

Michigan Democratic Party Resolutions 2021

Resolution Supporting Making Unemployment Compensation Benefits Tax Exempt From Federal, State, and Local Taxation

WHEREAS, taxing unemployment compensation benefits is a double taxation; and

WHEREAS, before 1981 unemployment compensation benefits were tax exempt from federal, state, and local taxation; and

WHEREAS, unemployment compensation benefits were established to help working families who have lost their employment with financial aid; and

WHEREAS, those receiving unemployment compensation benefits need all their benefits to pay for heating fuel, electricity, food, housing, health-care coverage, prescription medications, etc.; and

WHEREAS, taxation on unemployment compensation benefits is a heavy burden on everyone; and

WHEREAS, returning unemployment compensation benefits to their tax-exempt income would help our economy by putting additional cash flow back into our economy; and

WHEREAS, we believe in helping unemployed workers and our seniors who need it the most in federal, state, and local levels; and

WHEREAS, other government assistance programs are tax-exempt and so should unemployment compensation benefits:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party urge all elected federal, state, and local officials to reinstate the tax-exempt status on unemployment compensation.

Resolution Calling on Congress to Make the Federal Income Tax Fair to low-wage working families

WHEREAS, Workers making less than \$15 an hour have not benefited from the tax changes passed in the last four years and are suffering economically since wages under \$15 an hour barely cover expenses needed for housing, health care and saving for retirement.

WHEREAS, Families who have trouble paying for housing, food, health care and saving for retirement struggle today and have not benefited from the tax cuts that were given to wealthy individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, Let the Michigan Democratic Party resolve to call on our Federal Elected Officials to revamp the federal income tax code to eliminate Federal Income Tax on the first \$33,000.00 of income indexed for inflation so working families will have money to pay for housing, health care and future retirement.

Student Loan Relief

WHEREAS, 43 million Americans owe \$1.6 trillion in federally owned student debt, according to the U.S. Department of Education;

WHEREAS, Americans owe more in student loan debt than in any other form of household credit except mortgages;

WHEREAS, Forgiving student loans would immediately free up hundreds of dollars in monthly budgets for 43 million Americans, money that would immediately be put back into the economy;

WHEREAS, Many Americans are saddled with tens of thousands of dollars worth of high-interest student loan debt, where only making minimum payments primarily pays interest instead of the principle balance;

WHEREAS, Many traditional middle class milestones, and forms of wealth generation, such as home ownership, remain unattainable to Americans with high student loan debt;

WHEREAS, Young Americans are putting off starting families, or delaying large life decisions as a result of their student loans;

WHEREAS, Countless Americans' credit scores are negatively impacted by their inability to pay their student loan debt, thus limiting their future capacity to borrow for home ownership, auto-loans, or other forms of wealth generation;

WHEREAS, Higher education or training is widely viewed as a necessary condition for earning higher wages or transcending generational poverty;

WHEREAS, Americans who are already economically displaced or disenfranchised, on account of past injustice on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other marginalized identities; are further economically disenfranchised by student loan debt;

WHEREAS, President Biden has the authority, through Executive Action, to forgive federally owned student loan debt administered through the U.S. Department of Education;

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2020, the former president vetoed House Joint Resolution 76, blocking a resolution that passed Congress with bipartisan support to overturn a Department of Education rule that makes it harder for defrauded Federal student loan borrowers to see their loans discharged;

WHEREAS, Congress has already granted the Secretary of Education the legal authority to broadly cancel student debt under section 432(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1082(a)), which grants the Secretary the authority to modify, "... compromise, waive, or release any right, title, claim, lien, or demand, however acquired, including any equity or any right of redemption";

WHEREAS, more than 235 community, civil rights, consumer, and student advocacy organizations have urged student debt cancellation for all borrowers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic public health and economic crises;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party calls on the U.S. Congress to immediately pass legislation to forgive federally owned student loan debt, and if they fail to do so, for President Biden to immediately forgive federally owned student loan debt through Executive Action;

(1) encourage the President of the United States, in taking such executive action, to use the executive's authority under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure no tax liability for Federal student loan borrowers resulting from administrative debt cancellation;

(2) encourage the President of the United States to continue to pause student loan payments and interest accumulation for Federal student loan borrowers for the entire duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. ADD THREE WHEREAS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Michigan Democratic Party calls on the Michigan Congressional Delegation to support the President in this Executive Action, by introducing legislation to make higher education permanently more affordable or free for all Americans.

COVID-19 Relief

WHEREAS, in March 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic triggered the shut downs of businesses and government entities in Michigan, across the United States, and around the world; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has previously enacted two rounds of financial aid and stimulus to the People of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the financial aid and stimulus provided by the United States Congress thus far been helpful to but inadequate for many Americans; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans have been laid off or lost their employment entirely as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, millions of small businesses have had to limit their hours or shut down entirely; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues with only limited abatement as of February 2021; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is currently debating further a new round of financial aid and stimulus for the People of the United States, as well as businesses and state and local governments;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party urge the United States Congress to provide immediate and ongoing financial aid and stimulus to the People of the United States, small businesses, and state and local governments; and further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that aid to the people of the United States include, but not be limited to, direct financial aid in the amount of \$1,400 per person as proposed by President of the United States Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr.; and further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the aforementioned aid not be subject to any form of “means testing” that is based on outdated information such as pre-pandemic tax returns or other similar data; and further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, if the Congress determines that individuals over a certain income level should not be provided with financial aid or stimulus or that such aid should be limited, such limits should be enacted through future “claw back” provisions or similar procedure for the 2021 tax year; and further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party encourages Congress make and continue to make provision for ongoing financial aid and stimulus to the People of the United States, small businesses, and state and local governments until such time as the ongoing emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic has abated as determined by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and/or any other appropriate state, federal, and/or international public health authorities.

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT H.R. 2474: PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE (PRO) ACT

WHEREAS, There is an imbalance of power in our economy, where wealthy CEOs and their corporations reap record profits and bonuses while the working people who create those profits fall further behind; and

WHEREAS, The Coronavirus pandemic has amplified these inequities and has made the need to assure safety for essential frontline workers a matter of life and death; and

WHEREAS, When workers join a union or organize a new one, they are demonstrating the power of collective action as a countervailing force for the benefit of their interests as working people, and

WHEREAS, Workers are organizing, mobilizing, protesting and striking at levels of intensity not seen in our labor movement for decades, and

WHEREAS, Current labor law gives employers too much power to impede workers trying to organize with their co-workers; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 2474: Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act will remove many of these barriers to organizing, and make it easier for workers to join together in unions and negotiate a first contract; and

WHEREAS, The PRO Act will increase penalties and speed up remedies when employers interfere with workers’ rights; and

WHEREAS, The PRO Act will streamline the NLRB election process, increasing the election speed and decreasing company interference by prohibiting mandatory anti-union company meetings; and

WHEREAS, The PRO Act will protect strike and protest activity that gives workers the economic leverage by allowing secondary boycotts and prohibiting companies from hiring permanent replacement workers during strikes; and

WHEREAS, The PRO Act will narrow the definition of independent contractors and supervisors to eliminate employee misclassifications, a common tactic used by many employers to avoid NLRA protections, such as the right to organize; and

WHEREAS, The PRO Act will define a process for reaching a first contract, including mediation and binding arbitration, and a fair-share clause, even in so-called “Right-to-Work” jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, The state of Michigan and the county of Monroe have a strong and storied history in the labor movement, and the struggle for protecting workers’ rights is under constant attack from the GOP at both the state and federal levels, and passage of the PRO Act will go far in fighting against those attacks; and therefore be it

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Michigan Democratic Party will publicly extend our support for H.R. 2474: Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, educate our members, elected officials and general public on the importance of this act, and heartily advocate for the passage of the act in all relevant political arenas.

RESOLUTION TO BAN FIREARMS FROM THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING AND GROUNDS

WHEREAS, armed protestors entered the Michigan State Capitol Building on April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, given the alleged 2020 plot to kidnap and possibly harm or kill Governor Gretchen Whitmer; and

WHEREAS, divisiveness and anger fueled by inflammatory accusations of voter fraud in the November 2020 Presidential Election culminated in the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol; and

WHEREAS, research released in January 2021 revealed that Michigan is one of a few states with very limited firearm regulations or security measures to protect the Capitol Buildings and Grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Capitol Commission on January 11, 2021 banned the open-carry of weapons Inside the Capitol Building; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Attorney General reported on January 16, 2021 that the Capitol Building and Grounds were “unsafe”; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2021 Governor Whitmer requested that the State Legislature address this issue; and

WHEREAS, the Capitol traditionally hosts thousands of school children each year

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party strongly urges that the State Legislature pass legislation, or the State Capitol Commission issue a ruling, that would ban:

-possession of firearms (open-carry or concealed-carry) by any person other than by authorized, on-duty law enforcement officials

-open-carry of firearms on the State Capitol Grounds other than by authorized, on-duty law enforcement officials.

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE ACTIONS OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVES BERGMAN, McCLAIN AND WALBERG

WHEREAS, United States Representatives Jack Bergman, Lisa McClain and Tim Walberg chose to vote against the certification of the Electoral College results from the legal and fair 2020 Presidential election; and

WHEREAS, by their actions these Representatives called into question the legality of votes cast by a majority of people of color in areas such as Detroit and Wayne County. Such actions, if successful, would have disenfranchised the voters of the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, their actions encouraged groups that refused to accept the results of the election to take part in protests that culminated in the insurrection of January 6, 2021 by domestic terrorists. This attack on the U.S. Capitol resulted in the death of five people and the injury of many more;

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party condemns the actions of U.S. Representatives Jack Bergman, Lisa McClain and Tim Walberg and calls for their resignations.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ROBUST & THOROUGH TRANSPARENCY IN MICHIGAN STATE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan routinely suffers from poor or embarrassing “F” grades for lack of transparency in state government from the Center for Public Integrity and other open-government advocates; and

WHEREAS, advocates for transparency in state government operate on the principle that “sunlight is the best disinfectant”; and

WHEREAS, elected state leaders have repeatedly failed to follow through on pledges for expanded financial disclosure and FOIA rules and have failed to pass meaningful legislation that would provide for progressive open-government standards;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party will support legislation introduced by Democrats such as Representative David LaGrand and Senator Jeremy Moss that calls for transparency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party unequivocally believes in, and advocates for full transparency at all levels of government.

Resolution to Repeal MCL 123.411 State of Michigan Rental Control Preemption

WHEREAS, the Home Rule City Act grants municipal authority "to pass all laws and ordinances relating to its municipal concerns,"

WHEREAS, renters in Michigan are experiencing the fallout of the current housing market squeeze,

WHEREAS, along with rents, rates of eviction and homelessness have increased significantly in parts of the state,

WHEREAS, renters are increasingly “cost-burdened” in parts of the state, paying more than 30% of their income toward housing,

WHEREAS, some municipalities are made up of a significant percentage of low-income renter households,

WHEREAS, municipalities of predominantly low-income renter households have different needs than municipalities of predominantly high-income homeowner households,

WHEREAS, municipalities of predominantly low-income renter households need the appropriate tools to self-determine,

WHEREAS, the private housing market and local landlords are the de-facto private body that determines municipal rent increases, decrease, or freezes,

WHEREAS, the current rental control preemption law bars municipalities from public determinations of municipal rent increases, decreases, or freezes,

WHEREAS, municipalities should have the option to use their municipal authority to pass laws and ordinances appropriate for their communities, including the regulation of rent;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party adds the repeal of MCL 123.411 to the state party platform and encourages our legislators to work toward the repeal of MCL 123.411.

STATE REVENUE SHARING

WHEREAS, State revenue sharing funding to local units of governments have declined and Federally directed funds for local governments have often not been received at the local levels

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Therefore, the Michigan Democratic Party urges that State Revenue Sharing be increased to all local governments and that Federal funds for local governments be distributed to all local governments.

Support for Free and Equal Michigan

WHEREAS, Democrats believe that everyone should live without fear of discrimination;

WHEREAS, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) prohibits discrimination against Michiganders based on "religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, or marital status", but does not offer protections for LGBTQ Michiganders;

WHEREAS, Michigan is one of a small number of states where employees can be fired simply for being LGBTQ;

WHEREAS, Fair and Equal Michigan, a coalition of leaders and activists from the LGBTQ, business, faith, and civic communities, collected nearly 500,000 signatures in 2020 is attempting to add LGBTQ protections to ELCRA through the initiative petition process;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Michigan Democratic Party strongly supports the efforts of Fair and Equal Michigan to amend ELCRA to include protections for LGBTQ individuals.

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE POLICE BRUTALITY AND OPPRESSION THROUGH POLICE MILITARIZATION AND EXCESSIVE FORCE

WHEREAS, the Michigan Democratic Party promotes the interests and concerns of all persons in the State of Michigan, and;

WHEREAS, it is of the interest of the Michigan Democratic Party that those who work hard should be assured the opportunity to achieve greater economic security, and that all should be able to live with basic human dignity, and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party demands that Americans move forward together promoting the American values of hard work, community diversity, faith, family and personal responsibility, and

WHEREAS, the needs of the most vulnerable in the state of Michigan often represent the political, social and economic losses suffered by African-Americans and other minority groups, leading with nearly fifty-percent of African-American voters losing their right to self-determination and local governance through Michigan's Emergency Management policies; usurping their right to a responsive, open and accessible government, and

ACKNOWLEDGING, Michigan's "Right-to-Work" legislation dilutes the collective bargaining power of working class families in the workplace, be it the private or public sector, and

WHEREAS, the execution Michigan's Emergency Management and "Right-to-Work" legislative policies has created second-class communities in education, quality of life and economic empowerment, and

WHEREAS, these intentional public policies at the state and local level expand the exposure of civil rights violations and direct oppression to African-Americans, the largest minority population in the state of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, African-Americans have suffered constant oppression through the execution of public policies that enhance stereotypes and racial bias throughout Michigan's history with

consistent expressions of police brutality, civil rights abuses and social and economic exclusion, and

WHEREAS, police officers serving in auxiliary organizations are not currently required to receive adequate training in community relations or routine safety practices in law enforcement as full-time employees of local or county law enforcement agencies, and

WHEREAS, scores of people of color are illegally searched and often detained by members of law enforcement; sometimes serving in an auxiliary or militia capacity, and

ACKNOWLEDGING, that the use of excessive force by police has led to federal lawsuits in communities across the state of Michigan, for decades without quality reform.

ACKNOWLEDGING, additional incidents of police brutality and excessive force have caused the death of numerous African-Americans throughout various Michigan communities;

RECOGNIZING, the penalties levied against communities found guilty of excessive force by law enforcement agents and police brutality rest on their taxpayers, increasing the injustice they experience through a higher cost of living, reduced community confidence in their justice system and decreased public trust in their law enforcement and elected officials;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Michigan Democratic Party supports the civil rights and freedom of the residents whom are victimized by the injustice and brutality implemented by the law enforcement; we call for the immediate action and termination of any police officer who has shown misconduct towards the citizens whom they have sworn under oath to protect and serve, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Michigan Democratic Party will take expedient political action against the use of oppressive public policy that creates second-class citizenship for African-Americans, all people of color and the economically disadvantaged, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Michigan Democratic Party will take direct action against police brutality, excessive force and police militarization, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Michigan Democratic Party calls for the Michigan Legislature to oppose the use of excessive force, police militarization and police brutality at the hands of police agencies in the state of Michigan through its public policy agenda and party platform, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Michigan Democratic Party calls on Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, through executive order, to create administrative policy for independent investigation through the offices of the Attorney General and the Michigan State Police in the case of a death due to the use of excessive force or police brutality, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Michigan Democratic Party, in coordination with the Michigan Legislative and Executive Branches of government request the United States Department of Justice, Eastern District of Michigan independent investigations of death due to use of excessive force and police brutality against African-Americans at the hands of state and local law enforcement agencies, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution is being sent to the Michigan Democratic Delegation to the United States Congress, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution is submitted to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Attorney General of the State of Michigan, the Director of the Michigan State Police.

Need for humane immigration law, policy, and agency practice

WHEREAS, as Michigan Democrats and citizens we highly value fairness in our society and by our federal government and reaffirm our commitment to humanitarian and human rights law and the inherent dignity of all persons; AND

WHEREAS, foreign-born persons have contributed and continue to contribute to American society; AND

WHEREAS, in national politics in recent years it has been frequently and wrongly assumed that immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers are unwelcome here; AND

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration's campaigns against immigration, refugees, and asylum have led to race-based and ethnicity-based police profiling, arrests of persons lawfully in this country, and fear in immigrant and migrant families and communities;

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration arbitrarily cut U.S. admission of lawfully vetted and eligible refugees to the lowest level in modern history and tried to prevent asylum claimants from consulting counsel and making their claims; AND

WHEREAS, Trump Administration immigration policy, rulings, and agency practice have arbitrarily broken up families divided families, detained and removed persons who had claims to remain in the United States, and prevented persons otherwise admissible from entering the United States; AND

WHEREAS, Trump Administration immigration policy, rulings, and practice arbitrarily and prejudicially curtailed visas for family visits and for U.S.-international scholarly, scientific, and commercial exchanges; AND

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform will take some time, although humanitarian crises persist; AND

WHEREAS, U.S. immigration matters involve not only immigration law but an array of agencies, and eliminating prejudicial practices will take more than change in the law;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party reaffirm its support for the Biden Administration's pledge and efforts to reunite wrongly separated immigrant families and to seek fair, humane immigration law reform, as urgent matters;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of State reverse rulings and practices that pose prejudicial barriers to the lawful seeking of asylum and that are inconsistent with the objects and purposes of international humanitarian and human rights law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States reverse the last four years of caps on admission of lawfully vetted refugees;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice change their policies that prejudice those who seek relief in human-trafficking cases;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we renew our commitment that the United States of America shine yet again as a beacon of hope;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be forwarded to the Michigan Democratic Party with a recommendation for its acceptance and placement in the appropriate document or with the appropriate committee for action.

Democrats Must Work for Improved Quality of Life and Equity for Rural Americans of Color

WHEREAS, Rural America is home to two million immigrants, more than three million Native Americans and Alaska Natives, and eight million others who identify as people of color; and,

WHEREAS, One in five Americans live in rural communities, and more than one in five (22 percent) rural residents are people of color. Rural Native Americans, Asian and Latinx groups are growing fastest, followed by African Americans; and,

WHEREAS, The issues of racism, power structures, implicit bias and historical inequities are just as ingrained in rural counties as they are in urban areas; and,

WHEREAS, Due to structural racism within the USDA and other government agencies, Black farmers have historically received less financial and technical support than their white peers received, putting them at a significant disadvantage; and,

WHEREAS, Although rural people overall are more aligned with Republicans, 38% of rural registered voters are Democrats, (according to the Pew Research Center); and,

WHEREAS, Although politically conservative candidates often win races in agriculture-dependent rural communities, politically progressive candidates frequently do better in rural communities with strong recreation, amenity-based, and service-based economies; and,

WHEREAS, The” urban-rural divide” is more myth than truth; and,

WHEREAS, Catering to that myth prioritizes the political concerns of an imagined, white rural monolith and erases the needs of rural people of color, especially during a pandemic which is disproportionately devastating rural Black, Latinix and Native American communities; THEREFORE,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party will strive to encourage and support legislation that will implement improvements to rural communities’ quality of life, AND especially for equity for its most marginalized citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the State Democratic Party with a recommendation for its acceptance and placement in the appropriate document or with appropriate committee for action.

TEACHING OF ECONOMICS OF SLAVERY AND TRUE BLACK AND MINORITY HISTORY

WHEREAS, issues of race and prejudice and privilege continue to roil America, an understanding of how slavery forged the country seems all the more necessary; and

WHEREAS, The evidence of slavery’s legacy is all around us, including the persistence of segregation in schools, the gaping racial disparities in income and wealth, and the damage done to black families by the U.S. criminal justice system;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports curriculum that accurately reflects the economics of slavery and true black and minority history in our country.

CASH BAIL

WHEREAS, Cash bail is unfair to many people;

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party work to eliminate cash bail whenever possible in the interests of justice so as not to deprive those criminally charged of their freedom prior to trial.

Congressional Democrats Reparations Resolution

WHEREAS, Since the 1600s, people of the African diaspora have been subject to slavery, segregation, discrimination, and inequitable conditions under law in the United States,

WHEREAS, The United States of America has yet to undergo a true accountability process for the sins performed upon African Americans,

WHEREAS, There is a need for truth, reconciliation and atonement,

WHEREAS, Reparations to African American are an essential pillar of this process,

WHEREAS, The late Honorable Congressman John Conyers, Jr. was a pivotal pioneer in the push for reparations,

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Shelia Jackson-Lee has continued to introduce H.R. 40-legislation that would establish a commission to study how reparations should look in this country;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Under the direction of the 13th Congressional District, the Michigan Democratic Party supports and endorses H.R. 40 Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Michigan Democratic Party supports reparations for African Americans and will be active in the fight to secure them.

Resolution in Support of the Sanctity of Civil Jury Verdicts

WHEREAS, the right to a jury trial is one of the bedrocks of American jurisprudence as codified by the 7th Amendment of the US Constitution that not only guarantees the right to a trial by jury in a civil context, but also inhibits court's from overturning a jury's findings of fact as similarly codified in Article I §14 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of a jury is to guard against the exercise of arbitrary power - - to make available the commonsense judgment of the community as a hedge against the overzealous or mistaken prosecutor and in preference to the professional or perhaps over conditioned or biased response of a judge; and

WHEREAS, a sole judge having granted a motion for relief from judgment usurps the sanctity and purpose of a jury's verdict; and

WHEREAS, setting aside a jury's verdict is so drastic a remedy, that being contrary to the US and Michigan Constitutions, it demands the utmost examination and appellate review as a matter of right; and

WHEREAS, before any subsequent trial commences it is imperative, as a matter of right, that an order granting relief from judgment based on a jury's verdict is appealable in order to protect the integrity and sanctity of jury verdicts for litigants in Michigan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports the sanctity of jury verdicts.

Resolution regarding High Stakes Testing and Public Education

WHEREAS, Covid 19 has severely disrupted public education,

WHEREAS, as a result of said disruption students have missed substantial amounts of time in school,

WHEREAS, students living in poorer financial circumstances have less opportunity to engage with their teachers and schools by online access than their wealthier peers,

WHEREAS, high stakes state testing under these conditions would only serve to exacerbate long standing educational inequality,

WHEREAS, teachers will be collecting assessment data on students, and

WHEREAS, State Superintendent Michael Rice has requested a waiver for state testing,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party will advocate for the cancellation of state testing for the current school year, with the exception of the ACT and SAT.

Safely Opening Public Schools After a Pandemic

WHEREAS, a massive Coronavirus has swept the nation and the entire world and the future is uncertain for recurring pandemics; and

WHEREAS, thousands of public school employees and students may be required to return to buildings before a pandemic has finished running its course; and

WHEREAS, public school employees such as teachers, bus drivers, custodians, and others who work in a public school setting may be required to return to their buildings before receiving a vaccination related to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, public schools may not be properly ventilated; and

WHEREAS, public schools may lack qualified medical personnel such as nurses; and

WHEREAS, public schools lack the funding necessary to provide PPE such as masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant; and

WHEREAS, there is a severe shortage of school counselors and psychologists for students who may have suffered mental and physical abuse while at home during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, substitute teachers are deemed necessary in such a crisis and there is a severe shortage of such teachers; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party urge the Michigan Board of Education to form a coalition (Pandemic Task Force) consisting of educators, health experts, and others from public education to require school districts to develop plans for the reopening of public school districts in such a pandemic. The Michigan Board of Education would encourage school districts to work under the guidance of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and their own established Pandemic Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MDP advocates for full funding from the State of Michigan and the U.S. Government to safely open public schools

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MDP advocate that no public school employee return to work without being properly vaccinated

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MDP advocate that school buildings must be properly ventilated

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MDP advocate that school districts provide necessary PPE equipment such as face masks, hand sanitizers, disinfectants that do not contain harmful chemicals, and other necessary items for social distancing

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MDP advocate for smaller class sizes

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MDP advocate for school nurses to provide frequent testing of school employees for testing during a pandemic with the ability to contact trace

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MDP advocate for additional school counselors and psychologists

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MDP advocate for fair and equitable pay for substitute teachers

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution titled Safely Opening Public Schools After a Pandemic be forwarded to the Resolutions Committee of the Michigan Democratic Committee to be recommended for acceptance to the platform of the MDP.

Resolution to Stop Gerrymandering on the County Level of Government

WHEREAS, The citizens of Michigan spoke loudly and clearly in opposition to Gerrymandering of election districts at the Federal and State Level and established an Independent Citizens Commission to redraw election districts in a fair and non-partisan manner.

WHEREAS, This legislation did not address gerrymandering at the county level of government and we still have gerrymandering for political purposes done by the Counties in electing of County Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Michigan Democratic Party calls on the Michigan Legislature to change the method of redrawing county commission election districts to one that is done by an independent group of citizens OR is done in a manner that will eliminate the consideration of political party advantage in drawing election districts but instead is based on common areas of interest or City/Township lines.

LINE 5 RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Enbridge has operated a 4.5 mile segment of Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac since 1953 by means of the 1953 Easement granting it permission to use the Michigan bottomlands;

WHEREAS, Line 5 pumps 540,000 barrels a day of western Canada oil products from Superior, Wisconsin through almost 550 miles of Michigan to Sarnia, Ontario with 94% of that volume assigned for the Canadian market and export;

WHEREAS, the Rapid River propane terminal has capacity to store 360,000 gallons propane and the crude oil delivered to Detroit Marathon represents only 1.5% of Michigan's gasoline needs;

WHEREAS, several studies have concluded that shutting down Line 5 would only impact retail prices of propane and gasoline by mere pennies a gallon;

WHEREAS, studies have also concluded that a worst case spill in the Straits would mean a 2.5 million gallon spill oiling over 700 miles of shoreline with damages for cleanup, lost tourism jobs, diminished property values and destroyed fisheries in excess of \$6 billion;

WHEREAS, Line 5 has experienced at least three anchor drags since April, 2018 and no precautions can prevent another anchor drag in the event of a navigation emergency;

WHEREAS, the proposed tunnel has no definite completion date, - but permits the dangerous twin pipelines to remain pumping crude oil and NGLs until the tunnel is completed, if ever;

WHEREAS, nearly 30,000 permanent tourism jobs in northern Michigan are at risk should Line 5 experience a rupture, while the tunnel project will create roughly 300 temporary construction jobs (mostly out-of-state contractors) that will vanish when construction is completed over a projected 3 year build;

WHEREAS, by letter dated November 13, 2020, Governor Whitmer revoked the 1953 Easement based her obligations under the public trust doctrine and based on Enbridge's numerous uncorrectable violations, with a May 13, 2021 date for cessation of operations in the Straits;

WHEREAS, by letter dated January 12, 2021, Enbridge notified that state that it would not cease operations by May 13, 2021, giving the State the authority to act without further delay to avoid any additional risk to the Great Lakes;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party supports Governor Whitmer's well-founded decision to revoke the 1952 easement, and also requests that Governor Whitmer immediately act to shut down Line 5-- Assuming sufficient Upper Peninsula propane supplies are available.

Advancing the Interests of Rural Communities: Supporting Family Farms

WHEREAS, over the past several decades, there has been a steady degradation in the quality of life and opportunities available in the rural communities of Michigan, in part due to policies that have allowed consolidation and market distortions in favor of large agribusinesses over the interest of farmers; and

WHEREAS, such policies result in an unfair distribution of the significant economic value extracted from the land and labor provided by our rural population, much of this economic value being funneled to large agribusinesses, commonly located in urban centers, while the American farmer's share of each retail food dollar has fallen from 50 cents in 1952 to 15 cents today, leading not only to a loss of local jobs in the community and loss of a fair revenue from farm products, but also to farmers being forced to become customers of the very agribusinesses that have caused so much of their plight and being compelled to contribute to the bottom line of these corporations due to limited supply choices for equipment, seeds, chemicals, and fertilizer; and

WHEREAS, Americans in counties with unsustainable agricultural practices are more likely to have unsafe drinking water, lower incomes, and greater economic inequality; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration climate change mitigation proposals will push the entire agriculture sector toward scale neutral carbon-capture farming practices such as managed grazing, no-till crop production and cover crops; and

WHEREAS, access to internet broadband would allow small farmers to access information that would make farming more efficient, sustainable, and environmentally friendly, and to find new customers and communicate with existing customers efficiently; and

WHEREAS, access to information and education, including but not limited to research from national and state sources (e.g. MSU Extension), is becoming more limited, but is needed to combat pests and promote efficient and environmentally sound farming practices; and

WHEREAS, farmers are becoming older, and young people do not see farming as a way to sustainably raise their families.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Michigan Democratic Party should advocate for the Michigan Legislature and/or the USDA to pursue antitrust enforcement to break up agricultural monopolies and allow for greater choice and opportunity for people living in the vast rural areas of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party should advocate for the Michigan Legislature and/or the USDA for the pursuit of agricultural policy that enables smaller farms and farm support operations economic opportunity and access to resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party should advocate for programs that enable young people to become and remain farmers who can earn a living to support their families on a small farm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party should advocate for programs promoting scale neutral farm practices which are shown to capture soil carbon and mitigate the effects of climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the State Democratic Party with a recommendation for its acceptance and placement in the appropriate document or with appropriate committee for action.

Climate Change Solutions Through Agricultural Practices

WHEREAS, Michigan's farmers, foresters, and ranchers are experiencing the effects of climate change (late springs, season extensions, drought, flooding, high winds, new invasive pests) with increasing occurrences leading to smaller yields, less quality, and total loss of crops; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report in 2018 that stated climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC stated in their 2018 report that we must act quickly to reverse the threat of climate change, based on modeling showing only a 10-year window to reach a critical 45% decline in CO2 emissions by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's farmers, foresters, and ranchers have an opportunity to make a significant impact toward our 2030 CO2 emission reduction goal by incorporating agricultural practices that sequester carbon, mitigate climate change, increase yields with higher nutrient values, and create more resilience to climate change; and

WHEREAS, solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass are all clean energy generation sources that could provide landowners with a secondary income and beneficial to our environment; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Democratic Party in the past has fallen short of building relationships and support in rural Michigan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, as she leads federal policy decisions to solve our critical climate change problems.

We support policies that would motivate farmers, foresters, and ranchers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adopt practices to increase soil carbon sequestration (such as planting cover crops, no-till, composting, crop rotation, etc.).

We expect farmers, foresters, and ranchers to be included in these decisions of voluntary compliance and include significant investments from the government to facilitate changes in practice and provide financial and other benefits for those contributing to the solutions and assuring protection of long-term property values.

Michigan Democrats must build relationships with rural community members, listen to them, facilitate learning, support allied candidates, and message the progress for which Democrats are responsible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the State Democratic Party with a recommendation for its acceptance and placement in the appropriate document or with appropriate committee for action.

Water Is A Human Right Resolution

WHEREAS, 15 million people in the United States experienced a water shutoff, a shocking 1 out of every 20 households,

WHEREAS, Families have been left without clean, safe, and affordable water simply because they cannot afford the increased water rates which have increase by 30% over the last several years,

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened, like many other inequities, this water crisis. People are getting public health guidance to wash their hands for 20 seconds only to have a household with no water running from the faucets,

WHEREAS, Clean and safe water is a needed resource for life,

WHEREAS, The Emergency Water is a Human Right Act would prohibit water shutoffs during the pandemic and require reconnection of households who are currently disconnected, while creating a \$1.5 billion fund to help low-income households with water bills,

WHEREAS, We are denying people access to water just because they cannot afford it. This is wrong,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Under the direction of the 13th Congressional District, the Michigan Democratic Party supports and endorses the H.R. 616 - The Emergency Water is a Human Right Act

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Michigan Democratic Party supports access to clean and affordable water, and recognizes water as a human right.

Addressing Unmet Health Care Priorities in Rural Michigan

WHEREAS, health problems in rural Michigan reflect long term trends in demographics, economic opportunity, and other features of rural communities. Rural Michiganders are at elevated risk because the prevalence of many health problems is not met with available, affordable, accessible, or adequate medical care. Primary care, public health education, and tertiary hospital care are all deficient in most of Michigan's rural counties. The consequences include increased morbidity and mortality, disability, and cycles of unemployment or underemployment due to unmet medical problems. Prevalent medical disability, including but

not limited to complications of addictions or obesity, further distresses rural economies. Medical and public health challenges associated with an aging population, single parent households, low performance in education or job training, and lack of health insurance set rural communities apart from the rest of Michigan's population.

WHEREAS, in rural Michigan many rural hospitals are closed or financially struggling, local public health agencies are understaffed, and mental health services are largely unavailable. In rural Michigan it is difficult to recruit medical providers due to expectations of lower compensation, and competition from non-rural communities. Specialties such as cardiovascular medicine, oncology, and orthopedic medicine are accessed by rural populations only through significant travel, increasing unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses in order to obtain care that is routinely available in non-rural areas. There is an acute shortage of emergency, critical care, intensive care, obstetrical care, and services for mental health problems or addictions.

WHEREAS, many working age rural residents lack adequate health insurance despite Healthy Michigan and exchanges provided by the Affordable Care Act. A high proportion of Medicare-eligible seniors are dual eligible with Medicaid because of widespread poverty. Poor levels of health education lead to resistance to vaccination programs and non-compliance with prescription regimens, missed follow-up medical appointments, and self-medication that can lead to decreased health and loss of independence.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party should promote an evidence-based, statewide rural health initiative to increase the number of rural health clinics, the availability of specialized medical services in hospitals, telemedicine services and public health programs. The initiative should aim to increase the compliment of medical, nursing, nurse practitioners, mental health specialists and dental providers in rural areas. The Party should defend and increase all affordable and effective health insurance options for rural, underserved Michiganders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be forwarded to the State Democratic Party with a recommendation for its acceptance and placement in the appropriate document or with appropriate committee for action.

Resolution for the Michigan Democratic Party to support expanded state Medicaid coverage with the goal of universal healthcare coverage for all Michigan residents

WHEREAS, Michigan residents do not currently all have healthcare coverage; and

WHEREAS, expanded state Medicaid coverage will bring Michigan closer to a goal of universal healthcare coverage for all Michigan residents; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Democratic Party supports universal healthcare coverage

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Michigan Democratic Party strongly support expanded state Medicaid coverage with the goal of universal healthcare coverage for all Michigan residents.

Affordable Broadband Internet for All Michigan Households

WHEREAS, broadband internet service is an essential utility—like electricity, clean water, and good roads—and has recently become even more essential because the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent stay-at-home orders have compelled more Michigan residents to work from home, attend virtual classrooms, and utilize telehealth services.

WHEREAS, an estimated 368,000 Michigan households, mostly in rural areas, have no access to a broadband connection. Another 2 million households have access only to a single internet service provider with little or no incentive to improve service or keep down prices.

WHEREAS, at least one-third of low-income Michigan families living in areas with broadband service do not have broadband access because they cannot afford to purchase required connection devices or pay monthly service fees.

WHEREAS, an estimated 462,000 K-12 students in Michigan do not have broadband access at home. At least half of these students say they cannot complete their homework and 42 percent received lower grades because they had no connection.

WHEREAS, telemedicine services offer better access to health care, especially for those who live in rural areas, and offer significant cost savings to patients by eliminating the need to take time off work, arrange for childcare, and travel to the doctor's office. One study found that the average cost savings was \$156 per patient per visit.

WHEREAS, studies have shown that households with a broadband connection receive an average economic benefit of approximately \$1,850 per year, due to higher income and/or cost savings. If the estimated 1,363,000 Michigan households without broadband access were connected, they would experience a total economic benefit of 2.52 billion dollars per year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the Michigan Democratic Party with a recommendation for its acceptance and placement in the appropriate document or with the appropriate committee for action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party call upon state and local governments to urgently develop policies and provide funding to increase access to affordable broadband internet service for all Michigan households.

United Against Insurrection

A resolution calling for the resignation of any member of Congress, and the Michigan Legislature, who voted against certifying the 2020 General Election results, contributing to a climate of insurrection.

WHEREAS, the events that occurred on January 6th, 2021; represent an unprecedented domestic terrorist attack on the Capitol and the United States of America;

WHEREAS, as a result of, and following, the attempted coup d'état five Americans tragically lost their lives; while dozens of others were seriously injured;

WHEREAS, the rhetoric used by President Donald J. Trump, and his allies in Congress, over the last year, created an environment that openly encouraged insurrection;

WHEREAS, President Trump's refusal to concede the 2020 General Election, combined with his demonstrably false claim that the election was rigged, continue to undermine the legitimacy of one of the oldest democracies in the world;

WHEREAS, at no point in the history of the United States of America until Donald Trump, has a sitting President openly rejected the results of a free and fair election;

WHEREAS, 63 of the legal cases contesting the 2020 General Election results, filed by the Trump campaign, in courtrooms around the country, were dismissed by judges -even those appointed by President Trump - due to the lack of sufficient evidence

WHEREAS, any member of congress who objected to and ultimately voted to reject the Electoral Count on January 6th and January 7th, 2021; did so in an attempt to overturn the democratic will of 81,283,485 Americans, a record number of votes for any Presidential Candidate in the history of the United States of America;

WHEREAS, any member of Congress, State Legislature, or other publicly elected office, attempting to downplay or delegitimize the events that occurred on January 6th is forsaking their oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

The Michigan Democratic Party, and the members represented therein, demand the following members of the U.S. Congress and the Michigan Legislature resign, effective immediately:

- Rep. Tim Walberg of MI
- Rep. Jack Bergman of MI
- Rep. LisaMcClainofMI

Resolution to support of driving rights for all Michigan Residents

WHEREAS, the safety of Michigan roads is vital to the state's future; and

WHEREAS, licensed drivers promote public safety by making sure that all drivers be properly tested, licensed, and insured; and

WHEREAS, licensed drivers widen the insurance pool and lower costs for all Michigan drivers; and

WHEREAS, licensed drivers increase state revenues through vehicle registration and taxes; and

WHEREAS, having a driver's license makes it possible for all residents to have access to economic and educational opportunities, to go to work, to shop, to visit a doctor, etc.; and

WHEREAS, having a driver's license is particularly essential to residents in rural Michigan, where public transportation is unavailable; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan had, until 2008, provided access to state driver's licenses to all state residents who could meet the requirements of knowledge and driving safety; and

WHEREAS, federal law, including the REAL ID Act does not prevent the State of Michigan from issuing driver's licenses for state purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Michigan supports restoring driving rights to all Michigan residents, regardless of immigration status by the reintroduction of SB 0631 and 0632 and HB 5192 and 5193, all Bills to amend the state Vehicle Code.

RESOLUTION BY THE NORTHVILLE DEMOCRATIC CLUB BOARD REMOVE REP. MATT MADDOCK

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2021, pro-Trump Republican terrorists attacked our U.S. Capitol, endangering the lives of elected officials, staff, aides, and the Capitol police, killing a Capitol police officer and injuring scores of other officers, and;

WHEREAS, this attack on the people’s House, Congress, and our democratic institution occurred because Donald John Trump and other Republicans perpetuated lies and refused to accept the 2020 election of Joe Biden. The traitorous mob had been emboldened and incited by Donald John Trump, and;

WHEREAS, this reprehensible sedition has far too many links to the great State of Michigan. Rep. Matt Maddock, HD 44, and his wife, Meshawn, have been complicit in many anti-government activities, in direct contravention of the rule of law. Maddock and his wife organized ‘Operation Gridlock’, where they protested Governor Whitmer’s actions to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and;

WHEREAS, Maddock spouts conspiracy theory nonsense about election processes in Michigan and the election of President Joe Biden. However, Maddock lacks any courage of his convictions to refuse to be seated himself (having been elected in the same election he protests, and;

WHEREAS, Maddock and his wife organized busloads of ‘protestors’ to challenge the Electoral College results - Michigan's ‘Stop the Steal’ contingent and worse yet appeared at a Tuesday night event wearing an official State of Michigan jacket as he was inciting the insurrection, and;

WHEREAS, Maddock is not worthy of his seat in the 101st Legislature. He is not deserving of a committee chair. Either this is a nation of laws, or it is not. A man who spouts conspiracy theory nonsense, a man who engages in insurrection/gives aid to insurrectionists, and a man who embarrasses the State of Michigan, its House of Representatives, and Michigan's Republican Party is not worthy of being a State of Michigan Representative. Maddock should face consequences for his actions, for his role in undermining our democracy and encouraging the violent overthrow of our government, and;

WHEREAS, Maddock is not fit for public office. Maddock cannot be permitted to sit as a representative in this great State's House of Representatives. Actions must have consequences. Nothing in American politics is more important than the peaceful transition of power, and accordingly, nothing warrants a swift, bipartisan response more than any attempt to interfere with that peaceful transition of power, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of the Michigan Democratic Party calls for the immediate removal of the unfit for office, unpatriotic, and un-American individual Rep Matt Maddock, HD 44.

A Resolution to Commemorate Isaac Robinson

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson passed away March 29th, 2020 due to complications from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson served as second (2nd) Vice President of the Young Democrats of America during the 2009-2011 biennium; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson was a long time President of the Young Democrats of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson was a State Representative in the Michigan House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson lived his Democratic values

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson was a fierce advocate for youth involvement in politics; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson exemplified the mantra “Young Gets It Done”; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson dedicated his life to pursuing justice for the marginalized and fighting for equality for everyone; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson dedicated his career fighting for criminal justice reform; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson dedicated his political career fighting for restorative justice; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson was a fierce advocate for his community; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson was a true native son of Detroit

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson was a mentor to many Young Democrats; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Robinson was a good friend and colleague to many;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Michigan Democratic Party Commemorates the life of Isaac Robinson during the 2021 Spring Convention.