

**Resolution 2020-5 Urging State and Local Governments to Completely Remove Illegal  
and Unenforceable Racially-Restrictive Covenants from Real Estate Transaction  
Documents and Processes  
adopted Aug. 20, 2020**

**WHEREAS** In the State of California every year thousands of real estate transactions continue to be conducted using deeds, titles, and other documents that include race restricting covenants that prevent transfer(s) of property to racial, ethnic, or religious minorities, but frequently black people; and

**WHEREAS** in 1948 the US Supreme Court ruled in Shelley v. Kramer that rendered racially restrictive covenants unenforceable, and the Fair Housing Act made them illegal; and state (or local) enforcement of such covenants violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment; and

**WHEREAS** the continued inclusion of these covenants in real estate contracts discourage the transfer of property to both people of color and religious minorities, artificially reduce the supply of housing, and perpetuate a discriminatory housing practice.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee urge state and local government to act to completely remove racially restrictive covenants from the real estate transaction process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee will send copies of this resolution to members of local government in all 58 counties, and Special Districts within those counties.