



2019

**Spring Convention
Statewide Resolutions**

#1

Resolution in Support of Immigrants and their Families

WHEREAS, a vast proportion of the population of the United States of America is composed of people whose ancestors immigrated to this country from other lands;

WHEREAS, President Trump has fostered a dark, anti-immigrant message in the hope that stoking fear will help him meet his political goals;

WHEREAS, the present rates of immigration are at historic lows unmatched for decades, and America is fully capable of absorbing the present rate of immigration with ease, both economically and administratively;

WHEREAS, immigrants are a boon to America, bringing entrepreneurial energy, physical labor, agricultural skills, and diverse artistic and cultural influences to enrich our nation;

WHEREAS, declaring a national emergency based on faux threats in order to repurpose funds at President Trump's will to build a wall on the southern border, as the President has proposed doing, is dangerous to democracy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party rejects Republican anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies including, but not limited to, building a wall, repealing DACA, refusing immigrants driving rights, travel bans, and refusing asylum.

#2

Resolution Calling for Repeal of Public Act 631 of 2018

WHEREAS, it is a well researched fact that wetlands are an important part of a healthy ecosystem;

WHEREAS, healthy ecosystems are necessary for healthy watersheds;

WHEREAS, healthy watersheds are important for Michigan citizens to have clean drinking water;

WHEREAS, clean drinking water is important to have healthy citizens in Michigan and to encourage tourism;

WHEREAS, tourism is an important economic source for Michigan;

WHEREAS, Public Act 631 of 2018 will allow the destruction of up to one half of the wetlands in most Michigan counties;

WHEREAS, destruction of wetlands will lead to unhealthy ecosystems, unhealthy Michigan citizens, and reduce tourism;

WHEREAS, a reduction in tourists will lead to a reduction in Michigan's economy;

WHEREAS, Public Act 631 of 2018 was signed into law at 4:41pm on December 31, 2018 in the last payoff to corporate interest;

WHEREAS, Michigan will no longer be protecting nearly 500,000 acres of wetlands;

WHEREAS, it is recognized statewide that 70,000 wetlands have now lost protection from destruction;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party will unite to acknowledge that Public Act 631 of 2018 will cause destruction of our wetlands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party will devote staff, time, and all necessary financial support to repeal Public Act 631 of 2018.

#3

Resolution Endorsing the Green New Deal

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming "well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C," which is in itself not safe for humanity;

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2018, the United Nations released a special report, criticized by many leading climate scientists as overly conservative, which projected that limiting warming to the unsafe 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years;

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2018 the Federal Government issued a climate study detailing the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy and underscoring the need for immediate climate emergency action at all levels of government;

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a whole-of-society "Climate Mobilization" at all levels of government on a scale not seen since World War II to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors at emergency speed, to rapidly and safely drawdown or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, to end the 6th mass extinction of species, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the increasingly severe consequences of climate change;

WHEREAS, to address the nation's urgent climate change need and impacts many Democrats have proposed a "Green New Deal";

WHEREAS, the proposed Green New Deal would be a sweeping overhaul of the economy that centers equity and justice in its solutions and has the following goals:

1. Dramatically expand existing renewable power sources and deploy new production capacity with the goal of meeting 100% of national power demand through renewable sources;
2. building a national, energy-efficient, “smart” grid;
3. upgrading every residential and industrial building for state-of-the-art energy efficiency, comfort and safety;
4. eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from the manufacturing, agricultural and other industries, including by investing in local-scale agriculture in communities across the country;
5. eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from, repairing and improving transportation and other infrastructure, and upgrading water infrastructure to ensure universal access to clean water;
6. funding massive investment in the drawdown of greenhouse gases;
7. making “green” technology, industry, expertise, products and services a major export of the United States, with the aim of becoming the undisputed international leader in helping other countries transition to completely greenhouse gas neutral economies and bringing about a global Green New Deal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party declares that a climate emergency threatens our state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party commits to organizing and advocating for the Green New Deal and a climate emergency mobilization effort at the local, regional, state, national, and global levels to provide maximum protection for our residents as well as all the people and species of the world.

#4

Resolution Opposing a Citizenship Question on the 2020 U.S. Census

WHEREAS, the Census occurs once every ten years and it is imperative to obtain the most accurate count possible;

WHEREAS, every community relies on Census data in order to apportion our national representatives and make decisions about public safety and neighborhood resources and this information impacts every aspect of our lives;

WHEREAS, a fair and accurate count allows our leaders and businesses to make sound investment decisions that keep our communities thriving;

WHEREAS, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has chosen to include a question on the U.S. Census pertaining to citizenship;

WHEREAS, including this question on the Census will discourage participation and impact the data collected in every community across the country thereby undermining the rights of eligible voters and threatening a process vital to our democracy;

WHEREAS, the inclusion of a citizenship question is bad for our communities and bad for America;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party strongly opposes the inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 U.S. Census.

#5

Resolution Condemning the use of the term “Redskins”

WHEREAS, the Michigan Democratic Party accepts the mission to engage, as a matter of mutual concern, issues that impact the health, security, safety, and general welfare of Native Americans;

WHEREAS, the derogatory term ‘redskins’ degrades and diminishes Native people throughout the history of the United States as documented in study after study and related by personal experiences of Native people in Indian Country and beyond. The negative effects on our children and our Native communities are long-lasting and detrimental to the positive self-esteem necessary to maintain the high quality of life that is the goal of thoughtful people everywhere;

WHEREAS, Native Americans are the only minority-status race of people in the United States used as sports team mascots;

WHEREAS, educational awareness and outreach are implemented to educate the communities about Native American culture, ensuring an opportunity for Native Americans to be seen in a safe, culturally appropriate manner, and helping to eliminate stereotypical views by creating an atmosphere, free from hostility intimidation and bullying in reference to race to promote a healthy environment for all individuals;

WHEREAS, Native American students are entitled to an educational environment that is not hostile - but is conducive to equal attainment of educational goals as with all others students;

WHEREAS, the protection of the wellbeing of Native American children is a high priority for the Michigan Democratic Party, including prevention of discrimination in schools that Native children attend;

WHEREAS, the United Tribes of Michigan, which consists of the leadership of Michigan’s twelve federally recognized tribes, condemns the use of the term “redskins” per their resolution #05120170511;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party condemns the use of the term “redskins” by any Michigan educational institution, or any other educational institution or sports team, as any component of their sports mascot, name, or symbol; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party encourages the Michigan State Board of Education and Michigan Legislature to impose sanctions against any Michigan educational institution using the term “redskins” or any other race-based sports team names, mascots, images, logos, antics, song lyrics or other displays in a manner deemed by Native American complainants as racially or culturally offensive.

#6

Resolution in Support of Michigan Veterans

WHEREAS, the Michigan Democratic Party strongly supports the efforts and sacrifices made by all men and women of the Armed Forces as well as Veterans;

WHEREAS, the Michigan Democratic Party thank all who have served and are serving;

WHEREAS, there are about 680,000 Veterans residing in Michigan;

WHEREAS, Michigan ranked 46th of 50 states in 2012 in spending in spending on Veterans, according to the U.S. Veterans Administration. Michigan ranked last the previous year;

WHEREAS, Michigan Veterans are not getting the help they need, either due to bureaucratic snags or they are unaware of benefits they have earned and deserve;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic will engage it membership in order to bring awareness to Michigan Veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party will encourage Federal, State, County, and Municipal elected officials to provide encouragement and education to Michigan Veterans in order for them to receive the benefits that they have earned.

#7

Resolution Reaffirming Support of Medicare for All

WHEREAS, the U.S. is the only developed nation without some form of universal coverage for healthcare of its citizens, the result of which is that 28 million people under age 65 may not have health insurance and therefore access to care, resulting in, among other things, medically driven bankruptcies and financial difficulties; and

WHEREAS, the current private insurance model in U.S. results in:

1. The U.S. spending the greatest amount per person on healthcare in the world without a commensurate return in outcomes
2. Excessive premium costs for employers providing health insurance and therefore a burden on U.S. competitiveness in world markets. The efficient allocation of the labor force is inhibited by people who can't change employment or retire because of the possible loss of health insurance coverage
3. Multiple strategies employed by insurance providers to pay as little as possible for actual medical care from premiums collected. For example, in and out of network rules and payment schedules which reduce consumer choice and hinder competition. Dollars paid as premiums are reduced by insurance company administrative costs and profits and do not reach actual health care providers to pay for actual patient care
4. Medical providers are faced with multiple payers with differing claims rules and paperwork requirements making the billing of claims costly, inefficient and wasteful.

WHEREAS, a national single payer system currently exists in the U.S. in the form of Medicare. A national single payer universal coverage health insurance system would also eliminate the need for Medicaid, which is a costly system that burdens the budgets of many states; and

WHEREAS, various states are considering their own form of single payer health insurance. A patchwork of systems would result in many of the same problems that currently exist, forcing providers to comply with claims requirements of numerous different systems and would present the same in network versus out of network problems for patients. It would also inhibit the movement of people to take better employment opportunities that may exist in other states, including Michigan.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party believes that healthcare, including comprehensive reproductive health, is a right and that the U.S. must join every other industrialized democracy in the world and embrace legislative solutions to achieve Medicare for all.

#8

Resolution in Support of Federal Workers and Contractors

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration caused the longest government shutdown in history and federal workers, contractors, and sub-contractors have not been compensated for work and services performed;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports the restoration of pay and back pay for federal workers, contractors, and sub-contractors.

#9

Resolution in Support of Gun Reform and School Safety

WHEREAS, over the past thirty years the murder and injury of students and staff in public schools by firearms has become a frequent occurrence in the United States;

WHEREAS, thousands of students and public school employees are actively working to make schools safer;

WHEREAS, 95% of public school employees believe gun violence is directly related to mental illness and believe the mentally ill should be prevented from obtaining guns;

WHEREAS, most law enforcement experts agree that school personnel should not carry guns;

WHEREAS, 82% of public school employees oppose school staff carrying guns;

WHEREAS, 77% of public school employees agree that access to guns is too easy;

WHEREAS, 60% of public school employees are fearful of a mass school shooting;

WHEREAS, the majority of Americans want stricter gun laws;

WHEREAS, carrying guns actually makes children feel less safe;

WHEREAS, the Michigan Republican Legislature consistently passes bills to weaken our gun laws;

WHEREAS, gun violence is a safety issue and not an infringement of rights;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party urge the Michigan Board of Education to support the formation of a coalition consisting of educators, health experts, and first responders to study school violence and make recommendations to the State Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic party would advocate to the Michigan Legislature to ban the sale, the transfer, and the importing of military-style assault type weapons and ammunition in the State of Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party would advocate to the Michigan Legislature the banning of bump stocks, high capacity magazines, and similar modifications as well as banning 3-D plastic guns and guns made from other materials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party opposes public employees carrying firearms in schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that public schools develop school threat assessments and crisis intervention teams consisting of counselors, psychologists, and social workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party urge the State of Michigan Legislature properly fund public schools for school security infrastructure or provide grant money for said infrastructure such as emergency buttons in classrooms and cameras with a direct feed to local law enforcement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to make our children and the general public safer, the Michigan Democratic Party encourages public schools to become “GUN FREE ZONES” with the exception of law enforcement officials and supports comprehensive gun reform including, but not limited to, universal background checks, waiting periods, disarming domestic abusers, and limiting the capacity of gun magazines.

#10

Resolution Against Institutional Harassment

WHEREAS, institutional harassment is unwelcome conduct that is based on actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical appearance or disability;

WHEREAS, institutional harassment can be the basis for discrimination and violates Title VII (1964), Age Discrimination in Employment (1967), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990);

WHEREAS, institutional harassment can be sexual in nature and referred to as “Quid Pro Quo”, someone in a position of authority makes or recommends decisions on the conditions of a sexual act or favor from the victim;

WHEREAS, institutional harassment can be a “Hostile Work Environment” which can also be considered sexual in nature and includes forms of intimidation, hostility, or offensive behavior from the conduct of a supervisor, co-worker, a client or a customer;

WHEREAS, institutional harassment does not have to be sexual in nature but can include offensive remarks about a person’s actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical appearance or disability;

WHEREAS, institutional harassment can be illegal when it results in an adverse employment and academic decisions such as the victim being fired or demoted or grades being lowered;

WHEREAS, institutional harassment can include offensive jokes, slurs, name calling, intimidation, ridicule, insults, or put-downs, offensive objects or pictures;

WHEREAS, many sexually harassed people do nothing as they think it will affect their career;

WHEREAS, many sexually harassed people do not report the harassment as they want to forget it;

WHEREAS, many sexually harassed people sign an agreement not to disparage their employer or school even after reporting the incident;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party will condemn any type of institutional harassment be it sexual or offensive in nature and advocate for all people to be free of said harassment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party will promote an anti-harassment campaign that includes, but is not limited to, the following steps:

1. Encourage people to know the institution’s anti-harassment policies.
2. Encourage people to report harassment in the beginning stage to the appropriate authority.
3. Encourage people to keep a log or a diary of all offenses.
4. Encourage people to know their legal rights, for sexual harassment it can be “Quid Pro Quo” or classified as a “Hostile Work Environment.”
5. Encourage people to be a witness for other co-workers and students.

#11

Resolution Against Anti-Democratic Legislative Practices

WHEREAS, Michigan's Constitution gives its citizens the right to initiate laws and constitutional amendments;

WHEREAS, the Michigan legislature has used appropriations that circumvent the citizens' ability to initiate referenda in response to legislation

WHEREAS, Michigan's Constitution also gives its citizens the right to subject laws to referendum;

WHEREAS, the Constitution sets forth specific requirements as to how many signatures may be gathered as part of the initiative or referendum process;

WHEREAS, the people of Michigan have used these rights repeatedly over the years;

WHEREAS, Public Act 608 of 2018 states that "not more than 15% of the signatures to be used to determine the validity of a petition described in this section shall be of registered electors from any 1 congressional district. Any signature submitted on a petition above the limit described in this section must not be counted.";

WHEREAS, legal challenges have been raised surrounding the constitutionality - or lack thereof - of Public Act 608;

WHEREAS, the Michigan Legislature has consistently used lame duck sessions to pass widely unpopular bills with no repercussions;

WHEREAS, in the 2012 lame duck session, the Republican-led legislature passed another Emergency Manager law after the previous law had been soundly rejected by the voters and attached appropriations to it;

WHEREAS, the Republican-led legislature passed Right to Work laws to weaken unions during the 2012 lame duck session;

WHEREAS, in the most recent lame duck session, the Republican-led Michigan legislature has continued to disrespect and disregard the will of the voters by weakening laws initiated by the people;

WHEREAS, the Republican-led legislature attempted to strip incoming Democratic elected officials of their authority;

WHEREAS, the Republican-led legislature gutted minimum wage and paid sick leave laws that were passed to prevent a ballot proposal on that issue from being considered by the voters;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party believes that all appropriations should be part of the budget process and not attached to legislation outside the budget process in order to make them ‘referenda-proof’; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party opposes Public Act 608 and the excessive petition signature requirements that it imposes and supports efforts to repeal Public Act 608 through the referendum process; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party will support amendments to the Michigan Constitution to eliminate anti-democratic laws and practices, including restrictions on voter access and ability to participate in elections, initiatives, and referendums.