



2019
Resolutions Package

NC13 Convention Resolutions Package

1. **Standard of Review, adopted in 2018, used for Resolutions**

NC13 Convention Resolutions

1. **Resolution on Ending Federal Government Shutdowns**
2. **Resolution on Gerrymandering, Common Cause, and the League of Women Voters**
3. **Resolution in Support of Abolishing the Electoral College**
4. **Resolution in Support of Legislative Transparency**
5. **Resolution on Citizens United**
6. **Resolution in support of Accountability for Elected Officials and Law Enforcement**
7. **Resolution in Support of a New Paradigm in Veteran's Affairs**
8. **Resolution in Support of Banning Mandatory Pre-Dispute Arbitration Agreements**
9. **Resolution to End Jail Fees for Periods of Detention**
10. **Resolution to Reaffirm Support for Fair Local Representation Resolution of 2019**
11. **Resolution to End Disastrous Trade Wars**

Standard of Review for Resolutions

According to section 6.01 of the Plan of Organization, under the 8th point listed under *Order of Business-Even Numbered Years*, we are to adopt a method for the review, consolidation, and editing of resolutions presented to the District Party.

Establish a Resolutions Committee

1. This shall be a five (5) member committee, with one (1) representative from each county
 - a. The District Chairman will select the members with recommendation from each county Chair.
2. The Committee Chair, who will be the representative of this committee, shall be elected by the committee members.
3. The Committee Chair shall;
 - a. Present the finalized resolution packet to the District Chair ten (10) days prior to the District Convention.
 - b. Give the report of the committee at the annual District Convention.

Powers and Responsibility of the Committee

1. The Committee shall, using the Standard of Review provided, have authority to do the following;
 - a. Remove resolutions from consideration using the standard of necessity
 - b. Combine two or more resolutions using the standard of distinction
 - c. Edit Resolutions based upon both the standard of distinction and necessity
2. All actions of the committee require a majority vote of members to be carried out.

Standard of Review

1. This committee shall consider resolutions based upon two (2) standards of review;
 - a. Necessity
 - b. and Distinction
2. The necessity of a resolution shall be based upon the need for its consideration by the NC Democratic Party for incorporation into the party platform.
 - a. If the spirit and meaning of a resolution is already incorporated in our party platform it may be deemed redundant and therefore lack necessity.
 - b. Resolutions that have already been passed by the State Executive Committee may be deemed redundant as they have already been give place in the process for incorporation into the NC Democratic Party Platform.
3. The Distinctiveness of a resolution shall be based upon the presence of similar resolutions in the consideration of the Resolutions Committee.
 - a. If two or more resolutions are deemed to request the same action(s), these resolutions may be determined to lack distinction.
 - b. If two or more resolutions are deemed to identify similar problems with differing solutions, they may be deemed as lacking in distinction.

This plan, as presented, took effect on May 6th, 2018

RESOLUTION 1

WHEREAS, due to political party disparities or budgetary gaps, Congress is not always able to meet spending bill deadlines; however, during such incidents, the Federal government usually continues to run through the passage of continuing resolutions, rather than through a government shutdown;

WHEREAS, workers within the Federal government, contract workers for the Federal government, essential and non-essential Federal workers and essential and non-essential Federal agencies can all be negatively impacted by the lack of funding resulting from a government shutdown;

WHEREAS, such negative impacts occur in secondary agencies on the Federal and State level causing economic harm to state and federal workers, agencies and programs and the all citizens;

WHEREAS, leadership in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate did not lose wages during the most recent government shutdown while many United States citizens lost wages and faced economic hardship and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, during the most recent government shutdown, vital components of our country, including our National Park Service, TSA, FAA, Border Security, the Intelligence community, the Federal Judiciary, the IRS, the FDA, and countless other agencies, were neglected and adversely affected;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party urges our Senators and Representatives in the U.S. Congress to stop government shutdowns by the Executive Branch and to utilize continuing budgetary resolutions (CR) to maintain full funding to alleviate dangerous and negative impacts across the United States while they work to resolve funding disagreements.

RESOLUTION 2

WHEREAS, partisan gerrymandering creates a government that is not representative of the electorate;

WHEREAS, partisan gerrymandering by either party does a disservice to the voters of our state by eliminating a meaningful choice at the polls;

WHEREAS, an analysis of N.C.'s 2018 Election results show a near equal divide among Democrat and Republican votes cast, but the 2018 Election yielded a near supermajority of Republicans elected at the State level and a 10-to-3 majority of Republicans elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Republican legislators have brazenly stated on the record that they carefully crafted the Congressional map “to give a partisan advantage to 10 Republicans and 3 Democrats”;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party urges the North Carolina Democratic Party to work to keep our voters informed of the progress made in our State and Federal Courts regarding the various partisan redistricting case(s) brought before them;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party urges the North Carolina Democratic Party to work to keep our voters informed of the progress made by the North Carolina Legislature on non-partisan redistricting legislation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party supports the efforts of Common Cause and the League of Women Voters to bring the North Carolina gerrymandering cases before the court(s); and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party and its members continue our commitment to keep the public informed of the basic unfairness of partisan gerrymandering in our state through sustained issue advocacy.

RESOLUTION 3

WHEREAS, the Electoral College came into existence to ensure that there were candidates for President, and after 1800 candidates or Vice President, from all sections of the United States;

WHEREAS, the Electoral College came into existence at a time when mass communications did not exist and when people in one section of the country were less likely to know other sectional leaders;

WHEREAS, political parties have now long performed the function of candidate selection;

WHEREAS, the formula for selecting Electors to the Electoral College, i.e. two Senators plus the number of Representatives based on population from each State, favors smaller, less-populated states; and

WHEREAS, several times in U.S. history, the popular vote winner has lost the election to the Electoral College vote winner;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party supports the abolition of the Electoral College.

RESOLUTION 4

WHEREAS, the right of the People to effectively participate in the governmental process is paramount to democracy;

WHEREAS, such participation cannot be effective without the opportunity to know what laws are proposed and to provide feedback to lawmakers;

WHEREAS, the Republican leaders of the N.C. General Assembly have regularly adopted legislation with no notice and upon a "midnight vote";

WHEREAS, such legislative processes erode the very foundation of liberty and participatory democracy; and

WHEREAS, electoral gerrymandering has impaired the opportunity for responding to such actions through the ballot box;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party encourages the members of the N.C. General Assembly to not allow any legislation to come up for a vote without prior public notice and enough period for public and legislative review.

RESOLUTION 5

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

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

WHEREAS, corporations are not natural persons;

WHEREAS, money is not speech;

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

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

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

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution 125 (HJR 125) of the 2015 session of General Assembly of North Carolina proposed that the General Assembly call on Congress to propose and send to the states

for ratification an amendment to the Constitution to affirm that constitutional rights belong only to natural persons; that spending money "to influence elections is not protected free speech under the First Amendment"; "that the privileges of artificial entities" are not "inherent or inalienable and are subject to regulation by the people, through federal, State or local law"; and that nothing in the proposed amendment would "abridge the freedom of the press.";

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

WHEREAS, HJR 125 missed the legislative crossover deadline;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party has determined that artificial entities, such as corporations and labor unions, are legal entities that government regulates and that the privileges they enjoy under the United States Constitution should be more narrowly defined than the rights that are afforded to human beings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party encourages the members of the US Congress that represent Guilford County to co-sponsor legislation whose sections listed below will be effective "upon ratification by three-fourths of the several States:"

"Section 1. The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only. Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities, established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law. The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

"Section 2. Federal, State and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have access to the political process, and that no person gains, as a result of that person's money, substantially more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure. Federal, State, and local governments shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed. The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.";4

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party urges the North Carolina Democratic Party to encourage members of the North Carolina General Assembly to propose and submit a joint resolution to the General Assembly which contains the two sections listed above and that requires the Secretary of State to send certified copies of this resolution to all members of the North Carolina congressional delegation;

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party urges all Democrats to commit their actions, time, ideas, energy, treasury and prayers toward ensuring integrity of the electoral process and the democracy that it serves, henceforth and forevermore.

RESOLUTION 6

WHEREAS, elected officials should be held accountable to serve the people in their communities, listen to their concerns and act accordingly;

WHEREAS, elected officials should serve with transparency and honesty, for it is in the best interest for their constituents;

WHEREAS, elected officials should work towards facilitating the process of voting with fair and reasonable processes and requirements that do not adversely affect any group or community;

WHEREAS, law enforcement should be held accountable for the mistreatment of people, be it unequal or excessive;

WHEREAS, law enforcement should make it a priority to develop positive relationships with the people in at-risk communities;

WHEREAS, law enforcement should make it a priority to receive unconscious/implicit bias training and understand how this affects the actions police officers take daily;

WHEREAS, law enforcement should make it a priority to further develop and utilize de-escalation methods; and

WHEREAS, precincts are responsible for encouraging our youth to exercise their right to vote and participating in the democratic system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party encourages elected officials to prioritize the needs of their communities based on the above principles.

RESOLUTION 7

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Guilford County Democratic Party urges the Veteran's Administration to adopt a new paradigm for the care and treatment of our Veterans;

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party supports a plan by which all VA acute care hospitals and associated staff, equipment and supplies are absorbed by their affiliated medical universities over a period of five years.

RESOLUTION 8

WHEREAS, private companies have been able to override Congress's decisions and sidestep accountability under the law, and millions of consumers have found the courtroom doors locked through mandatory arbitration clauses;

WHEREAS, these clauses are found in many types of agreements: employment, health, internet services, etc., and

WHEREAS, these contracts are not negotiated by parties of approximately equal bargaining power but are usually written by corporations who have the power to require acceptance of the clause as a condition of receiving services or being hired;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party finds banning mandatory pre-dispute contracts necessary to redress consumer and employee harm and incentivize corporate legal compliance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party shall issue a statement in support of legislation banning mandatory pre-dispute arbitration clauses in contracts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party shall send a copy of this statement to every Congressperson representing Guilford County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the North Carolina General Assembly to issue a joint resolution calling upon the United States House of Representatives to pass legislation banning pre-dispute arbitration clauses from contracts and to require the Secretary of State to send a certified copy of this joint resolution to every member of Congress representing North Carolina.

RESOLUTION 9

WHEREAS, in the State of North Carolina the court system penalizes the underserved, disadvantaged, and poverty-stricken citizen with excessive court costs and fees;

WHEREAS, fees are further assessed against individuals who are detained in jail pending a judicial hearing and/or who have been sentenced to probation with an active term of incarceration;

WHEREAS, such fees are excessive as imposed against defendants who are economically disenfranchised and typically considered indigent;

WHEREAS, citizens who are detained in legal custody for acts deemed as violations against civil, state, or federal laws should not be required to pay a financial penalty merely for being detained in said custody;

WHEREAS, detention centers are thus operating as a kind of debtors' prison, a form of social penance found to be unjust and discontinued at the federal level in 1833;

WHEREAS, when a defendant is determined to be financially unable to pay jail fees, the court indiscriminately transfers the fees to a civil judgment; and

WHEREAS, when jail fees are transferred to a civil judgment the defendant is placed in a double-jeopardy situation, subject to the collateral consequence of having their credit score negatively affected and so lose out on opportunities to qualify for financial assistance for student loans, car loans, apartment rental approvals, mortgage loans, etc.;

WHEREAS, when citizens are hindered from improving their social-economic situation because of such a double-jeopardy situation the citizen, family, and entire community suffer by way of increased taxes to pay for an increasingly overburdened social service safety net;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that statutory guidelines governing the imposition of jail fees against defendants who are found criminally liable shall be eliminated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislators be encouraged to change state statutes to reflect a change in policy to eliminate detention fees.

RESOLUTION 10

WHEREAS, a resolution was introduced, and passed at the District 13 Convention of 2018;

WHEREAS, that resolution is now hung up at the State Democratic Resolutions Committee;

WHEREAS, that resolution has been 'tweaked' by the original author to comply with the above committee's recommendations;

WHEREAS, one of the Democratic Party’s beliefs, as stated on <https://democrats.org/about/our-party/> is “that this country succeeds when everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same rules”;

WHEREAS, a disproportionate majority of office holders are older, white males;

WHEREAS, racial minorities and women are underrepresented in the State and Federal governments;

WHEREAS, for unrepresented people to garner that representation, they need to run against the incumbents in primary elections;

WHEREAS, the DCCC, in its “Standards for DCCC Political Vendors” has stated “...the DCCC will not conduct business with, nor recommend to any of its targeted campaigns, any consultant that works with an opponent of a sitting Member of the House Democratic Caucus,” which undermines the ability of non-incumbents to run for office; and

WHEREAS, that policy is undemocratic and underscores the need for last year’s resolution to be accepted by the committee and presented to the State Executive Committee.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Guilford County Democratic Party urges the State Resolution Committee to approve the “RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FAIR LOCAL REPRESENTATION”, as amended, a copy of which is immediately below, and present it to the State Executive Committee at the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for June of 2019.

(REF) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FAIR LOCAL REPRESENTATION
(RESOLUTION AT STATE COMMITTEE)

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party Voters of this great nation want to keep their votes as control over their local representation, as provided under the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Plan of Organization paragraph 10.03 specifies provisions for vacating and temporarily relinquishing holding party office when acting as campaigning manager in primaries; and

WHEREAS, the support of local democratic candidates in a contested primary by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) and Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) may be considered an outside force interfering in local political races; and

WHEREAS, the financial support and endorsement of local democratic candidates in a contested primary by the DCCC may be considered an outside force by Democratic Party elected representatives outside their district; and

WHEREAS, this influence by people or groups not being represented by the eventual winner subverts the democratic process by undermining the purpose and function of primaries; and

WHEREAS, those outside forces cause division within the district of that local election being affected by these outside forces, as visibly evidenced by animosity on social media in arguments about the US House race in Guilford County, NC and other races; and

WHEREAS, it can be argued that these outside forces usurp the protection afforded, under the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution, the one-person, one-vote rule; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic party needs to claim the moral high ground by supporting free and fair elections, noting that outside support of candidates during the primary election process can lead to disruptive and undemocratic suppression of local voters;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Delegates to the 13th Congressional District Democratic Party deems the DCCC support of local candidates during the primary election process to be a disruptive and undemocratic force; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party to stay committed to eliminating outside forces from influencing local elections; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Delegates to the 13th Congressional District Democratic Party request that the NC Democratic Party demand that the DCCC and DSCC support of candidates in the primary election that have other Democratic candidates, to be stopped.

RESOLUTION 11

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans have launched a disastrous trade war that will have devastating effects on our state's rural communities, and

WHEREAS, Canada, Mexico, and China have all announced retaliatory tariffs on US farmers and goods in retaliation for Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs. If the trade war escalates, rural NC will be hit even harder. Retaliatory tariffs on aluminum and steel could threaten manufacturing profits, hurting hundreds of thousands of workers across North Carolina and passing expensive costs onto consumers, and

WHEREAS, North Carolina farmers depend on foreign markets to stay afloat. The state produces the most tobacco in the country and is the second largest pork producer in the U.S. China and Mexico are two of the state's top trading partners for agricultural goods. North Carolina agricultural leaders worry about what the tariffs could cost the state's biggest industry, and

WHEREAS, the burden of Trump's policy has been placed on the American taxpayer with a proposal for \$12 billion in emergency aid for farmers hurt by tariffs, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we call on our N.C. elected officials in the House and Senate to address the "national security" aspect of trade by passing the appropriate laws that will put tariffs under Congress', not Trump's, authorities. And that a copy of this resolution be submitted to Senator Eddie Gallimore and Representatives Steve Jarvis and Larry Potts.