



2018 CHATHAM COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

Chatham County

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CHATHAM COUNTY RESOLUTIONS

1. THANKS TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES (Pittsboro Precinct)

WHEREAS, Chatham County's audit showed a very healthy economic position; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County's bond rating is AAA; and

WHEREAS, Our County Commissioners continue to keep a watchful eye on future needs and challenges; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party do wholeheartedly thank our County Commissioners and the employees of the County Manager's Office for their dedication to our community and for serving the people of Chatham County so well.

2. MAIN STREET OVERLAY DISTRICT (Pittsboro Precinct)

WHEREAS, The Pittsboro Downtown Vision Plan was conceived as the next building block in the downtown revitalization of the county seat and was unanimously endorsed by the Pittsboro Town Board on June 16, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Plan is being used as one of the guiding documents for Main Street Pittsboro; and

WHEREAS, The Pittsboro Downtown Vision Plan contemplates a more unified and coherent long-term plan for the Main Street District that may conflict with some of the potential "uses by right" of the current Pittsboro Zoning Ordinance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party respectfully request that the Town of Pittsboro work with Main Street Pittsboro and other stakeholders to craft and implement with all due speed a reasonable "Main Street" overlay zoning district that will protect the property values of parcels in the district and allow policy makers the ability to approve uses in the district that are in accordance with the Downtown Vision Plan.

3. MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT IN MAIN STREET DISTRICT (Pittsboro Precinct)

WHEREAS, The Pittsboro Downtown Vision Plan was conceived as the next building block in the downtown revitalization of the county seat and was unanimously endorsed by the Pittsboro Town Board on June 16, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Plan is being used as one of the guiding documents for Main Street Pittsboro; and

WHEREAS, The Pittsboro Downtown Vision Plan will enhance pedestrian safety, provide more vitality, and as a result, create a more robust downtown commerce environment for retailers that will create jobs and increase sales tax revenue to the town and county; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party respectfully request that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners work with the Town of Pittsboro and Main Street Pittsboro to implement the Downtown Vision Plan; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, as the town and county consider plans and redevelopment in the Main Street District, mixed use options be considered, with an emphasis on more residential units—including affordable housing—such as apartments and/or condominiums that are walkable to Hillsboro Street.

4. A CALL FOR A STUDY OF PRECINCTS IN CHATHAM COUNTY (Pittsboro Precinct)

WHEREAS, Chatham County continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, The growth in Briar Chapel, Chatham Park, and Pittsboro will continue to increase the size of the Manns Chapel and Pittsboro Precincts; and

WHEREAS, This growth dictates that the town, county, and Board of Elections should evaluate the county's current precincts to determine whether they should be adjusted; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Board of Commissioners work with the Town of Pittsboro and the Board of Elections to study the current precincts in Chatham County and make the appropriate adjustments to ensure that access to the ballot box on Election Day remain as easy and efficient as possible.

5. EXPANSION OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (Pittsboro Precinct)

WHEREAS, Chatham County continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, The County's commissioner districts are out of balance and will continue to be out of balance in a growing and changing Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, The method and system of electing county commissioners was last adjusted in our local bill over forty years ago, and the current districts were drawn in 2012; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party respectfully request that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners place a referendum on the ballot in 2018 to expand the Board of Commissioners to seven (7) members, with at least two of the members elected at large; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Board of Commissioners appoint a task force to evaluate methods of election, evaluate the current precinct configuration, prepare for the redistricting that will be done after the 2020 census, and consider whether the School Board Districts should match the County Commissioner Districts.

NORTH CAROLINA RESOLUTIONS

6. OPPOSITION TO BUILDING THE ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE IN NORTH CAROLINA (North Williams Precinct)

WHEREAS, In 2017 the Chatham County Democratic Party opposed the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, Many of the communities and landowners along its path oppose it; and

WHEREAS, The partnership working to build it (Dominion Resources, Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas, and Southern Company Gas) has in the year since the 2017 resolution not proved that the pipeline is needed, that building it would be preferable to using the abundantly available renewable sources of energy and improved battery technology, or that the environmental damage caused by building and supplying it with fracked natural gas could be avoided or ameliorated; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party reaffirm its opposition to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and call upon Governor Roy Cooper to use such powers as are available to him to prevent construction of the pipeline in North Carolina.

7. A CALL FOR INCREASED FUNDING TO IDENTIFY INDUSTRIAL CONTAMINANTS AND THEIR SOURCES IN THE HAW RIVER (Hadley Precinct)

WHEREAS, Dangerous industrial contaminants have been found in surface waters of North Carolina, including GenX in the Cape Fear river as well as PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane in the Haw River; and

WHEREAS, Many more unregulated and not yet identified industrial chemicals enter our surface waters through the effluent from municipal waste water treatment plants and runoff from fields where treatment plant sludge is land applied; and

WHEREAS, These contaminants are a danger to aquatic life and public drinking water; now, therefore, be it **RESOLVED**, That the North Carolina General Assembly provide the necessary funding to the Department of Environmental Quality for staffing, resources, and equipment specifically to identify the chemicals and their sources as necessary to stop and reverse this growing threat to public health.

8. A CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL REDISTRICTING STUDY (North Williams Precinct)

WHEREAS, North Carolina's judicial districts are outdated and need to be reviewed, taking into consideration such criteria as population, case load, travel requirements for judges, and demographics; and

WHEREAS, Care should be taken to ensure that any such review is nonpartisan, in order to maintain the independence of the judiciary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party support a review of current judicial districts conducted by an independent, nonpartisan panel, not by the North Carolina General Assembly.

9. A CALL TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NORTH CAROLINA (Manns Chapel)

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is an interstate and international global criminal activity affecting society's most vulnerable people; and

WHEREAS, In North Carolina human trafficking includes forced labor, sexual exploitation, Internet predation, and deprivation of constitutional liberties affecting children and adults; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina ranks among the top ten states experiencing human trafficking, with hundreds of instances reported each year and countless others unidentified and unreported; and

WHEREAS, Children, women, and minority communities are at greatest risk of being trafficked; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That relevant Chatham County agencies advance a public awareness campaign to eliminate and prevent human trafficking within the County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the North Carolina legislature dedicate additional resources for the Attorney General and Human Trafficking Commission to form closer ties among law enforcement, business, and education communities to eliminate human trafficking in North Carolina.

10. A CALL TO EXEMPT CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS FROM NORTH CAROLINA G.S. 100-2.1 (Manns Chapel)

WHEREAS, Public property in North Carolina displays monuments and memorials dedicated to the Confederacy and all it represented; and

WHEREAS, This public display appears to support human inequality and contrasts starkly with the State of North Carolina's desire to be regarded as "First in Freedom"; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina G.S. 100-2.1 (https://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_100/GS_100-2.1.pdf) prohibits removal of such monuments and memorials without the approval of the North Carolina Historical Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That all North Carolina Democrats, including those elected to state executive and legislative branches of the government, work to exempt Confederate monuments and memorials from the requirements of North Carolina G.S. 100-2.1.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

11. A CALL FOR AN END TO PARTISAN GERRYMANDERING (North Williams and Manns Chapel Precincts)

WHEREAS, America's democracy is founded on the fundamental principle of "one person – one vote"; and
WHEREAS, Partisan gerrymandering of legislative districts by one party diminishes the weight of the votes of members of opposing parties; and

WHEREAS, Voting districts drawn to advance inequality in voting are expensive to create and defend in court, divisive, unpopular and undermine democracy; and

WHEREAS, The Democratic Party is already on record as supporting redistricting by an independent nonpartisan commission through the work of Governor Cooper (<https://www.signherenow.org/petition/end-partisan-gerrymandering/cooper/>) and HB 2000, sponsored by Rep. Robert Reives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Democrats commit to end the practice of utilizing party affiliation as a criterion in the drawing of legislative districts; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party investigate how other states such as Arizona, California, and Iowa accomplished nonpartisan redistricting; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party seek to obtain the cooperation of Republicans so that the two major parties can produce fairer election districts in the United States.

12. SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL COMPREHENSIVE SINGLE-PAYER HEALTHCARE FOR ALL (Manns Chapel)

WHEREAS, Healthcare is a fundamental right and a responsibility of our society; and

WHEREAS, A bill has been introduced in Congress, H.R. 676 – The Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/676>), which will provide to everyone in the United States all medically necessary care, including dental and prescription drugs, without co-pays or deductibles, removing the inability to pay as an impediment to care; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 676 currently has 121 cosponsors in the U.S. House, including North Carolina Representatives Alma Adams, David Price, and G. K. Butterfield, and has been endorsed by thousands of local city councils, trade and advocacy organizations, and other groups representing tens of millions of American citizens; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party endorse H.R. 676 and also support single-payer healthcare legislation at the state level.

13. SUPPORT OF RESPONSIBLE REQUIREMENTS FOR GUN OWNERSHIP (Manns Chapel)

WHEREAS, Research demonstrates that gun laws that restrict access to high-powered weapons reduce gun-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, The rate of firearm-related deaths (homicide, mass shootings, suicide, unintentional deaths) in the United States is 10 times higher than in other developed countries, and for youth ages 15 to 24, the gun homicide rate is 49 times higher than in other countries ([http://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343\(15\)01030-X/fulltext](http://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343(15)01030-X/fulltext)); and

WHEREAS, Our lack of responsible requirements for gun ownership, as well as the undue influence of gun manufacturers and gun lobbyists, has needlessly endangered our citizens and violated one of the principal goals of the U.S. Constitution, as outlined in its preamble, "to insure domestic tranquility"; and

WHEREAS, Recent polling demonstrates that a majority of the American public, including legal gun owners, support a ban on assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines, extensive background checks for gun ownership, as well as other measures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party support enacting a ban on military-style weapons for civilian use ("assault weapons") and high capacity ammunition magazines; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party support responsible requirements for gun licenses and universal background checks for any and all firearms purchases.

14. A CALL TO REPEAL THE DICKEY AMENDMENT (Manns Chapel)

WHEREAS, The Dickey Amendment,* written by former Congressman Jay Dickey (R-AR) and enacted in 1996 as part of an appropriations bill, in effect restricts the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from researching gun violence and its effects on public health; and

WHEREAS, Jay Dickey himself in a 2015 letter to Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) called for Congress to overturn the amendment, saying, “Doing nothing is no longer an acceptable solution”; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party support the repeal of the Dickey Amendment; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party encourage the funding of research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention into the health effects of gun violence.

* “That none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control.”

15. A CALL TO RECOGNIZE JERUSALEM AS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY (Hadley and North Williams Precincts)

Background: The 1947 U.N. General Assembly Resolution 181 recommended that the ancient city of Jerusalem, inhabited for centuries by various Semitic peoples and cultures and seen as sacred to the three Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), be an international city. Furthermore, under the Oslo Accords, the status of Jerusalem was meant to be the result of fairly brokered negotiations.

WHEREAS, The December 6, 2017, press release by David Price (D-North Carolina) and four other Democratic Representatives, states that “[r]ecognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel outside the framework of a final status agreement between the parties does more to sabotage than to advance peace”; and

WHEREAS, It is in the interests of the United States to work with the international community to promote peace and stability in the region and not endanger U.S. personnel there; and

WHEREAS, The Trump administration’s unilateral designation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the eventual site of the United States embassy, without any mention of the role of the city, especially East Jerusalem, for the indigenous Palestinians, is premature and an obstacle to confidence building and cooperation necessary to the long-term realization of regional stability and a durable, just peace between Israelis and the Palestinians; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Jerusalem be recognized as an international city and that any future status of the city be determined by fairly brokered negotiations.

16. A CALL FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE LEAHY AMENDMENT TO MILITARY AID FOR ALL SECURITY FORCES (Hadley and North Williams Precincts)

Background: First framed in 1997, the Leahy amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act prevents U.S. funds from going to security forces that have committed serious human rights violations. It provides for a vetting apparatus and process for accused units.

WHEREAS, The Leahy Amendment to the Foreign Operations and Appropriations Act prohibits disbursement of funds from the State Department and the Department of Defense to foreign security forces that violate human rights; and

WHEREAS, Many of the countries to which the United States gives military aid—for example, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel, the Gulf Monarchies, Myanmar—have been accused of committing human rights violations; and

WHEREAS, The Leahy amendment has been applied inconsistently; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That military aid to any unit of the security forces of a foreign country that has been accused of committing a gross violation of human rights be suspended until all allegations can be investigated and human rights violations stopped.