

MEETING AGENDA
2017 FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONVENTION
EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE—MCINTRYE AUDITORIUM
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 20, 2017
10:30 AM

1. Call to order
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Greetings, recognition, remembrance and remarks
5. Roll call: Bertie, Durham, Edgecombe, Gates, Granville, Halifax, Hertford, Martin, Northampton, Pitt, Vance, Warren, Washington, and Wilson counties
6. Review voting allocations, consider appointments (parliamentarian and county convention chairs), review applicable North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization and adopt special rules **[A.1-A.3]**
7. Consider approval of meeting agenda
8. Consider approval of meeting minutes: May 21, 2016 First Congressional District Convention meeting minutes **[A.4]**
9. Communications
10. Reports of officers
11. Program: The Honorable G. K. Butterfield, North Carolina Representative (District 1)
12. Unfinished business: None
13. New business:
 - a. Consider adopting 2017 First Congressional District Democratic Party Budget **[A.5]**
 - b. Consider approving resolutions passed at 2017 county conventions **[A.6]**
 - c. Election of District officers (chair, 1st vice chair, 2nd vice chair, 3rd vice chair, secretary and treasurer)
14. Announcements
15. Adjournment

**FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
VOTING ALLOCATIONS**

County	Voting Allocation	Eligible Votes
Bertie	18	18
Durham	361	356
Edgecombe	54	54
Gates	8	7
Granville	45	21
Halifax	53	53
Hertford	22	19
Martin	19	19
Northhampton	20	20
Pitt	74	74
Vance	41	22
Warren	22	22
Washington	11	11
Wilson	54	54
Total	802	750

NCDP PLAN OF ORGANIZATION
6.01 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
CONVENTIONS

When and Where Held. An annual congressional district convention shall be held within the geographical boundaries of each congressional district each year. The state chair shall designate the date on which such congressional district convention shall be held. The exact location and time of the congressional district convention shall be determined by the congressional district chair.

Presiding Officer. All district conventions shall be called to order by the district chair, who shall serve as convention chair, but in his or her absence, the vice chairs of the district executive committee in order of succession, the secretary and the treasurer shall, in order of succession, preside over the convention, and in case none of the foregoing persons shall be present, then any delegate to the convention may preside and serve as convention chair until a permanent convention chair is elected by the convention.

Allocation of Votes. Each county in a congressional district shall be entitled to cast at a congressional district convention one (1) vote for every three hundred (300) votes, or major fraction thereof, cast in that county or in the applicable portion thereof, for the Democratic nominee for Governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election; provided, that each county shall be entitled to cast at least one vote. Each county shall be entitled to its full voting strength only if the county has elected its full voting strength; if not, the county shall be entitled to the number of votes equal to the number of delegates they have elected.

Election of Delegates. The congressional district convention shall be composed of delegates elected by the several county conventions held annually. Each county or appropriate portion thereof shall elect one (1) delegate for each vote it is entitled to cast at the congressional district convention.

Roll of Delegates. The state chair shall direct the make-up of a roll of all delegates from the several counties to the district convention and transmit the same to the congressional district chair.

Division of Votes Among Delegates Present. The delegates who attend a district convention shall be entitled to vote the full strength of their county upon all matters of business which come before the respective district convention, and each such delegate present from a particular county shall cast an equal number of votes which the county is entitled to cast. All votes, which the county is entitled to cast, shall be divided equally among all the delegates in attendance representing that county.

Vote May Not be Changed. In a district convention, after a vote is cast, there shall be no change in such vote until after the roll call is completed and before the final result of the ballot shall be announced by the chair of the district convention.

Reporting and Challenging a Vote. In all district conventions, it shall be the duty of the delegates from the several counties to choose one of their number as chair, whose name shall be reported to the chair of such convention, and whose duty it shall be to cast the vote of his or her county as directed. The vote, as announced by that person, shall be recorded unless some delegate from that county challenges its accuracy. In the event of a challenge, it shall be the duty of the chair of the convention to cause the roll of delegates from that county to be called, upon which the vote of such county shall be tabulated and recorded according to the response of its delegates. In no event shall the vote of one county be challenged by a delegate from another county.

Voice Votes. Nothing herein shall prevent the district conventions from adopting temporary rules, making nominations, holding elections and conducting business by voice vote or by acclamation where a vote of counties is not demanded by twenty five percent (25%) of the delegates present.

Quorum. A quorum at a District Convention shall exist at any time in which there is present on the floor at least one official delegate from fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the counties entitled to be at said convention.

Order of Business – Odd-Numbered Years. The congressional district convention held in odd numbered years shall:

1. Elect, from among the active Democrats of the congressional district, officers of the congressional district executive committee; and then
2. Conduct any other business related to the affairs of the congressional district.

3.05 Duties of Congressional District Officers (PoO, p. 14-15)

The First Vice chair is to be the opposite gender of the Chair. One of the three vice chairs is to be filled by a person of racial or ethnic minority and one officer must be the age of thirty-six (36) or younger. Where possible, no more than two (2) officers shall live in the same county, except the Chair and Secretary.

Chair. The duties of the congressional district chair shall include:

1. Preside at district executive committee meetings and district conventions;
2. Draft, in consultation with the district executive committee, a strategic plan outlining reasonable political goals for the district;
3. Execute the strategic plan approved by the district executive committee;
4. Designate the exact time and place, consistent with the date set by the state chair, at which the district convention is to be held. Said designation to be given to the state chair and county chairs within the district at least thirty (30) days prior to the said district convention;
5. Assist the state chair and state party staff in the dissemination of party information;
6. Serve as the delegate selection chair responsible for carrying out the duties specified in the Delegate Selection Plan adopted by the state executive committee relating to the election of delegates to the Democratic National Convention;
7. Appoint committees as may be required in the execution of these duties;
8. Attend meetings of the state executive council and the state executive committee;
9. Serve as the spokesperson for the district executive committee;
10. Serve as the liaison between the district executive committee and the state party officers and staff;
11. Represent the district at party and non-party meetings and functions;
12. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by this Plan or Organization or by the district or state executive committees;
13. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.
14. Serve on Committee for Distribution of State Campaign Fund (tax check-off) as provided for in Section 8.03.

First Vice Chair. The duties of the congressional district first vice chair shall include:

1. Preside at district executive committee meetings and district conventions in the absence of the chair;
2. Plan and organize district executive committee meetings and district conventions;
3. Serve as the coordinator of all district-wide party organizing efforts, in consultation with other officers and consistent with the strategic plan approved by the district executive committee;
4. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the district executive committee;
5. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.

Second Vice Chair. The duties of the congressional district second vice chair shall include:

1. Plan and organize training sessions for district executive committee members and other interested active Democrats;
2. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the district executive committee;
3. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.

Third Vice Chair. The duties of the congressional district third vice chair shall include:

1. Serve as the publicity chair for the district executive committee utilizing local newspapers, newsletters, etc. to illuminate policy issues and announce political activities and/or accomplishments to voters in the district;
2. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the district executive committee;
3. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.

Secretary. The duties of the congressional district secretary shall include:

1. Keep and maintain in good order all records of the district executive committee;
2. Issue all meeting notices in writing and consistent with the requirements of this Plan of Organization;
3. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the district executive committee;
4. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.

Treasurer. The duties of the congressional district treasurer shall include:

1. Maintain the district executive committee treasury at an insured commercial bank;
2. Maintain all records required by law or by the district executive committee of contributions received and disbursements made;
3. Prepare and file any reports as may be required by law or by the district executive committee;
4. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.

**STANDING RULES OF THE
2017 FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONVENTION**

ORDER

RULE 1. *Chair.* The District Chair or designee shall have general direction of the meeting and shall be authorized to take such action as is necessary to maintain order. The Chair, with the guidance of the Parliamentarian, shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any member. Order of priority of Rules shall be (a) the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization, (b) the Rules adopted by the Congressional District Convention and (3) Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (latest edition). Courteous respect for one another will be the standing order of the day.

DEBATE

RULE 2. *Obtaining Recognition.* Except in the case of physical disability, when any Delegate is about to speak in debate, that Delegate shall rise and await recognition by the Chair. The Chair shall inquire of the Delegate the purpose for which the Delegate rises. If the Delegate's purpose in seeking recognition is in order, the Chair will recognize the Delegate. Upon recognition, the Delegate shall state his or her name and county or, when appropriate, position.

RULE 3. *Limitations on Debate.* *Ad hominem* arguments will not be tolerated, which the Chair may curtail the remaining time of a speaker if deemed in the best interest of the Convention.

AMENDMENTS

RULE 4. *Proposed Amendments.* Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing, if requested by the Chair.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

RULE 5. *Nominations.* Nominations shall come from the floor, and may be seconded, but is not required. Nomination and seconding speeches shall not exceed one (1) minute. Candidates may speak for a time not to exceed two (2) minutes, which shall be controlled by the candidate and enforced by the Chair or designated presiding official. Candidates may have others make remarks on his or her behalf.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RULE 6. *Announcements.* An announcement shall not exceed one (1) minute.

MEETING MINUTES
2016 FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONVENTION
EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE—MCINTRYE AUDITORIUM
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 21, 2016
10:00 AM

- 1. Call to order:** A convention of the First Congressional District Democratic Party was held at the McIntrye Auditorium at Edgecombe Community College in Tarboro, North Carolina on May 21, 2016. The Convention convened at 10:00 am with Chairman Don Davis of Greene County presiding.
- 2. Invocation:** Martin County Chairman Darren Whitehurst provided the invocation.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance:** Wayne County Chairwoman Ernestine Wooten led the Convention in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. Greetings, recognition, remembrance and remarks:** Princeville Commissioner Milton Bullock welcomed Convention delegates. Chairman Davis recognized elected and party officials. A candle was lit in memory of deceased Democrats.
- 5. Roll Call:** A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was declared. Delegates from the following counties were in attendance: Beaufort, Bertie, Chowan, Craven, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Hertford, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Pasquotank, Pitt, Warren, Washington, Wayne and Wilson counties. No delegate was in attendance from the following counties: Gates, Greene, Northhampton, Perquimans and Vance counties.
- 6. Consider appointment of parliamentarian and convention county chairs:** By consensus, each county appointed Convention county chairs. Kennis Wilkins of Martin County was appointed parliamentarian. Chairman Davis announced that this Convention was being held in accordance with Section 6.01 of the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization.
- 7. Check credentials, review voting allocations and review applicable North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization:** Chairman Davis directed delegates present to display their credentials, reviewed the voting allocations and reviewed the applicable section of the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization regarding conducting district conventions.
- 8. Consider adoption of special rules:** MOTION: Moved and seconded adoption of the proposed Convention rules. **Motion carried**.
- 9. Consider approval of meeting agenda:** Chairman Davis asked to add Item (h) to the proposed meeting agenda, which would be to consider an endorsement in the 2016 North Carolina Supreme Court race. MOTION: Moved and seconded that the proposed meeting agenda with Item (h) for the May 21, 2016 First Congressional District Convention be adopted. **Motion carried**.
- 10. Consider Approve Meeting Minutes:** The Convention delegates consented to suspending the reading of the meeting minutes. MOTION: Moved and seconded the approval of the May 16, 2015 meeting minutes of the First Congressional District Convention. **Motion carried**.
- 11. Communications:** The Convention delegates consented to suspending the reading of communications and Chairman Davis announced letters from the following: North Carolina Democratic Party Chairwoman Patsy Keever, United States Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, United States Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, United States Senator candidate Deborah Ross, and North Carolina Court of Appeals candidate Rickeye McCoye Mitchell. Chairman Davis announced United States Representative G. K. Butterfield sent a video and played it for the Convention.
- 12. Report of Officers:** Officers provided reports including the Treasurer's report (\$7,561.69 cash on hand) and the Convention delegates received the reports by consensus.

By consensus, the approved meeting agenda was amended to authorize remarks from other candidates running statewide and a guest of the Chair. North Carolina Labor Commissioner candidate Charles Meeker, Attorney General candidate Josh Stein, and North Carolina Court of Appeals candidates addressed the Convention. Other candidates were recognized. Chairman Davis announced American Idol Majesty Rose from Wayne County and she performed *Flags and Happy*.

13. Program: North Carolina Governor candidate Roy Cooper had not arrived. By consensus, the Convention amended the meeting agenda to proceed and authorize North Carolina Governor candidate Roy Cooper to address the Convention upon his arrival.

14. Unfinished business: None

15. New business:

(a) Consider adopting 2016 First Congressional District Democratic Party Budget. MOTION: Moved and seconded the approval the 2016 First Congressional District Democratic Party Budget. **Motion carried**.

(b) Elect one (1) member to the North Carolina Democratic Party State Convention Committee on Credentials and Appeals: Chairman Davis opened the floor for nominations. Ann Huggins of Pitt County was nominated to be the District's member of the North Carolina Democratic Party State Convention Committee on Credentials and Appeals. There were no other nominations. MOTION: Moved and seconded to close the floor for nominations and to elect Ann Huggins of Pitt County for the North Carolina Democratic Party State Convention Committee by acclamation. **Motion carried**.

(c) Elect one (1) member to the North Carolina Democratic Party Council of Review: Chairman Davis opened the floor for nominations. The following were nominated: Carl Bond of Bertie County, David Harris of Durham County, Mary Perkins Williams of Pitt County, Walter Jackson of Durham County, and Mercedes Fornay of Martin County. MOTION: Moved and second to close the floor for nominations. **Motion carried**. Upon conducting the election, Walter Jackson of Durham County was elected and Chairman Davis declared him as the member of the North Carolina Democratic Party Council of Review. MOTION: Moved and seconded that those not elected would be elected as alternates to the North Carolina Democratic Party Council of Review. **Motion carried**.

(d) Elect one (1) member to the Resolutions and Platform Committee: Chairman Davis opened the floor for nominations. Chairman Davis was nominated to serve as the District's member of the Resolutions and Platform Committee. There were no other nominations. MOTION: Moved and seconded to close the floor for nominations and to elect Don Davis of Greene County for the Resolutions and Platform Committee by acclamation. **Motion carried**.

(e) Elect one (1) Presidential elector: Chairman Davis opened the floor for nominations. T. E. Austin of Durham County was nominated to serve as the District's Presidential elector. There were no other nominations. MOTION: Moved and seconded to close the floor for nominations and to elect T. E. Austin of Durham County to serve as Presidential elector by acclamation. **Motion carried**.

(f) Consider approving resolutions passed at 2016 county conventions: Chairman Davis stated the resolutions would be considered by consent agenda. He instructed delegates to remove any resolution for debate. There were no resolutions removed. MOTION: Moved and seconded approval of Resolutions 2016-01 through 18. **Motion carried**.

North Carolina Governor candidate Roy Cooper arrived. Chairman Davis recognized him to address the Convention. North Carolina Governor candidate Roy Cooper addressed the Convention. By consensus, the Convention amended the agenda to recognize the HYPE Step Team. The HYPE Step Team performed a routine.

(h) Consider Endorsement in 2016 North Carolina Supreme Court race: By consensus, the Convention amended the approved agenda to bring for immediate consideration Item (h), consideration of the endorsement in the 2016 North Carolina Supreme Court race. Chairman Davis stated the decision to endorse a candidate should not be taken lightly. There was discussion. MOTION: Moved and seconded for the First Congressional

District to make an endorsement in the North Carolina Supreme Court race. **Motion carried.** Chairman Davis asked who the Convention wished to endorse. MOTION: Moved and seconded for the First Congressional District Democratic Party to endorse Michael Morgan for the North Carolina Supreme Court. **Motion carried.** By consensus, the Convention amended the agenda to recognize and allow Audrey Morgan, wife of North Carolina Supreme Court candidate Michael Morgan, to address the Convention. Mrs. Morgan addressed the Convention.

(g) Elect eight (8) delegates to the national convention. Chairman Davis stated pursuant to the North Carolina Democratic Party Delegate Selection Plan the First Congressional District Democratic Party had the following delegates who could be elected to the 2016 Democratic National Convention--Hillary Clinton three females and two males and Bernie Sanders one female and two males.

Hillary Clinton

Hillary Clinton Delegates (Females). Hillary Clinton female delegate nominees included: Thelma Boone of Pasquotank County, Tracey Burns-Vann of Durham County, Dollie Burwell of Warren County, Kimberly Castle of Hertford County, Patricia Chylko of Craven County, Jenny Edwards of Franklin County, Ericka Foluke of Craven County, Christine Gebhardt of Durham County, Deborah Giles of Durham County, Brenda Howerton of Durham County, Ann Huggins of Pitt County, Brenda Pollard of Durham County, Viola Ryals Figueroa of Wayne County, Erica Smith-Ingram of Northampton County, Wanda Walters of Durham County, Ebony West of Pitt County, Brenda Wilkins of Martin County, and Candice Woods of Durham County. The three females elected by the First Congressional District Democratic Party to serve as Hillary Clinton delegates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention were Brenda Pollard of Durham County, Ann Huggins of Pitt County and Erica Smith-Ingram of Northampton County.

Hillary Clinton Delegates (Males). Hillary Clinton male delegate nominees included: Adam Beyer of Durham County, David Boone of Pasquotank County, Ed Booth of Beaufort County, Jan Cromartie of Durham County, Don Davis of Greene County, Deans Eatman of Halifax County, Floyd B. McKissick, Jr of Durham County, Kennis Wilkins of Martin County and Joseph Williams, Sr of Durham County. The two males elected by the First Congressional District Democratic Party to serve as Hillary Clinton delegates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention were Don Davis of Greene County and Floyd B. McKissick, Jr of Durham County.

Bernie Sanders

Bernie Sanders Delegates (Females). Bernie Sanders female delegate nominees included: Lavonia Allison of Durham County, Chelsea Bartel of Durham County, DeDreana Freeman of Durham County, Asia Harman of Durham County, Maureen Kurtz of Durham County, Jennifer Lewis of Pitt County, Mary Ann Osterbrink of Franklin County, Kerianne Squitire of Durham County, and Beatrix Van Olphen of Greene County. Maureen Kurtz of Durham County was elected by the First Congressional District Democratic Party to serve as the Bernie Sanders delegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

Bernie Sanders Delegates (Males). Bernie Sanders male delegate nominees included: Chris Augustine of Nash County, Robert Buchanan of Durham County, Gus Madrid of Pitt County, and Robert Petrusz of Durham County. The two males elected by the First Congressional District Democratic Party to serve as Bernie Sanders delegates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention were Robert Buchanan of Durham County and Gus Madrid of Pitt County.

16. Announcements: Announcements were made.

17. Adjournment: MOTION: Moved and seconded that the Convention adjourn. **Motion carried.** The Convention adjourned at approximately 2:15 pm.

2017 CD-01 PROPOSED BUDGET

GENERAL FUND

First Congressional District Democratic Party of North Carolina

Budget

January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

Category	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed Budget
Revenue						
Fund Balance, January 1st	<u>\$2,144</u>	<u>\$6,373</u>	<u>\$7,566</u>	<u>\$5,637</u>	<u>\$7,496</u>	<u>\$8,006</u>
Political Committees	500	50	0	100	0	75
County Party Dues ¹	450	625	200	0	0	0
Individual Contributions	2,043	1,514	216	2,039	870	1,500
Fundraisers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carryover—Reserve Funds	<u>2,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	4,993	2,189	416	2,139	870	1,575
Total Revenue	7,137	8,562	7,982	7,776	8,366	9,581
Expenditures						
Political Committees	0	900	2,150	150	250	900
Fundraiser Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Postage	7	0	35	20	0	500
Printing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meeting Facility Rental/Staffing	132	0	110	110	110	110
Refreshments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Fees	0	96	0	0	0	0
\$100 for 100% Precinct Program	na	na	na	na	na	300
Penalties	0	0	50	0	0	0
Contingency	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	<u>625</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	764	996	2,345	280	360	1,810
Fund Balance²	<u>6,373</u>	<u>7,566</u>	<u>5,637</u>	<u>7,496</u>	<u>8,006</u>	<u>7,771</u>
Total Expenditures	7,137	8,562	7,982	7,776	8,366	9,581
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1. The North Carolina Democratic Party county dues have not been remitted for 2015, 2016 or 2017.

2. This proposed budget proposes to appropriate \$7,771 to the fund balance for January 1, 2018

[A.6]

CD-01 DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLUTIONS INDEX

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2017-30. RESPECT

2017-01. RESOLUTION (ENERGY)

A Resolution Acknowledging the Importance of Sound Science for Policy Decisions About Energy, the Environment and Global Climate Change

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

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

scientifically vetted evidence, then [communities'] quality of life suffers;"

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, although coal mining is causing irreversible damage to the environment and to public health, and despite the reduced demand for coal in the U.S.,

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we state unequivocally that climate change is real, that human activities make a substantive contribution to climate change, and that it is imperative that the United States cooperate fully with the many other countries in the world that are working to limit the harm done by climate change;

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

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

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

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

2017-02. RESOLUTION (CAMPAIGN REFORM)
A Resolution Calling for Congress to Propose an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to Overturn the U.S. Supreme Court Ruling in Citizens United

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the people and states of the United States of America have strengthened the nation and preserved liberty and equality for all by using the amendment process throughout the history of the nation, including seven of ten decades of the twentieth century, and through that process have reversed seven erroneous U.S. Supreme Court decisions;

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

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

2017-03. RESOLUTION (REPARATION)

A Resolution for the North Carolina Democratic Party to Endorse and Support Bill H.R.40 - Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports H.R. 40, the Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act - and encourage local, state, and federal elected officials (i.e. G. K. Butterfield and David Price) to support Congressman Conyers and H.R. 40.

2017-04. RESOLUTION (IMMIGRATION)

A Resolution Protecting Immigrants and Opposing the Secure Communities Program and 287(G) Partnership

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

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

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

WHEREAS, SCP was designed to dramatically increase the involvement of the local law enforcement officials in immigration enforcement, diverting local resources and

creating fear of law enforcement to the detriment of public safety;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2017-05. RESOLUTION (IMMIGRATION)
A Resolution Referencing Immigration Policies

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, additionally the 287(g) program, which allow Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) to delegate immigration enforcement to partners in state and local agencies, has also been found to create

“discriminatory policing practices” by the Federal Justice Department;

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party declares its opposition to the Executive Order signed by the President on January 27, 2017, the purpose of which is to direct executive departments and agencies (agencies) to deploy all lawful means to secure the Nation's southern border, to prevent further illegal immigration into the United States, and to repatriate illegal aliens swiftly, consistently, and humanely. The North Carolina Democratic Party respectfully calls on the President to rescind the Executive Order in its entirety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party reaffirms the state should be open and welcoming to immigrants and refugees and reaffirms that the immigrant and refugee communities are integral to the life of our state;

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party confirms that our state should not honor detainer requests for people who are not a danger to public safety;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the people of good will of our state to join in calling on the President to permit

immigrants and refugees to continue to resettle peacefully here and remain here without fear of persecution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, the North Carolina Democratic Party is authorized and requested to deliver a copy of this resolution to the members of the Governor, the US Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the North Carolina Congressional Delegation.

2017-06. RESOLUTION (IMMIGRATION)

A Resolution Calling for Amnesty for Immigrant Parents and Siblings

WHEREAS, the United States is a nation of immigrants;

WHEREAS, the immigrant community in our nation is under attack from the new administration;

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

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party supports families; and

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

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

2017-07. RESOLUTION (TAX RETURNS)

A Resolution for Disclosure of Income Tax Returns of Presidential Candidates

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

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

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

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

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

2017-08. RESOLUTION (TAX RETURNS)

A Resolution Asking Congress to Pass a Law Requiring All Presidential Candidates to Release Their Tax Returns to the Public

WHEREAS, every US presidential candidate since Jimmy Carter has made their tax returns public;

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges our representatives in congress to support this bill;

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be delivered to each member of the US Congress.

2017-09. RESOLUTION (CLIMATE)

A Resolution to Adhere to the Paris Climate Agreement and Limit Global Temperature Rise

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we must adhere to the Paris Agreement; and

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

2017-10. RESOLUTION (VOTING RIGHTS)

A Resolution to Ensure Greater Voter Participation and Awareness of Voting Rights

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

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

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

WHEREAS, many eligible citizens do not exercise the right to vote;

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

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

WHEREAS, voter turnout in the Great State of North Carolina in the 2016 General Election was only 68.98%

and 44.02% in the 2014 General Election per the NC State Board of Elections;

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

WHEREAS, many communities and schools have instituted civic awareness programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State of North Carolina:

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

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

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

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

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

2017-11. RESOLUTION (REDISTRICTING)
A Resolution Calling for the Establishment of an Independent Redistricting Process for the State of North Carolina

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2017-12. RESOLUTION (REDISTRICTING)
A Resolution for Bipartisan Standing Commission to Redraw Districts

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we support the creation of an evenly bipartisan standing commission of non-lawmakers, appointed by the major political parties, to redraw districts, such districts requiring a 2/3 approval by the commission.

2017-13. RESOLUTION (REDISTRICTING)
A Resolution to Ensure Fair Voter Representation and Voting Districts

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State of North Carolina establish redistricting rules that ensure that North Carolina voters are fairly represented in voting

districts that districts are compact, contiguous, protect the rights of minority voters, and follow city or county lines where feasible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of North Carolina establish an independent Redistricting Commission. Legislative districts shall be formed under a set of rank-ordered criteria:

- (1) Population Equality: Districts must comply with the U.S. Constitution's requirement of "one person, one vote,"
- (2) Federal Voting Rights Act: Districts must ensure an equal opportunity for minorities to elect a candidate of their choice;
- (3) Geographic Contiguity: All areas within a district must be connected to each other, except for the special case of islands;
- (4) Geographic Integrity: Districts shall minimize the division of cities, counties, local neighborhoods and communities of interests to the extent possible, without violating previous criteria. A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation;
- (5) Geographic Compactness: To the extent practicable, and where this does not conflict with previous criteria, districts must not bypass nearby communities for more distant communities;
- (6) Nesting: To the extent practicable, and where this does not conflict with previous criteria, each Senate district will be comprised of whole House districts, House districts will be comprised of undivided precincts. To the greatest extent possible, Precincts should be treated as whole units and should not be divided between larger units. To the greatest extent possible, district lines shall conform to preexisting City and County boundaries;
- (7) Nonpartisan: incumbents, political candidates or political parties cannot be considered when drawing districts; and
- (8) Transparent: redistricting shall be conducted in an open and transparent process enabling full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines.

2017-14. RESOLUTION (REDISTRICTING)
A Resolution Calling for an Independent Committee to Select Election Districts in North Carolina

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Legislature will be charged to bring forward a Constitutional Amendment for consideration of the

citizens of North Carolina to form an Independent Committee that will redraw the electoral districts for representatives of House, Senate and Congressional candidates based on equally divided population of the State, irrespective of race or political association, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that population make up of each district may vary plus or minus 5%;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as much as possible, these districts will follow county boundaries;

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

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

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

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

2017-15. RESOLUTION (REDISTRICTING)
A Resolution Calling for an Independent Redistricting Commission to Draw Legislative and Congressional Districts Through a Nonpartisan and Transparent Process – Anti-Gerrymandering Resolution

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we will make an effort to lobby our members in the General Assembly to strongly encourage them to support an

independent, transparent, nonpartisan process for drawing districts;

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

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

2017-16. RESOLUTION (REDISTRICTING)
A Resolution for Non-Partisan Districting in the State of North Carolina

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

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

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

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

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

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

2017- 17. RESOLUTION (VOTER SUPPRESSION)
A Resolution Resisting Voter Suppression

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

WHEREAS, North Carolina has a history of race discrimination and suppressing the votes of African Americans;

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the North Carolina Democratic Party, urge North Carolina’s elected representatives in the General Assembly and in the U.S. Congress to resist strongly any effort to limit the franchise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the Governor to take such steps as are possible to ensure full citizen participation in free and fair elections in North Carolina.

2017-18. RESOLUTION (HATE)
A Resolution Resisting a Climate of Hate

WHEREAS, ours is a nation of immigrants;

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the North Carolina Democratic Party, urge North Carolina’s Governor and elected representatives in the General Assembly and in the U.S. Congress to resist a climate of hate by speaking out and condemning in the strongest possible terms all acts of hatred and bigotry.

2017-19. RESOLUTION (HB-2 REPEAL)

A Resolution to Repeal in Entirety of HB-2

WHEREAS, HB-2 uses an inflammatory sexual issue, that transgender people molest others of the opposite birth gender in bathrooms;

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

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

WHEREAS, the issue of molestation has no basis in fact;

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

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

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

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

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

2017-20. RESOLUTION (PAY EQUITY)

A Resolution Supporting Pay Equity During the Employment Application Process

WHEREAS, questions about past compensation/salary history often appear on employment applications;

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

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

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

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

2017-21. RESOLUTION (DEATH PENALTY)

A Resolution to Abolish the Death Penalty in North Carolina

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, "true justice" calls on the state to seek out preventative and cost-effective solutions to deter crime and lead the way towards restorative justice that heals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on all our state representatives to seek the abolition of the Death Penalty in North Carolina.

2017-22. RESOLUTION (RELIGIOUS FREEDOM)

A Resolution Calling for a Prohibition of the Use of Claims of Religious Freedom as an Excuse for Discriminating Against Citizens of North Carolina

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

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

WHEREAS, some others have used the claim of religious liberty to justify discrimination against and denial of some services to citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party shall adopt a policy of opposing any effort to claim religious liberty as an excuse to discriminate against any citizen of North Carolina.

2017-23. RESOLUTION (CURRICULUM)

A Resolution Calling for the Teaching of Scientifically Valid Curriculum Exclusively in all Schools Receiving Federal and/or State Funds

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

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

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

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

2017-24. RESOLUTION (BROADBAND)

A Resolution Calling for Rural Statewide Broadband Internet Access

WHEREAS, the 21st Century technology and utility is broadband Internet and its benefits manifest in better student academic performance, improved economic growth, improved healthcare, more efficient EMS and emergency service;

WHEREAS, rural communities lag behind in digital infrastructure and 39% of rural households vs 4% of urban households lack access to modern broadband;

WHEREAS, North Carolina has the 2nd largest population of any state that lives in a rural area with 3.3 million people living in 85 counties considered rural;

WHEREAS, 2/3rds of North Carolina traditional public school districts are rural and teach 40% of traditional public school students;

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly slashed state funding for textbooks and has mandated by law that the state will fund only digital textbooks by July 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Warren County and other rural communities cannot afford broadband Internet access in all areas of our county so our students will be left behind without access to textbooks online both in school and at home;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) must allocate funds to make broadband available and affordable to all rural citizens;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCGA must

draft and pass bills to encourage broadband providers to deliver robust broadband Internet to rural communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCGA must pass House Bill 390 immediately to give counties authority to provide high-speed Internet access service as a public enterprise.

2017-25. RESOLUTION (NONDISCRIMINATION)

A Resolution Calling for a Broad Statewide Nondiscrimination Law

WHEREAS, North Carolina is committed to providing equal opportunities and protections throughout the state;

WHEREAS, laws that promote equal opportunities and protections encourage economic productivity by creating a salubrious climate for businesses and residents; and

WHEREAS, the state of North Carolina is committed to providing equal opportunities and protections across the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Pitt county promotes a broad statewide nondiscrimination law that expands its list of protections to include a broad nondiscrimination law that secures equal protections regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, citizenship, religion, age, veteran status, genetic information, pregnancy, handicap or disability;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this broad nondiscrimination law will ban discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations, including bathroom access for transgender people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party supports the adoption of state and federal constitutional amendments stating 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, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

2017-26. RESOLUTION (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE)

A Resolution for a State Appropriation of \$1.5 Million Dollars to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence

WHEREAS, domestic violence homicide occurs when a person murders their current or former intimate partner and/or their children, and North Carolina has experienced a sharp increase in domestic violence homicides from 2015 (53 murders) to 2016 (66 murders);

WHEREAS, Pitt County and its sister counties in North Carolina in the last seven months particularly have

experienced a wave of domestic killings that border on an epidemic;

WHEREAS, these murders in Pitt and its sister counties have included but are not limited to the following: in August 2016 (Pitt County) Dibon Toone is alleged to have bludgeoned to death with a hammer, Garlette Howard and her three children, 11-year old Bryana Carr, 7-year old Ayona Toone, and 6-year old Mayona Toone; in December 2016 (Martin County) Jeffrey Ward and Jarrett Ward are alleged to have stabbed to death Dawn Ward and her 14-year old daughter, Taylor Carroll; and in December 2016 (Pasquotank County) a grand jury failed to indict Samuel Frank Mansfield for the murder of his wife, Phyllis Mansfield, despite overwhelming evidence including his admission that he called her into their garage with the intended purpose of shooting her, and did so multiple times resulting in her death;

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has pledged to dramatically cut the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women grant program that provides grant funding for services to sexual assault victims;

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV) leads the state's movement to end domestic violence and enhance work with survivors through collaborations, innovative trainings, prevention, technical assistance, state policy development and legal advocacy;

WHEREAS, in its recent 2015 Annual Report, the NCCADV reported that its budget derives from federal contracts (60%), state contracts (32%), grant and foundation income (5%) and contributions and dues (3%); and

WHEREAS, the promised cuts by the Trump administration will effectively cripple the NCCADV;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for a state appropriation of \$1.5 million dollars to the NCCADV to compensate for the federal cuts, with the understanding that this funding may be modified based upon data reported in the upcoming 2016 Annual Report.

2017-27. RESOLUTION (MEDICAL MARIJUANA)
A Resolution in Support of the Legalization of Medical Marijuana in North Carolina

WHEREAS, medical marijuana is legal in 28 states and the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, there are many well researched medical studies that indicate the positive benefits of medical marijuana;

WHEREAS, veterans, cancer patients, patients with spinal injuries, patients with seizure disorders and patients with

many other serious medical problems would benefit from the use of medical marijuana;

WHEREAS, family members often risk legal consequences to acquire medical marijuana for patients who are suffering great pain because they want to help; and

WHEREAS, the website, PROCON.org has combined Peer Reviewed Studies on Medical Marijuana from 1990 to 2014 and last updated it on 10 February 2016;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that North Carolina Democrats will work at the state Democratic Convention to have this resolution for the legalization of medical marijuana accepted as part of the state platform;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party will promote legislation to legalize medical marijuana in the state of North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we Democrats commit our actions, time, ideas, energy, treasury and prayers toward ensuring electoral success for Democrats up and down the ballot.

2017-28. RESOLUTION (HEALTH CARE)
A Resolution in Support of Universal Health Care

WHEREAS, the United Nations resolved that universal health coverage is essential for sustainable development;

WHEREAS, the United Nations resolved to urge governments to move towards providing all people with access to affordable, quality health care services on 12 December 2012;

WHEREAS, the United States spends the most per capita on health care of any industrialized nation;

WHEREAS, the United States is the only industrialized nation that does not have some form of universal health care (defined as a basic guarantee of health care to all of its citizens);

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine compiled an extensive report on the hidden costs of the uninsured;

WHEREAS, some of the costs of the uninsured are fewer years of participation in the workforce, weakened local economies, developmental losses to children, and adverse effects on public health; and

WHEREAS, a universal health care system that insulated people from the costs of health care would help people pursue the American dream of providing for themselves and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that North Carolina Democrats will work at the District level and the

state level of the Democratic Party to have this resolution in support of universal health care become a part of the state platform of the Democratic Party; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we Democrats commit our actions to electing Democrats up and down the ballot and to continue to push for health care for all citizens.

2017-29. RESOLUTION (CANDIDATE SUPPORT)
A Resolution to Support Democratic Party Candidates

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of North Carolina is a political party whose aim is the betterment of our nation and state through the democratic process;

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of North Carolina is legally and morally committed to the Primary Election process for selecting the best possible nominees for general and local elections; and

WHEREAS, the resources and energies of the Democratic Party of North Carolina are used fully to support those nominees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of North Carolina and the County and Precinct parties may publicly withdraw their financial support from any nominee who campaigns against other duly elected Democratic Party nominees or for the nominees of other political parties after the conclusion of the primary election and before the general election;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such action may be implemented after a two-thirds majority vote of the Democratic Party Executive Committee in the nominee's political constituency (county, district or state).

2017-30. RESOLUTION (RESPECT)
A Resolution of Respect

WHEREAS, the Bertie County Democratic Party has had a long history of success and the reason for the success is because of the strong leadership we have had in our Democratic Party chairs;

WHEREAS, in the past year, the Bertie County Democratic Party has lost two of our successful leaders;

WHEREAS, Penny Thompson led the Bertie County Democratic Party during the election of President Barack Obama and Governor Beverly Perdue and organized all 12 of the precincts in Bertie County;

WHEREAS, David Thompson led the Bertie County Democratic Party during a turbulent time in the State of North Carolina;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bertie County Democratic Party issues this Resolution of Respect in memory of Chairwoman Penny Thompson and

in memory of Chairman David Thompson for their service to Bertie County. A copy of this Resolution will be sent to the First Congressional District Democratic Party and the North Carolina Democratic Party.