

2019 CHATHAM COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

Chatham County

1. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A MINIMUM WAGE OF \$15 AN HOUR FOR ALL CHATHAM COUNTY EMPLOYEES (Hadley)
2. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO RETURN THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT IN FRONT OF THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE IN PITTSBORO TO ITS OWNERS (West Williams and Manns Chapel)
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CHATHAM COUNTY RESOLUTIONS

1. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A MINIMUM WAGE OF \$15 AN HOUR FOR ALL CHATHAM COUNTY EMPLOYEES (Hadley)

WHEREAS, Every worker in America deserves a living wage; and

WHEREAS, Several states, local governments, and private companies have raised the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, including North Carolina for certain state employees; and

WHEREAS, Raising the Federal minimum wage has been part of the National Democratic platform since 2016 and is endorsed by 181 U.S. House members and 31 Senators who have co-sponsored the Raise the Wage Act; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Board of Commissioners raise the minimum wage of Chatham County workers to \$15 an hour within the next budget year.

2. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO RETURN THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT IN FRONT OF THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE IN PITTSBORO TO ITS OWNERS (West Williams and Manns Chapel)

WHEREAS, The confederate statue in front of the historic courthouse in Pittsboro was purchased by and is owned by the Winnie Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC); and

WHEREAS, In 1907, pursuant to a written license granted by the Chatham County Commissioners to that group, the monument was removed from their private property and was permitted to be placed where presently located; and

WHEREAS, When granted such license, the local chapter of the UDC was required to “cut down the tree in front of the courthouse near to the place proposed for said monument; and the said monument may remain in the care and keeping of the said daughters of the Confederacy”; and

WHEREAS, The North Carolina State law that purports to limit the movement or removal of “objects of remembrance” has certain exceptions setting forth circumstances to which the law does not apply; and

WHEREAS, The circumstances here in Chatham County are squarely within one such exception to the law, as follows: “An object of remembrance owned by a private party and that is the subject of a legal agreement between the private party and the State or a political subdivision of the state governing the removal or relocation of that property”; and

WHEREAS, The presence of the monument on public property forces our county government and all taxpayers in Chatham County to endorse the values of the UDC embodied by said monument; and

WHEREAS, Individual citizens have a First Amendment right to keep monuments on their private property, but our government, which is supposed to serve all citizens, shouldn’t endorse a symbol that represents the oppression of a group of its citizens; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party support a request to be presented to the Chatham County Commissioners to take measures necessary to return the monument in front of the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro to its owner, the UDC.

3. A RESOLUTION OPPOSING CHATHAM PARK’S PLAN TO CUT 90 PERCENT OF TREES IN THE CHATHAM PARK DEVELOPMENT (Oakland)

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party work with the Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners to assure that Chatham Park is held to rigorous environmental standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the CCDP encourage greater environmental protections than the bare minimum required by the state and work with the Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners to assure that impacts of deforestation are kept to a minimum.

4. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ROCKY RIVER WATER QUALITY (Oakland)

WHEREAS, There is new industry that will be contributing to Siler City’s water discharges into the Rocky River system; and

WHEREAS, Toxic discharge of nitrogen results in the growth of algae, which absorb oxygen from the water, kills water species, and leaves rivers seriously impaired; and

WHEREAS, Without a comparative study, the current health of the Rocky River system cannot be determined; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party support a baseline study of water quality in the Rocky River system and work to protect it from any negative effects of discharged pollution from new industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a new study be done now to compare with previous studies.

5. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF A CHATHAM LAND TRUST (Oakland)

WHEREAS, Chatham County is under significant development pressure; and

WHEREAS, Habitat connectivity is a paramount concern in thoughtful conservation; and

WHEREAS, The Chatham County Comprehensive Plan (2017) designates significant areas for conservation; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County will need the ability to strategically bank land through direct purchases, acceptance of donations, and offset purchases by developers; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party support the creation of a land trust within the county.

6. A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE CHATHAM COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY (CCGOP) TO SEND THE CONTRIBUTION FROM GREG LINDBERG TO A LOCAL NON-PROFIT (Pittsboro)

WHEREAS, Chatham County relies upon healthy political parties to compete for voters at the ballot box and to create and implement policy in our local governments; and

WHEREAS, In the post -Citizens United political landscape, Chatham County North Carolina and the United States of America have witnessed the growth of dark money, independent expenditure groups, mega-donors and superpacs that have injected the will and intentions of corporate interests and very wealthy families and individuals into all political parties and political processes, to the detriment of democracy and in many cases the will of the people; and

WHEREAS, The local Chatham County Republican Party (CCGOP) has unfortunately been a recipient of a \$100,000 contribution from mega-donor Greg Lindberg on April 4, 2018; and

WHEREAS, The mega-donor Greg Lindberg is under investigation by the Charlotte U.S. Attorney's Office, which has alleged in its subpoenas that the office is investigating "drug offenses, crimes against financial institutions, or money laundering crimes"; and

WHEREAS, The Charlotte U.S. Attorney has also issued subpoenas to the North Carolina Republican and Democratic Parties regarding the investigation of its office into mega-donor Greg Lindberg and his companies; and

WHEREAS, The local Republican candidates for Chatham County Commissioner, Brian Bock (District 3) and Neill Lindley (District 4), as well as their campaign manager, Dustin Miller, have called upon the local Chatham County Republican Party to remove the \$100,000 from mega-donor Greg Lindley from its treasury and send the funds to a local non-profit such as the Chatham Education Foundation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party respectfully request that the Chatham County Republican Party immediately remove the \$100,000 from mega-donor Greg Lindberg from its treasury and send the funds to a Chatham County non-profit that benefits affordable housing, education, the arts, or water quality.

NORTH CAROLINA RESOLUTIONS

7. A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A NONPARTISAN REDISTRICTING PROCESS (HB 69) IN 2019
(Manns Chapel)

WHEREAS, The system for redistricting in North Carolina has historically been unfairly manipulated by the party in power and overwhelmingly unfavorable to incumbent candidates; and

WHEREAS, District maps drawn for partisan advantage have led to years of expensive legal wrangling, divisive politics, and voter dissatisfaction; and

WHEREAS, Election districts created by the current partisan-drawn maps do not fairly represent the people of North Carolina and actually subvert the voting power of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States is currently reviewing the constitutionality of partisan redistricting in North Carolina and other states; and

WHEREAS, A nonpartisan, independent redistricting process is currently being successfully used in numerous other states; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Robert Reives II is a co-sponsor of House Bill 69, which calls for the establishment of a nonpartisan redistricting commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party support House Bill 69; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party call upon the North Carolina Democratic Party to endorse this legislation.

8. A RESOLUTION TO EXPAND MEDICAID IN NORTH CAROLINA (North Williams)

WHEREAS, The health and well-being of North Carolinians is paramount and non-partisan; and

WHEREAS, Statewide Medicaid expansion would provide health care coverage to approximately 1,038,000 uninsured adults in our state (U.S. Census Bureau, Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2016); and

WHEREAS, The Federal government will cover at least 90 percent of the state's costs of expanding Medicaid in North Carolina, bringing increased employment and increased revenue to the state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party advocate for Medicaid expansion within the State of North Carolina to take advantage of Federal matching funds, increasing access to health care for North Carolinians.

9. A RESOLUTION TO BAN HORIZONTAL HYDRAULIC FRACTURING (East Williams)

WHEREAS, Section 5 of North Carolina's Constitution states that "It shall be the policy of this State to conserve and protect its lands and waters for the benefit of all its citizenry, and to this end it shall be a proper function of . . . North Carolina and its political subdivisions . . . to control and limit the pollution of our air and water and in every other appropriate way to preserve as part of the common heritage of this State its forests, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, historical sites, open lands and places of beauty"; and

WHEREAS, Horizontal hydraulic fracturing (fracking) is exempted from parts of at least seven major Federal environmental statutes, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

WHEREAS, Shale-gas formations in North Carolina lie in areas prone to droughts; and

WHEREAS, Fracking harms the long-term well-being of communities by contaminating water, putting municipal water sources at risk, increasing local air pollution hazards, and releasing a potent greenhouse gas (methane); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party advocate for a ban on hydraulic fracturing in North Carolina.

10. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ELIMINATING THE NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION \$3.00 TRANSACTION FEE (West Williams)

WHEREAS, In the past there was no fee for renewing an automobile registration online when paying by a bank transfer; and

WHEREAS, The current \$3.00 transaction fee amounts to a tax; and

WHEREAS, It is cheaper and more efficient for the NC Department of Transportation to accept a payment via bank transfer rather than checks and forms that must be processed manually; and

WHEREAS, The state instantly receives the funds from a bank transfer as opposed to checks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the NC General Assembly and/or the Governor direct the NC Department of Transportation to stop charging the \$3.00 transaction fee when people renew their automobile registrations online.

11. A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES TO SEND THE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GREG LINDBERG TO NORTH CAROLINA-BASED NON-PROFIT GROUPS (Pittsboro)

WHEREAS, The platform adopted at the NCDP convention in 2016 supports tough campaign finance laws; and

WHEREAS, The same platform adopted at the 2016 convention states that "the North Carolina Democratic Party will continue to support measures to reduce the cost of campaigning for public office, including the gradual introduction of a public financing option"; and

WHEREAS, In the post -Citizens United political landscape the United States of America has witnessed the growth of dark money, independent expenditure groups, mega-donors and superpacs that have injected the will and intentions of corporate interests and very wealthy families and individuals into all political parties and political processes, to the detriment of democracy and in many cases the will of the people; and

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Democratic Party has been a recipient in 2018 of at least two \$250,000 contributions (\$500,000) from mega-donor Greg Lindberg and at least one \$250,000 contribution from one of Greg Lindberg's companies to the North Carolina Democratic Party building fund, for a total of \$750,000 of related funds; and

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Republican Party has been a recipient of at least three million dollars from mega-donor Greg Lindberg; and

WHEREAS, The mega-donor Greg Lindberg is under investigation by the Charlotte U.S. Attorney's Office; and

WHEREAS, The Charlotte U.S. Attorney has also issued subpoenas to the North Carolina Republican and Democratic Parties regarding the investigation of its office into mega-donor Greg Lindberg and his companies; and

WHEREAS, The Charlotte U.S. Attorney has alleged in the subpoenas that the office is investigating "drug offenses, crimes against financial institutions, or money laundering crimes" and has reissued updated subpoenas regarding the case on January 23, 2019; now, therefore, be it resolved,

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party respectfully request that the North Carolina Democratic Party (NCDP) develop a plan to send the equivalent funds to non-profit organizations and seek donations to replace the tainted funds; and that North Carolina Republican Party (NCGOP) immediately remove the funds from mega-donor Greg Lindberg and his companies from their treasury and send the funds to non-profit groups based in North Carolina that assist the victims of Hurricanes Florence and Michael.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

12. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE (West Williams)

WHEREAS, Thousands of our residents die or suffer debilitating lives because they do not receive quality health care; and

WHEREAS, Every other advanced democracy delivers equal or better health care to all its citizens at significantly lower costs; and

WHEREAS, It is our moral duty and an inalienable right to each individual resident, as well as prudent economic practice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party stand in favor of a health care policy that guarantees quality care to all residents and is delivered in the most cost-effective way regardless of a resident's ability to pay.

13. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR 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, suicide, unintentional deaths) in the United States is 7 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 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26551975>); and

WHEREAS, Our lack of responsible 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 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 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 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY IN NORTH CAROLINA (East Williams)

WHEREAS, The Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant, now 25 years old, sits less than two miles from a fault-line and houses one of the largest spent-fuel storage facilities in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, More than two million people live within 50 miles of this nuclear power plant, and the threat of earthquakes from fracking is real; and

WHEREAS, Renewable sources of energy are becoming more and more viable and affordable; and

WHEREAS, Green technologies offer the potential for creating good-paying, permanent jobs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party advocate for additional state and Federal support for research and implementation of renewable energy.

15. A CALL FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE LEAHY PROVISIONS TO MILITARY AID FOR ALL SECURITY FORCES (Hadley)

Background: First framed in 1997, the Leahy amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, made permanent in the Foreign Assistance Act of 2008, 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 provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act prohibit 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 a history of committing human rights violations; and

WHEREAS, The Leahy provisions have 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 as specified in U.S. law until allegations are investigated and human rights violations stopped.

16. A RESOLUTION TO RESTORE PAYMENT FOR VENEZUELA’S OIL EXPORTS (Hadley)

WHEREAS, The number of families seeking entry from countries south of the U.S. land border with Mexico is significantly boosted by past U.S. interventions in those countries; and

WHEREAS, The mixed economy of Venezuela dedicates major oil revenues to housing, education, and medical care and necessitates importing many essential goods historically bought with oil revenues; and

WHEREAS, U.S. sanctions prevent CITGO Petroleum Corporation from paying Venezuela the money it is due from the sale of Venezuelan fuels in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Complex U.S. sanctions policy contributes to deepening Venezuela’s plight; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party call on Congress to release and restore the payment for Venezuela’s oil exports to strengthen the Venezuelan economy and improve the quality of life for Venezuelans.

17. FIVE UNTITLED RESOLUTIONS (Hickory Mountain)

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party urge the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office to continue its policy of not working directly with ICE.

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party continue to pressure Duke Energy to find environmentally friendly ways to remove coal ash.

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party continue to work with the North Carolina General Assembly to ensure that everyone has affordable access to broadband internet.

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party strive to remove and reduce corruption in politics.

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party make it a priority to establish the General Election day as a recognized paid time-off holiday.

Additional Resolution

18. A RESOLUTION FOR IMMEDIATE, SUSTAINED AND EXTRAORDINARY ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE BY TRANSITIONING OUR ECONOMY TO CLEAN ENERGY SOURCES (Vickie Atkinson, Jackson Breaks, Alan Buis, Meredith Dillon, Mark Mason, Dennis Nagy)

WHEREAS, Earth is warming at an alarming and accelerating rate due to human-produced greenhouse gas emissions, changing regional and global climate with impacts felt worldwide; and

WHEREAS, International scientific assessments estimate we have a small window of time, as short as 12 years, in which to implement effective corrective actions to avoid the worst effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, Massive investments in clean energy generation and distribution systems, including associated research and development and workforce training to support this transformation will be required to achieve these goals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party stand in favor of dramatic and forceful action to rapidly transition our economy to sustainable, reliable and clean sources of energy, working with leaders in education, business, labor, communities and governments at all levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chatham County Democratic Party stand in favor of the North Carolina Democratic Party supporting this resolution and calling for it to be a top priority of the Democratic Party platform.