

2022 District 11 Resolutions from Counties

Presented to the District 11 Convention, May 21 2022

Agriculture, Environment, and Healthcare

1. A Resolution to Commit to Promoting Changes in Human Activity to Mitigate Climate Change

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, in the opinion of the majority of environmental scientists, the earth is beginning to undergo radical ecological changes, including: increasing annual temperatures, intensified storm activity, droughts, sea level rises, and their consequent effects on life on Earth; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

2. A Resolution Calling for the Correction of the Affordable Care Act’s “Family Glitch”

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, about 13% of North Carolinians under age 64 remain without health insurance, and many of those with insurance have unaffordable, unusable, unsustainable "catastrophic" plans; and

WHEREAS, the average annual premium for employer-sponsored coverage for families is about \$20,000, and the average household income in NC is about \$55,000, leaving the average family to pay about 40% of their income just to cover their healthcare premiums; and

WHEREAS, the "family glitch" of ACA calculates affordability of health insurance based only on coverage for the employee, leaving a loophole for insurance companies to charge exorbitant amounts when adding coverage for their spouse and children. Because of this loophole, those family members would remain ineligible to receive a subsidized plan through the ACA; and

WHEREAS, the ACA's "family glitch" effects about 5 million people nationwide, mostly women and children; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the ACA must be fine tuned to address the "family glitch", by taking into account the affordability of employer based healthcare coverage for the entire family.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

3. A Resolution to End the Direct Contracting Entities Pilot Program

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services “Innovation Center” is piloting a program in North Carolina and 37 other states that will move Traditional Medicare enrollees into 3rd party private, for profit middlemen groups, labeled “Direct Contracting Entities” without the enrollee’s knowledge or consent, and without Congressional oversight; and

WHEREAS, Traditional Medicare spends 98% of its money on patient care and just 2% on overhead and nothing on profit while DCEs can spend as little as 60% on patient care and keep 40% for overhead and profit for themselves; and

WHEREAS, the DCE model is a major ripoff for taxpayers because it incentivizes fraud, endangers the health of seniors because of the incentives to ration care, and it will not improve the efficiency or affordability of care for seniors if DCEs leave 40% of a bill to be paid out of pocket by the enrollee; and

WHEREAS, the big losers in this model are senior enrollees and taxpayers while the big winners are oligarchs, investors in DCEs and other Wall Street entities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party demand an immediate halt to the stealth implementation of the DCE program; and be it further

RESOLVED, Demand that congress hold hearings on this program and establish oversight of the Innovation Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, That enrollees who have already been transferred to DCEs without their knowledge or consent be immediately returned to the traditional medicare that they chose for themselves; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the acting Inspector General for CMS be replaced immediately with a regular Inspector General confirmed by Congress that can provide effective oversight over CMS.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Haywood County Democratic Party, March 19, 2022.

4. A Resolution In Support of Medicare for All

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, despite implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), our current healthcare system still under serves our most vulnerable populations - over 30 million Americans remain without insurance, and 40 million more are under-insured; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic worsened this situation, with medical expenses contributing to the number of personal bankruptcy cases; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, 31% of Hispanic and 12% of Black residents of North Carolina were uninsured compared to a still too-high 10% of White residents, reflecting the inequities that marginalized communities face under the present health care system; and

WHEREAS, the ever-rising cost of healthcare adds challenges to already strapped municipalities and small businesses that are essential to thriving communities; and

WHEREAS, Medicare For All would provide for all necessary medical care for every person in the United States, without co-pays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket expenses; and

WHEREAS, existing government and private sector health care systems other than Medicare feature top-heavy with administrative bureaucracy and impose limits to patients' free choice of doctors; and

WHEREAS, foregoing preventive and other ongoing care that uninsured and underinsured residents of North Carolina need eventually costs millions in taxpayer dollars to cover exorbitant emergency room treatment and admissions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party call for federal legislators to work toward immediate enactment of Medicare for All, providing appropriate and efficient health care for all residents of the United States.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Henderson County Democratic Party, March 19, 2022.

Civil Rights, Criminal Justice, and Education

5. A Resolution Calling for Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, women, who constitute over 51% of the population of North Carolina (NC), play an essential and irreplaceable role in society, contributing to our economy and advancing our nation in both public and private realms; and

WHEREAS, women continue to confront workplace discrimination, wage inequities, health care inequities, higher rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults, a lack of political parity, and other forms of sex- based discrimination that are particularly compounding issues for Black women, Latinas, Indigenous and Native American women, immigrants, LGBTQ+ women, single mothers, and women in the military services; and

WHEREAS, the ERA was initially proposed in 1921, was passed by Congress and submitted to the states for ratification in 1972, has been approved by three-quarters of the states, is deemed still viable in spite of ratification deadlines in 1979 and 1982 and despite the efforts of five states to rescind their prior ratifications; and

WHEREAS, the ERA is essential for correcting systemic sex discrimination since it would guarantee that “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex”; and

WHEREAS, state and federal anti-discrimination laws are not uniform or comprehensive, and can be repealed, amended, or ineffectively applied by the courts; and

WHEREAS, the last three state ratifications of the thirty-eight needed to pass the ERA were procured – Nevada in 2017, Illinois in 2018 and Virginia in 2020; however, the National Archivist refused to publish and certify the ratifications without a court order based on a 2020 opinion from the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC), US Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS the ERA does not regulate reproduction, abortion or gender preference, does not mandate women’s service in the military nor unisex restrooms, but, instead, seeks to clarify the legal definition of sexual discrimination and make it a violation of the US Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the ERA would affect the rights of men and women in matters involving divorce, child custody, property, pay, employment and promotion, the military draft, immigration, name changes, and sexual violence, and would require strict scrutiny of sexual discrimination by the courts; and

WHEREAS the amendment contains only 58 words and says:

- Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.
- Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.
- Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification; and

WHEREAS, ERA ratifications bills were introduced in the NC General Assembly in 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that democrats in Western North Carolina, believing equality for all to be a fundamental American value and a critical component of American justice, call on the NC General Assembly to ratify the ERA in order to join the growing list of states supporting a guarantee of equal constitutional rights to all citizens without regard to their sex; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call on the OLC to withdraw the 2020 opinion and the National Archivist to publish and certify the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call on Congress to act immediately to pass H.Res. 891 recognizing ratification of the ERA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we support efforts to pass S.J.Res. 1, joining the US House in lifting the time limit to remove any questions about timing.

This resolution is a combination of resolutions from Swain and Buncombe Counties for consideration by the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party, May 21, 2022.

6. A Resolution to Support Enactment of Extreme Risk Protection Orders

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, 54% of mass shootings, 2009-2019, had documentation that attacker exhibited dangerous warning signs BEFORE the shootings; and

WHEREAS, In North Carolina, 2/3 of gun deaths are from suicide with 1 person dying of suicide every 6 hours; and

WHEREAS, In North Carolina 61% of intimate partner homicides involve firearms & abused women are 5 times more likely to be killed if abuser has firearm; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who pose a danger to self or others often exhibit signs that alert family/household members, health care providers or law enforcement to the threat; and

WHEREAS, Purpose of NC ERPO is to reduce gun deaths/injuries by permitting family/household members, health care providers and law enforcement to petition a judge for a risk-protection order. If a judge sees strong evidence that a person in possession of firearms poses danger to self or others, that person could be required to surrender firearms, ammunition, permits to purchase and/or carry concealed firearms to a county sheriff . If surrender doesn't occur, a judge could issue warrant allowing law enforcement to search person's belongings and remove all firearms and related possessions; and

WHEREAS, 19 states and the District of Columbia already have ERPO, “Red Flag” laws; and

WHEREAS, Prior ERPO bills “died” in Committee in the NC House, Senate April 2019; and

WHEREAS, September 2021 House Democrats attempted to move HB 525 out of committee to the full House for debate but failed to get the 61 votes needed; Therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party urged NC House and Senate Democrats to seek bipartisan support necessary for enactment of “Red Flag Laws” (ERPO).

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

7. A Resolution to Support Closure of the “Boyfriend Loophole” in Federal Domestic Violence Gun Laws

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, More than ½ of all intimate partner homicides are committed by dating partners with the number increasing for 3 decades; and

WHEREAS, The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%; and

WHEREAS, Under Federal law, convicted abusers are banned from possessing guns ONLY if their victim is a current/former spouse, someone with whom they lived or had a child, or someone to whom they are a parent/guardian; and

WHEREAS, The law does NOT prohibit convicted current boyfriends, dating partners, stalkers from buying or owning a gun thus known as the “boyfriend loophole”; and

WHEREAS, April 2019 the US House, in passing legislation reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994, added a clause which closes the “boyfriend loophole” by preventing those convicted of stalking and/or abusing dating partners from buying or owning a gun, yet given strong objections from NRA, McConnell refused to bring it to the senate floor; and

WHEREAS, March 2021, the House, supported by President Biden, voted to renew the lapsed VAWA reauthorization, H.R. 1620; and

WHEREAS, Gun sales have surged to record heights and Domestic Violence has significantly increased during the Pandemic; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Democratic Party & US Democratic Senators work to enlist bipartisan support necessary for passage of the VAW Reauthorization Act in the United States Senate so as to close the “boyfriend loophole” and move to enactment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that if this bill stalls in the Senate, Democrats will pursue a stand-alone bill to close the “boyfriend loophole”.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

8. A Resolution to Support Measures to Reduce Gun Violence by the North Carolina Legislature

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, the NC firearm death rate is greater than the US average and the United States has, by far, the highest firearm death rate of all high-income countries worldwide; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, NC experienced a 31% increase in its number of firearm related deaths (to 1,397 persons) and in 2019, NC ranked 7th nationally in the number of firearm related deaths; and

WHEREAS, a person is killed by a gun every 6 ¼ hours in NC; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the leading cause of firearm related deaths in NC with 56% involving firearms in 2019; and

WHEREAS, NC had the 16th highest firearm homicide nationally and whereas firearm related homicides disproportionately impact communities of color in NC; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is generally considered a permissive state for firearms owners with no state imposed restrictions on “assault weapons” , no magazine capacity restrictions and no caliber restrictions; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina maintains concealed carry reciprocity with all other states; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will support candidates and State elected officials who propose and support legislation to enact the following measures to reduce gun violence in North Carolina: a national gun registry with universal background checks, the banning of bumpstocks and assault weapons, a reporting requirement for all individual gun owners when their firearms are lost or stolen and the strengthening of state laws to:

- expand NC permitting requirements to apply to all gun sales, not just handgun sales
- expand NC domestic violence laws to prohibit people from possessing firearms who have been convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence and
- pass an Extreme Risk law, which would empower loved ones or law enforcement to intervene in order to temporarily prevent someone in crisis from accessing firearms; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party will support and encourage State elected officials to reintroduce the Gun Violence Prevention Act into the 2022-23 Legislative session; and be it further

RESOLVED That the North Carolina Democratic Party will work to enact a State and Federal program, funded entirely by gun manufacturers, arms retailers and gun advocacy groups, to educate the public about gun violence.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

9. A Resolution to Provide In-State Tuition for Undocumented North Carolina Students

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, undocumented students must pay out-of-state tuition to attend post-secondary education in North Carolina even if said students are North Carolina high school graduates; and

WHEREAS, at least 19 states have provisions allowing for in-state tuition rates for undocumented students, including those covered under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA); and

WHEREAS, legislation granting undocumented students in-state tuition rates gives these students an incentive for completing high school, attending college, and eventually contributing to North Carolina's society and enriching North Carolina's economy through labor force contributions and income taxes; and

WHEREAS, the education rights enshrined in the North Carolina Constitution are not limited to citizens but extend to "people" and "all students"; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that it is the moral, ethical, and humane approach to the education and welfare of the young people of North Carolina that undocumented North Carolina high school graduates be allowed to economically and reasonably access post-secondary education with the same in-state tuition assistance as their fellow North Carolina graduates; and be it further

RESOLVED, that North Carolina pass legislation authorizing undocumented students who have attended elementary and high school in North Carolina and graduated from North Carolina high schools to pay in-state tuition rates at its public community colleges, colleges and universities.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Henderson County Democratic Party, March 19, 2022.

10. A Resolution to Provide Tuition Scholarships for Minorities Who Aspire To Be Teachers

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, there is a shortage of teachers across North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the teacher shortage is particularly acute among minority teachers who make up approximately 22% of all teachers while minority students make up approximately 54% of all students in North Carolina;* and

WHEREAS, research shows that minority students achieve better academically and socially when they have teachers and mentors who are also minority; and

WHEREAS, several states have specific programs to offer state scholarships to minority students who desire to teach; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina already offers scholarships to future teachers in special areas such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and Special Education; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the state of North Carolina expand its scholarship program to include qualified minority students who desire to become teachers in all subject areas and who agree to teach in North Carolina public schools for a period of at least three years; and be it further

RESOLVED, that North Carolina’s state-supported community colleges, colleges, universities and historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) support such scholarships and provide assistance and encouragement to minority scholarship holders through articulation agreements with local school districts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that local school districts agree to hire minority teachers who complete the minority scholarship program and all other such requirements for teacher certification.

** July 2020 figures reported on ABC11 by LaTanya Pattillo, Head of NC Governor’s Teacher Advisory Committee.*

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Henderson County Democratic Party, March 19, 2022.

11. A Resolution in Support of the Freedom to Read

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, in 2021 and 2022 we are seeing a coordinated wave of proposed restrictions on access to reading material by Republican legislators and Republican-backed organizations; and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association Office of Intellectual Freedom has documented that in the Fall of 2021 they were seeing an “unprecedented volume of [book] challenges”, (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/statement-regarding-censorship>); and

WHEREAS, despite being couched in language falsely claiming that certain books are “child abuse,” “pornography,” “indoctrination,” or “promoting division,” both the intent and impact of these book bans is to restrict student’s access to accurate information about both the past and present lived experiences of marginalized groups, including but not limited to the experience of Black and LGBTQ+ Americans; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Democrats firmly denounce efforts to restrict access to books based on their content and reject censorship as a fundamentally un-American; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Democrats applaud the efforts of educators, authors, advocates, and others to share stories which reflect the perspectives and experiences of all Americans, particularly those which have not been widely known; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Democrats agree with the statements in the American Library Association’s Freedom to Read Statement that “The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution,” that “free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture,” and affirm the principles outlined in the American Library Association’s Freedom to Read Statement (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>).

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

12. A Resolution in Support of the LGBTQIA+ Community

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, having lost public support over the issue of same-sex marriage, Republicans have continued abhorrent attacks on the rights of LGBTQIA+ Americans by targeting smaller sections of the LGBTQIA+ community that are less understood, especially transgender youth; and

WHEREAS, prominent Republican leaders both in North Carolina and at the Federal level continue to make disgusting public statements disparaging LGBTQ+ Americans with alarming frequency; and

WHEREAS, by May of 2021 that year broke a new a record for the highest number of anti-LGBTQ+ bills proposed in a single legislative session, (<https://www.hrc.org/press-releases/2021-officially-becomes-worst-year-in-recent-history-for-lgbtq-state-legislative-attacks-as-unprecedented-number-of-states-enact-record-shattering-number-of-anti-lgbtq-measures-into-law>)

WHEREAS, in 2021 three bills were proposed in the North Carolina General Assembly which would have made it illegal for medical providers to provide necessary medical care for transgender youth (SB514), created a “license to discriminate” for religious medical professionals (SB515), and prevented transgender athletes from participating in sports (HB358); and

WHEREAS, there is strong agreement within the medical community “that improving access to LGBTQ-affirming care is a central means of improving health outcomes for LGBTQ people,” and further, “major medical associations, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians, recognize that supporting transgender

youth is critical to their health and well-being.”

(<https://ncisready.org/s/Letter-from-NC-Medical-Providers-Opposing-Anti-Trans-Bills.pdf>)

WHEREAS, in spite of strong strong agreement within the medical community, as demonstrated by public statements by the American Psychological Association and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and others, that sexual orientation change efforts and gender identity change efforts, more commonly known as “conversion therapy,” are not rooted in evidence-based medicine and have been demonstrated to cause those subjected to it, conversion therapy is still legal in North Carolina,

(<https://www.apa.org/about/policy/resolution-gender-identity-change-efforts.pdf>,

<https://www.apa.org/about/policy/resolution-sexual-orientation-change-efforts.pdf>,

https://www.aacap.org/aacap/Policy_Statements/2018/Conversion_Therapy.aspx,

https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/conversion_therapy); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party reaffirms its unequivocal support for the LGBTQIA+ community and vows to oppose current and future efforts to discriminate against the LGBTQIA+ community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party supports the passage of a statewide non-discrimination ordinance, and until such time the Democratic Party urges municipal governments to pass local ordinances; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party vows to fight current and future efforts to prevent transgender athletes from participating in sports in alignment with their gender identity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party vows to fight current and future efforts to restrict access to gender affirming care for transgender people; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will work to pass legislation to ban “conversion therapy” (sexual orientation change efforts and gender identity change efforts) in North Carolina; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will work to ensure that all Party functions are safe, welcoming, and supportive of all LGBTQIA+ people so that everyone feels empowered to participate in the political process.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

13. A Resolution for the Legalization of the Production, Sale and Use of Cannabis by Adults in North Carolina

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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Preamble: Gallup has asked Americans for the past 48 years if they think the use of marijuana should be made legal. In October 2020 this poll found a record high 68% of Americans support legal use of marijuana. An Elon University poll of North Carolina residents in January 2021 found 73% support legalizing medical cannabis and 54% support legalization for recreational use. Also, in this poll 67% of North Carolina residents said they support reducing penalties for marijuana possession.

In November 2020 the Racial Equity in Criminal Justice task force, convened by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, issued multiple recommendations for legislation to decriminalize marijuana use. They further recommended a specific task force to consider full legalization of cannabis in North Carolina. References for Preamble:

Gallup Poll: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/323582/support-legal-marijuana-inches-new-high.aspx>

Elon University Poll: <https://marijuanaandthelaw.com/poll-finds-most-north-carolina-voters-support-marijuana-legalization>

Task force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice:

<https://ncdoj.gov/north-carolina-task-force-for-racial-equity-in-criminal-justice-makes-marijuana-recommendations>

WHEREAS, fully legal cannabis would promote racial equity in North Carolina’s criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, fully legal cannabis would contribute substantially to North Carolina’s public funds through taxes on cannabis production and sale; and

WHEREAS, fully legal cannabis would all but eliminate the dangers from criminal control of cannabis sales; and

WHEREAS, there is majority support of fully legal cannabis in North Carolina; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that North Carolina legalize the production, sale and use of cannabis by adults 21 years of age or older; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the laws legalizing cannabis in North Carolina be patterned on the laws of the 16 states of the United States that have currently fully legalized the production, sale and use of cannabis.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

Democratic Party, Government, and Voting Rights

14. A Resolution in Support of President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and Congressional Democrats

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, our President Joseph R. “Joe” Biden, Vice-President Kamala Harris and Democratic members of Congress have successfully steered us through the Covid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, our President Joe Biden, Vice-President Kamala Harris and Democratic members of Congress have brought our economy back so quickly; and

WHEREAS, our President Joe Biden, Vice-President Kamala Harris and Democratic members of Congress have achieved historically low unemployment; and

WHEREAS, our President Joe Biden, Vice-President Kamala Harris, and Democratic members of Congress have reasserted our world alliances and leadership by standing up to Russian aggression and removed us from misguided foreign entanglements; and

WHEREAS, our President Joe Biden, Vice-President Kamala Harris, and Democratic members of Congress have invested in much needed infrastructure, kept people in their homes, brought children back to the classroom and more;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that, We the Democrats of North Carolina hereby recognize and greatly appreciate the achievements of President Biden, Vice-President Harris and Democratic members of Congress.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Haywood County Democratic Party, March 19, 2022.

15. A Resolution to Eliminate the Voter Registration Literacy Test from the North Carolina Constitution

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, The literacy test, designed in 1899 to disenfranchise Black Americans, still exists in the NC constitution in Article VI, Section 4, “every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the Constitution in the English language.”; and

WHEREAS, While not enforceable due to Voting Rights Act of 1965, its mere presence in our state's constitution is an affront to Black Americans and should be to all residents of NC, in many ways more egregious than confederate flags and statues; and

WHEREAS, A number of attempts have been made over the years to eliminate the literacy test beginning in 1970 with Henry Frye, the first Black legislator elected in NC, the amendment either died before getting on the ballot or did not get the required majority vote when brought to the people; and

WHEREAS, As recent as 2019, HB 314 passed the House with bi-partisan support and was supposed to be on the November 2020 ballot, but never made it out of the senate; and

WHEREAS, Given voter suppression efforts from the White House to NC State House in recent years, NC has the opportunity to show that we are making an effort to rise above our history and move towards respecting Voting as a basic human right for all; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party makes it a priority to act to bring to the vote of the people the repeal of the literacy test requirement from the NC constitution.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

16. A Resolution that the U.S. Congress Work to Enact the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act of 2022

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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PREAMBLE: This act is a merger of the Senate's Freedom to Vote Act, which includes many of the most important provisions of House's 2021 For the People Act, and the House's 2019 John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

WHEREAS, In recent years we've experienced a barrage of new attempts, from the White House to State Houses to restrict voting access. In 2021,19 states passed 34 laws restricting such. More than 440 bills with provisions restricting voter access were introduced in 49 states, 152 of which have been carried over to 2022 in 18 states, and an additional 13 in 4 states have been pre-filed---not yet moving but typically among state lawmakers' top priorities for 2022 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, There was record setting secret “dark money” spending in the 2020 election; and

WHEREAS, This legislation restores the preclearance process of Section 5 of Voting Rights Act of 1965. Preclearance—which Supreme Court eliminated in 2013 *Shelby Co. v Holder*---requires certain states & localities with history of voter disenfranchisement to seek Federal permission before changing their election laws. States would be subjected to preclearance if they draw districts that disenfranchise minority voters, curb access to multilingual voting materials, or reduce polling locations in minority areas; and

WHEREAS, This legislation would also become the most comprehensive Democracy reform law in decades including but not limited to:

- Establishes Election Day as national holiday
- No-excuse vote by mail for every eligible voter
- Automatic, same day & online voter registration the national standard
- Mandates early voting of at least 2 weeks prior to Election Day including nights/weekends
- Expands acceptable forms of non-photo identification where Ids are necessary to vote
- Establishes non-partisan criteria for drawing new congressional districts
- Requires 48 hour notification if resident purged from voter roll
- Restores voting privileges to formerly incarcerated citizens upon their release
- Bans local election officials from being fired without cause
- Fights “dark money” by requiring all entities that spend over \$10,000 on an election campaign to reveal all donors
- Increases the punishment for distributing misleading information about voting
- Tightens rules governing Political Action Committees, and
- Increases penalties for post election mishandling of ballots

WHEREAS, January 20,2022 this legislation died on the Senate floor after Democrat Senators failed to persuade Senate Republicans & 2 Democrats to change Senate rules to bring forward the bill for consideration without being blocked by Republican filibusters; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Democratic Party and U.S. Democratic Senators prioritize work to ensure minimum national standards for voting access for every American and prevent partisans from sabotaging election results by enacting The Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act of 2022 in preparation for 2024 Presidential elections; and be it further

RESOLVED, If unsuccessful at enacting into law, attempt to find bi partisan support for pieces to be submitted as stand alone bills.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

17. A Resolution In Support of Ranked Choice Voting

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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Preamble: To establish as a position of the Democratic Party of North Carolina, that all Democratic primary elections, and all general and special elections in North Carolina, be conducted by ranked choice voting.

WHEREAS, most Democratic primaries, general elections and special elections in North Carolina are currently conducted by single-choice plurality voting; and

WHEREAS, the method of single-choice plurality voting forces voters to engage in strategic and insincere voting tactics, because voting for your true favorite can help elect your least favorite; and

WHEREAS, the method of single-choice plurality voting means that a candidate can win an election even if opposed by a majority of voters; and

WHEREAS, ranked choice voting is a method of voting in which voters rank the candidates in order of choice and votes are counted in rounds so that a candidate must have a majority of the votes in a round to win; and

WHEREAS, ranked choice voting is used to elect officers in several cities today, was passed by a majority of Maine voters for use in all Maine state and congressional elections beginning in 2018, is used to elect officers internationally throughout the English-speaking world, is used to elect student governments in over 50 colleges and universities in the United States, and is recommended for use by private organizations in Robert's Rules of Order; and

WHEREAS, elections with ranked choice voting demonstrate that voters understand and appreciate the ability to rank candidates in order of choice and that ranked choice voting does not reduce turnout or significantly increase the rate of ballot errors; and

WHEREAS, ranked choice voting promotes majority support, facilitates greater voter choice, discourages negative campaigning, minimizes strategic voting, promotes the election of more women and people of color, and accomplishes these goals in a single election without the need for costly runoff elections; and

WHEREAS, ranked choice voting has been upheld as a one person, one vote system consistent with the United States Constitution in federal court; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that it is the position of the Democratic Party for North Carolina that ranked choice voting is a better method of voting for all Democratic primaries, and all general and special elections the State of North Carolina; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Democratic Party of North Carolina should adopt ranked choice voting for all of their primaries; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the State of North Carolina should enact legislation to adopt ranked choice voting for all of its primary, general and special elections.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Madison County Democratic Party, March 19, 2022.

18. A Resolution in Support of Prisoner Enfranchisement

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, Over two million Americans are currently incarcerated - more than in any other country; and

WHEREAS, 6% of Americans, including 33% of black men, can expect to be imprisoned at some point in their life; and

WHEREAS, Over five million Americans are ineligible to vote due to either a current or former felony conviction; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party Platform describes the right to vote as “fundamental” and states that “...all citizens should be able to exercise their Constitutional right to vote without facing unjust or discriminatory barriers”; and

WHEREAS, The barring of current and former prisoners from this basic democratic right leaves a marginalized segment of the population without representation; and

WHEREAS, The stripping of voting rights from current and former prisoners creates an incentive for bad actors in our democracy to incarcerate people for the purpose of disenfranchising and leaves a vulnerable segment of the population without representation; and

WHEREAS, The states of Maine and Vermont, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and democracies around the world including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, and Ukraine have enfranchised their prisoners with no ill effects on society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party of North Carolina and all its elected members support legislation allowing current and former prisoners the right to vote in line with our democratic peers across the globe; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party of North Carolina and all its elected members advocate for national and interstate adoption of legislation ensuring voting rights for current and former prisoners.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

19. A Resolution Calling on the Democratic Party to Develop Standards for Fairly Designated Voting Districts and Promote Independent Nonpartisan Redistricting Commissions in Each State

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, a democracy depends on a fair mechanism to determine the opinion and will of citizens; and

WHEREAS, the weight of each citizen's vote should be equal; and

WHEREAS, voting district contours and size may be manipulated to combine or divide voters with specific preferences, thereby amplifying or diminishing their electoral influence; and

WHEREAS, the determination of voting district contours following each decennial national census is almost entirely determined by the then current majority party in each state legislature; and

WHEREAS, voting district boundaries are usually drawn to keep the majority party in power in that state, and to promote the success of that party in obtaining majority representation in national elections, even if most citizens in that state support the opposing party; this process of partisan redistricting is commonly known as gerrymandering; and

WHEREAS, in the past, both parties (Democratic and Republican) have been guilty of gerrymandering to allow them to win greater representation than they would have earned had votes been correctly and fairly apportioned; and

WHEREAS, in the current era, sophisticated computer programs, and the availability of data about population characteristics and voting preferences have allowed gerrymandering to be done with such refinement that the majority opinion of voters can be completely suppressed; and

WHEREAS, gerrymandering is not merely a hypothetical concern, it has corrupted, and is currently corrupting our process of democratic representation; and

WHEREAS, the degree that current gerrymandering violates the voting rights of minorities and citizens with particular political positions has been brought to the attention of state and federal court systems; and

WHEREAS, in most instances, courts have recognized that gerrymandering violates constitutionally guaranteed voting rights; and

WHEREAS, while courts have ordered some states to correct gerrymandered voting district boundaries, they have often been unable to determine a test for fair voting district design; and

WHEREAS, courts that have delayed their decisions until an “acceptable” standard is found are overlooking existing systems of geographic relationships that developed and evolved without (at least overtly) partisan purpose; and

WHEREAS, we generally “feel” we belong to a neighborhood, borough, township, city, metropolitan area, county, and state, it is therefore reasonable that voting district boundaries should in all cases comport with the geographic areas that citizens identify as their “home community”; and

WHEREAS, nonpartisan redistricting commissions already exist in Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Idaho; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party shall adopt a strong and vocal position opposing gerrymandering for the reasons stated above; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party shall launch a coordinated program to convince the American people of the evils of gerrymandering that now threaten our very democracy; and be it further

RESOLVED, that redistricting criteria chosen to influence future voting patterns shall be eliminated and prohibited; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party shall promote the use of geographically compact voting districts based on ZIP code, borough, township, city, metropolitan area, or county; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Democratic legislators in each state shall introduce legislation to require the following:

1. the process of redistricting shall be delegated to independent non-partisan commissions
2. the population of each voting district shall be as equal as possible
3. if the population of one of the geographic units listed above is too large for a voting district, it will be subdivided into parts defined by natural boundaries to commerce such as rivers, hills, and major thoroughfares, using compact aggregates of the smaller units listed

4. if the population of one of the geographic units listed above is too small for a voting district, it will be compactly combined with abutting adjacent districts, preferably considering the natural flow of commerce
5. if more than one unit is aggregated to create a district of appropriate population size, the units will be aggregated in the most compact fashion, preferably considering the natural flow of commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, that pending the process of educating our citizenry, and the legislative implementation of these standards, that these principles should be presented to the courts to aid in their deliberation.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

20. A Resolution Calling on the Democratic Party to Actively Use Initiatives and Referendums to Overcome the Anti-democratic Actions of Congressional Republicans and Republican-controlled State Legislatures

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, in a democracy citizens may either govern themselves directly (i.e., a direct democracy) or through elected representatives (i.e., a representative democracy); and

WHEREAS, in governing large populations, representative democracy is, in most instances, more efficient and indirect democracy more cumbersome, thus direct democracies are rare (in the U.S., instruments of direct democracy may be used selectively at state and local levels [see below]); and

WHEREAS, supplementing the process of representative democracy in the U.S., twenty-six states and the District of Columbia have established processes (the initiative and the referendum) to directly elicit and express the political will of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, through these processes, citizens may approve amendments, pass statutes, advise legislatures, approve bond issues, veto laws, or recall elected officials (etc.); and

WHEREAS, the federal government of United States does not have provisions for initiatives or referendums; and

WHEREAS, because of extreme polarization, political corruption, and obstructive rules such as the Senate’s filibuster, representative democracy in the U.S. has become cumbersome, inefficient, and

even unworkable at times [it is now virtually impossible to enact legislation that is extremely popular among voters of both parties]; and

WHEREAS, Republican-controlled state legislatures have recently passed hundreds of laws restricting the voting rights of minorities, and other citizen groups that usually vote for Democratic candidates; and

WHEREAS, by using the undemocratic filibuster process, Republican Senators have

1. blocked Congressional action on legislation to protect voting rights
2. blocked Congressional action on legislation to protect the environment
3. blocked Congressional action on legislation to slow and reverse global warming
4. blocked legislation to improve access to healthcare and other essential services, etc.; and

WHEREAS, for indefensible political reasons that will not be enumerated here, Republicans are blocking these critically needed measures even though they are supported by most Americans; and even by many Republicans; and

WHEREAS, although there are more Democrats than Republicans among U.S. citizens, Republicans have disproportionate political control nationally and in many states because of their manipulation of voting districts and selective voter suppression; and

WHEREAS, by using currently available state elements of direct democracy (initiatives and referendums), Congress might be motivated to move forward with the important pending legislation, and even consider modifying, or eliminating the Senate's filibuster rule; and

WHEREAS, Republicans have undemocratically stacked the political process in their favor, therefore it has become necessary to resort to the existing tools of direct democracy to express popular will, protect voting and other rights, and pass laws essential for our survival and prosperity; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party shall coordinate a massive effort to pass voting rights laws and essential elements of the "Build Back Better" law through the state initiative process (where available); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party shall coordinate a massive effort to repeal or veto laws that restrict voting rights, or rights to abortion and contraception through the state referendum process (where available [N.B. Texas and Georgia are among the states lacking initiative/referendum provisions]); and be it further

RESOLVED, that these initiatives and referendums shall be presented to the public in concise, easily understandable, intensely promoted blocks; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these efforts shall be targeted and not overwhelming in number; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these measures shall be quickly prepared so that they are in time for 2022 primary elections (this work should proceed in tandem with enhanced efforts to pass the bills presently before Congress [N.B. The simultaneous effort might stimulate greater acceptance of pending measures in Congress]); and be it further

RESOLVED, that if Congress is unable to pass these essential measures and if first attempts using the initiative/referendum process don't succeed, efforts shall continue in some form on every subsequent ballot until there is success; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, if by some good fortune Congress should enact some or all of the pending voting rights and other legislation before it, the proposed initiative/referendum effort shall not be abandoned, but quickly redirected to locally bring about missing provisions, and "veto" undemocratic state voting laws, and women's health restrictions; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party shall make clear, fair guidelines for states working to create or reform their initiative/referendum processes.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

Economy and Labor

21. A Resolution to Protect and Fund Social Security

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, Democrats are proud to be the party that created Social Security – one of the nation’s most successful and effective programs as nearly half of America’s seniors would be living in poverty without it; and

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

WHEREAS, about 89 percent of workers aged 21-64 in covered employment in 2020 and their families have protection in the event of a severe and prolonged disability. 67% of the private sector workforce has no long-term disability insurance; and

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

RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party should fight every effort to cut, privatize or weaken Social Security, including attempts to raise the retirement age, diminish benefits by cutting cost of living adjustments or reducing earned benefits; and be it further

RESOLVED That the North Carolina Democratic Party should call on all Congressional representatives to propose and support a tax increase for those earning over \$250,000 annually to be earmarked for Social Security and to aggressively research and legislate other means of funding Social Security.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

Immigration, Foreign Affairs, and Military Affairs

22. A Resolution Calling for Fair and Reasonable Treatment of Immigrants in North Carolina

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, almost all U.S. citizens are either immigrants or are descended from immigrants to the United States; and

WHEREAS, 8% of North Carolina's total population is foreign born and an additional 7% are native born Americans with at least one immigrant parent; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's immigrant population makes up a valuable and much larger share of North Carolina's working population in certain industries (34% in farming, fishery and forestry, 24% in construction, 19% in cleaning/maintenance and 20% in computer and mathematical sciences); and

WHEREAS, immigrant led households (including those undocumented) pay an estimated \$4.8 billion in Federal taxes and \$2.2 billion in State taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Federal and North Carolina State governments have proposed or implemented in North Carolina many laws/rules designed to make life more difficult for immigrants living in North Carolina (Public Charge Rule, HB 318, HB 786 which was vetoed, as examples) limiting needed food assistance, disallowing Sanctuary cities, mandating special immigrant IDs; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that NC Democratic Party will work to pass a comprehensive and fair means of achieving citizenship for those 24,050 North Carolina immigrants who qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NC Democratic Party will oppose all Federal and State bills that negatively impact the civil rights, freedom to work, access to needed health, legal and social services of all NC immigrants; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NC Democratic Party will actively propose legislation that gives all N.C. immigrants fair treatment and access to needed health, legal and social services, regardless of race, ethnicity, or country of origin.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

23. A Resolution in Support of the People of Ukraine

WHEREAS, the people and the democratically elected government of Ukraine have been under attack by Russian armed forces since the 24th of February in an unprovoked war of territorial expansion; and

WHEREAS, the war started by the Russian government has been nearly universally condemned as a grotesque violation of international law; and

WHEREAS, Russian armed forces and mercenaries are deliberately targeting Ukrainian civilian populations, including hospitals, schools, and those making use of humanitarian relief corridors to flee, with the intent of inflicting maximum suffering on the civilian population in order to force action by the government; and

WHEREAS, thousands of residents of Buncombe County are of Ukrainian descent, including many with close family relationships and connections with those currently under siege by Russian forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Buncombe County fully and unequivocally supports the Ukrainian people as they defend themselves from ongoing aggression; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Buncombe County commits itself to continuing to support our Ukrainian neighbors through this unimaginably difficult period of time, and to do everything possible to welcome Ukrainian refugees who seek shelter in Western North Carolina; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Buncombe County strongly supports President Biden's actions to support the people of Ukraine, including his leadership in the the international community to bring historic sanctions against the government and oligarchs of Russia to make the continued war effort as difficult as possible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Buncombe County condemns any and all efforts to justify and excuse the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine currently being undertaken by some groups who are willingly or unwillingly using Russian propaganda in the process.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

24. A Resolution in Support of Aiding Laos in the Removal of - and Preventing the Future use of - Cluster Munitions

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, During the Vietnam war, the United States dropped an estimated 270 million cluster bombs over the American allied country of Laos at a cost 44 billion dollars over the course of the war; and

WHEREAS, Nearly one third of those bombs failed to detonate on impact, leaving 80 million pieces of unexploded ordinance across the country; and

WHEREAS, Those unexploded bombs cover at least one-third of Laos's land across all 17 of its provinces and 41 of its 46 poorest districts; and

WHEREAS, Those unexploded bombs have led to tens of thousands of civilian deaths, including over 20,000 since the end of the war; and

WHEREAS, More than 98% of known cluster bomb victims are civilians, nearly 40% of those children; and

WHEREAS, The United States has only contributed an average of two million dollars a year to help clean up those bombs that we dropped; and

WHEREAS, Since the end of the war, only 1% of those unexploded bombs have been able to be cleared; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party support legislation to meaningfully increase American funding to assist Laos and Laoatian nonprofits in removing these unexploded weapons from Laotian land; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party support joining the International Convention on Cluster Munitions signed by 111 other countries that would ban the production, stockpile, and use of such cluster bomb weapons in the future.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

25. A Resolution in Support of Human Rights in Israel/Palestine

Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted in bundle	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted original	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adopted
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WHEREAS, The United States government has an obligation to uphold and promote human rights around the world, both legally, through legislation like that of the Leahy Law [1] , and morally; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights groups including the internationally recognized Amnesty International, B'Tselem, Human Rights Watch, and Yesh Din have found that the policies and actions taken by Israeli

governmental institutions as well as certain Israeli individuals amount to both “gross human rights violations” and the crime against humanity of apartheid and persecution; and

WHEREAS, These violations include, but are not limited to:

- **Forcible Transfer:** In which Israel has removed and demolished tens of thousands of Palestinian communities and homes that it refuses to recognize, even though those communities existed there for decades, in order to maximize land available to Jewish communities; by making it exceedingly difficult to remain in certain areas, through blocking building permits and access to utilities such as water, sewage, and electricity, amounting to forcible transfer through a policy of ‘relocation.’
- **Expropriation of Landed Property:** In which the land of the Palestinians has been taken by Israel in an effort to follow through on its constitutionally-equivalent policy of “Jewish Settlement as a National Value” in order to further the idea that “self-determination in the State of Israel is unique to the Jewish people.” [2] The land taken through this policy, equivalent to that of eminent domain in the United States, is used to set up barriers, roads, houses, universities, and other, similar services available exclusively to Jewish settlers. This expropriated land now accounts for over 1/3rd of all the land of East Jerusalem and the West Bank and 65% to 85% of formerly Palestinian land within Israel breaking Palestinian communities into enclaves surrounded by restricted land, requiring Palestinians to obtain permits just to leave their local communities.
- **Creation of Separate Reserves and Ghettos:** The purposeful end goal of Israeli actions such as expropriation of land and forcible transfer is the fracturing and ghettoization of Palestinian lands. While Palestinians make up about 20% of Israel proper’s population, the vast majority are restricted to only 3% of its land through a combination of state land being used almost entirely for Jewish settlement and localized admission committees that can reject applicants for being “not suitable for the social life of the community” in order to create and maintain Jewish-only communities. Within East Jerusalem and the West Bank, more than 600 checkpoints separate Palestinian communities from one-another, checkpoints at which security forces can turn back Palestinians without reason. While Jewish citizens, including settlers in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, have access to clean water and around-the-clock electricity, the same is not provided to the Palestinians. Perhaps the most severely restricted are those two million people who call the Gaza Strip home. Palestinians in Gaza have access to electricity for as little as four hours a day, and 96% of Gaza’s water is unfit for human consumption. Almost no one is allowed to enter or exit Gaza, as checkpoints fully restrict those residents from entrance or exit, lowering the number of people transitioning between Israel and Gaza by 98% from its pre-blockade numbers.
- **Denial of the Right to Leave and Return to Their Country, and the Right to a Nationality:** In addition to Israeli restrictions on the movement of Palestinians within their own land, Israel controls Palestinian international travel as well. In the West Bank, Israel controls the Allenby Crossing between Palestine and Jordan, the only way to leave their country, and has issued

hundreds of travel bans through the use of secret, unspecified security restrictions that cannot be accessed even in court. In addition to making it difficult for Palestinians to leave Gaza and the West Bank, those wishing to return to their family lands are also faced by near-insurmountable challenges. While Israel gives any Jew, anywhere in the world, the right to immigrate to and become citizens of Israel at any time, even if they settle in occupied East Jerusalem or the West Bank, those Palestinians and their families who were either expelled from Israel in 1948 or fled from fighting in the region after that time are not granted that same right of return. Finally, by both not recognizing Palestine and holding the revocation of residency as a threat above all Palestinians, Israel denies the Palestinians a right to a national identity. By denying this right, Israel subjects all non-Israeli citizen Palestinians to a “state” in which they have no legal protections or rights, even to basic needs like food, water, and shelter, as can be seen in the actions of Israel towards these people [3] ; and

WHEREAS, as Israel has shown itself to be either unwilling or unable to address these human rights violations, the United States must ensure that American resources, such as the bombs used without justification on civilian targets this past May [4] , are not used to further these injustices, either in the American or Israeli name; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party call on the United States to follow it’s already existing laws in regards to equipping and aiding foreign entities that engage in gross violations of human rights; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party call on the United States follow the international recommendations to screen its aid and other economic and security relations with Israel for materials and other projects that go towards Israeli violations of human rights; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party call on the United States to impose targeted sanctions, including travel bans and asset freezes, on those individuals and entities that continue to commit such crimes; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party call on the United States to condition future arms sales and security assistance to Israel, including the nearly four billion dollars in military aid annually, on Israeli authorities taking concrete and verifiable steps towards ending their commission of the crimes of apartheid and persecution.

[1] “About the Leahy Law” - The United States Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
<https://www.state.gov/key-topics-bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/human-rights/>

[2] “Final text of Jewish nation-state law, approved by the Knesset early on July 19” - The Times of Israel
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/final-text-of-jewish-nation-state-bill-set-to-become-law/>

[3] “Statelessness” - The United States Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
<https://www.state.gov/other-policy-issues/statelessness/>

[4] “Gaza: Apparent War Crimes During May Fighting” - Human Rights Watch

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/27/gaza-apparent-war-crimes-during-may-fighting> Both the findings and recommendations from this resolution come heavily from Amnesty International’s Israel’s apartheid against Palestinians: Cruel system of domination and crime against humanity, B’Tselem’s A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid, the Human Rights Watch’s A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution, and Yesh Din’s The Occupation of the West Bank and the Crime of Apartheid: Legal Opinion. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/5141/2022/en/>

https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

<https://www.yesh-din.org/en/the-occupation-of-the-west-bank-and-the-crime-of-apartheid-legal-opinion/>

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.

26. A Resolution Calling for an end to American Support for Saudi Arabia’s war in Yemen

WHEREAS, The civil war in Yemen between the Houthi rebel group and the Saudi-led coalition has now dragged into its eighth year; and

WHEREAS, The war has created one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, killing 377,000 people - 70% of them children - and jeopardizing the health, lives and futures of tens of millions more; and

WHEREAS, Despite President Biden’s 2021 call for an end to the war in Yemen, American foreign policy and arms sales have continued to allow for further coalition offensives and the de-incentivisation of a diplomatic end to the conflict, and

WHEREAS, 2021 and 2022 have only seen an increase in the conflict and the humanitarian disaster as Saudi Arabia further tightens its blockade on incoming food, water, and fuel, and

WHEREAS, American unwillingness to disengage itself from this conflict has called into question United States complicity in human rights violations and potential war crimes recognized by the United Nations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party call on its elected officials to take action to end the continued American sale and maintenance of Saudi Arabia’s and other coalition members’ offensive weapons of war; and

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party call on President Biden and others in power to push for an end to Saudi Arabia’s blockade of Yemen; and

RESOLVED, That the United States and its allies work to find funding to cover the United Nations' Yemen focused humanitarian budget shortfall; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the United States continue to call for the reinstatement of an international neutral body to investigate the potential war crimes of both the Houthi rebels and the Saudi-led coalition.

Submitted to the Congressional District 11 Democratic Party by the Buncombe County Democratic Party, March 26, 2022.