

AGMA

AMERICAN GUILD *of* MUSICAL ARTISTS

RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE JOSEPH BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT AND KAMALA HARRIS FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, the United States is currently in the middle of a highly consequential election for the next President and Vice President of the United States;

WHEREAS, the outcome of the election will have significant repercussions for AGMA, for AGMA members, for the arts, for the United States, and for the world;

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has, at every level of government, prosecuted an unrelenting attack on workers and unions for the past four years;

WHEREAS, under the Trump Administration, the National Labor Relations Board has made it harder for unions to organize, has narrowed worker and union rights under the National Labor Relations Act, has issued dozens of anti-union and anti-worker decisions in the cases that come before it, and has sought to attack and undermine unions at every turn;

WHEREAS, President Trump has nominated anti-union and anti-worker judges at every level of the federal judiciary, including to the Supreme Court, resulting in judicial opinions that have attacked and undermined the legal status and protections of unions in the United States;

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration's mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to tens of thousands of deaths and exacerbated the damage done to our industries and our members, keeping our theatres and studios closed longer than necessary because of its failure to curb the spread of the virus;

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has sought to destroy the Affordable Care Act and otherwise undermine access to healthcare for millions of Americans through legislation in Congress, through litigation in federal courts, and through administrative action;

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has actively sought to slash federal funding for the arts;

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has engaged in a culture of lawlessness in the Executive Branch, has undermined democratic norms and institutions, and has openly questioned the legitimacy of free and fair elections;

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has enacted policies and procedures that target the most vulnerable members of our world and society;

WHEREAS, President Trump, through his words, orders, and actions, has engaged in and fomented racism, sexism, violence, and division across the country and world, in a manner incompatible with the world our members, through their work and actions, strive every day to build;

WHEREAS, Joseph Biden has, through a long career of public service, demonstrated a commitment to the interests of unions and of working people;

WHEREAS, Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris have committed to undoing the damage done to workers and unions by the Trump Administration, and have covenanted to expand the power and protections of workers and unions;

WHEREAS, Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris will restore dignity, grace, and competency of the Executive Branch of the United States Government;

WHEREAS, AGMA has heard from members across the country, in all of our industries and across membership categories, expressing their hope that the union endorse Joseph Biden for President and Kamala Harris for Vice President;

WHEREAS, our sister unions, our sister entertainment unions, and the AFL-CIO, recognizing the unprecedented attack on workers and union by the Trump Administration, have endorsed Joseph Biden for President and Kamala Harris for Vice President;

WHEREAS, the urgency and consequences of this election and this moment in history compels our Guild to make an exception to our longstanding policy of not endorsing any candidates for political office;

WHEREAS, the AGMA Executive Council has, in light of the unprecedented circumstances detailed above, voted unanimously to recommend that AGMA endorse Joseph Biden for President and Kamala Harris for Vice President;

BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE, that AGMA, through this motion adopted by the Board of Governors, depart from its long-held policy of political neutrality in order to formally endorse Joseph Biden for President and Kamala Harris for Vice President;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Executive Director and his designees be authorized take steps, not including the expense of any funds, in the lead-up to the election to encourage AGMA members to support and vote for Joseph Biden for President and Kamala Harris for Vice President and, finally;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that within the next calendar year the AGMA Board of Governors will send a non-binding referendum to the membership, asking them to advise as to whether or not AGMA should make political endorsements in the future.

