampering;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Democratic Party **abolish** the practice of using the caucus system to elect primary winners; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party **adopt** in every state, territory, and precinct, a homogenous, more streamlined system of primary voting using ballots tallied by their local Boards of Election, as is customary after election day, to ensure that all registered Democrats have an equal chance to vote for their chosen candidate during the primary process.

42) A RESOLUTION TO PASS AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES DECLARING THAT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS BELONG ONLY TO INDIVIDUALS AND NOT TO CORPORATIONS OR OTHER ARTIFICIAL ENTITIES AND THAT CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED FREE SPEECH EXCLUDES THE UNLIMITED SPENDING OF MONEY ON POLITICAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article I of the Constitution of North Carolina asserts that "[a]ll political power is vested in and derived from the people; all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole"; and

WHEREAS, Free and fair elections, as well as honest representation, are essential to self-determination and self-governance as described in the Declaration of Independence and established in the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The American people have lost faith in the political process because their voices are not heard nor their interests represented, and thus, an ever-smaller percentage of Americans is motivated to vote; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States makes no mention of corporations or other artificial entities and there are no provisions extending rights to such entities; however, through a series of decisions such as Citizens United equating a "corporation" with a "person," the United States Supreme Court has extended to corporations the constitutional rights and protections intended for people only; and

WHEREAS, Unlike human beings, corporations can exist in perpetuity and in many countries at the same time, and, as a result, many large corporations, both foreign and domestic, invest in campaigns to invalidate or bypass regulatory law intended to protect the public, and, as such, corporate participation in the political process often conflicts with the public interest; and

WHEREAS, Money is property and not speech and nowhere in the Constitution of the United States is money equated with speech; and

WHEREAS, Advertising is limited and costly, equating the spending of money with free speech gives those with the most money the most speech; and

WHEREAS, Whenever special interests, including very wealthy individuals, are able to spend unlimited amounts of money on political speech, candidates and officeholders can be corrupted and intimidated and the free speech of most citizens is drowned out and denied; and

WHEREAS, Monopolizing public speech neither promotes nor protects free speech; and

WHEREAS, Anonymous contributions and spending for political gain promote dishonesty and corruption, preventing voters from assessing the motives of the speaker; and

WHEREAS, The public must be able to hold funders of political speech accountable when their messages prove false or misleading; and

WHEREAS, Full and prompt disclosure of funding sources is essential to an informed electorate, fair elections, and effective governance; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States empowers the people and the states to use the amendment process to correct egregious decisions such as Citizens United by the United States Supreme Court that subvert our representative government; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Constitution of the United States shall be amended to declare that constitutional rights belong only to individual people and not to corporations or other artificial entities and that constitutionally protected free speech excludes the unlimited spending of money on political campaign contributions.

43) RESOLUTION FOR TRUTH-IN-CAMPAIGN ADVERTISING

WHEREAS, U.S. political ads have no truth and accuracy requirements; and

WHEREAS, Political ads often provide a personal attack approach at the expense of credible dialogue about issues; and

WHEREAS, Public opinion is better informed when information is relayed through a fact-based news media; and

WHEREAS, Misleading information and myths distort political debate and sound value judgments; and

WHEREAS, Use of well-researched data and well-researched scientific evidence support fact-based political messaging; and

WHEREAS, Voting is increased when those making decisions are accurately informed; and

WHEREAS, Facts support new ideas and help separate myth from truth; and

WHEREAS, Focus on information and ideas diminish personal attacks; and

WHEREAS, Voters need protection from voter fraud, false advertising and deception marketing; and

WHEREAS, Making a well-informed, balanced media available to a broad segment of society addresses social inequalities; and

WHEREAS, A media that informs citizens enables them to have a more meaningful voice in their government through a better understanding of public policy; and

WHEREAS, Wealth provides control over advertising, making it important that information provided serves the interest and welfare of the general population;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges its Congressman and Senators to support truth-in-campaign advertising laws, with specific requirements for truthful advertising and specific penalties for false advertising.

44) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A LAW REQUIRING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AND THEIR FEDERAL APPOINTEES TO RELEASE THEIR FEDERAL TAX RETURNS

WHEREAS, We expect transparency from every Presidential candidate regarding his or her sources of income; and

WHEREAS, We expect Presidential candidates and their federal appointees to free themselves of any financial entanglements that might hamper their ability to carry out their duties; and

WHEREAS, Our current President has withheld his tax returns from public scrutiny and, therefore, has raised doubts about his suitability to serve as President of the United States;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourages its Congressional delegation to support a law requiring all candidates for the Office of President of the United States and all federal appointees of the President of the United States to release their federal income tax returns.

45) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A FREE PRESS, ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND THE FREEDOM OF SCIENTISTS ENGAGED IN INQUIRIES SOME DEEM TO BE CONTROVERSIAL

WHEREAS, The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech; and

WHEREAS, Members of the press and various highly-respected news organizations have recently been vilified and accused of spreading "fake news," especially news that our current President finds embarrassing; and

WHEREAS, Professors have increasingly been accused of "indoctrinating" students, instead of encouraging rigorous inquiry and free thinking; and

WHEREAS, Scientists, especially climate scientists, have been vilified and threatened in various ways, when they publically express conclusions that would seem to undermine a carbon-based economy; and

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Democratic Party recognizes that freedom of inquiry, scientific research and a strong press have helped establish an American hegemony and have offered inspiration to people around the world;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly supports the defenders of rational thought and open discussion, especially when those thinkers promote ideas that could be important to our planet's survival.

46) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AFFORDABLE HIGH SPEED INTERNET
ACCESS (BROADBAND) FOR ALL**

WHEREAS, Internet access allows citizens access to their government in a unique and highly functional way; and

WHEREAS, Many government services and communications are available on the Internet; and

WHEREAS, Information about preparedness for hazardous events are posted on the Internet; and

WHEREAS, Many medical services require one to use the Internet to make appointments, to check lab results and to communicate with the physician or healthcare provider; and

WHEREAS, The Internet facilitates opportunities for affordable and inclusive education; and

WHEREAS, The Internet allows one to find solutions to problems in the household or workplace; and

WHEREAS, Not all work schedules allow citizens to go the public library to access the Internet; and

WHEREAS, High speed broadband is a necessity and not an optional luxury in today's world;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourages our local, state and federal government to provide residents with affordable access to the Internet and/or to enter into agreements with private companies to provide affordable access to everyone, regardless of where they live.

** In this Resolution, Internet refers to services available via high speed or broadband access and to the servers of the World Wide Web.

47) RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

WHEREAS, Parents and caregivers may experience stressful times with crying babies resulting in more likely situations of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, Every ten seconds, a report is made to the proper authorities that a child has been abused; and

WHEREAS, Four or more children die every day at the hands of their abusers, and approximately seventy percent (70%) of those children are under the age of four; and

WHEREAS, Thirty percent (30%) of all victims of child abuse will abuse their own children; and

WHEREAS, Eighty percent (80%) of all victims of child abuse under the age of twenty-one have a psychological disorder; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, it was reported that child abuse cost our economy \$124 billion dollars a year; and

WHEREAS, It is reported that 2,000 children die every year at the hands of the people who are supposed to care for them and love them; and

WHEREAS, Most child abuse occurs due to the fact that their caregiver has shaken them;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly and the United States Congress to fund mandatory education and training programs for new parents and caregivers, with a focus on child abuse and its symptoms, the risks posed by shaken baby syndrome and how to choose a good caregiver; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports mandatory educational programs in middle schools and high schools regarding child abuse and parenting skills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports programs that provide new parents and new caregivers with routine follow-up visits by medical personnel to promote child safety and health, with such follow-up visits to be provided monthly for a minimum of six months after a baby's birth, along with a nurse on call 24/7 to answer questions or relieve the caregiver during stressful times.

48) RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICY

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Democratic Party acknowledges that, except for those of us who are full-blooded Native Americans, we are the descendants of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Immigrants have made, and continue to make, America a strong country; and

WHEREAS, Refugees are fleeing the scourges of hunger, war and oppression; and

WHEREAS, Refugees have traditionally looked to America as a source of succor and hope; and

WHEREAS, We are called upon by our Constitution and by our religious convictions to give aid to the refugee, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or national origin; and

WHEREAS, Our current administration has sought to curtail the immigration of refugees who are Muslim and/or are from a list of countries experiencing horrific upheavals, much to the heartache and endangerment of innocent men, women and children;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges our Congressional delegation to work to restore a humane immigration policy, one based on tolerance, charity and justice for all.

49) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OR PRESERVING AND PROTECTING PLANNED PARENTHOOD

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood is the nation's leading reproductive healthcare provider and advocate; and

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood's Healthcare Clinics provide supportive reproductive care to 2.5 million people each year; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Paul Ryan, with the full support of Vice President Mike Pence and HHS Director Tom Price, have announced that Republicans will seek to strip all federal funding for Planned Parenthood, as part of the process of dismantling the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, Defunding Planned Parenthood would result in the loss of access to birth control, cancer screenings, STD tests, wellness exams and more for millions of women and men; and

WHEREAS, Sixty percent (60%) of Planned Parenthood patients rely on Medicaid and Title X programs to access healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Defunding Planned Parenthood is part of a larger Republican agenda to shut down healthcare centers and make it impossible for women to access safe and legal abortions in America; and

WHEREAS, The American people overwhelmingly support Planned Parenthood and strongly oppose blocking access to care; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina women have a right to access abortion, control their own bodily autonomy and determine their own reproductive destiny, as reaffirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party fully supports the reproductive rights of all women in North Carolina, and urges our legislators at the state and national level to continue to support and fund Planned Parenthood and the reproductive healthcare services that it provides.

50) RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO TAKE IMMEDIATE, COMPREHENSIVE ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, There is a scientific consensus that increased concentrations of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels, are raising the mean global temperature and increasing the acidity of the oceans; and

WHEREAS, This scientific consensus is documented in the 5th Assessment Report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; and

WHEREAS, The projected impacts of climate change pose real and imminent threats to the health, welfare and security of the State of North Carolina, the nation and the world, including disruptions in world food and water supplies, rapid sea level rise, accelerating melting of land and sea ice masses, increasing likelihood of extreme weather events, increasing wildfires, increasing insect and pathogen disease threats and increasingly likelihood of extinction for many plant and animal species; and

WHEREAS, Such threats must be treated as urgent crises and a top priority by the President of the United States and our elected federal and state representatives; and

WHEREAS, Overuse of fossil fuels contributes to climate change, pollutes the air, damages our health, threatens our economic well-being and reduces our national security; and

WHEREAS, The window of opportunity to forestall climate chaos is rapidly closing; and

WHEREAS, The potential for global climate disruption threatens to undermine our ability to achieve critical Democratic Party goals including economic prosperity, national security, social justice and a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, new, existing and developing technologies and industries can create clean, renewable sources of energy and achieve energy conservation and efficiency and, in turn, decrease greenhouse gas emissions while providing new economic opportunities and jobs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the President of the United States, The Congress of the United States, the Governor of North Carolina, the North Carolina General Assembly, the Mayor of Greensboro and the Greensboro City Council, to create, support, and enact climate change and energy policies on the federal, state and local levels to combat climate change that include: adopting more stringent goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% below 1990 levels by year 2050; increase investment in energy technology research and development with a goal of making solar, wind, wave, tidal, geothermal and other “green” power, including conservation and other viable energy sources; instituting carbon pricing with full revenue recycling, both to enhance efficiency and to offset regressive impacts on lower-income people and small businesses; creating a federal tax credit for the installation of residential and commercial energy-efficient systems including drain water heat exchangers, solar hot water heating systems and ground source heat pumps; increasing fuel efficiency standards for all vehicles and encouraging alternative fuel technologies

such as plug-in-hybrids; development of alternative transport systems such as bike paths and mass transit options; investing in New Deal-like work projects that create green collar jobs, including a Clean Energy Corps to increase energy efficiency in buildings; protecting and preserving wildlife habitat for threatened and endangered species including acting vigorously to halt deforestation and other activities that threaten biodiversity; and providing global leadership by helping developing nations find pathways out of poverty using clean technologies developed here and around the world.

51) RESOLUTION CALLING FOR UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO FILE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT AGAINST PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of The United States Of America found it necessary to include provisions in the United States Constitution known as The Emoluments Clause intended to prevent undue influence by foreign and domestic powers upon the Office of The President Of The United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Foreign Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution provides that “no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under [the United States], shall, without the Consent of Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State”; and

WHEREAS, The Domestic Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution provides that, besides the fixed salary for his four-year term, the President “shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them”; and

WHEREAS, The term “emoluments” includes a broad range of financial benefits, including but not limited to monetary payments, purchase of goods and services even for fair market value, subsidies, tax breaks, extensions of credit, and favorable regulatory treatment; and

WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump, the President of the United States, owns various business interests and receives various streams of income from all over the world; and

WHEREAS, Many of these businesses receive, and streams of income include, emoluments from individual States of the United States, the United States itself, or foreign governments, including, but not limited to, Russia and The Peoples Republic of China; and

WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump took the oath of office and became President of The United States on January 20th, 2017; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump has been in violation of the Foreign Emoluments Clause and the Domestic Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution from the moment he took office; and

WHEREAS, These violations undermine the integrity of the Presidency, violate public trust, and corruptly increase the personal wealth of President Donald J. Trump and his immediate family; and

WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump, by such conduct, warrants impeachment, trial and removal from the Office of President of The United States Of America;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Guilford County calls upon the United States House of Representatives to pass a resolution authorizing and directing the House Committee on the Judiciary to determine if sufficient grounds exist for the Impeachment of Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, including but not limited to the violations found herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call for a special prosecutor be appointed to investigate the matter, as the Attorney General Jeff Sessions was a political supporter of Donald J. Trump and was appointed by him to the Office of Attorney General; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution should be transmitted officially to all Democratic Members of the United States House of Representatives and to all Members of the United States House of Representatives representing the State of North Carolina.

52) RESOLUTION CALLING FOR UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO FILE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT AGAINST ATTORNEY GENERAL JEFFERSON B SESSIONS III

WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump, the President of the United States, appointed Jefferson B. Sessions III to become Attorney General of the United States of America during his administration; and

WHEREAS, The United States Constitution requires that all appointments to the President's Cabinet be confirmed by the United States Senate through testimony given under oath in response to questions from the Senators to ensure the appointee is qualified; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson B. Sessions III testified under oath during a Senate Confirmation hearing on January 10, 2017, that he "did not have any contact with the Russians" in reply to a question by Senator Al Franken (D-Minn) regarding possible communication between the Russian Government and Donald Trump's Presidential Campaign in late 2016; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson B. Sessions III took the oath of office and became Attorney General of The United States on February 9, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Jefferson B. Sessions III stated on March 2, 2017, during a press conference that he did in fact meet with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak at least twice in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson B. Sessions III, having clearly admitted to breaking his oath before the Senate during his Confirmation Hearing for Attorney General, has violated United States Code Title 18, Section 1621 by committing Perjury before the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, These violations undermine the integrity of the office of United States Attorney General, show callous disregard for the Constitutional duty of our Senate to confirm members of the President's Cabinet, and erode confidence in the ability of the United States Department of Justice to objectively and honestly enforce our laws under the leadership of Jefferson B. Sessions III; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson .B Sessions III, by such conduct, warrants impeachment, trial and removal from the Office of Attorney General of The United States of America;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Guilford County call upon the United States House of Representatives to pass a resolution authorizing and directing the House Committee on the Judiciary to determine if sufficient grounds exist for the Impeachment of Jefferson B. Sessions III, Attorney General of the United States, for violations, including, but not limited to, the violations found herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution should be transmitted officially to all Democratic Members of the United States House of Representatives and to all Members of the United States House of Representatives representing the State of North Carolina.

53) A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, Thousands of our citizens die or suffer debilitating conditions because they do not receive quality physical or mental health care; and

WHEREAS, Every other advanced democracy delivers equal or better health care to all of its residents at significantly lower costs; and

WHEREAS, providing such care is our moral duty to our fellow human beings, is a human right to each individual person and is prudent economic practice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party urge the North Carolina Democratic Party to stand in favor of a health care policy that guarantees quality physical and mental health care for all of its residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the aforementioned health care be delivered in the most cost effective way regardless of the ability of individuals to pay.

54) ISRAEL/PALESTINE (Quoting Thos. Jefferson)

WHEREAS, All inhabitants of Israel/Palestine have the inherent right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”; and

WHEREAS, Such rights are secured to each person by participation as an equal citizen of a democratic and sovereign state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the government of the United States support these rights for all, equally.

55) A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OFFICE HOLDERS TO ADDRESS CITIZENS WITH RESPECT

WHEREAS, In our elections this past fall, both national and statewide, political rhetoric, at all levels but especially nationally, has been growing increasingly mean-spirited, venomously partisan, and fear-inducing; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That all elected and appointed officials be mindful that they now represent and govern all U.S. and North Carolina citizens of all backgrounds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That officeholders address all of us with respect, thoughtfully considering all of our ideas to govern fairly and reasonably. Consistent with our most traditional and respectful democratic principles, elected officials and citizens, together, can create an American society that continues to

develop peacefully, so that, as President Lincoln wisely stated, "government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."