

North Carolina Democratic Party Sixth Congressional District Convention

May 5, 2018

Proposed Resolutions

Campaign Finance

1. A RESOLUTION TO LIMIT THE INFLUENCE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS ON OUR POLITICAL PROCESS.

Whereas, before the inception of this country attempts have been made to curb the corrupting influence of money in politics through legislation, starting in 1757, and

Whereas, the Supreme Court Rulings in Citizens United v FEC (2010) and McCutcheon v FEC (2014) have effectively flooded campaigns for elected offices at all levels with unlimited funds from sources other than individuals, undermining legislated attempts to curb outside influence of elected officials, and

Whereas, corporations have been declared as having "Personhood", and

Whereas, multinational corporations with foreign interest, have been given the 1st Amendment Right of Free Speech, via campaign contributions, and

Whereas, campaign finance committees at all levels and in all states have experienced an unprecedented influx of campaign contributions, and

Whereas, elected officials now spend the majority of their time in office raising funds in order to remain competitive, rather than devoting their time and attention to the process of governance, and

Whereas, special interests now have the opportunity to buy favorable legislation with campaign contributions, and

Whereas, the value of individuals votes has been diminished by the importance of large campaign contributions, and

Whereas, the Democratic Party has become reliant upon large campaign contributions in order to remain competitive as a political party, and

Whereas, it has been proven that adequate funding can be obtained from low dollar contributions from grassroots supporters, and

Whereas, the appearance of influence peddling should be avoided in order to maintain the integrity of Democratic ideals of equity and equality, therefore be it

Resolved that the North Carolina Democratic Party support campaign finance legislation to limit campaign contribution size, reduce the influence of corporate campaign spending, and the return of the 2008 DNC ban on the acceptance of corporate contributions.

Submitted by Rockingham County Democratic Party

Constitutional Amendments

2. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H.J. RESOLUTION 125 TO AMEND THE US CONSTITUTION TO ELIMINATE BIG MONEY FROM POLITICS

WHEREAS, resolutions are an important part of the North Carolina Democratic Party and its proceedings; and

WHEREAS, concentration of wealth and power endangers our democracy and threatens to turn our government into an oligarchy; and

WHEREAS, corporations are not natural persons; and

WHEREAS, money is not speech; and

WHEREAS, artificial entities are subject to the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, service men and women put their lives and health at risk to defend democracy; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the populace to assure that the sacrifices of our service men and women are not made “in vain, that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth;” and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution 125 (HJR 125) of the 2015 session of General Assembly of North Carolina proposed that the General Assembly call on Congress to propose and send to the states for ratification an amendment to the Constitution to affirm that constitutional rights belong only to natural persons; that spending money “to influence elections is not protected free speech under the First Amendment”; “that the privileges of artificial entities” are not “inherent or inalienable and are subject to regulation by the people, through federal, State or local law”; and that nothing in the proposed amendment would “abridge the freedom of the press.” and

WHEREAS, HJR 125 was referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar and Operations on March 3, 2015; and

WHEREAS, HJR 125 missed the legislative crossover deadline;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that that the Delegates to the Democratic Party 6th Congressional District Convention have determined that artificial entities, such as corporations and labor unions are legal entities that government regulates and the privileges they enjoy under the United States Constitution should be more narrowly defined than the rights that are afforded to human beings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge all members of the US Congress who represent North Carolina to co-sponsor and pass H. J. Res 48 whose sections listed below will be effective “upon ratification by three-fourths of the several States:” “ Section 1. The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only. Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities, established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law. The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable. “ Section 2. Federal, State and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate’s own contributions and expenditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have access to the political process, and that no person gains, as a result of that person’s money, substantially more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure. Federal, State, and local governments shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed. The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.” ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the North Carolina Democratic Party to call upon both houses of the North Carolina General Assembly to propose and submit a joint resolution to the General Assembly which contains the two sections listed above and to send a copy of this resolution to all members of the North Carolina congressional delegation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the North Carolina Democratic Party to call upon the Democratic legislative delegation to the General Assembly to call upon the committee assigned to the proposed resolution to insist that the Committee release the proposal in a timely manner bringing it to a vote before the end of the legislative session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we Democrats commit our actions, time, ideas, energy, treasury and prayers toward ensuring integrity of the electoral process and the democracy that it serves, henceforth and forevermore.

**3. RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO A PROVISION OF THE NC
CONSTITUTION REQUIRING OFFICE HOLDERS TO BELIEVE IN GOD OR
A CREATOR**

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 8 of the Constitution of North Carolina declares that anyone who denies the existence of God or a Creator cannot hold office;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party support repealing this disqualification for office.

submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

**4. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HEARINGS AND RATIFICATION OF THE
EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS, women, who constitute over 51% of the population of North Carolina, continue to confront workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults, and a lack of political parity; and

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

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is needed to help correct systemic sex discrimination, since the US Constitution does not explicitly guarantee that all the rights that it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex; and

WHEREAS, the ERA was proposed in 1923, passed by Congress in 1972 and ratified by 35 of the 38 states necessary to put it into the Constitution as of a June 30, 1982 time limit; and

WHEREAS, irrespective of a time limit for ratification, the Nevada Legislature ratified the ERA with a bipartisan vote on March 22, 2017, becoming the thirty-sixth state to ratify the amendment; and

WHEREAS, the legislature of Illinois has begun movement toward ratification of the ERA; and

WHEREAS, one house of the North Carolina legislature, the North Carolina House of Representatives, approved the ERA before the original deadline in 1972; and

WHEREAS, The ERA has been reintroduced in every session of Congress since 1982 and has bipartisan support; and

WHEREAS, Congress can alter time limits in the proposing clauses of amendments, and the deadline for the ERA appeared only in the preamble and not in the text of the amendment; and

WHEREAS, sixteen municipalities and/or counties across North Carolina have adopted resolutions of support for the ERA; and

WHEREAS, ERA bills were introduced into both chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly in 2015 and 2017; were assigned to Judiciary and/or Rules Committees, but were not considered in hearings; and

WHEREAS, 2017 saw a resurgence of women's movements and renewed demands for equality and fair treatment as exhibited by the Women's March, the Me Too Movement, and a surge of women running for political office; and

WHEREAS, it is indefensible that, in the 21st century, women still are not granted equal rights under The Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party Platform calls for a renewed effort to ratify the ERA;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party prioritize advocating that the General Assembly hold committee hearings upon ratification bills like those introduced in 2015 and 2017, and all Democrats will pursue ratification of the ERA to the US Constitution as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

Domestic and National Security

5. A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PREPARATION FOR MAN-MADE DISASTERS, ESPECIALLY DISRUPTION OF THE GRID

WHEREAS, the federal response to the emergency in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria has proven to be inept, lacking in scope or speed, and painfully slow, (for example, in restoring the electrical grid); and

WHEREAS, an even greater man-made disaster could happen in the continental United States if hackers choose to disrupt the electrical grid; and

WHEREAS, Ted Koppel, in his book Lights Out, has explained the vulnerability of our grid to attack by hackers and the impediments to effective reaction to an emergency; and

WHEREAS, a widespread and long-lasting blackout would cause tragic disruption of our society and the deaths of millions of Americans;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party find ways to bring together civic and religious organizations to organize for every sort of emergency; that we as a party promote the funding of safe and localized electrical grids; and that we as a party work to make FEMA a highly organized, fully-funded, and effective entity for dealing with disasters.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

Education

6. RESOLUTION TO INCREASE PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS FROM THE EDUCATION LOTTERY USED TO FURTHER PUBLIC EDUCATION

Whereas, funding cuts to unemployment benefits and social welfare programs for the needy have resulted in a higher percentage of food insecurity throughout North Carolina, and in particular Rockingham County, and

Whereas, it is scientifically proven that well fed children have a higher capacity to learn, and

Whereas, cuts to public education have led to an exodus of experienced teachers, and

Whereas, cuts to the number of teaching assistants have lead to fewer educators per student, and

Whereas, tax reforms have reduced the deduction for teacher expenses for out of pocket purchases for supplies directly related to the ability to teach, and

Whereas, lack of funding for infrastructure maintenance has resulted in everything from lack of toilet paper and books, to school consolidation and class size increases, and

Whereas, funding for teacher continuing education scholarships has been reduced, and

Whereas, respect for teaching experience has not been reflected in the current pay scale, and

Whereas, the people of North Carolina were led to believe that funds acquired as a result of their votes to approve the N.C. Education Lottery would be used for public education, and

Whereas, funds from the N.C. Education Lottery have been commandeered to make up for budget shortfalls, while the N.C. General Assembly has seen fit to reduce taxes, and therefore revenues, which might otherwise have been available to remedy the many deficits in our public education system, and

Whereas, the pool of public education students reduced and per student spending removed from the public education system by the issuance of vouchers for private, for profit schools; exacerbating education funding shortfalls,

Therefore be it Resolved, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the requirement that N.C. Legislators use a much higher percentage of funds from the N.C. Education Lottery to further the public education of North Carolina Students.

Submitted by Rockingham County Democratic Party

7. A RESOLUTION TO FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SUPPORT OF TEXTBOOKS FOR ALL NC PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has not purchased current textbooks for more than 10 years; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Students are unable to receive the education they need without current textbooks; and

WHEREAS, the failure to educate North Carolina's students will negatively impact their future prospects and personal fulfillment, as well as their economic productivity; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of all North Carolinians to have an educated workforce; and

WHEREAS, Most of our citizens depend on public education to educate their children; and

WHEREAS, Our democracy depends on educated citizens to understand issues and elect our office holders; and

WHEREAS, All children deserve the equal opportunity to learn basic skills so they can gain additional education or/and become employed and support themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina state government is the main source of funding for our public schools; and

WHEREAS, Public school teachers and administrators provide the service and training for our students to learn; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party promote legislation to ensure that each student registered in the North Carolina public schools has access to timely, accurate, and grade-appropriate textbooks, supplies computers and other resources needed and our schools are fully funded so that our teacher and administrators are properly paid.

Combined Resolution from Documents Submitted by Guilford and Randolph County Democratic Parties

Election Integrity, Security, Transparency

8. A RESOLUTION REGARDING ELECTION SECURITY

WHEREAS, The Russians were relentless in attempting to meddle in the 2016 elections and will continue to undermine confidence in the legitimacy of our elections; and

WHEREAS, The U. S. Department of Homeland Security and top U. S. Intelligence Agencies have said that Russian agents are preparing for new rounds of election interference this year; and

WHEREAS, The U. S. Senate Intelligence Committee has recommended that states make sure voting machines have paper audits trails and aren't capable of being connected to the internet and that federal, state and local governments have better communications about cyber-threats and vulnerabilities in computer systems; and

WHEREAS, The U. S. Senate Intelligence Committee has recommended improvement in our nation's election infrastructure ahead of the 2018 midterm elections; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of North Carolina deserve to have their votes counted without interference from foreign countries in our election process; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That North Carolina Democrats recommend the continued investigations into these matters; and

RESOLVED, That state and county Boards of Election ensure voting machines have paper audit trails and are not capable of being connected to the Internet; and

RESOLVED, That federal, state and local governments, including local Boards of Elections, have better communications about cyber-threats and vulnerabilities in computer systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That state and local election officials take advantage of the resources provided by the Homeland Security Department, such as comprehensive risk assessments and remote cyber-scanning of their networks to spot vulnerabilities.

Submitted by Randolph County Democratic Party County Convention

9. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATION

WHEREAS, adherence to the United States and North Carolina Constitutions, a high standard of ethics, and responsiveness to citizens' views are crucial to the political process; and

WHEREAS, displaying a high standard of ethics and cooperation are increasingly difficult in our currently polarized political climate;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party support elected officials, judicial officials and law enforcement personnel who uphold the United States and North Carolina Constitutions and who display a high standard of ethics to effectively represent their constituents' views.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

10. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE INCUMBENT PRESIDENT AND ALL FUTURE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO RELEASE THEIR PERSONAL INCOME TAX RETURNS TO THE PUBLIC FOR SCRUTINY PRIOR TO BEING ELIGIBLE TO APPEAR AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON ANY NORTH CAROLINA BALLOT

WHEREAS, since the 1970's, candidates for the Office of the President of the United States have regularly and routinely voluntarily released their full or partial tax returns, some going back fifteen years or more, for public examination; and

WHEREAS, a candidate's tax returns, when considered with required financial disclosure forms, present a more complete picture of a candidate's financial dealings, financial positions, financial interests, personal character and credibility, values and priorities, and how their judgment might be affected by their financial transactions and debts as well as any conflicts of interest, both domestic and foreign, which may impact the individual's position on specific issues of public policy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urge the North Carolina General Assembly to pass legislation requiring the incumbent President of the United States and all future presidential candidates to produce their past history of income tax filings to the public for scrutiny; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any presidential candidate who fails to release his or her tax returns to the public should not be allowed to appear in the ballot as a candidate for President of the United States in North Carolina.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

11. A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ELECTION OF SHERIFF

WHEREAS, An independent sheriff's office is essential to the proper functioning of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, Partisan politics has no proper role in the selection or the work of the sheriff; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That all sheriffs in North Carolina should be elected by the voters in non-partisan elections.

Submitted by Randolph County Democratic Party

12. A RESOLUTION FOR AN OPT-OUT VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, The right to vote is a defining and sacred characteristic of American citizens; and

WHEREAS, We are a stronger community, state, and nation when voter participation is high; and

WHEREAS, Eligible citizens should have access to vote; and

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles is where citizens maintain their address information; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party promote legislation that any citizen aged 16 and over is automatically pre-registered or registered to vote (depending on their age) with the acquisition of any form of ID; and

RESOLVED, That this automatic registration process shall be an "opt out" rather than an "opt in" process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the enactment of a "Motor Voter" law by the North Carolina General Assembly modeled after the Motor Voter Law in effect in the State of Oregon.

Submitted by Randolph County Democratic Party

***Energy/Environment/Environmental Justice ***

13. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS TO PROTECT NORTH CAROLINA'S ENVIRONMENT AND IN OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING FOR GAS AND OIL

WHEREAS, North Carolina's beaches and wetlands are some of the finest and most attractive in the entire world; and

WHEREAS, coastal lands in many states of our country have been spoiled by attempts to extract oil and gas from waters offshore; and

WHEREAS, our coastal economy is heavily reliant on the pristine quality of our beaches and coastal areas; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that North Carolina's offshore fields will only provide EAS approximately a 30-day supply of oil and a 90-day supply of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, wind resources will never run out and will provide 2 ½ to 3 times as many jobs as oil and gas exploration and production are expected to provide; and

WHEREAS, Democrats have a long history of protecting and defending the environment; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the Republican-controlled General Assembly has weakened environmental protections, ignored scientific research on climate change, consistently deregulated previously successful environmental protections, consistently pushed for offshore oil drilling, consistently supported “fracking” and has defunded scientific research on environmental issues;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party support the restoration of stringent environmental controls based upon scientific research, including, but not limited to, an end to fracking and the threat of offshore drilling, and support the preservation, protection and defense of North Carolina's environment for the health and well-being of our children and grandchildren; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly urge and lobby our representatives in the North Carolina General Assembly and the U.S. Congress to oppose all efforts to allow drilling for oil and gas off the North Carolina coast.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

14. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY RESOURCES AND A BAN OF FRACKING

Whereas, the practice of drilling for shale oil injects chemicals proven to be hazardous to human health, with the potential for groundwater contamination, and

Whereas, pressurized injection of chemicals creates fissures in rock and other underground substrates, which have proven the potential to contaminate groundwater, and

Whereas, fracking has been proven to create earthquakes in areas previously not subject to seismic activity, which have no building code provisions as safety precautions against earthquake potential, and

Whereas, the fracking process requires millions of gallons of fresh water, from local sources, and

Whereas, contaminated wastewater may be stored in open ponds, and

Whereas, the heavy machinery associated with fracking will adversely affect the integrity of roadways, and

Whereas, fracking locations have an adverse effect on home and land values, and

Whereas, the venting of gases (particularly methane, a greenhouse gas, and benzene, a carcinogen) into the air has the potential to adversely affect local air quality and public health, and

Whereas, carbon dioxide and methane are two gases contributing to the warming of the earth's atmosphere, and climate changes which result in drought, flooding, wildfires, sea level rise, and other adverse conditions which threaten our species and others, and

Whereas, forced pooling threatens the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness for land and home owners, and others in close proximity to drilling operations, and

Whereas, Rockingham County has already seen a slow and inadequate government response to the 3rd largest coal ash spill in U. S. history, and

Whereas, the Republican controlled N.C. General Assembly (NCGA) has already shown its willingness to pass the costs of environmental disaster clean-up to the citizens of the area affected, rather than hold the company responsible fully accountable, and

Whereas, NCGA has already compromised the effectiveness of DEQ (formerly DENR), through the reduction of budget, manpower, monitoring, and other services, and

Whereas, the NCGA has restricted Wind and Solar Power locations/production, and

Whereas, the NCGA consistently ignores climate science warnings in favor of fossil fuel business profitability, as is evidenced by the passage of legislation allowing fracking, offshore drilling, and pipeline construction, while restricting the growth of renewable power resources like Wind and Solar, and

Whereas, there are locations in North Carolina with a high probability of shale oil deposits, whose citizens will be affected by the practice of fracking, therefore be it

Resolved that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports renewable energy production over the continued exploration and exploitation of fossil fuels, and be it

Resolved that the N.C. Democratic Party will pursue every avenue to influence the N.C. General Assembly and the U.S. Congress, to ban fracking, and be it further

Resolved to pursue the development and implementation of environmentally friendly energy resources, while recognizing and acknowledging fossil fuel contribution to climate change.

Submitted by Rockingham County Democratic Party

15. A RESOLUTION TO MOVE NORTH CAROLINA TO 100% CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND OPPOSE NEW FOSSIL FULL PROJECTS

WHEREAS, climate change is real, and influenced by humans, and affirmed by overwhelming scientific evidence; and

WHEREAS, if unchecked, climate change will fundamentally undermine the stability of human societies and natural systems; and

WHEREAS, there is no credible path to a safe climate which includes new fossil fuel infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, a just transition to 100% renewable energy can benefit all communities; and

WHEREAS, a just transition to 100% renewable energy can especially benefit low income communities and communities of color which are disproportionately impacted by fossil fuel production; and

WHEREAS, a just transition to 100% renewable energy will create significant numbers of high quality jobs, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will actively oppose new infrastructure whose primary purpose is transporting or storing fossil fuels in or through the state, and support strengthened regulatory oversight of existing infrastructure, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will support a statewide goal moving towards 100% clean renewable energy by 2028, and be it further

Resolved that the North Carolina Democratic Party will promote legislation to establish region by region targets and an inclusive Climate Action Planning process, by the NC General Assembly, within the next year.

Submitted by Rockingham County Democratic Party

16. A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SOLAR ENERGY

WHEREAS, Republicans in the North Carolina General Assembly champion the use of fracking and fossil fuels such as coal, and oil; and

WHEREAS, the use of the sun is an intelligent, climate-safe way to obtain energy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party support the use of solar panels and roofing tiles on homes and businesses and solar panels over parking lots and other appropriate places; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party also support the removal of tariffs from imports on all solar panels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Utilities Commission is encouraged to use its influence to make the availability and use of solar energy in North Carolina a top priority.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

17. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL GOAL OF 100% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2050 AND THE CREATION OF GREEN JOBS

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

WHEREAS, if the use of fossil fuels is not eliminated, an increase in the global average temperature will continue to have a major adverse impact on our environment related to longer, more intense heat waves, prolonged droughts, the spread of infectious diseases, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, wildfires, and more intense and frequent extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, low-income communities and communities of color in North Carolina and the U.S. are inordinately exposed to pollution from fossil fuels that causes serious health problems such as cancer and asthma; and

WHEREAS, municipalities, organizations, businesses and academic institutions throughout the world have set a goal to achieve carbon or climate neutrality by 2050 or earlier; and

WHEREAS, since 2005, over 1,000 mayors have joined the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement in a commitment to significantly reduce carbon emissions in their cities to combat climate change; and over 600 American Colleges and universities have made a commitment to reduce greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, there are currently more than 200 solar companies at work throughout the value chain in North Carolina, employing some 6,000 people; and North Carolina has more offshore wind energy potential than any other Atlantic state; and

WHEREAS, implementation of aggressive statewide clean energy goals can be achieved by adopting additional strategies and approaches that have proven successful in many states; and

WHEREAS, scientists and engineers have calculated what is required to stop global climate change by switching the world economy from its dependence on burning fossil fuels to totally sustainable renewable energies, and have estimated the cost to be \$100 trillion based on technologies which already exist and need only to be scaled up on a global level; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast states have already agreed to take action to fight climate change;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will encourage all necessary legislative action to transition our State from fossil fuels to 100% clean renewable energy in all energy sectors by no later than January 1, 2050, to avoid climate catastrophe, to promote job creation and economic growth, and to protect the Earth for current and future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party undertake a series of public meetings and presentations designed to educate people about these challenges and solutions, including the political obstacles posed by vested interests, the present structure of the world trade system, possible means of financing the solutions, and innovative approaches that can make the transition possible.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

18. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has as its primary goal the systematic dismantling of sound and forward-thinking environmental policies of previous administrations; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration and Republican Party have called for a nearly 40% cut to the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's budget while increasing support for the fossil fuel industries; and

WHEREAS, none of North Carolina's 39 Superfund sites made EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's priority list; and

WHEREAS, the current Administration has opened the mid-Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf, which includes coastal North Carolina, to offshore drilling and seismic testing; and

WHEREAS, climate change is recognized by a consensus of the global scientific community as an ongoing and worsening trend; and

WHEREAS, the global increase in greenhouse gases is already changing the State's climate with little to no recognition by the current head of the EPA that climate change even exists;

WHEREAS, the global increase in greenhouse gases is already changing the State's climate with little to no recognition by the current head of the EPA that climate change even exists;

WHEREAS, current trends in carbon emissions are likely to result in substantial sea level rise, increases in temperatures, shifts in agricultural production and geopolitical disturbances that will catastrophically affect our children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the National and North Carolina Democratic Party recognize the urgent importance of protecting human life through amply-funded governmental, science-based policies that maintain and enhance the resources essential to healthy living—clean water and soil, clean air, and healthy food; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the urgency of immediate action needed to push back against the entities that would damage or take away these essential resources; and

WHEREAS, we can see the horrific consequences that will come if we do nothing; and

WHEREAS, reason, moral responsibility and religious admonitions to be good stewards of our planet and protectors of the weak and innocent compel us to action;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party act to strengthen environmental protections and to renew a commitment to encourage the development of clean energy; to elect politicians who are committed to science-based policies; to educate the public about climate change, its causes and effects; and to make it our goal in this century that all children, everywhere, shall enjoy the benefits of clean water, clean air and healthy food because we recognize the humanity of all peoples and understand the need to find redemption for past and continued degradations of the environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourage our representatives in the North Carolina General Assembly and the U.S. Congress to vigorously pursue any and all measures to rapidly eliminate carbon-based fuel sources and to promote the use of renewable energy.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

19. A CALL FOR INCREASED FUNDING TO IDENTIFY INDUSTRIAL CONTAMINANTS AND THEIR SOURCES IN THE HAW RIVER

WHEREAS, Dangerous industrial contaminants have been found in surface waters of North Carolina, including GenX in the Cape Fear river as well as PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane in the Haw River; and

WHEREAS, Many more unregulated and not yet identified industrial chemicals enter our surface waters through the effluent from municipal wastewater treatment plants and runoff from fields where treatment plant sludge is land applied; and

WHEREAS, These contaminants are a danger to aquatic life and public drinking water; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Delegates of the 6th District Democratic Convention call upon the North Carolina General Assembly to provide the necessary funding to the Department of Environmental Quality for staffing, resources, and equipment specifically to identify the chemicals and their sources as necessary to stop and reverse this growing threat to public health.

Submitted by Chatham County Democratic Party

20. OPPOSITION TO BUILDING THE ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, In 2017 the Chatham County Democratic Party opposed the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, Many of the communities and landowners along its path oppose it; and

WHEREAS, The partnership working to build it (Dominion Resources, Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas, and Southern Company Gas) has in the year since the 2017 resolution not proved that the pipeline is needed, that building it would be preferable to using the abundantly available renewable sources of energy and improved battery technology, or that the environmental damage caused by building and supplying it with fracked natural gas could be avoided or ameliorated; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party reaffirm its opposition on to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and call upon Governor Roy Cooper to use such powers as are available to him to prevent construction of the pipeline in North Carolina.

Submitted by Chatham County Democratic Party

21. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, all residents of North Carolina, of the United States, and of every other nation breathe the same air and share the same sources of water; and

WHEREAS, the general warming of the atmosphere and oceans is, unquestionably, causing more severe weather events which have a disproportionate effect on the poor and especially on people living close to sea level; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the world's scientific community and religious leaders of diverse traditions clearly agree that human actions including air pollution, the burning of fossil fuels and other forms of environmental degradation are significantly contributing to the rapid rates of climate change; and

WHEREAS, most of the nations of the world have signed the Paris Climate Agreement which lays out voluntary benchmarks for reducing the impact of human institutions on the long-term health of Planet Earth; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Accord included voluntary financial support for the Green Climate Fund designed to assist the less developed countries mitigate their impact on Global Climate Change and this commitment amounted to about \$9 per person of which 1/3 was paid by the US Government in 2016;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourages government agencies and legislative bodies at all levels of government to continue to move in the vital directions outlined by the Paris Climate Agreement, including providing grassroots mechanisms for participation in the Green Climate Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourages government agencies, legislative assemblies, non-profit organizations and corporations to pass resolutions formalizing their commitment to the guidelines of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

22. RESOLUTION TO KEEP BEE-KILLING PESTICIDES OUT OF OUR AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the EPA under the Trump administration is working to expand the use of an extremely toxic bee-killing pesticide on over 165 million acres of farmland in the United States; and

WHEREAS, at present a quarter of our honeybees are at risk of extinction and scientists have confirmed that pesticides deserve a large part of the blame; and

WHEREAS, the EPA should be doing more to protect pollinators and should not be promoting the use of bee-killing pesticides; and

WHEREAS, neonicotinoid pesticides not only harm bees, but also pose a danger to birds and aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, large corporations like Bayer and Syngenta are lobbying Scott Pruitt to keep their products in the market;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates to the North Carolina Sixth District Democratic Party Convention support an effort to ban the use of bee-killing pesticides and any pesticides harmful to other pollinators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourage Governor Roy Cooper and the North Carolina General Assembly to take legislative action to ban the use of neonicotinoids, similar to the actions taken in Maryland and New Jersey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge our national level lawmakers to stand firm and to send a clear message to the EPA not to allow the expanded use of these dangerous chemicals because what affects the bees, ultimately affects us all.

Submitted by the Guilford County Democratic Party

23. A RESOLUTION BANNING OFFSHORE DRILLING ON THE NORTH CAROLINA COAST.

WHEREAS, a vibrant and growing North Carolina economy includes tourism and accounts for 30,000 jobs and generates \$3 billion in revenue annually, and

WHEREAS, tourism is dependent on our state's natural beauty, clean beaches and water, and

WHEREAS, commercial and recreational fishing off the North Carolina coast support more than 22,000 jobs and more than \$780 million in revenue each year, and

WHEREAS, the states seafood industry and recreational fishing are dependent on a non polluted marine environment, and

WHEREAS, the coastline of North Carolina is extraordinarily extensive, reaching numerous sounds and inlets which provide rich and diverse habitats, including unique fauna and flora, and

WHEREAS, the Deepwater Horizon spill, eight years ago in the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in catastrophic, long lasting, damage to coastal economies and marine life, serves as a warning, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina coast is of great historical significance to our state, and

WHEREAS, existing industries, jobs, the environment, numerous marine, avian, and earthbound species would be put at risk by offshore drilling operations for fossil fuels, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of North Carolina supports a complete ban of offshore drilling off the North Carolina Coast.

Combined Resolution from documents submitted by Randolph County & Rockingham County Democratic Parties

Firearms

24. A CALL TO REPEAL THE DICKEY AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, The Dickey Amendment, * written by former Congressman Jay Dickey (R-AR) and enacted in 1996 as part of an appropriations bill, in effect restricts the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from researching gun violence and its effects on public health; and

WHEREAS, Jay Dickey himself in a 2015 letter to Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) called for Congress to overturn the amendment, saying, “Doing nothing is no longer an acceptable solution”; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party 6th District Convention Delegates support the repeal of the Dickey Amendment; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party should encourage the funding of research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention into the health effects of gun violence.

* “That none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control.”

Submitted by Chatham County Democratic Party

25. A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT COMMON SENSE GUN LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the preamble of the United States Constitution states a principle goal "to ensure domestic tranquility"; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States has interpreted the 2nd Amendment to give private citizens the right to bear arms as an individual right, while also permitting "reasonable and necessary limits" to that right; and

WHEREAS, far more Americans have been killed with guns in the United States than have died in all our wars combined; and

WHEREAS, unintentional child shootings, gun homicides, gun deaths of women committed by their partners, and suicide by firearm rates are among the highest of high income nations; and

WHEREAS, research from other countries has suggested that a "cooling off" period between sale and delivery of a gun can tamp down suicidal impulses and anger-driven violence"; and

WHEREAS, mass shootings involving semi-automatic weapons kill, maim, and otherwise negatively affect residents of this country regardless of age, location or any other demographic have become commonplace; and

WHEREAS, recent polling demonstrates that a majority of citizens, including gun owners, support background checks as a prerequisite for gun ownership, and a ban on "military/assault type" (more specifically known as semi-automatic centerfire firearms), high capacity magazines and clips, and bump stocks; and

WHEREAS, our elected officials appear to be unduly influenced by contributions made to their campaigns by anti gun regulation entities; and

WHEREAS, the issues of guns and gun safety in our society are complex and many, with a need to address all; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Delegates of the 6th District Democratic Party Convention support the following common sense gun regulatory measures:

- 1) Enact legislation known as the Extreme Risk Prevention Order (ERPO), which would allow families and law enforcement to ask courts to temporarily remove guns from individuals who endanger themselves or the community.
- 2) Enhance the National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS) by requiring any public agency to enter all relevant data in their custody into NICS in a prompt and timely manner.
- 3) Develop a method of coordinating the entry of relevant mental health data that would prohibit an individual from legally possessing a firearm into NICS, while maintaining the confidentiality of the individual and providing an avenue for judicial redress for that individual as required to ensure due process.
- 4) Mandate that any individual who intends to transfer ownership of a firearm into the custody of another individual ascertain that the receiver of that firearm is not prohibited by law to possess the firearm being transferred, and provide accessible means to do so.
- 5) Increase the age to legally purchase a semi-automatic centerfire firearm to 21 years of age.
- 6) Ban bump stocks and any other devices capable of overriding semi-automatic function of firearms.
- 7) Limit magazine and clip capacities to ten rounds.
- 8) Provide funding to increase the number of full time school psychologists and counselors at public elementary, middle, and high schools.
- 9) Provide free psychological care and intervention to all public school students, of all ages, deemed at risk for violence.
- 10) Require a waiting period between date of purchase and delivery of gun purchased.
- 11) Require anyone who possesses or purchases a firearm to pass a use and safety tests (such as the DMV knowledge and use tests), to be renewed every five years.
- 12) Require gun owners to carry firearm protection and liability insurance (similar to auto insurance).

- 13) Instruct the NCGA to enact legislation to bar felons, domestic abusers, those with 50B or 50C orders, and those who are deemed to be a threat to themselves or others from possessing or purchasing a firearm.
- 14) Enact legislation that would allow class action suits to be filed by citizens against gun manufacturers and suppliers.
- 15) Reinstatement of the 1994 law, renewing the ban on high-grade military-style assault weapons, or passage of similar legislation at the national level.
- 16) Make tip lines available statewide.
- 17) Remove the burden of defending students from teachers by increased funding for training and placement of School Resource Officers in public schools.
- 18) Institute a voluntary "Buy Back" program for firearms.
- 19) Mandate full funding by the appropriate government agency for all measures.

Combined from documents submitted by Chatham, Guilford, Randolph, & Rockingham County Democratic Parties

Foreign Policy

26. A CALL FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE LEAHY AMENDMENT TO MILITARY AID FOR ALL SECURITY FORCES

Background: First framed in 1997, the Leahy amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act prevents U.S. funds from going to security forces that have committed serious human rights violations. It provides for a vetting apparatus and process for accused units.

WHEREAS, The Leahy Amendment to the Foreign Operations and Appropriations Act prohibits disbursement of funds from the State Department and the Department of Defense to foreign security forces that violate human rights; and

WHEREAS, Many of the countries to which the United States gives military aid—for example, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel, the Gulf Monarchies, Myanmar—have been accused of committing human rights violations; and

WHEREAS, The Leahy amendment has been applied inconsistently; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That military aid to any unit of the security forces of a foreign country that has been accused of committing a gross violation of human rights be suspended unless all allegations can be investigated and human rights violations stopped.

Submitted by Chatham County Democratic Party

27. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN ANTI-INTERVENTIONIST FOREIGN POLICY

WHEREAS, the 2003 invasion of Iraq is the greatest national security disaster since the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, US engagement with other countries should be based on mutual respect and a determination to avoid military conflict and covert intervention; and

WHEREAS, we should spend less on our military in order to devote more of our limited resources to solving problems at home; and

WHEREAS, if we interfere less with the internal affairs of others, we will have less need to defend ourselves,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the adoption of a less intrusive, less aggressive, and less interventionist military stance toward the rest of the world by all branches of the United States government and supports increased diplomatic and cooperative measures by the government to ensure peaceful solutions to international problems.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

***Healthcare Issues and Reform ***

28. RESOLUTION ON SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

WHEREAS, an extra dollar in income that an average income household gains has a positive multiplier effect on the rest of the economy, while an extra dollar in income received by a high-income household has a negative multiplier effect, because it is either not spent or it goes toward mal-consumption; and

WHEREAS, the average Social Security monthly payment for retirees was \$1,360.00 in December 2016; and

WHEREAS, the “Elder Economic Index” developed by Wider Opportunities for Women and the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston has calculated that a retiree requires a minimum annual income of \$23,364 if renting a one-bedroom apartment; and,

WHEREAS, Republican leaders, such as Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, have explicitly targeted Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid for budget cutbacks in order to “reduce the deficit,” which has just swelled due to the new Republican tax cuts;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 6th District Democratic Party County Convention urge the NC Democratic Party to make known to our U.S. Senators and Representatives that we are adamantly opposed to any cuts, in any form, to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the NC Democratic Party to demand that Congress pass legislation to immediately increase Social Security monthly payments by at least 50 percent for those payments under the average payment.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

29. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL COMPREHENSIVE SINGLE PAYER HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

WHEREAS, our current medical system leaves millions of people uninsured or underinsured thereby severely limiting their access to medical care; and

WHEREAS, many people die because they delay seeking medical treatment due to financial restraints; and

WHEREAS, our current medical system rations care based on the ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, a Medicare for All system would ration care based on medical need; and

WHEREAS, under our current system of care, private corporate health insurers, often chosen by our employers, stand between us and our care providers by:

- determining which physicians and hospitals we can see;
- setting the amounts of deductibles and co-payments at levels that often make appropriate treatments impossible; and
- denying claims for medical care that our providers judge medically necessary; and

WHEREAS, under Medicare for All

- every resident will have full choice of providers;
- cost barriers to care will be eliminated; and
- transparent mechanisms for determining what is medically necessary will exist; and

WHEREAS, under the current healthcare system, comprehensive insurance policies often do not include dental and vision or long-term care; and

WHEREAS, poor dental care contributes to medical diseases such as cardiovascular illness; and

WHEREAS, poor vision can cause accidents and prevent people from maintaining employment; and

WHEREAS, most families do not have long term care policies because they are very expensive, often costing thousands of dollars per person per year; and

WHEREAS, many people doubt that the few companies which continue to offer long term care insurance will be able to pay claims in the future; and

WHEREAS, multiple generations of a family can be financially devastated if one member needs long term care on a permanent basis because, for example, nursing home care costs may run about \$80K per year; and

WHEREAS, many families with insurance have gone bankrupt because of the costs of a catastrophic illness and almost all families fear that they are one illness or accident away from financial ruin; and

WHEREAS, many people who have become ill also lose their jobs, leaving them without insurance; and

WHEREAS, Medicare for All will provide coverage for all necessary medical expenses including dental care, vision care and long-term care as well as coverage for other catastrophic illnesses for all; and

WHEREAS, employers in the United States who provide sound, comprehensive medical policies, with low deductibles and co-pays, place themselves at a competitive disadvantage with foreign companies whose countries use a single payer system as well as with those American companies that provide less comprehensive benefit packages; and

WHEREAS, under Medicare for All, employers will pay a predictable, stable medical payroll tax with rates the same for all employers; and

WHEREAS, the current system creates a perverse incentive to companies to avoid having an “aging workforce” associated with higher insurance premiums; and

WHEREAS, residents of the United States spent far more per capita in 2015 than 15 other high-income countries including Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom but did not have better outcomes, and

WHEREAS, under Medicare for All, most people (except those in the top 5% in annual income), will pay less in medical taxes than they currently spend on insurance premiums and co-pays; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Friedman, Ph.D., Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, found that under HR676, the US could save approximately \$592 billion per year *“by slashing the administrative waste associated with the private insurance industry (\$476 billion) and reducing pharmaceutical prices to European levels (\$116 billion). In 2014, the savings would be enough to cover all 44 million uninsured and upgrade benefits for everyone else. No other plan can achieve this magnitude of savings on health care.”* ; and

WHEREAS, HR 676 currently has 121 cosponsors in the U.S. House, including North Carolina Representatives Alma Adams, David Price, and G.K. Butterfield, and has been endorsed by thousands of local city councils, and advocacy organizations, and other groups;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that that the Delegates to the 6th District Democratic Party County Convention supports the passage of H. R. 676, The Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act, and believes that it is the best solution for covering every resident in the United States (including territories) entitling them to a “universal, best quality standard of care”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to every U.S. Congressional Member representing North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 6th District Democratic Party County Convention encourage the North Carolina Democratic Party to urge the North Carolina General Assembly to issue a joint resolution calling upon the United States House of Representatives to pass H. R. 676 and that the State Party send a copy of this joint resolution to every member of Congress representing North Carolina.

Combined Resolution from documents submitted by Chatham & Guilford County Democratic Parties

30. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HEALTHCARE AS A HUMAN RIGHT

WHEREAS, each individual has a constitutional, inalienable right to life; and

WHEREAS, proper healthcare, not just reactionary treatments but preventative care, is necessary to sustain life; and

WHEREAS, the corporate-centered, profit-motivated healthcare system holds people with chronic conditions financially hostage, and renders routine treatment and preventative care financially unfeasible for the working class; and

WHEREAS, it is unconscionable for any one corporation or individual to be allowed to raise the price of necessary, life-saving medication by gross proportions such as 400% or 1000% with no sound justification; and

WHEREAS, this system leaves the working poor and the middle class at the mercy of their employers for whether they have access to life-saving and sustaining medical care; and

WHEREAS this system also gives insurance companies the undue authority to deny coverage and override a duly licensed physician's judgment by saying a treatment is not medically necessary, all with a profit move; and

WHEREAS, this unjustified corporate power over healthcare operates as structural violence against the poor and people of color; and

WHEREAS, these egregious costs and denials of care can be remedied with government regulation and ultimately cured with governmental administration;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Delegates to the Democratic Party 6th District Convention support the acknowledgement of healthcare as a fundamental human right, and encourages federal and state government to prevent insurance companies and employers from withholding medical care through market regulation up to and including state operation of the healthcare market through agreements with private companies, with the government as the single-payer holding all of the leverage to ensure, and make economically sustainable, the protection of the fundamental right to life.

Submitted by Person County Democratic Party

31. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING MEDICAID

WHEREAS, the number of uninsured North Carolinians currently exceeds the national average, with 10.5 million citizens lacking insurance in 2016; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has failed to expand Medicaid despite having below average healthcare spending per capita and nationally average group premiums, with premiums in the individual marketplace being among the highest in the country; and

WHEREAS, current North Carolina General Assembly policy contributes to insurer adverse selection among enrollees and an increase of high risk pools; and

WHEREAS, lack of Medicaid Expansion in North Carolina has contributed to the closure of some rural hospitals, requiring increased transportation distances to adequate facilities, resulting in the deaths of patients in need of timely, advanced emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the financial duress experienced by rural hospitals due to lack of Medicaid Expansion has resulted in the loss of specialty professional services, healthcare jobs, and jobs associated with hospital and healthcare suppliers; and

WHEREAS, rural counties without hospital and emergency services are much less attractive to incoming businesses, making economic development more difficult; and

WHEREAS, lack of Medicaid Expansion has caused dysfunction of the Affordable Care Act, evidenced by premium escalation due to the smaller pool of insured residents not seen in state which have accepted the expansion; and

WHEREAS, a substantial body of research has found numerous benefits to a state's decision to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act, including significant coverage gains and a reduction in uninsured rates among low income and vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the same research has shown positive effects on access to care, utilization of services, the affordability of care, and financial security among the low-income population; and

WHEREAS, national, multi-state, and single state studies show that states expanding Medicaid under the ACA have realized budget savings, revenue gains, and overall economic growth; and

WHEREAS, treatment deferred until a more serious condition has developed, due to lack of insurance, has resulted in more expensive treatment, and use of emergency rooms as primary care facilities, which drive up the cost of insurance premiums, as health care providers pass along expense of unpaid services to the insurance providers through higher prices charged insured patients; and

WHEREAS, lack of affordable health insurance can lead to poverty and bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, the sharp drop-off in insurer competition in 2017 is not due to factors in North Carolina's regulatory environment, but instead due to across-the-board decisions by national insurers; and

WHEREAS, Trump Administration has imposed a work requirement in order to qualify for Medicaid, which has not previously been a prerequisite for North Carolina citizens; and

WHEREAS, a work requirement creates more obstacles to becoming and staying enrolled in Medicaid and could make it impossible to qualify for Medicaid in some states; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of working-age Medicaid recipients (excluding the elderly , children, and people with disabilities) currently are already employed, and those who aren't are often facing severe employment barriers precisely because of poor health; and

WHEREAS, the Republican controlled North Carolina General Assembly has refused Medicaid Expansion for which taxes have already been paid by the citizens of our state; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Delegates to the 6th District Democratic Party Convention strongly support immediate Medicaid Expansion in North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we oppose the imposition of a new and arguably punitive work requirement on those who receive benefits from said expansion.

Combined Resolution from documents submitted by Guilford & Rockingham County Democratic Parties

32. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A NEW PARADIGM IN VETERANS' HEALTHCARE

WHEREAS, veterans' healthcare is in multiple ways a vital part of this nation's security; and

WHEREAS, current Veterans healthcare too often requires extensive travel to available facilities; and

WHEREAS, current facilities [VA Hospitals] too often maintain excessively long wait lists for care; and

WHEREAS, referenced wait lists most often result in serious negative outcomes to veterans' health, including sometimes unnecessary and premature death; and

WHEREAS, virtually all VA acute care hospitals are affiliated with Medical Universities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Delegates to the 6th District Democratic Party Convention call for funded legislation by the United States Congress of a new paradigm for the care and treatment of veterans' healthcare; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every veteran of the US Armed Forces be given a paid Medicare Account [Parts A, B, C, D, e.g.,] so that veterans may experience the same access to care as every other citizen; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all VA acute care hospitals and associated staff, equipment and supplies be absorbed by their affiliated medical universities over a period of five years.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

Immigrant Rights

33. A RESOLUTION TO RENEW THE DACA (DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS) PROGRAM AND A PATH TO CITIZENSHIP FOR DACA RECIPIENTS

WHEREAS, Undocumented individuals brought to the US as children know no other country than the US, and

WHEREAS, DACA recipients generally have been long-term members of our local communities, and

WHEREAS, DACA recipients work, attend school, and participate in society, and

WHEREAS, society makes an important long-term investment of many of its resources in the raising of children to be productive, healthy and well-integrated members of society, and the rejection of DACA children and youth once such a significant investment has already been made in their education, acculturation and well-being would betray a wasteful disregard for their great value to our society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party promote continual support of DACA recipients by extending the DACA program and providing them with a pathway to citizenship.

Submitted by Randolph County Democratic Party

34. RESOLUTION TO PROTECT FAMILY INTEGRITY OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

Whereas, the United States of America, with the exception of the descendents of North American Indigenous Peoples, is populated by descendents of immigrants or recent immigrants, and

Whereas, United States foreign and trade policies have contributed to the instability of foreign nations, in part creating conditions conducive to the creation of refugees or the perceived need to immigrate from those nations, and

Whereas, Congress has failed to legislate immigration reforms for decades to correct the U.S. immigration laws with regard to timely processing of status for immigrants seeking legal entrance across our borders, and

Whereas, undocumented children of immigrants have grown up here, knowing no other country or culture, and

Whereas, undocumented immigrants have borne children who are legal citizens of the United States by right of birth within its borders, and

Whereas, most undocumented immigrants are productive members of society with no criminal record other than undocumented status and have contributed to the economy and the tax base of our nation, and

Whereas, the current immigration policy of the United States is to deport undocumented immigrants without regard for family integrity; separating children from parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents and extended family members, and

Whereas, many who have been deported have known no other country or culture than that of the United States, and whose return to their countries of origin is as cultural aliens, with no family to return to or means of support, upon their return, and

Whereas, the majority of United States citizens object to the summary deportation of refugees and undocumented immigrants, and

Whereas, it is not economically feasible to deport all undocumented immigrants, and

Whereas, immigrants incarcerated specifically for their undocumented status creates an unnecessary tax burden on citizens, in law enforcement, judicial process, and upkeep costs, and

Whereas, the undocumented classification of workers enables unscrupulous employers to exploit their status which undercuts wage and labor laws safeguarding citizens, and

Whereas, it is morally reprehensible to deport former members of our armed forces who have faithfully defended our country, and

Whereas, the deportation of undocumented immigrants with healthcare issues, to countries of origin without means of gainful employment or means to obtain adequate healthcare sentences many to death, and

Whereas, the unnecessary separation of family members undermines the bedrock of American society, therefore be it

Resolved, The North Carolina Democratic Party support immediate relief from the specter of deportation for undocumented immigrants with no criminal history other than undocumented status, through legislated comprehensive immigration reform at both state and federal levels of government, to provide a path for legal residence or citizenship in order to protect the family integrity of undocumented immigrants and US citizens.

Submitted by Rockingham County Democratic Party

35. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NORTH CAROLINA'S IMMIGRANTS

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of North Carolina recognizes the inherent dignity and humanity of North Carolina's immigrant residents, regardless of immigration status; and recognizes the importance of their contributions and the contributions of their families to our State's rich and varied economic, cultural, social, political, and religious life, as well as our moral convictions; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that, except for those of us who are full-blooded Native Americans, we are all 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 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 immigrants 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 energetically support a straightforward path to citizenship for all immigrants, recognizing they are subject to the same requirements of citizenship as everyone else; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our elected officials to restore and maintain a humane immigration policy, based on tolerance, charity, and justice for all, without religious, racial, ethnic, or sexual orientation discrimination.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

Judicial Issues

36. District 6 - A CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL REDISTRICTING STUDY

WHEREAS, North Carolina's judicial districts are outdated and need to be reviewed, taking into consideration such criteria as population, caseload, travel requirements for judges, and demographics; and

WHEREAS, Care should be taken to ensure that any such review is nonpartisan, in order to maintain the independence of the judiciary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party support a review of current judicial districts conducted by an independent, nonpartisan panel, not by the North Carolina General Assembly.

Submitted by Chatham County Democratic Party

37. A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A NONPARTISAN JUDICIARY

WHEREAS, judges at the trial 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 level are not makers of law or public policy; and

WHEREAS, judges at the trial level do not issue rulings with broad precedent application; and

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

WHEREAS, most issues, cases, and decisions of a judge at the trial level have 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 the Delegates to the NC 6th Congressional District Democratic Convention encourage all District and Superior Court Judge races to be kept entirely nonpartisan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support a system of public funding to be created and maintained for judicial races at the District and Superior Court level.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

38. A RESOLUTION REGARDING JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, An independent judiciary is essential to the proper functioning of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, Partisan politics has no proper role in the selection or the work of judges; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That judges of all courts in North Carolina should be elected by the voters in non-partisan, staggered elections for terms of four to eight years depending on the level of the court they are running for.

Submitted by Randolph County Democratic Party

Miscellaneous Resolutions

Those not fitting another defined category.

39. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RENEWING COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

WHEREAS, politics should be characterized by a positive and constructive conversation among citizens; and

WHEREAS, the current political conversation is increasingly divisive; and

WHEREAS, Democrats aspire to be a party of responsibility, reason and inclusion;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates to the North Carolina Sixth Congressional District Democratic Party Convention be committed to community conversations in which we listen respectfully to all viewpoints and respond with reasonable and constructive proposals to solve our shared problems.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

40. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRATS PROVIDING THOUGHTFUL ALTERNATIVES TO REPUBLICANS POLICIES

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 to prevent ill-considered, impractical, unacceptable Republican policies from being implemented; and

WHEREAS, many 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 Republican candidates and elected officials who we hope they will oppose in the future;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates to the North Carolina Sixth Congressional District Convention encourage all Democrats to oppose, challenge and resist ill-considered, impractical, unacceptable Republican policies in ways that are thoughtful, respectful, informative and inclusive.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

41. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE NCDP TO PURCHASE VOTER AND POTENTIAL VOTER DATA FROM GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, a variety of Grassroots Organizations, such as SwingLeft, FlipNC, flappable.org, and Aim Higher Now, have been collecting voter and potential voter data; and

WHEREAS, such Organizations have been compiling data through the Internet, phone banking, contributions and door-to-door canvassing; and

WHEREAS, information from such Grassroots Organizations will be useful to Democratic Party candidates and volunteers in targeting voters and donors; and

WHEREAS, the use of such data will save the North Carolina Democratic Party, county Democratic organizations, Democratic candidates and volunteers time, money and precious resources; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party purchase the data collected by such Grassroots Organizations well ahead of the November 6, 2018, Election for use by Democratic Party candidates, North Carolina Democratic Party employees and volunteers, and county Democratic Party organizations.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

Open Government

42. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS TO BE REQUIRED TO HOLD OPEN PUBLIC, NON-PRESCREENED TOWN HALL MEETINGS FOR THEIR CONSTITUENTS

WHEREAS, Members of the U.S. Congress represent the constituents of their respective districts and serve at the pleasure of those constituents; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a deliberate and civil dialogue between citizens and their elected officials in order to assure appropriate representation; and

WHEREAS, Members of the U.S. Congress should make available to the public pre-scheduled calendar dates for open forum Town Hall Meetings to ensure that the concerns and desires of their constituents are understood and addressed; and

WHEREAS, Constituents should be allowed a period of time during such Town Hall Meetings to make inquiries regarding pending legislative action that may occur and to provide input regarding pending legislative action that may occur to ensure their Representatives and/or Senators are aware of their constituents' concerns and positions regarding such legislation; and

WHEREAS, Members of the U.S. Congress should take positions on issues based on the concerns and needs of their constituents and should be more responsive to their constituents than to the demands and pressures of their political parties, donors, lobbyists and lobbying groups;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urge Members of the U.S. Congress to hold regular open public Town Hall Meetings, at least twice per year in their district and in person, for their constituents and that such meetings not be prescreened or orchestrated to prevent an open exchange of opinions and ideas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such town hall meetings be held in a public facility that can safely accommodate at least 250 people and that public notice be given at least 14 days in advance such that bi-partisan participation can be facilitated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Members of Congress should be held accountable when they pass legislation that is in direct opposition to the needs and desires of their constituents and that create a negative impact on the majority of their constituents.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

43. A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, James Madison, the father of our federal Constitution, wrote that "consent of the governed" requires that the people be able to "arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives;" and

WHEREAS, Every citizen in our participatory democracy has an inherent right to access to government meetings and information, and

WHEREAS, An open and accessible government is vital to establishing and maintaining the people's trust and confidence in their government and in the government's ability to effectively serve its citizens; and

WHEREAS, The protection of every person's right of access to public records and government meetings is a high priority of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Our governments are ones "of the people, by the people, and for the people;" and

WHEREAS, Free flow of information ensures that our governments act fairly, lawfully, and truthfully; and

WHEREAS, Transparency and open decision-making instills trust and confidence in our democracy; and

WHEREAS, Equal access to information enhances people's ability to exercise their rights and creates a more active and enlightened community; and

WHEREAS, Our nation, state and county should be committed to continued openness and transparency in all aspects of its operations and seek to set a good standard in this regard; and

WHEREAS, Our state legislators, governor, county commissioners, and municipal officials should commit to continually enhance the public's access to government records and information, to increase information provided electronically, and to ensure that all meetings of deliberative bodies under their jurisdictions are fully noticed and open to the public; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we support the enhancement of the public's access to government records and information; and

RESOLVED, That we support increasing the amount of information provided electronically; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all meetings of deliberative bodies under the national, state and county governments be fully noticed and open to the public.

Submitted by Randolph County Democratic Party

44. RESOLUTION TO ONCE AGAIN CLASSIFY POLICE BODY-WORN CAMERA AND DASHBOARD CAMERA RECORDINGS AS PUBLIC RECORDS

WHEREAS, The public should have the right to view police dashboard camera and body-worn camera video; and

WHEREAS, Until recently body-worn camera and dashboard camera recordings were considered public record; and

WHEREAS, Transparency is necessary to public confidence in the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, The public has the right to hold law enforcement officers to a high standard of behavior; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party supports that police body-worn camera and dashboard camera recordings shall once again be considered public record as it was before the passing of NC House Bill 972.

Submitted by Randolph County Democratic Party

Public Safety/School Safety

45. FLASHING WHITE LIGHTS TO BE REQUIRED ON BICYCLES

WHEREAS, public safety is a non-partisan issue; and,

WHEREAS, bicycles share the roads with motor cars; and,

WHEREAS, common sense and technology has made it easy and inexpensive to implement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that The NC Democratic Party strongly suggest an ordinance be enacted, by the State Legislature of North Carolina, that requires that all bicycles operated on state roads be equipped with a bright white flashing light on the front and an amber light on the rear of these vehicles.

Submitted by the Chatham County Democratic Party

46. A CALL FOR A NON-PARTISAN STATEWIDE TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY TO CREATE A COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

WHEREAS, school shootings have escalated in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, all students have a right to learn in a protected and safe environment; and

WHEREAS, witnessing and experiencing school shootings can have life-long traumatic effects on students and their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urge the North Carolina General Assembly to create a statewide task force that develops policies and local coordinated community responses for dealing with imminent danger situations in all school environments. This group would be non-partisan and composed of, but not limited to, individuals from law enforcement, the justice system, mental health, school personnel, parent groups, professionals from social media technology, medical professionals, and architect professionals in school safety design.

Submitted by Chatham County Democratic Party

Redistricting

47. RESOLUTION TO ENSURE THAT THE 2020 CENSUS IS COMPETENTLY AND FAIRLY ADMINISTERED, AND RESULTS ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

WHEREAS, every decade since 1790, as required by the Constitution, the federal government has undertaken a comprehensive census of its people, the accuracy and fairness of which serves the interests of government at every level, provides indispensable information to policy makers and shapers, private businesses and investors, and is a key resource for political parties, academics, journalists, researchers, and citizens; and

WHEREAS, since the Census is used to apportion seats in the House of Representatives to reflect shifts in population and to set the boundaries of congressional districts, North Carolina will be impacted as it is poised to gain another Congressional District whose boundaries need to be drawn fairly; and

WHEREAS, the Census determines how tens of billions of dollars in federal aid are apportioned across states, regions, counties, and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office has placed the 2020 census on its list of high-risk projects due to uncertainties about its 300-million-dollar budget shortfall, technology that has not been tested yet, and lack of leadership as both the Census Bureau's Director and Deputy Director who left earlier this year have not been replaced; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau hopes to automate the counting process and introduce online reporting without the money to test whether this system will work; all field tests scheduled for this year and next year have been cancelled due to the current Administration's budget cuts, including tests among rural communities which historically are one of the most undercounted populations; and

WHEREAS, there is not enough funding nor any plan to safeguard the online system from hacking or data tampering which may open the door for the disenfranchisement of millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, the current Administration's decision to use an untested online system and strip sexual orientation from the voluntary 2020 Census Survey questions as well as its aggressive deportation program may result in making rural, LGBTQ, and immigrant populations invisible in the 2020 Census data and therefore underserved for the next ten years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urge our Senators and Congressional Delegation to demand sufficient funding for the 2020 Census as well as a bipartisan effort to test the proposed online system rigorously and safeguard it against any possible hacking or attempts to tamper with data or methodologies, such as cherry-picking some data and suppressing other data for political gain; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party offer its full support to our rural, LGBTQ, and immigrant communities which may be negatively affected by the current 2020 Census planning.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

48. 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 a substantial 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 best interests of North Carolina are served by promoting public confidence in our political system; now, 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

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.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State Constitution be amended to give sole authority to the nonpartisan redistricting Committee to determine electoral boundaries for State Legislative and US Congressional Districts in NC.

Submitted by Randolph County Democratic Party

49. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A BAN ON THE PRACTICE OF GERRYMANDERING AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, the founding philosophy of the United States of America as outlined in the preamble of the Declaration of Independence is that government gets its power from the consent of the governed; and

WHEREAS, the principle of "one person, one vote" is upheld by the Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, "Gerrymandering" has been used by every political party to manipulate boundaries of an electoral constituency, so as to favor one party or class since the term was coined describing legislation signed into Massachusetts law, by the then Governor Elbridge Gerry in 1812, for the benefit of his own party, and

WHEREAS, "Gerrymandering" can be defined as:

- 1) "Packing" which concentrates voters of a particular demographic into a single district to reduce their influence on other districts,
- 2) "Hijacking", which redraws two districts in a manner which forces two incumbents to run against each other in the same district in order to eliminate one,
- 3) "Kidnapping", which moves an incumbent's home address to another district and hence removal from a known to a new voter base,
- 4) Or any combination of these tactics to impose partisan or demographic discounting of the worth of oppositions ballots cast, and

WHEREAS, voting districts drawn to advance inequality in voting are expensive to create and defend in court, divisive, unpopular, brings to question the integrity of government, and undermines equal representation as laid forth in our country's constitution and upheld in the courts, and

WHEREAS, non partisan redistricting makes electoral outcomes a more accurate reflection of the will of the people; and

WHEREAS, elected officials are more responsive to constituents when voters have a choice of candidate, thereby increasing accountability and incentive to serve the best interests of the voters; and

WHEREAS, the technology exists today which would allow non-partisan, non-racial redistricting maps to be created, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that Delegates to the 2018 - 6th Congressional District Convention demand the North Carolina General Assembly and the United States Congress remove the temptation and ability to rig the electoral process from all political parties, through legislation of bans on the practice of "Gerrymandering" forevermore, by instituting a mechanism guaranteeing non partisan redistricting, to be implemented immediately following the 2020 Census.

Combined Resolution from submissions by Chatham, Guilford and Rockingham Democratic Parties

Social and Economic Justice

50. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HIGH-SPEED INTERNET AND CELL PHONE CONNECTIVITY FOR ALL

WHEREAS, high speed internet and cell phone access are essential to both economic development and public education in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, internet access allows citizens to access and interact with their government in an efficient and transparent manner; and

WHEREAS, many government services and communications are available on the internet; and

WHEREAS, the internet facilitates the free flow and access to a marketplace of ideas which enables citizens to be informed and make informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, many medical services require use of the internet to make appointments, check lab results, and communicate with physicians and health care providers; and

WHEREAS, many public school students are required to access the internet in order to complete homework assignments; and

WHEREAS, the internet facilitates opportunities for affordable and inclusive education; and

WHEREAS, the internet provides easy access to solutions for household or workplace problems; and

WHEREAS, employment opportunities often require internet access in order to apply for or completion of work; and

WHEREAS, information about preparedness for hazardous events are posted on the internet and cell phone text alerts; and

WHEREAS, businesses require both high speed internet and cell phone connectivity to remain competitive; and

WHEREAS, rural communities often lack uniform access to internet and cell phone connectivity; and

WHEREAS, businesses are unlikely to locate in areas without reliable internet and cell phone connectivity for either their businesses and their employee's residences; and

WHEREAS, many occupations require reliable cell phone communications from remote locations; and

WHEREAS, residences and businesses can, of necessity, be forced to rely on satellite providers and boosters, which can incur up to triple the cost of cable connectivity; and

WHEREAS, not all work schedules allow citizens to go to public libraries to access the internet; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has passed legislation (HB129) preventing local and county governments from engaging in any enterprise which could be interpreted as being in competition with private enterprise; therefore be it

RESOLVED that North Carolina Democratic Party work diligently to persuade the North Carolina General Assembly and United States Congress to ensure no citizen, urban or rural, is left at a disadvantage in this technologically dependent age, by passage of legislation to require or encourage private enterprise expansion of internet and cell phone connectivity, and to allow municipalities and county governments to implement programs to relieve the lack of uniform internet and cell phone connectivity when private enterprise refuses to do so due to lack of profitability.

Combined Resolutions from documents submitted by Person & Rockingham County Democratic Parties

51. A CALL TO EXEMPT CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS FROM NORTH CAROLINA G.S. 100-2.1

WHEREAS, Public property in North Carolina displays monuments and memorials dedicated to the Confederacy and all it represented; and

WHEREAS, This public display appears to support human inequality and contrasts starkly with the State of North Carolina’s desire to be regarded as “First in Freedom”; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina G.S. 100-2.1 ([hps://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySecon/Chapter_100/GS_100-2.1.pdf](https://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySecon/Chapter_100/GS_100-2.1.pdf)) prohibits removal of such monuments and memorials without the approval of the North Carolina Historical Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That all North Carolina Democrats, including those elected to state executive and legislative branches of the government, work to exempt Confederate monuments and memorials from the requirements of North Carolina G.S. 100-2.1.

Submitted by Chatham County Democratic Party

52. A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A LIVING WAGE AND AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE TO \$15 AN HOUR

WHEREAS, a living wage has been defined as the minimum amount a worker must earn to afford basic necessities, without public or private assistance such as food stamps, section 8 housing, etc.; and

WHEREAS, meaningful employment at a living wage is critical to the personal security and self-esteem of all citizens, can provide an incentive for youth, and can lift workers out of poverty; and

WHEREAS, increasing the minimum wage would provide a move toward a living wage for the 15.4% of North Carolinians identified in the 2010 census as living below the poverty line, and help reduce chronic poverty and inequality; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina minimum wage has not increased beyond the federally mandated minimum of \$7.25 set in 2009, and returns only \$6.21 of its 2009 buying power, while the cost of living today is 117.1% above the national average;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the NC Democratic Party urge the General Assembly to provide a living wage that will help provide a self-sufficient path out of poverty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to reach the goal of a living wage we support raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour with automatic indexing of the minimum wage to cost of living increases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the North Carolina Democratic Party promote support the prerogative of local governments to set minimum wages reflective of local living costs and opposes efforts by state or federal governments to preempt local minimum wage laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NC Democratic Party urge that the Living Wage Orange County (orangecountylivingwage.org) or similar organizations in other counties be empowered to promote the adoption of a living wage through the evaluation and certification of local employers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NC Democratic Party encourage the nomination of Democratic candidates who will work to promote and support a living wage and a \$15 an hour minimum wage.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

53. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SUPPORT AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS

WHEREAS, research consistently confirms that a child's brain structure is formed early and can be permanently impacted negatively by trauma and neglect; and

WHEREAS, research also demonstrates that positive intervention via early childhood care and education can cause the brain to remain open to new experiences and learning; and

WHEREAS, early positive childcare and improved childhood development prepares children for increased proficiency and confidence in school performance; and

WHEREAS, healthy, well-educated young children tend to become more productive, higher earning, tax-paying citizens than those who lack early health and educational supports; and

WHEREAS, Tom Campbell, former Assistant N.C. State Treasurer summarizes recent N.C. Emerging Issues conclusions: "We could solve some of the other problems our state faces if we dramatically improved early childhood development....by providing more childcare assistance, full funding for all children in Pre-K, a renewed interest in the first four grades and whatever nutritional, educational and healthcare funding is required to accomplish the task.....Increased funding must also be accompanied by more accountability;" and

WHEREAS, funding for education is essentially a state responsibility, with the Federal government providing some limited compensatory dollars for underserved public school populations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NC Democratic Party urge the N.C. State Legislature to: provide more child care assistance, thus lowering local waiting lists for high quality childcare; fully fund Pre-K for all qualifying children living in North Carolina; fund effective class size numbers and adequate textbook and technology resources for grades one through four in the public schools; and provide the essential nutritional and healthcare supports for positive childhood growth and development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support careful, long-term monitoring by the State Board of Education must assure accountability for the required funding.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

54. 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, a report is made every ten seconds to the proper authorities that a child has been abused; and

WHEREAS, the United States has one of the worst records among industrialized nations, losing an average of 4-7 children every day to child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, approximately seventy percent of abused children are under the age of four; and

WHEREAS, thirty percent of all victims of child abuse will abuse their own children; and

WHEREAS, eighty percent 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 one hundred and twenty-four billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, it is reported that two thousand children die every year at the hands of the people who are supposed to care for 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 Delegates to the 6th District Democratic Convention support required education for parents and caregivers, so they are aware of what child abuse is and what the symptoms are, especially with regards to shaken baby syndrome, along with how to choose a good caregiver; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED we support required education of middle school and high school students on parenting skills including what abuse is and is not; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support routine parent and home follow-up by medical personnel to support parents, with guidance, on a monthly basis, along with 24/7 nurse on call to answer questions or relieve the caregiver during stressful times; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we direct that a copy of this resolution be transmitted officially to all members of the North Carolina Legislature and the United States House and Senate.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

55. A CALL TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is an interstate and international global criminal activity affecting society's most vulnerable people; and

WHEREAS, In North Carolina human trafficking includes forced labor, sexual exploitation, Internet predation, and deprivation of constitutional liberties affecting children and adults; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina ranks among the top ten states experiencing human trafficking, with hundreds of instances reported each year and countless others unidentified and unreported; and

WHEREAS, Children, women, and minority communities are at greatest risk of being trafficked; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina legislature dedicate additional resources for the Attorney General and Human Trafficking Commission to form closer ties among law enforcement, business, and education communities to eliminate human trafficking in North Carolina .

Submitted by Chatham County Democratic Party

56. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RESTORATION OF NET NEUTRALITY

WHEREAS, net neutrality is the principle that Internet service providers must treat all data on the Internet the same, and not discriminate or charge differently by user, content, website, platform, application, type of attached equipment, or method of communication; and

WHEREAS, access to the Internet is a basic precondition for full participation in our social, political, and economic life, allowing citizens to obtain information, conduct banking transactions, pay bills, apply for jobs, conduct research, communicate with each other and organize in support of, or in opposition to, government actions thereby expanding citizen participation in our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Internet is a platform for free speech and free expression, and is now a principal source of news for 43 percent of Americans; and

WHEREAS, The internet is a vital public utility and it should be equally accessible to all; and

WHEREAS, the largest Internet service provider (ISP) in the United States, Comcast, is also the most hated company in the country; and

WHEREAS, net neutrality requires ISPs to provide equal and nondiscriminatory access to all users, thereby ensuring the Internet remains vibrant and innovative, and creates a level playing field for large and small content providers; and

WHEREAS, more than 20 internet pioneers and leaders such as TCP/IP co-inventor Vint Cerf, inventor of the world wide web, Tim Berners-Lee, and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, have publicly called for the continuation of net neutrality to protect access to the Internet; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission voted to repeal net neutrality rules on December 14, 2017, largely based on the argument that net neutrality is unnecessary regulation which is preventing ISPs from making money to fund new broadband infrastructure, but the ISPs themselves, when speaking to their investors, have denied that net neutrality adversely impacted their financial ability to undertake

WHEREAS, The Net Neutrality issue has entered the mainstream, and politicians are paying attention. Momentum to reverse the FCC's decision is building in Congress, and the issue will likely be in play during the midterm elections. In January 2018, Free Press was among the very first to sue the agency over its unfounded attack on the open internet; now, therefore, be it new investments in broadband infrastructure;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NC Democratic Party urge U.S. Senators Burr and Tillis and members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation to support federal legislation restoring net neutrality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NC Democratic Party urge North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein to join the attorneys general of New York, California, Washington, Illinois and other states in suing the FCC over its decision to end net neutrality.

Combined Resolutions from documents submitted by Guilford and Randolph County Democratic Parties

57. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

WHEREAS, our judicial system makes provision for the death penalty which violates the sanctity of life and contributes to the moral degradation of the community; and

WHEREAS, specific race, gender and economic factors point to certain segments of our society being disproportionately found guilty of capital offenses and sentenced to death; and

WHEREAS, the extenuating life circumstances of those convicted and executed are not uniformly addressed; and

WHEREAS, execution as punishment perpetuates violence in our society and is not an effective deterrent to capital crime nor is it economically viable; and

WHEREAS, those in the medical profession who realize the cruelty and finality of executions are now providing moral leadership by opposing any participation in executions by the state of North Carolina;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party support the abolishment of capital punishment in the state of North Carolina and in the nation.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

58. A RESOLUTION TO FULLY FUND PRISON EMPLOYEES AND FULLY FUNDING COUNTIES FOR TREATMENT/SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

WHEREAS, When North Carolina closed centered mental health hospitals in the state, it was promised that the state would adequately fund community services for the mentally ill; and

WHEREAS, Many citizens without fault suffer serious mental illness and need mental health treatment and services; and

WHEREAS, Many mentally ill citizens have become homeless or become prisoners in jails awaiting trial or prisoners in N. C. prisons; and

WHEREAS, Our prisons are too full and understaffed leading to danger for both prisoners and employees and expensive overtime pay; and

WHEREAS, Local communities do not have funds to provide services for the mentally ill and those services/treatments have traditionally been funded by the federal and state governments; and

WHEREAS, Treatment and services for the mentally ill provided by local mental health organizations can be less expensive than the cost of housing and treating mentally ill patients in hospitals or placing them in jails or prisons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party supports and encourages the General Assembly to provide funds to fully staff N. C. prisons, to raise salaries if necessary to fully staff those prisons, and to fully fund mental health treatment and services in each county.

Submitted by Randolph County Democratic Party

59. A RESOLUTION OPPOSING PRIVATE, FOR-PROFIT PRISONS

WHEREAS, No corporation or person should profit from the imprisonment of another human; and

WHEREAS, Private ownership of prison systems encourages longer sentences, mandatory minimum sentences, corruption, and cost cutting over the basic human rights of the prisoners; and

WHEREAS, All prisons should conform to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules); and

WHEREAS, Time in a prison system should be used to rehabilitate and teach individuals how to productively re-enter society and not re-offend; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party is opposed to private, for-profit prisons.

Submitted by Randolph County Democratic Party

TAXATION

60. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RESTORATION OF PROGRESSIVE TAXATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the state of North Carolina adopted a flat state individual income tax, broader sales tax, and reduced corporate income tax in 2013 while eliminating the estate tax and allowing the state Earned Income Tax Credit to expire; and

WHEREAS, the individual and corporate tax rates have been further reduced in the years since, while the sales tax base has been further broadened; and

WHEREAS, the federal Joint Committee on Taxation has determined that even over a ten-year window roughly 80% of corporate taxes are borne by the top 20% of the income distribution while sales taxes are much more regressive; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative effect of these changes to taxation have reduced funds available for state government by roughly three billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, this reduction in revenue was offset by steep budget cuts to government services, particularly Medicaid and public schools, both immediate due to direct legislation and ongoing through failure to increase budgets to match population and inflation; and

WHEREAS, the tax relief for most taxpayers was less than would have been provided by merely adjusting the previous progressive tax system for inflation; and

WHEREAS, as a result these changes to the tax system have had a generally regressive effect, disproportionately benefiting those with the highest incomes at the expense of services for those with lower incomes; and

WHEREAS, the tax benefits and economic growth have been focused in a small number of the wealthiest counties, while the cuts to services have disproportionately affected smaller, poorer, and more rural counties; and

WHEREAS, no amount of further tax reduction can replace the lost government services spending in these counties because they pay less in taxes than they receive in government outlays; and

WHEREAS, the empirical evidence that a substantially lower tax environment has triggered additional economic growth or will do so in the future is scant and disputed; and

WHEREAS, the foregone public investment in schools, health, the environment, public safety, and transportation infrastructure already represents a massive and growing implicit debt to the future that will ultimately work against any possible pro-growth effects;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to substantially return to the pre-reform tax code, including restoring the state Earned Income Tax Credit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon doing so the sentinel values for tax bracketing, standard deductions, personal exemptions, and various tax credits should be properly adjusted for inflation relative to the date those values had been previously set; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party call for future tax legislation to reduce state dependence on regressive forms of taxation and fees.

Submitted by the Guilford County Democratic Party

61. A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A COMPREHENSIVE OVERHAUL OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE TAX CODE

WHEREAS, the existing Internal Revenue Tax Code is overly complex, convoluted, and voluminous, making the federal tax reporting and collecting process inordinately costly, ineffective, and time-consuming for both government and citizens; and

WHEREAS, in the three decades since the last comprehensive, bi-partisan revision in 1986, the tax code has become bloated with exemptions, credits and exclusions that favor special interest groups, the wealthy, and well connected at the expense of the working class, with diminished financial support for social programs for retired and low-income Americans; and

WHEREAS, government tax policies such as taxing capital gains at lower rates than those on wages earned from working at a job add to the increasing problem of income inequality;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the federal tax code should be completely and fundamentally rewritten to be more simplified, broad-based, just, and fair with minimal “tax expenditures” (exemptions, deductions, loopholes, or exclusions) embedded in the code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the revised tax strategy should explore the use of alternative tax strategies, similar to those used by most other developed nations in the world, to help reduce the tax burden on wages and savings.

Submitted by Guilford County Democratic Party

62. A RESOLUTION FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SELECT AN ADDITIONAL TAX SOURCE AND ENABLE COUNTIES, TOWNS AND CITIES TO USE THAT ADDITIONAL TAX SOURCE

WHEREAS, Counties, towns, and cities provide many important services to citizens; and
WHEREAS, Counties, towns, and cities receive most of their tax funding through property taxes and sales taxes; and

WHEREAS, Counties, towns, and cities need additional tax sources to meet the common needs of local citizens; and

WHEREAS, Regressive taxes can disproportionately impact the elderly and lower income citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly should provide the authority to counties, towns, and cities to find and implement additional tax sources without additional approval from the General Assembly.

Submitted by Randolph County Democratic Party County

63. A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE PROPOSED NEWSPRINT TRADE TARIFF

WHEREAS, Our democracy depends on our citizens receiving truthful and timely information about events regarding public affairs and government actions; and

WHEREAS, Community newspapers are a credible source of vital information and the bedrock to our principles as a free nation; and

WHEREAS, The viability of local newspapers, including The Courier-Tribune, is being challenged by an unnecessary tariff on the import of uncoated ground wood paper from Canada – the type used to print newspapers; and

WHEREAS, The tariff, if fully implemented, could lead to the loss of thousands of jobs in the news industry; and

WHEREAS, The tariff could also affect other business segments such as book publishers and paper merchants thus increasing prices and leading to loss of jobs; and

WHEREAS, A final decision by the U. S. Department of Commerce on the tariff is expected in May; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Democratic Party and individuals present will contact the U. S. Department of Commerce and our U. S. Senators and U. S. Congressmen letting them know we oppose the proposed newsprint trade tariff.

Submitted by Randolph County Democratic Party County

