

**DURHAM COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY COUNTY CONVENTION  
RESOLUTIONS  
APRIL 1, 2017**

**Contents**

<b>Resolutions of National Significance .....</b>	<b>3</b>
RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUND SCIENCE FOR POLICY DECISIONS ABOUT ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE .....	3
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION TO OVERTURN THE U.S. SUPREME COURT RULING IN CITIZENS UNITED .....	5
RESOLUTION FOR THE DURHAM COUNTY AND NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO ENDORSE AND SUPPORT BILL H.R.40 - COMMISSION TO STUDY REPARATION PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS ACT .....	6
RESOLUTION PROTECTING IMMIGRANTS AND OPPOSING THE SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM AND 287(G) PARTNERSHIP .....	6
RESOLUTION RE IMMIGRATION POLICIES .....	8
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AMNESTY FOR IMMIGRANT PARENTS AND SIBLINGS.....	9
RESOLUTION FOR DISCLOSURE OF INCOME TAX RETURNS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES .....	9
RESOLUTION ASKING CONGRESS TO PASS A LAW REQUIRING ALL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO RELEASE THEIR TAX RETURNS TO THE PUBLIC .....	10
RESOLUTION TO ADHERE TO THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT AND LIMIT GLOBAL TEMPERATURE RISE .....	11
<b>Resolutions of State Significance .....</b>	<b>11</b>
RESOLUTION TO ENSURE GREATER VOTER PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS OF VOTING RIGHTS .....	11
A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING PROCESS FOR THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA .....	12
RESOLUTION FOR BIPARTISAN STANDING COMMISSION TO REDRAW DISTRICTS .....	13
RESOLUTION TO ENSURE FAIR VOTER REPRESENTATION AND VOTING DISTRICTS .....	13
RESOLUTION FOR INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE TO SELECT ELECTION DISTRICTS IN NORTH CAROLINA .....	14
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TO DRAW LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS THROUGH A NONPARTISAN AND TRANSPARENT PROCESS – ANTI-GERRYMANDERING RESOLUTION .....	15
RESOLUTION FOR NON-PARTISAN DISTRICTING IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA .....	15
RESOLUTION RESISTING VOTER SUPPRESSION .....	16
RESOLUTION RESISTING A CLIMATE OF HATE .....	16

RESOLUTION TO REPEAL IN ENTIRETY OF HB2 .....	17
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PAY EQUITY DURING THE EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION PROCESS ..	17
RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY IN NORTH CAROLINA .....	18
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF CLAIMS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS AN EXCUSE FOR DISCRIMINATING AGAINST CITIZENS OF NORTH CAROLINA.....	18
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE TEACHING OF SCIENTIFICALLY VALID CURRICULUM EXCLUSIVELY IN ALL SCHOOLS RECEIVING FEDERAL AND/OR STATE FUNDS.....	18
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FUNDING CHARTER SCHOOLS ONLY WITH ACCOUNTABILITY, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT AND ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS, AND ENDING PUBLIC FUNDING FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS, Withdrawn.....	19
<b>Resolutions Related to the State Democratic Party .....</b>	<b>20</b>
RESOLUTION URGING DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY .....	20
RESOLUTION URGING DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO IMPROVE VOTER OUTREACH .....	20
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE FOR FILLING LEGISLATIVE VACANCIES .....	21
RESOLUTION TO ALLOW FREE ONLINE VOTER RECORDS IN ALL STATES, Adopted By Voice Vote After Amended By Unanimous Consent .....	21
<b>Resolutions of Local Significance .....</b>	<b>21</b>
RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF TRUE WARD SYSTEM FOR DURHAM CITY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, Defeated after counted vote: 411.9 yes; 516.1 no. ....	21
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING \$15/HOUR AS MINIMUM WAGE.....	22
RESOLUTION FOR PROTECTING VULNERABLE NEIGHBORHOODS AND CITIZENS FROM GENTRIFICATION .....	22
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR OUR COUNTY DETENTION CENTER TO WITHDRAW ITS PLAN TO ADD VIDEO VISITATION.....	23
<b>Statements Related to Policy .....</b>	<b>24</b>
RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PRECINCT OFFICIALS .....	24
RESOLUTION TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COUNTY-WIDE DATABASE OF VOTERS .....	25

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This presentation of resolutions includes all resolutions considered at the 2017 Durham Democratic Party County Convention. Resolutions were either properly referred to the Convention for consideration by Precincts or introduced at the Convention by consent of the delegates. Most resolutions were combined and passed upon a single voice vote. Resolutions considered separately are specifically denoted as to their outcome.

## **Resolutions of National Significance**

### ***RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUND SCIENCE FOR POLICY DECISIONS ABOUT ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE***

[From Precinct 6]

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has proposed large cuts in the budgets of most of the Federal Agencies that conduct and fund scientific research. The largest of the proposed cuts is a reduction of the budget of the Environmental Protection Agency by 24%, which would substantially weaken the Agency's ability to carry out its core functions and to respond to environmental problems.

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration is taking steps to suppress research and limit communication on scientific topics that it considers politically inconvenient. As Dr. Rush Holt, the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) puts it, "The concern now is whether policymakers even understand the meaning of evidence. ... If evidence becomes optional, if ideological assertions or beliefs are just as good as scientifically vetted evidence, then [communities'] quality of life suffers."

WHEREAS, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has criticized the previous Obama Administration for being "so focused on climate change" and has called for an 'aggressive' agenda of regulatory rollbacks despite (1) the scientific consensus on the amount, causes, and likely catastrophic results of climate change and (2) the extensive evidence that environmental regulation has led to large improvements in air and water quality and food safety public health and has greatly improved quality of life for most people living in the United States.

WHEREAS, multiple studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals show that 97 percent or more of actively publishing climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities. 2016 was the hottest year on record; 16 of the 17 hottest years ever recorded have occurred since 2000. All major scientific societies and institutions around the world have made very strong statements like that of the American Physical Society in 2007: "The evidence is incontrovertible: Global warming is occurring. If no mitigating actions are taken, significant disruptions in the Earth's physical and ecological systems, social systems, security and human health are likely to occur. We must reduce emissions of greenhouse gases beginning now." Not only is climate change real and measurable, there is very strong evidence that it is accelerating.

WHEREAS, The North Carolina General Assembly has shown disregard for scientific evidence related to the environment and climate change. For example, a law passed by in 2012 the NC Senate banned the state from basing coastal policies on the most recent scientific predictions of how much sea level will rise, instead restricting all sea-level predictions used to guide state policies to those based on "historical data." As noted by Scientific American, "Less than two weeks after the state's senate passed a climate science-squelching bill, research shows that sea level along the coast between N.C. and Massachusetts is rising faster than anywhere on Earth."

WHEREAS, Scientific research has conclusively demonstrated that burning fossil fuels – coal, oil, and natural gas – has serious and long-standing negative impacts on public health, local communities and ecosystems, and the global climate. Electricity production accounts for more than one-third of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, with coal-fired power plants producing approximately 25 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

WHEREAS, although coal mining is causing irreversible damage to the environment and to public health, and despite the reduced demand for coal in the U.S., regulations on the coal industry continue to be reduced. The U.S. House and Senate voted in February 2017 to repeal the so-called “stream protection rule” that restricted coal companies from dumping mining waste into streams and waterways; this waste kills nearly all life in the streams and waterways, and makes it practically impossible to make the water drinkable. This harm is adding to the impacts of mountaintop removal coal extraction, estimated to have buried nearly 2,000 miles (as of 2010) of Appalachian headwater streams and destroyed 1.4 million acres (as of 2012) of Appalachian forests.

WHEREAS, Hydro-fracking does not reduce greenhouse gas emissions and can cause significant air pollution and water contamination unless carefully controlled and regulated. Methane gas released during fracking is a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Some of the pollutants released by drilling include: benzene, toluene, xylene and ethyl benzene (BTEX), particulate matter and dust, ground level ozone, or smog, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde and metals contained in diesel fuel combustion.

WHEREAS, The true costs of our reliance on fossil fuels is hidden within public and private health expenditures, military budgets, emergency relief funds, and the degradation of sensitive ecosystems that we rely on for critical services.

WHEREAS, Renewable energy – wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, and biomass – provides substantial benefits for our climate, our health, and our economy. Most renewable energy sources produce little to no greenhouse gas emissions. Solar power now employs more Americans than oil, coal and natural gas combined. An important catalyst for growth in this rapidly expanding sector is government subsidies for development of alternative energy sources and consumer acquisition of energy derived from alternative energy sources.

WHEREAS, More generally, scientific research and associated technological innovation are major drivers of economic expansion and job creation in the United States.

And WHEREAS, The disregard for science by the Trump Administration and by the NC General Assembly could have catastrophic consequences not just for this country, but for the entire planet. Truth matters; the success or failure of policy initiatives depends on the quality of information used to recognize and define problems, identify significant causal factors, and develop effective solutions that will not create more and worse problems;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT,

RESOLVED, That we Democrats of Precinct 6 state unequivocally that climate change is real, that human activities make a substantive contribution to climate change, and that it is imperative that the United States cooperate fully with the many other countries in the world that are working to limit the harm done by climate change.

RESOLVED, That we Democrats of Precinct 6 will demand that North Carolina and the United States as a whole take steps now to reduce reliance on fossil fuels in order to promote energy independence and to meet established goals for reduced greenhouse gas emissions. This includes supporting a rapid and large increase in the percentage of U.S. power needs supplied by alternative energy sources, along with major reductions in the extraction and use of fossil fuels. We will work to provide incentives for the widespread adoption of current alternative energy technologies, and for the continued development of additional alternative energy technological developments.

RESOLVED, That we Democrats strongly support peer-reviewed scientific research and the Federal and State agencies that fund and oversee such research. We will seek to restore full funding to these Federal and State agencies and take steps to ensure that the leadership of these agencies fully support the mission of the agency they lead and will work to enhance the ability of that agency to carry out that mission. We will work with agency personnel and the science community to restore and enhance regulations intended to promote the public good, based on the best available science.

RESOLVED, That we Democrats will demand that those agencies responsible for funding and overseeing scientific research be required to base decisions about what research to conduct and fund based on the merits and potential public benefits of proposed research and not on political criteria. We understand that these agencies must maintain their ability to serve as honest information brokers, able to provide decision makers with trustworthy and verifiable information. We aver that this information belongs to the American people, not to any one political faction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we Democrats recognize the importance of basing decisions on verifiable evidence and on the best available science. We fully acknowledge that verifiable facts exist and that policy decisions must be based on those facts. The concept of “alternative facts” is no more than a smokescreen to justify political maneuvering, and is inherently dangerous to the safety and well-being of the people of North Carolina, the United States of America, and the Earth’s population as a whole.

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***RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION TO OVERTURN THE U.S. SUPREME COURT RULING IN CITIZENS UNITED***

[Precinct 4]

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court, by a five to four decision, in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, overturned important provisions of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, as well as earlier Supreme Court decisions, and swept away a century of tradition barring corporate spending in elections in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court’s ruling holds that corporations are people with free speech rights under the U.S. Constitution and may engage in unlimited corporate spending on elections; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* unleashes the use of corporate money into the political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* presents a serious and direct threat to republican democracy; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* grants excessive power to corporate and union interests and threatens to overwhelm the voices of individual citizens in the political process; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the U.S. Constitution empowers and obligates the people and states of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that go to the heart of republican democracy and self-government; and

WHEREAS, corporations are legal entities that governments regulate, and the privileges they enjoy under the U.S. Constitution should be more narrowly defined than the rights that are afforded to natural persons; and

WHEREAS, the people and states of the United States of America have strengthened the nation and preserved liberty and equality for all by using the amendment process throughout the history of the nation,

including seven of ten decades of the twentieth century, and through that process have reversed seven erroneous U.S. Supreme Court decisions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the United States Congress to propose and send to the states for ratification an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to clarify that corporations are not natural persons and shall not be afforded the same rights as natural persons, and to clarify that money does not constitute speech; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the North Carolina General Assembly to call upon the United States Congress to propose and send to the states for ratification the foregoing amendment.

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***RESOLUTION FOR THE DURHAM COUNTY AND NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO ENDORSE AND SUPPORT BILL H.R.40 - COMMISSION TO STUDY REPARATION PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS ACT***

[Precinct 22]

Whereas, Congressman John Conyers, Jr. submitted a bill to acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to examine the institution of slavery, subsequently de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes (U.S. Congressman John Conyers,2017).

Whereas, In 1862, The District of Columbia Emancipation Act of 1862 paid reparations to slave owners who set their slaves free set a precedent, (National Archives, 2015)

Whereas, In 1980, Congress established a commission to study the incarceration of over 100,000 Japanese Americans during WWII set a precedent (Qureshi,2013),

Whereas, in 2014, the Obama Administration signed off on \$12 million in what many define as reparations, to the survivors of the Jewish Holocaust sets a precedent (Jewish Telegraph Agency, 2015),

Be It Resolved, that the Durham County and North Carolina Democratic Party support H.R. 40, the Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act - and encourage local, state, and federal elected officials (i.e. G. K. Butterfield and David Price) to support Congressman Conyers and H.R. 40.

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***RESOLUTION PROTECTING IMMIGRANTS AND OPPOSING THE SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM AND 287(G) PARTNERSHIP***

[Precincts 3, 4, 6 & 37]

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2017, Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the President has made numerous statements that devalue racial, religious and ethnic minorities as well as demeaning women, dishonoring our armed forces, ignoring science, threatening foreign relations and disregarding the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the President has signed the Executive Order, *BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENTS*, on January 25, 2017. the purpose of which is “to direct executive departments and agencies to deploy all lawful means to secure the Nation's southern border, to prevent further illegal immigration into the United States, and to repatriate illegal aliens” thus invigorating the Secure Communities Program (SCP) and revitalizing 287(g) partnerships; and

WHEREAS, SCP was designed to dramatically increase the involvement of the local law enforcement officials in immigration enforcement, diverting local resources and creating fear of law enforcement to the detriment of public safety; and

WHEREAS, SCP faced strong criticism for allowing officers to racially profile minorities and was found to violate Fourth Amendment rights by a federal judge, leading to its replacement by President Obama in 2015 and which was summarily rescinded by President Trump in January 2017; and

WHEREAS, additionally the 287(g) program, which allows Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) to delegate immigration enforcement to partners in state and local agencies, has also been found to create “discriminatory policing practices” by the Federal Justice Department; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40,000 immigrants (documented and undocumented) live in Durham County, contributing to our economy as workers in farm, construction, service sectors and as entrepreneurs and consumers.

WHEREAS, the city of Durham has a longstanding commitment to being open and welcoming to immigrants and refugees, and to understanding that our immigrant communities are integral to the life of our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party declares its opposition to the above mentioned Executive Order, *BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENTS*, and respectfully calls on the President to rescind the Executive Order in its entirety; and

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party reaffirms the declaration of the city of Durham that it is open and welcoming to immigrants and refugees and reaffirms that the immigrant and refugee communities are integral to the life of our community; and

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party affirms that the local, state and national Government must be accountable to all individuals and communities it serves, documented and undocumented, and must not be a tool for oppression or intimidation; and

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for and will advocate for reforms in local law enforcement and work to rebuild the trust between police and communities of color, immigrants and refugees; and

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party opposes the use of Section 287(g) Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) agreements and urges the Office of the Sheriff in Durham and all counties across the state of North Carolina to refuse to enter in Section 287(g) agreements with ICE; and

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party affirms that city of Durham will not honor detainer requests for people who are not a danger to the public safety of Durham; and

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the people of good will of Durham County and the North Carolina Democratic Party to join in calling on the President to permit immigrants and refugees to continue to resettle peacefully here and remain here without fear of persecution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon adoption of this resolution, the North Carolina Democratic Precinct 4 is authorized and requested to deliver a copy of this resolution to the Durham County Commissioners, the US Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Durham County Congressional Delegation, NC Senators and to the North Carolina Democratic Party.

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***RESOLUTION RE IMMIGRATION POLICIES***

**[Precinct 6]**

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2017, Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the President has made numerous statements that devalue racial, religious and ethnic minorities as well as demeaning women, dishonoring our armed forces, ignoring science, threatening foreign relations and disregarding the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the President has signed an Executive Order January 25, 2017 the purpose of which is to direct executive departments and agencies to deploy all lawful means to secure the Nation's southern border, to prevent further illegal immigration into the United States, and to repatriate illegal aliens invigorating the Secure Communities Program (SCP) and revitalizing 287(g) partnerships; and

WHEREAS, SCP was designed to dramatically increase the involvement of the local law enforcement officials in immigration enforcement, diverting local resources and creating fear of law enforcement to the detriment of public safety; and

WHEREAS, SCP faced strong criticism for allowing officers to racially profile minorities and was found to violate Fourth Amendment rights by a federal judge, leading to its replacement by President Obama in 2015; and

WHEREAS, President Trump summarily rescinded that protective act in 2017; and

WHEREAS, additionally the 287(g) program, which allow Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) to delegate immigration enforcement to partners in state and local agencies, has also been found to create “discriminatory policing practices” by the Federal Justice Department; and

WHEREAS, approximately 13.5 % of the population in Durham is Hispanic, contributing to our economy as workers in farm, construction, service sectors and as entrepreneurs and consumers.

WHEREAS, the city of Durham has a longstanding commitment to being open and welcoming to immigrants and refugees, and to understanding that our immigrant communities are integral to the life of our community.

NOW , THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION 1. *DURHAM DEMOCRATIC PRECINCT #6* declares its opposition to the Executive Order signed by the President on January 27, 2017, the purpose of which is to direct executive departments and agencies (agencies) to deploy all lawful means to secure the Nation's southern border, to prevent further illegal immigration into the United States, and to repatriate illegal aliens swiftly, consistently, and humanely. and respectfully calls on the President to rescind the Executive Order in its entirety; and

SECTION 2. *Durham Democratic Precinct #6* reaffirms the declaration of the city of Durham that it is open and welcoming to immigrants and refugees and reaffirms that the immigrant and refugee communities are integral to the life of our community; and



SECTION 3. *Durham Democratic Precinct #6* affirms that the local, state and national Government must be accountable to all individuals and communities it serves, documented and undocumented and must not be a tool for oppression or intimidation; and

SECTION 4. *Durham Democratic Precinct #6* calls for and will advocate for reforms in local law enforcement and work to rebuild the trust between police and communities of color, immigrants and refugees; and

SECTION 5. *Durham Democratic Precinct #6* opposes the use of Section 287(g) Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) agreements and urges the Office of the Sheriff in Durham and all counties across the state of North Carolina to refuse to enter in Section 287(g) agreements with ICE; and

SECTION 6. *Durham Democratic Precinct #6* confirms that city of Durham will not honor detainer requests for people who are not a danger to the public safety of Durham; and

SECTION 7. *Durham Democratic Precinct #6* calls upon the people of good will of Durham County and the North Carolina Democratic Party to join in calling on the President to permit immigrants and refugees to continue to resettle peacefully here and remain here without fear of persecution.

SECTION 8. That upon adoption of this resolution, the *Durham Democratic Party* is authorized and requested to deliver a copy of this resolution to the Durham County Commissioners, the US Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Durham County Congressional Delegation, and NC Senators and to the North Carolina Democratic Party.

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***RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AMNESTY FOR IMMIGRANT PARENTS AND SIBLINGS***

**[Precinct 2]**

WHEREAS, the United States is a nation of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the Immigrant Community in our nation is under attack from the new administration; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party believes in the strength of a richly diverse citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party supports families; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party believes in the importance of keeping families together; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Precinct 2 of the Democratic Party of Durham County urges the National Democratic Party to put forward legislation granting amnesty to immigrant parents and siblings of citizens, and immigrant parents and siblings of Dreamers (DACA), as long as they have been in the United States for at least one year and have no criminal convictions.

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***RESOLUTION FOR DISCLOSURE OF INCOME TAX RETURNS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES***

**[Precinct 35.3]**

WHEREAS, the President of the United States is responsible to the citizens of the United States for all fiscal matters; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States have a right to know that the President is not beholden to any entity; and

WHEREAS, the Congress and Senate of the United States has not made this a condition of candidacy for the position of President of the United States; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the Congress and Senate of the United States, bring forth a Bill, effective immediately, that all future Presidential candidates be required to disclose his/her Income Tax Returns for the previous five years at least six months prior to the final State Primary. Without the disclosure, the candidacy will be voided, and furthermore

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this provision will be effective for all ensuing Presidential elections. This Bill shall also direct the sitting President to publish his/her Income Tax Return during within the first six months of his tenure as President. Non-disclosure of the Income Tax Return by the sitting President shall constitute an impeachable offense.

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***RESOLUTION ASKING CONGRESS TO PASS A LAW REQUIRING ALL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO RELEASE THEIR TAX RETURNS TO THE PUBLIC***

[Precinct 36]

WHEREAS, Every US presidential candidate since Jimmy Carter has made their tax returns public, and

WHEREAS, Tax returns can reveal conflicts of interest that may not appear in financial disclosure statements, and

WHEREAS, The precedent was set by Richard Nixon for a sitting president to cheat on his taxes, and

WHEREAS, Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon has introduced S.2979 - Presidential Tax Transparency Act, which would require a presidential candidate to release the most recent three years of tax returns to the Federal Election Commission within 15 days of becoming the nominee, and if the candidate refuses to comply, the Treasury Secretary would provide the tax returns directly to the FEC for public release, NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That Precinct 36 of the Durham County Democratic Party urges our representatives in congress to support this bill, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if this bill remains stuck in committee we urge any congress person to put forth a bill that would require all presidential candidates to release their taxes, including incumbent candidates, and sitting presidents, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, This resolution shall be delivered to each member of Congress and Senate.

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***RESOLUTION TO ADHERE TO THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT AND LIMIT GLOBAL TEMPERATURE RISE***

[Precinct 43]

WHEREAS, the majority of Scientists in the US and around the world agree that Climate Change is an Authentic and Human based threat to all civilian and environment on the earth; and

WHEREAS, we are already seeing the initial effects of climate change with exceptional droughts, floods, super storms, the hottest water to spawn an El Nino, the hottest years on record, dry weather flooding in Miami, Pacific Coast and Island nations devastated by super storms as well as higher than usual tides; and

WHEREAS, the coast and outer banks of North Carolina will be threatened by storms and higher waters; and

WHEREAS, massive ice sheets are closer to breaking and Arctic ice is melting at faster rates than expected which will eventually cause sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, 133 parties from around the world have signed on to the Paris Agreement and agreed to work together “to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects” Paris Agreement; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we must adhere to the Paris Agreement; and

RESOLVED, that we will do everything in our power as a state and as a nation to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

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**Resolutions of State Significance**

***RESOLUTION TO ENSURE GREATER VOTER PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS OF VOTING RIGHTS***

[Precinct 39]

Whereas the Durham County Democratic Party recognizes and supports all efforts to promote greater civic awareness of voting and voting rights among the people of the Great State of North Carolina;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States establishes a representative form of government in which the people of the United States elect Members of the House of Representatives and Senators of the Senate, and each of the States appoint electors who, based on the popular vote of the State, select the President and the Vice-President;

Whereas the 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments to the Constitution establish that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude; on account of sex; by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax; and on account of age for those 18 years of age and older;

Whereas many eligible citizens do not exercise the right to vote;

Whereas the right of citizens of the United States to vote is fundamental to our representative form of government;

Whereas voter suppression laws take many forms and collectively lead to the disenfranchisement of eligible voters, particularly people of color, women, students and poor, elderly, infirm, and disabled Americans;

Whereas voter turnout in the Great State of North Carolina in the 2016 General Election was only 68.98% and 44.02% in the 2014 General Election per the NC State Board of Elections;

Whereas numerous civic awareness organizations and advocacy groups at the Federal, State, and local level actively promote voter registration and voter participation; and

Whereas many communities and schools have instituted civic awareness programs;

Be It Resolved that the State of North Carolina:

(1) Recognizes and supports all efforts to promote greater civic awareness and voting rights among the people of the United States, including civic awareness programs such as candidate forums and voter registration drives;

(2) Encourages local communities and elected officials at all levels of government to promote greater awareness and voting rights among the electorate of civic responsibility and the importance of participating in these elections;

(3) Affirms that people fought and died for the right to vote and affirms that we will continue to fight and uphold the sacred right of all people to vote, particularly people of color, women, students and the poor, the elderly, the infirm, and disabled Americans;

(4) Develops, encourages and supports potential candidates to the North Carolina General Assembly that will rescind all voter suppression laws and enact new legislation that will increase voter participation, including a less burdensome process of registering to vote and expanded opportunities for ballot submission; and

(5) Affirms that the Democratic Party was founded on the promise of an expanded democracy. The right to vote is at the heart of our national vision. It is a core principle of the Democratic Party to maximize voter participation for all Americans and we must seek to guarantee to all Citizens the right to vote.

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***A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING PROCESS FOR THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA***

[Precinct 37]

WHEREAS, the current state redistricting process creates a conflict of interest as lawmakers are effectively selecting their own constituents; and

WHEREAS, the redistricting process is one that should be conducted with transparency, in an open door manner with opportunities for public dialogue and feedback, rather than behind closed doors; and

WHEREAS, legislative incumbents generally construct districts which are not compact and which split communities of interest; and

WHEREAS, important principles including the protections of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 and respect for neighborhoods and counties should be clearly listed for a Commission to abide by; and

WHEREAS, voters are more likely to participate when they believe that their votes will count and that they have a reasonable chance of electing candidates who represent their interests; and

WHEREAS, elected officials are more responsive to constituents when voters have a choice of candidate, thereby increasing accountability and serving the vest interest of the voters; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the North Carolina General Assembly to establish an independent redistricting process that includes the principles of diversity, along with partisan balance and geography in all future redistricting.

***RESOLUTION FOR BIPARTISAN STANDING COMMISSION TO REDRAW DISTRICTS***

Whereas, the NC Legislature has shown itself incapable of drawing legislative districts in a fair and Constitutional manner;

Now, therefore be it resolved that we support the creation of an evenly bipartisan standing commission of non-lawmakers, appointed by the major political parties, to redraw districts, such districts requiring a 2/3 approval by the commission.

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***RESOLUTION TO ENSURE FAIR VOTER REPRESENTATION AND VOTING DISTRICTS***

[Precincts 1, 6, 9, 36, 39 & 40]

Whereas the North Carolina State Legislature is responsible to create legislative districts that fully comply with applicable federal and state law and that are fair to North Carolina voters; and

Whereas North Carolina is generally considered to be one of the most gerrymandered states in the nation; and

Whereas North Carolina voters deserve a system of redistricting that prevents politicians from designing partisan districts to favor themselves and their party; therefore

Be it resolved that the State of North Carolina establish redistricting rules that ensure that North Carolina voters are fairly represented in voting districts that districts are compact, contiguous, protect the rights of minority voters, and follow city or county lines where feasible; and furthermore

Be it resolved that the State of North Carolina establish an independent Redistricting Commission. Legislative districts shall be formed under a set of rank-ordered criteria:

- 1) Population Equality: Districts must comply with the U.S. Constitution’s requirement of “one person, one vote”.
- 2) Federal Voting Rights Act: Districts must ensure an equal opportunity for minorities to elect a candidate of their choice.
- 3) Geographic Contiguity: All areas within a district must be connected to each other, except for the special case of islands.
- 4) Geographic Integrity: Districts shall minimize the division of cities, counties, local neighborhoods and communities of interests to the extent possible, without violating previous criteria. A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

- 5) Geographic Compactness: To the extent practicable, and where this does not conflict with previous criteria, districts must not bypass nearby communities for more distant communities.
- 6) Nesting: To the extent practicable, and where this does not conflict with previous criteria, each Senate district will be comprised of whole House districts, House districts will be comprised of undivided precincts. To the greatest extent possible, Precincts should be treated as whole units and should not be divided between larger units. To the greatest extent possible, district lines shall conform to preexisting City and County boundaries.
- 7) Nonpartisan: incumbents, political candidates or political parties cannot be considered when drawing districts.
- 8) Transparent: redistricting shall be conducted in an open and transparent process enabling full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines.

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***RESOLUTION FOR INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE TO SELECT ELECTION DISTRICTS IN NORTH CAROLINA***

[Precinct 35.3]

WHEREAS, the Election Districts in the State of North Carolina have been adjudged to be unconstitutional because of racial gerrymandering, and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has been tasked with redrawing certain districts to correct this bias, and

WHEREAS, there is currently no mechanism for this redistricting to be done in a fair way; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the State Legislature will be charged to bring forward a Constitutional Amendment for consideration of the citizens of North Carolina to form an Independent Committee that will redraw the electoral districts for representatives of House, Senate and Congressional candidates based on equally divided population of the State, irrespective of race or political association, and

RESOLVED that population make up of each district may vary plus or minus 5%, and

RESOLVED that as much as possible, these districts will follow county boundaries, and

RESOLVED that a question on the appointment of an independent committee to establish balanced and fair districting will be added as a resolution to be voted on by North Carolina citizens in the next statewide election, and

RESOLVED that in the event of a simple majority voter mandate, the committee will be formed within a month of the vote and districts will be redrawn within six months of the vote, and

RESOLVED that once the independent committee submits the agreed upon solution, subsequent state-wide elections will be based on the redrawn population-balanced boundaries, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after the first state-wide election using the redrawn districts, the committee will then review the election process to ensure that the new districts are pragmatically robust.

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***RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TO DRAW LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS THROUGH A NONPARTISAN AND TRANSPARENT PROCESS – ANTI-GERRYMANDERING RESOLUTION***

[Precinct 34-1]

WHEREAS, boundaries for districts in North Carolina are drawn by the dominant party, which has the incentive to draw boundaries to benefit the dominant party; and

WHEREAS, the members of the dominant party are in effect choosing their voters, instead of voters choosing their candidates; and

WHEREAS, at this time there is strong support from bipartisan and independent organizations and North Carolina Citizens from across the state; and

WHEREAS, there are examples across the nation of ways to have an independent commission draw districts such as California Proposition 11 (2008) and California Proposition 20 (2010), and Iowa redistricting law that result in more competitive races; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that precinct 34-1 will make an effort to lobby our members in the General Assembly to strongly encourage them to support an independent, transparent, nonpartisan process for drawing districts; and

RESOLVED, that any redistricting reform measure meet all constitutional requirements and does not favor one party over another, and does not compromise the political strength of racial or religious minorities and does not favor one gender over any other; and

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party staff will support efforts for redistricting reform and candidates who are committed to supporting an independent, transparent, nonpartisan process for drawing districts.

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***RESOLUTION FOR NON-PARTISAN DISTRICTING IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA***

[Precinct 43]

WHEREAS, Citizens of the United States expect the right to free and fair elections; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 15 of the United States Constitution Guarantees that “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by any State on account of race;” and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of North Carolina Sec. 2 “Sovereignty of the people” states that “All political power is vested in and derived from the people; all government of right originates from the people, if founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole;” and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina voting districts have been unfairly gerrymandered so systematically that the current party can stay in power regardless of the wishes of the majority of North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, this gerrymandering restricts our rights to a free democracy and “government that originates from the people;” now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that North Carolina’s General Assembly should establish an independent redistricting process that includes the principles of diversity, compactness, and maintains county lines as far as possible, along the lines of HB 200, 2017.

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**RESOLUTION RESISTING VOTER SUPPRESSION**

[Precinct 8, 9 & 40]

*Whereas*, the strength of our democracy depends on the full participation of citizens in free and fair elections, and

*Whereas*, North Carolina has a history of race discrimination and suppressing the votes of African Americans, and

*Whereas*, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals recently concluded that North Carolina’s 2013 law requiring voter identification, cutting early voting, and eliminating same-day registration “targeted African Americans with surgical precision,” and

*Whereas*, the new GOP administration in Washington, D.C., has already begun to pull back from fully defending the right of all citizens to vote, regardless of race, and

*Whereas*, the GOP majority in the North Carolina General Assembly can be expected to introduce new voter suppression measures that will disparately affect African Americans and other communities of color, be it

*Resolved*, that we, the members of the Durham County Democratic Party, urge North Carolina’s elected representatives in the General Assembly and in the U.S. Congress to resist strongly any effort to limit the franchise; and, be it further

*Resolved*, that we urge the Governor to take such steps as are possible to ensure full citizen participation in free and fair elections in North Carolina.

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**RESOLUTION RESISTING A CLIMATE OF HATE**

[Precinct 8, 9 & 40]

*Whereas*, ours is a nation of immigrants, and

*Whereas*, North Carolina is enriched by the diversity of its citizens in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, and disability, and

*Whereas*, the 2016 election campaign saw a significant coarsening of public discourse as illustrated by the relentless demonizing of Muslims, immigrants, women, people with disabilities, and other groups, and

*Whereas*, the new GOP administration in Washington, D.C., has continued its assault on minority and marginalized groups, as illustrated by barring Muslim immigrants from the United States, directing Immigration Control and Enforcement (ICE) agents to round up and deport immigrants, withdrawing the Department of Education’s support of transgender students, and failing entirely or only belatedly condemning



the recent shootings of immigrants, desecration of Jewish cemeteries, and attacks on mosques and Jewish community centers, be it

**Resolved**, that we, the members of the Durham County Democratic Party, urge North Carolina's Governor and elected representatives in the General Assembly and in the U.S. Congress to resist a climate of hate by speaking out and condemning in the strongest possible terms all acts of hatred and bigotry.

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**RESOLUTION TO REPEAL IN ENTIRETY OF HB2**

[Precinct 26]

WHEREAS HB2 uses an inflammatory sexual issue, that transgender people molest others of the opposite birth gender in bathrooms,

WHEREAS the issue of molestation is meant to arouse fear in persons ill-informed about transgender people,

WHEREAS people will vote for the bill based on these fears,

WHEREAS the issue of molestation has no basis in fact,

WHEREAS it is transgender people whose health and wellbeing are threatened by this bill,

WHEREAS the issue of molestation is meant as a Trojan horse to obscure other parts of this law that harm the general public and usurp the power of municipalities to engage in self-governance,

WHEREAS according to various counts NC's economy has already lost between \$77m and \$395m due to boycotts of the state,

WHEREAS more conferences and organizations are threatening to boycott NC resulting in an estimated possible \$567.5m loss in NC revenues,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that HB2 unconditionally and in its entirety be repealed immediately.

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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PAY EQUITY DURING THE EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION PROCESS**

[Precinct 4]

Whereas, questions about past compensation/salary history often appear on employment applications, and

Whereas, questions about past compensation/salary history are believed to contribute to pay disparities between female and minority workers and their male and white counterparts, because many employers set employees' salaries, in part, based on their past salaries, potentially locking in an unequal rate in perpetuity, and

Whereas, research has shown that women still earn approximately 79 cents for every dollar earned by men, even when variables such as education level, job title, and location are controlled, and

Whereas, the State of North Carolina and a number of local governments in North Carolina continue to ask questions about past compensation/salary history on employment applications, therefore, be it

Resolved that North Carolina Democratic elected officials support legislation and local policies that prohibit the use of questions pertaining to past compensation/salary history on government employment applications.

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***RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY IN NORTH CAROLINA***

[Precinct 40]

Whereas, the Death Penalty is not a deterrent to murder and may, in fact, add to the violent nature of society and increase murder rates.

Whereas, the Death Penalty has been shown to be applied in arbitrary and capricious ways that increase the chances for racism and classism to be a factor in its use, making it chiefly the sentence for poor and/or black.

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

Whereas, the cost to prosecute a Death Penalty case in North Carolina has skyrocketed to a far greater cost than life imprisonment prosecutions in an imperfect attempt to eliminate the arbitrary and capricious use of this sentence and still we find that innocents have been convicted and sentenced.

Whereas, “true justice” calls on the state to seek out preventative and cost-effective solutions to deter crime and lead the way towards restorative justice that heals.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Durham County Democratic Party calls on all our state representatives to seek the abolition of the Death Penalty in North Carolina.

---

***RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF CLAIMS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS AN EXCUSE FOR DISCRIMINATING AGAINST CITIZENS OF NORTH CAROLINA***

[Precinct 6]

WHEREAS, some commercial entities have recently claimed license to deny their employees certain health benefits on religious grounds; and

WHEREAS, some public officials have claimed license to deny services to LGBT people on religious grounds, and

WHEREAS, some others have used the claim of religious liberty to justify discrimination against and denial of some services to citizens, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Durham Democratic Party, Precinct #6, shall adopt a policy of opposing any effort to claim religious liberty as an excuse to discriminate against any citizen of North Carolina.

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***RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE TEACHING OF SCIENTIFICALLY VALID CURRICULUM EXCLUSIVELY IN ALL SCHOOLS RECEIVING FEDERAL AND/OR STATE FUNDS***

[Precinct 33]

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

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

WHEREAS, the progress and success of the United States is directly linked to its commitment to and investment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, and therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the Democratic Party will promote standards for science education and curriculum to be exclusively comprised of the accepted scientific consensus.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FUNDING CHARTER SCHOOLS ONLY WITH ACCOUNTABILITY, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT AND ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS, AND ENDING PUBLIC FUNDING FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS, *Withdrawn***

[Precinct 50]

WHEREAS a strong public school system is essential for creating and maintaining an intelligent, educated, and involved citizenry and a skilled and capable work force;

WHEREAS under Republican leadership in North Carolina, per pupil funding for our public schools has dropped from \$6,300 in 2007-2008 to \$5,616 in 2015-2016;

WHEREAS essential public school dollars have been diverted to private schools and charter schools that offer limited services and do not meet public standards for curriculum and teaching qualifications;

WHEREAS the growth of charter schools has resulted in school resegregation in many areas of the state of North Carolina;

WHEREAS using public money to fund private schools or students attending private schools violates Constitutional protections regarding the separation of church and state;

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AT CONVENTION AND WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR OF THE RESOLUTION WITH PERMISSION OF THE ASSEMBLY**

WHEREAS charter schools are not serving their original purpose of providing creative approaches to education and sharing them with public schools.

WHEREAS public schools should be granted similar flexibility as charter schools in curricula and testing;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND ELECTED DEMOCRATS IN NORTH CAROLINA AND THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT:

- Termination of public funding for private schools;
- Equalizing treatment of public schools and charter schools with regard to curriculum, teaching methods, and testing, all under the same public oversight;
- Limiting charters in North Carolina to those that offer an educational experience that is qualitatively different from what is offered in the local public schools;
- Restoring the cap on charters that existed prior to 2012;

- Maintaining the original concept of charters, including the sharing of best practices with traditional public schools;
- Restricting charter schools to those not operated by private for profit entities;
- Requiring that charter schools operate under the same careful oversight, accountability, and transparency regarding academic standards and financial review as public schools;
- Requiring that charter schools offer free and reduced lunch, safe and reliable transportation, and services for students with disabilities, limited English proficient students, and academically gifted students;
- Requiring that charter schools meet public standards with regard to science and history Curricula;
- Requiring that charter schools reasonably reflect the racial and ethnic composition in the area where the school is located.

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## **Resolutions Related to the State Democratic Party**

### ***RESOLUTION URGING DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY*** [Precinct 16]

WHEREAS, All Americans need clean air and clean water;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party should support alternative renewable energy sources, and oppose proposals that dismantle environmental protections.

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### ***RESOLUTION URGING DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO IMPROVE VOTER OUTREACH*** [Precinct 16]

WHEREAS, The Democratic Party needs to win elections in NC;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the county and state party

- 1) commit ourselves to increase the reach and professionalism of our voter registration drives;
- 2) support laws to increase voter participation and registration, such as Election Day registration;
- 3) provide earlier outreach to all potential voters, and web-based training for all volunteers, similar to Voter Action Network, for canvassing, registration, and social media use;
- 4) encourage candidates to specifically address issues and our platform; and
- 5) require the state chair to provide numerical feedback to every precinct chair within 10 days of every election, to fine-tune voter outreach efforts.

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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE FOR FILLING LEGISLATIVE VACANCIES**

[Precinct 4]

Whereas, our Democratic elected officials are sometimes unable to serve their complete terms of office, and

Whereas, N.C.G.S. 5 163-11 Filling vacancies in the General Assembly only provides requirements regarding the timing of elections to fill vacancies under Article 2 of the N.C.G.S., and

Whereas, a more comprehensive and consistent process is needed to insure an open, fair, and transparent process for all legislative seats across the state, THEREFORE, BE IT

Resolved that the North Carolina Democratic Party develop guidance to be used when filling vacancies in the North Carolina legislature.

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**RESOLUTION TO ALLOW FREE ONLINE VOTER RECORDS IN ALL STATES, Adopted By Voice Vote After Amended By Unanimous Consent**

[Precinct 2]

WHEREAS, Democrats believe that citizen participation in voting is a core element of our democracy, and

WHEREAS, the activities of political campaigns drive voter registration and engagement, and

WHEREAS, political campaigns make use of public voter registration records from the Board of Elections to reach the American public, and

WHEREAS, in many states, access to public voter registration records from the Board of Elections often costs upwards of tens of thousands of dollars, and

WHEREAS, Democrats believe that political organizing and campaigning should be available to all citizens, not just citizens who can afford expensive public data from the State Board of Elections, and

WHEREAS, political campaigns make use of modern technology to reach the American public; and

WHEREAS, in many states, access to public voter registration records uses outdated formats such as printed paper and CD-ROMs.

Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the platform of the Democratic Party shall express support for all states to allow online access to voter records free of charge, while honoring legal protection for victims of harassment.

**Resolutions of Local Significance**

**RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF TRUE WARD SYSTEM FOR DURHAM CITY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, Defeated after counted vote: 411.9 yes; 516.1 no.**

[Precincts 18 & 22]

WHEREAS, adopting a True Ward Durham City Municipal Election will provide the citizens of the City of Durham with the ability to elect true representation of their choice to be the voice that speaks and advocates the interests of their community; and

WHEREAS, a True Ward System means that only voters of a ward decide who will represent them, while in the present modified all at-large Ward system; the economic, ethnic and cultural interests of a neighborhood can be overridden by voters from throughout the City; and

**Defeated After Counted Vote**

WHEREAS, adoption of a True Ward Election System would reduce the financial burden on potential candidates to compete successfully in a

**411.9 Yes; 516.1 No**

WHEREAS, ensuring the integrity of elections is essential to continuing a representative democracy; and

WHEREAS, fair elections are fundamental to the health and well-being of our democracy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Durham County Democratic Party strongly support the restoration of a True Ward System in Durham's City Municipal Elections.

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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING \$15/HOUR AS MINIMUM WAGE**

[Precincts 18 & 20]

WHEREAS, the National Employment Law Project Report offers convincing data that while 42 percent of all workers in the U.S. earn less than \$15 an hour, more than half of African American workers, close to 60 percent of Latino workers, and almost half of women workers earn under \$15 per hour; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the median hourly wage was just \$15 for African American men and \$14 for Latino men, compared with \$21 for white men; and

WHEREAS, women continue to earn just 80 percent of the median hourly wage for men, and women of color experience an even larger gap; and

WHEREAS, the median net worth of white families is now more than 10 times that of African American or Latino families and this racial wealth gap has contributed to unique cycles of debt, poverty, and criminalization for poor communities of color; and

WHEREAS, raising the minimum wage should be viewed as an economic justice, racial justice, and gender equality issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Durham County Democratic Party support the increase of the minimum wage to \$15 per hour on the local, state and national government levels.

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**RESOLUTION FOR PROTECTING VULNERABLE NEIGHBORHOODS AND CITIZENS FROM GENTRIFICATION**

[Precinct 20, 22 & 42]

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that gentrification contributes to violence and crime, increased stress levels, injuries, mental health problems, as well as social and environmental justice issues (Health, 2013),

Whereas, investments in a community that can encourage economic development often come with high costs to the middle and low-income residents who have lived in an area for decades before gentrification (Pridgen, 2014),

Whereas, such burdens to long-term residents include towering rents, appreciation on their home values that incur property taxes well outside the household budgets of these citizens (Pridgen, 2014).

Whereas, the City and County of Durham, while encouraging newcomers and their plans for development, also has a commitment to protecting people who originally founded a neighborhood;

Whereas, citizens in vulnerable neighborhoods, such as Northeast Central Durham, Southside, Southeast, Crest Street, Fayetteville Street, and Bragtown, are at risk of suffering the negatives of gentrifying efforts from the migration of high income newcomers,

Whereas, citizens from these vulnerable neighborhoods have come before the Durham City Council complaining about the tax burdens and stated that they have not been made aware of the Durham tax relief programs.

Whereas, the Durham City Council and the Durham County Commissioners are reviewing the complaints about the tremendous tax burdens from long-time citizens who are part of these vulnerable neighborhoods,

Whereas, the tax assessments have exponentially increased while minimum wage and fixed incomes have barely increased at all, the Durham County Tax Collector's property tax relief for homeowners is inadequate and needs to be revised,

Whereas, ways to protect long-term citizens of these aforementioned neighborhoods, include allowing these homeowners to reduce the assessed value of their homes or freezing their home assessments for a finite period of time,

Whereas, to pass these protections to renters, a good neighbor policy can be put into place to keep the rents frozen for renters by their landlords, and

Whereas, the best solution to protect these homeowners will come from open dialogue with these citizens, business leaders, and City and County publicly elected officials.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Durham County Democratic Party create an equitable development and anti-gentrification committee to research and develop solutions for implementation by Durham City and County publicly elected officials to protect middle, low, and no income long-term citizens.

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***RESOLUTION CALLING FOR OUR COUNTY DETENTION CENTER TO WITHDRAW ITS PLAN TO ADD VIDEO VISITATION***

[Precinct ]

Whereas; Eliminating, or even minimizing, in-person visits (visits behind plexi-glass in Durham County) can affect recidivism rates. Allowing inmates to see friends, family and loved ones face-to-face (even when behind plexi-glass as in Durham County) can reduce their chances of re-offending once they get out of jail, according to a 2015 study called "Screening out Family Time," conducted by the Prison Policy

Initiative. More personal communication improves an inmate's well-being, while video visits make the contact less personal. (Screening out Family Time,” conducted by the Prison Policy Initiative.)

Whereas; Prison and jail visitation policies should recognize that family support is crucial to maintaining the relationships between those incarcerated and those who love them, especially as it pertains to developing and maintaining bonds between parents and children. Every available study agrees: Best practices for developing those bonds involve in-person visitation. (This would include current plexi-glass visitation as in Durham Detention Center.) ([www.grassrootsleadership.org/videosvisitation](http://www.grassrootsleadership.org/videosvisitation))

Whereas; Using video visitation technology requires computer literacy, which becomes a barrier for many desiring to use the service. Even those with a firm grasp of computer technology report frustration dealing with the many glitches and interruptions of service. Given the demographics of those in American jails and prisons – poor, mostly minority, a significant portion of whom speak Spanish as a first language – this technology may prevent any meaningful communication. (Public Policy Center, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition)

Whereas; The Durham County Detention Facility detains people who have not been convicted of any crime at the time of detainment, may only be unable to pay a few hundred dollars to be released while awaiting trial, may only suffer from mental illness, does not warrant the hardship of video visitation to the detainee and/or their family.

Whereas; Currently our Sheriff says he has no plans to make video visitation the only method of visitation, he, nor any county official, has any way of guaranteeing that in the future. We do know it will be expensive to implement and maintain for the county and potentially for the citizens trying to visit detainees, (ie: Wake County charges visitors \$1.50 a minute) (<http://wunc.org/post/advocates-question-plans-video-visitations-durham-jail#stream/0>)

Therefore; be it resolved that the Durham County Democratic Party requests that the Durham County Detention Center NOT incorporate video visitation as a means of visiting persons detained in the county jail.

Be it further resolved that the Durham County Democratic Party requests the Durham County (Commissioners) and City (Council) and all Durham County elected officials not support, nor budget for any video visitation at the Durham County Detention Facility.

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## **Statements Related to Policy**

### ***RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PRECINCT OFFICIALS***

[Precinct 35.3]

WHEREAS, the website, Durham Democrats <http://durhamdemocrats.org/> provides information for the North Carolina Democratic Party, the Durham Democratic Party, and the Officers of the Durham Democratic Party, and

WHEREAS, the Durham Democrats list the Durham County Precincts and the Precinct Chairs’ contact information on the website, and

WHEREAS, there is a need for precinct members to be able to contact their Precinct Chair, now therefore, be it



RESOLVED that the Durham County Democratic party will list on its website, the phone numbers and email addresses of each Precinct Chair.

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***RESOLUTION TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COUNTY-WIDE DATABASE OF VOTERS***

[Precinct 1]

Whereas, organized precinct officials in Durham County should have ready access to the names, addresses and – where volunteered – telephone numbers, needs for transportation to the polls, expressed willingness to volunteer, etc. of their precinct’s Democratic Party members; and

Whereas, volunteers for the Democratic Party in Durham County have been dependent upon external campaigns for access to voter data for canvassing and, as a consequence, subject to broad campaign directives that can be inefficient and fail to capitalize on local knowledge and Durham County’s singularity; and

Whereas, a growing desire exists amongst Democratic Party members in Durham County to take active roles in building voter turn-out and activism beyond the campaigns of specific candidates and beyond the confines of election years; and

Whereas, in order for canvassing to be effective when it occurs within Durham County beyond of the limits of campaigns and elections years, the data that is gathered must be recorded and made accessible at the precinct level; therefore

Be it resolved, that the Durham County Democratic Party establish a data team to build and maintain a voter database which can provide voter data for canvassing and analysis in formats determined to be useful through the solicited input of precinct officials and organized volunteers; furthermore

Be it resolved, that the Durham County Democratic Party establish a voter database for all of its precincts, using existing data where possible, and that allows:

1. Voter names and addresses to be recorded along with information volunteered by voters including:
  - Telephone numbers
  - Email addresses
  - Transportation needs for voting
  - Registration status
  - Willingness to volunteer
  - Policy issues of primary concern
2. Precinct officials to access the data of voters in their precincts in order to guide canvassing activities.
3. Data gathered from canvassing activities to be entered into the database by approved users.
4. Organized volunteers with approval access to the data to guide their canvassing activities.

Be it resolved, that the Durham County Democratic Party establish guidelines for the use of the database including an approval process for access to the data, cross-checking mechanisms for entering new data into the database, and database security and maintenance.

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