

Michigan Democratic Party Resolutions 2020

Supporting a Michigan Constitutional Amendment to Remove the Prohibition of a Graduated Income Tax

WHEREAS, a graduated income tax would share the responsibility of operating the state and would do this more fairly. This would allow the people who can afford to pay more in income taxes to do so while allowing the burden to be lifted off the backs of the poor who cannot afford to pay more in income tax.

WHEREAS, a graduated income tax would allow a decrease in taxes for the poorest Michiganders and would allow them to use this additional income in stimulating the economy. The additional funds could also be used for food items and other essentials. This decrease in taxes would be burdened by the very wealthiest in Michigan who are also the same people who can afford an increased income tax.

WHEREAS, the state of Michigan is facing huge budget problems due to COVID-19, the increased cost of education, and republican control of the legislature which is keen on cutting many important areas of the state budget. Having a graduated income tax would allow us to have more money for emergency funds for situations like COVID and would also allow the state to be able to weather the storm of republican budget cuts in the future. The federal government changes hands every 4-8 years, and the state of Michigan cannot rely on federal assistance in times of emergency under a republican administration as shown by the current Trump administration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports an amendment to the Michigan Constitution to remove the prohibition of a graduated income tax.

WHEREAS the Michigan Democratic Party's (MDP) Platform, consistent with the Democratic National Party's 2016 Platform, states that, Democrats believe that healthcare is a right, not a privilege, and our health care system should put people before profits;

WHEREAS Universal Single-Payer Healthcare refers to a system where the U.S. or State Governments pay for healthcare expenses for all Americans;

WHEREAS Article 25 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration Of Human Rights, which was drafted by the commission's Chair, then First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, was ratified in 1948, and to which the United States is a signatory, states that healthcare is a human right of all people. Yet to date, the US Congress has ignored this basic human right;

WHEREAS the United States of America is; in the throes of a global pandemic, on the fringe of the worst economic downturn since the great depression of the twentieth century, facing unprecedented job losses, with more than 30 million Americans uninsured, and more than 137 million Americans facing financial hardship because of medical costs; and

WHEREAS 69% of all registered voters and 84% of Democrats support implementation of a single-payer system; now, therefore, be it

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party:

1. adopts Universal Single-Payer Healthcare as a plank in to the state platform, and to urge the Democratic National Committee to adopt the same at the national level;
2. strongly urges all Democrats running for office in Michigan, all incumbents, and the presidential nominee to adopt and promote Universal Single-Payer Healthcare as policy, and to consider the direct conflict of interest in accepting campaign contributions from any entity engaged in, or lobbying for, the medical, pharmaceutical, or healthcare insurance industries, and whether it serves the interests of their constituents;
3. instructs the Michigan Delegation to the United States Congress, to support legislation via co-sponsorship of bills for Universal Single-Payer Healthcare, as currently introduced to the U.S. Congress; H.R.1384, and S.1129, as demanded by constituents;
4. officially address the critical shortage of healthcare for many Michigan residents, and to publicly support the implementation of Universal Single-Payer Healthcare; and
5. recognize that a majority of constituents are calling for, and as such demand support for, and implementation of, Universal Single-Payer Healthcare at all levels of government.

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has called for a suspension of payroll taxes as a political attempt to appease workers who have been decimated by the economic ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the proposed suspension of collection payroll taxes is only a deferred collection that will be due in lump sum at year's end, which may impact workers even more severely; and

WHEREAS, payroll taxes fund the vital Social Security and Medicare benefits so many over age 65 rely upon and which are severely under-funded and should not be interrupted or further threatened by the Republican Party as they have tried to disband these worker-generated funds for decades; and

WHEREAS, the proposed election year payroll tax "relief" does nothing for the millions of those who have lost their jobs completely in 2020, and therefore are no longer on any payroll; and

WHEREAS, the GOP led Executive Branch and Senate have only grudgingly supplied a portion of financial aid to the blameless workers and their families, and have resisted providing further assistance in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the meager temporary paycheck boost for the currently employed provides no help in avoiding home evictions, as the period for eviction relief has elapsed as the Republicans have stalled for weeks in their legislative obligations; and

WHEREAS, the many families waiting for any source in income are deprived of adequate food and medicine, plus may face combining multi-family and multi-generational housing conditions in the midst of a dangerous and highly contagious virus;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Huron County Democratic Party rises in disagreement to the aforementioned actions taken by the President of the United States and urge the immediate retraction of such actions in the Michigan Democratic Party platform at its convention.

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.

WHEREAS, (It being the fact that:) Staggered national primaries for the purpose of selecting a Presidential candidate beginning with Iowa and New Hampshire do not adequately reflect the diversity of the country as a whole, and later primary states votes do not have an impact once the delegate threshold has been achieved

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Michigan Democratic Party support one national primary day for all states to foster equity among voters and candidates.

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.

Resolution to Protect Michigan's Students, Educators, and Partners

A resolution calling for delaying in person schooling, and providing resources for teaching Michigan students during a global pandemic.

WHEREAS the COVID-19 global pandemic has presented the entire world with complex challenges to our most fundamental social institutions and practices;

WHEREAS a return to in-person schooling dramatically increases the risk of educators, students, and partners, contracting COVID-19, putting countless lives in danger;

WHEREAS in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization, and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services guidelines require at least 6 feet of distance among individuals while indoors;

WHEREAS many of Michigan's public schools already suffer from capacity issues and overcrowding due to lack of resources;

WHEREAS many of Michigan's school buildings are older, operate on boiler-radiant heating systems with little to no active air flow;

WHEREAS a return to in-person schooling will increase the risk of students, educators, and partners, contracting COVID-19, putting countless lives in danger;

WHEREAS a single sick student, educator, or partner, in a school could create a superspreader event with the potential to create COVID-19 outbreaks in entire communities;

WHEREAS Michigan having over 800 school districts state-wide, each district with multiple schools within their system, the risk of superspreading events occurring frequently is very high;

WHEREAS many Michigan school districts are already struggling with a *educator* shortage, if an outbreak occurs in a school, many staff will have to stay home for at least 14 days, creating a larger financial and logistical burden on school districts as a whole;

WHEREAS many Michigan school districts lack adequate operational funding to address the expenses required to keep *educators*, students, and partners safe: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) acquisition and distribution; additional disinfectant cleaning supplies, and increased custodial labor; barriers or screens for classrooms; and other necessary supplies.

WHEREAS the *Michigan Education Association*, and *Michigan Federation of Teachers*, other education unions, and *Michigan Democratic Party* share a deep history of solidarity in the fight for a free, accessible, and quality public education for all.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Democratic Party:

1. supports postponing opening Michigan schools until the COVID-19 Pandemic concludes, as a key part of the 2020 Party Platform;
2. instructs the Michigan Department of Education to not require districts to add school days to the school calendar year to make up for any lost time as a result of postponing in-person schooling;
3. instructs the Michigan Department of Education to postpone any educator or partner evaluations for the 2020-2021 until the COVID-19 pandemic concludes;
4. strongly urges all Democrats running for office in Michigan, all incumbents, and the presidential nominee to adopt and promote policies that put the safety of our educators;

5. instructs the Michigan Delegation to the United States Congress, to support legislation via co-sponsorship of bills that appropriate funding for public schools to create and maintain virtual remote classroom environments.

Resolution on the Shutdown and Decommissioning of Line 5

WHEREAS the Enbridge Line 5 is a twin 20-inch, 645 mile pipeline owned and operated by the Canadian-based oil transport conglomerate, Enbridge Energy, through which 23 million gallons of crude oil and natural gas liquids travel daily, equal to about one million gallons per hour; and

WHEREAS Line 5 oil originating in Alberta, Canada oil fields, runs through Wisconsin and Michigan, bisecting Michigan's two peninsulas through the environmentally sensitive five-mile-wide Straits of Mackinac and crosses waterways in Port Huron, Michigan prior to arriving at a port in Sarnia, Ontario Canada; and

WHEREAS Ninety-five percent of the oil transported through Line 5 returns to Canada to be refined for markets there and overseas; and

WHEREAS the Straits of Mackinac contain extreme, erratic currents that were unaccounted for in 1953 and which create destabilizing washouts along the lake bed where the pipeline rests, which could quickly flush any oil spilled there into both Lakes Michigan and Huron; and

WHEREAS University of Michigan scientists modeled those currents and reported it "the worst possible place for an oil spill in the Great Lakes", estimating that a spill could cover 700 miles of shoreline and impact an area of 17,000 square miles; and

WHEREAS the 67-year-old pipeline, designed for 50 years of operation, has spilled numerous times, and at least 1.1 million gallons lost along its length since 1968 have resulted in devastating impacts to its sensitive ecology, to which Enbridge has been slow to respond; and

WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard has stated they are not equipped to address a rupture of Line 5, especially during winter months with ice-covered waters; and

WHEREAS Enbridge and elected officials have spent the past several years planning to compound the risks to water and land with construction of a pipeline within a tunnel as a "replacement" for the existing pipeline, again ignoring 182-year-old treaties between the United States Government and Federally recognized Native American tribes containing provisions for off-reservation hunting and fishing rights which protect not just the right to fish but also the right to habitats for the fish to exist; and

WHEREAS a landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on May 20, 2019 upheld these rights and clarified that state laws do not supersede treaty obligations that constitute the law of the land under the Constitution, and inherently provide for the Michigan Tribes to be included in policy decisions, not simply afforded "consultation", and

WHEREAS the tribes, whose treaty rights were not recognized when the easement for construction of the pipeline was granted to Enbridge Energy, have not consented to it being granted, and

WHEREAS a 2017 Dynamic Risk Report found that propane needed by Upper Peninsula residents and businesses can be provided by truck and/or rail, thereby creating jobs and earnings; and

WHEREAS the position of the Anishinaabek Caucus and the Federally-recognized 12 tribes of Michigan and CORA (Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority) – which retain fishing rights in the area under the 1836 Treaty of Washington – is in line with the 2016 United Tribes of Michigan resolution which “opposes continued operation of unsafe pipelines that endanger tribal lands and resources”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Democratic Party call for immediate State action to decommission and remove Line 5 from under the Straits of Mackinac and along its entire route across the state, that all permits, easements of 1953, and negotiations regarding the tunnel be stopped, and that alternative methods to deliver propane to Upper Peninsula users, to further safety, be promoted; and

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 the appropriate committee for action.

**Resolution Supporting the Ballot Proposal to Amend the Michigan
Natural Resources Trust Fund**

WHEREAS, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) has funded public land acquisition and recreation projects with royalties from oil, gas and minerals from public lands in all eighty-three counties in the state since its founding in 1976; and

WHEREAS, projects supported by the MNRTF help Michigan communities protect the state's lakes, streams, lands and wildlife habitats and build recreational facilities for the enjoyment of Michigan residents and visitors, with economic, quality-of-life and public health benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Legislature unanimously voted to remove the accumulated principal limit on the MNRTF to allow it to continue receiving royalties, add "renovation and redevelopment" alongside "development" as an allowable use for MNRTF dollars, and change the percentage of funds made available for these projects from a maximum of 25% to a minimum of 25% to match the percentage available for land acquisition projects; and

WHEREAS, Michigan voters will now have the opportunity to approve these changes in the 2020 general election, thus amending Article IX, Section 35 and 35a of the Michigan Constitution.

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party support, and give leadership to, the ballot question placed before voters in the 2020 general election to update and expand the MNRTF, guaranteeing investment in conservation and outdoor recreation for generations to come, protecting our natural resources and invigorating our local economies.

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.

Resolution to Disallow Products to Qualify for Renewable Energy Incentives

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has allowed renewable energy incentives and subsidies to be claimed for the use of chopped up tires, plastics and creosote-impregnated products in the creation of energy; and

WHEREAS, using chopped up tires, plastic and creosote-impregnated wood products can be reclaimed and reused as an energy source; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy incentives and subsidies are intended for the purpose of supporting low-carbon, healthy sources of Renewable Energy; and

WHEREAS, chopped up tires, plastics and creosote-impregnated products are not low-carbon, healthy sources of Renewable Energy

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party strongly supports the removal of chopped up tires, plastics and creosote-impregnated products from the list of products allowed to be used to claim renewable energy incentives and subsidies.

Resolution Supporting 100% Renewable Energy in Michigan by the year 2040 or Earlier

WHEREAS, this transition to 100% renewable energy would require that many new jobs be created to fully transition the Michigan state economy to being reliant on renewable energy. Such a commitment would have to make the job security of those in the working class who would be most affected by the transition to 100% renewable energy a top priority. Jobs that involve the

harnessing of fossil fuels would have to be converted into jobs that contribute to the harnessing of renewable energy.

WHEREAS, there has been a lot of political mobilization across Michigan concerning clean water. This political mobilization has popular support amongst the people of Michigan. Their concerns of clean water could begin to be addressed by the massive decrease in pollution that would result from the implementation and execution of this resolution.

WHEREAS, Michigan is in a prime position geographically to lead the Midwest and the country in the surge towards being reliant on renewable energy. Renewable energy can come from the use of sources such as air, solar, biomass, and hydroelectric power. All of these options are viable for the state of Michigan. Michigan can have great diversity in renewable energy sources.

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes would provide a significant source of hydroelectric power that could position Michigan as one of the most influential states in the Midwest and in the whole country. Not just in terms of the amount of energy it could acquire from the use of the Great Lakes, but from the prestige and world recognition of being an innovator and trailblazer for harnessing renewable energy. Students from around the world would pay money to study their sustainability major here in the state of Michigan.

WHEREAS, just 100 of all the hundreds of thousands of companies in the world have been responsible for 71% of the global GHG emissions that cause global warming since 1998, according to The Carbon Majors Database.

WHEREAS, the Michigan Democratic Party platform would have to address the role in which these 100 major companies contribute to global pollution due to their operations here in Michigan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Michigan Democratic Party supports the state of Michigan converting to 100% renewable energy by 2040 or earlier.

Resolution Supporting Local Control of Sand and Gravel Mining

WHEREAS, In regards to sand and gravel mining in Michigan, under the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, local governments have limited powers to determine what is “harmonious” within a locale or what, if any, “very serious consequences” mining may have on a community. Even now, with 20 acres or more, mining can take place in residential zoned areas, coming up to 75 feet from the property line and within 300 feet of a dwelling;

WHEREAS, The sand and gravel industry is working to strip power from almost all local governmental and hence local community control when applying for special use permits (SUP) to operate mines through S.B. 431 in the Senate and H.B. 5979 House;

WHEREAS, Said industry is also attempting to deny municipalities the right to self-govern, to protect their communities, and to protect the environment through this same legislation;

WHEREAS, Aggregate mining comes with serious public health, water, and environmental risks, and individual mines can operate for decades. Residents near mines face a daily barrage of noise, dust, and diesel exhaust. Mines can operate from dawn to dusk (including Saturdays) preventing the enjoyment of property and causing sleep deprivation for near-by residents. Mining produces particulate matter such as silica dust and diesel exhaust particulate matter, both of which are carcinogenic. The aggregate industry is currently exempt from the requirement to monitor airborne silica leaving the mine site. Heavily loaded, slow moving trucks can cause road safety issues as they pull into busy traffic. The existing lack of regulation is disturbing, and undermines the well-being of the community;

WHEREAS, S.B. 431 and H.B. 5979 privilege mining operations and the industry over the citizens and local government;

WHEREAS, S.B. 431 and H.B. 5979 include provisions that would prohibit a local government by ordinance or otherwise from preventing, prohibiting, or denying a permit for the extraction of mining of natural resources. According to analysis by the Senate Fiscal Agency, “if a person challenged in court a zoning decision or ordinance that prevented, prohibited, or denied an applicant a permit or other authorization to extract natural resources by mining, the judicial proceedings and the review of the zoning decision or ordinance would have to be de novo (from the new);”

WHEREAS, The proposed legislation is based upon a study falsely claiming there is an aggregate shortage in Michigan. The Michigan Auditor General reported that said study was improperly conducted having been designed, written and influenced by the industry. The Senate Oversight Committee reached the same conclusion that the so-called study was put together by industry for its own benefit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Michigan Democratic Party opposes any House or Senate bill that reduces current local governmental control of sand and gravel mining and urges House and Senate members to vote against S. B. 431 or H.B. 5979 at the committee level or when brought to the floor.

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.

A Resolution Supporting Apportionment of County Boards of Commissions

WHEREAS, in apportioning the county into commissioner districts, the county apportionment commission shall be governed by the following guidelines in the stated order of importance:

1. All districts shall be single-member districts and as nearly of equal population as is practicable. The latest official published figures of the United States official census shall be used in this determination, except that in cases requiring division of official census units to meet the population standard, an actual population count may be used to make such division. Other governmental census figures of total population may be used if taken subsequent to the last decennial United States census and the United States census figures are not adequate for the purposes of this act. The secretary of state shall furnish the latest official published figures to the county apportionment commissions forthwith upon this act taking effect, and within 15 days after publication of subsequent United States official census figures. A contract may be entered into with the United States census bureau to

make any special census if the latest United States decennial census figures are not adequate.

2. All districts shall be contiguous.
3. All districts shall be as compact and of as nearly square shape as is practicable, depending on the geography of the county area involved.
4. No township or part thereof shall be combined with any city or part thereof for a single district, unless such combination is needed to meet the population standard.
5. Townships, villages and cities shall be divided only if necessary to meet the population standard.
6. Precincts shall be divided only if necessary to meet the population standard.
7. Residents of state institutions who cannot by law register in the county as electors shall be excluded from any consideration of representation.
8. Districts shall not be drawn to effect partisan political advantage.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Michigan Democratic Party supports the apportionment of county boards of commission.

Resolution in Support of a Full and Complete Census Count for 2020

WHEREAS, a full and complete census count is vital to the allocation of resources throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult to obtain full in-person counting of each household; and

WHEREAS, the current presidency has put in place measures to undermine the U.S. Postal Service

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party is strongly committed to taking the measures needed to ensure a full and complete census count for 2020.

Resolution Protecting the Postal Service

WHEREAS, the Postal Service is an infrastructure agency important to all of America, a proud institution of our nation, and a Constitutionally mandated public service;

WHEREAS, the Postal Service is especially important to rural areas such as Houghton County, which are distant from urban hubs of commerce;

WHEREAS, the current postmaster general of the US Postal Service, Louis DeJoy, was appointed for their partisan attachment and donor history rather than experience or qualifications to oversee a mail system;

WHEREAS, he has fired many of the experienced executives who had overseen mail service in the US for many years without major incident;

WHEREAS, he has issued broad orders cutting overtime and reallocating resources in ways that force significant slowdown in mail and package delivery;

WHEREAS, the claimed purpose is cost-cutting, but the Postal Service's primary cost burden is an artificially inflated requirement for retirement funding imposed years ago by Congress;

WHEREAS, the resulting slowdown of mail delivery is more likely to damage confidence in the Postal Service and its revenues than result in any improved financial position;

WHEREAS, in the midst of a pandemic the absentee ballot is being encouraged as a means to allow Americans to vote safely without having to gather at polling places;

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump has railed against mail-in voting as susceptible to fraud, when it is, like in-person balloting, a safe and secure voting method that has been reliably used for many years;

WHEREAS, an artificial slowdown in mail delivery is a deliberate attempt at interference in state and federal elections;

WHEREAS, it is also an attempt to damage a beloved and highly-esteemed public institution, with the usual Republican goal of destruction and privatization;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party calls on all legislative and executive office holders to exercise their oversight responsibilities to ensure the smooth functioning of the Postal Service and especially the timely delivery of mail-in ballots for the 2020 fall election nationwide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party calls for the immediate resignation of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy.

Resolution Supporting Absentee Voting for All Qualified Voters

WHEREAS, the People of the State of Michigan adopted a constitutional amendment in 2018 expanding the availability of absentee voting for qualified electors and authorizing the broader use of absentee ballots in Michigan elections; now, therefore

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports the expanded availability and use of absentee voting in Michigan and encourages all qualified voters to exercise their state constitutional right to vote by absentee ballot; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in light of the recent attacks on the U.S. Postal Service and the unreliability of mail delivery, the Michigan Democratic Party encourages the use of drop-boxes for voters to return their absentee ballots to local clerks and election officials.

Resolution in Support of Black Lives Matter

A resolution recognizing the historic and systemic impact of chattel slavery, in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, and in support of the reforming policing as we know it.

WHEREAS the United States of America has never truly reconciled with the history and systemic impact of chattel slavery, which originates as far back as 1619, before our country was founded, when the first enslaved Africans were brought to the Virginia Colony. The institution of chattel slavery was enshrined in our founding documents through the Three-Fifths compromise, which legally recognized enslaved peoples as less than human.

WHEREAS policing, as a concept, was created to recover fugitive enslaved people, and its historic origin is deeply rooted in systemic racism and white supremacy.

WHEREAS it took nearly 100 years and a Civil War that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans for enslaved peoples to be emancipated and legally recognized as human beings, continuing with generations of subjugation and legal segregation. Former enslaved peoples were never given just compensation for their time and labor following their experience in forced slavery. Combined with the 1896 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, marked the beginning of an era of de jure segregation and systemic denial of justice that would last for generations. In the 1930s and 1940s, Southern Democrats - who would later change parties to form the modern Republican Party - opposed “New Deal” and “Fair Deal”

legislation, such as Social Security and the G.I. Bill of Rights, unless said policies contained occupational exclusions for jobs that were predominantly held by people of color, and other mechanisms to systemically deny financial benefits to people of color; thus establishing a proportional wealth gap between White and Black Americans that remains to this day. Lastly, for multiple generations following the American Civil War, white supremacists have waged a war of terrorism on black and other people of color in the form of thousands of lynchings, murders, and the destruction of property of the like in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1921. Thus, police brutality represents a single narrative in a long legacy of white supremacy in the United States of America.

WHEREAS the murders of Trayvon Martin, who was shot dead by George Zimmerman for walking through their neighborhood at night; Michael Brown, who was shot dead by Officer Darren Stafford while his hands were raised; Eric Garner, who repeated the words "I can't breathe" 11 times while lying face down on the sidewalk while being choked to death by Officer Daniel Pantaleo, who left him unconscious on the ground for 7 minutes until his death was announced on arrival at an area hospital; Philondo Castile, who was shot five times by Officer Jeronimo Yanez, while his partner Diamond Reynolds and their four year old daughter watched in horror; Breonna Taylor, who was asleep in her home when police issued a no-knock warrant on the wrong home, and brutally shot her to death; George Floyd, whose neck Officer Derek Chauvin kneeled on for 8 minutes until his death, despite his cries that he couldn't breathe; Ahmaud Arbery, was shot and killed by two white men near Brunswick, Georgia while jogging; Dion Johnson, who was shot and killed by a white Police Officer in Phoenix, Arizona who attempted to arrest Johnson for drunk driving; and the countless other people of color murdered in similar fashion; represent a continuation of that same white supremacy and terrorism that has persisted since the first formerly enslaved peoples escaped their owners.

WHEREAS the institution of policing requires fundamental reform, that has been unattainable until recent nationwide demonstrations.

WHEREAS America will never heal as a nation until we reconcile with the past injustice of chattel slavery, legal/systemic segregation, and the legacy of white supremacy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) officially

- Stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.
- Believes that all lives cannot matter, until black lives matter.
- Supports new policies that:
 - enable Police Departments to be held liable to victims of police brutality or infringement of civil rights and liberties.
 - create a process that roots out white supremacy and corruption within the ranks of police.
 - create strict criminal sanctions for those who are convicted of police brutality and discrimination, thus holding officers accountable for excessive force.
 - expand and increase funding for social services that address many of the issues police are dispatched to address; such as mental health crises, housing instability, domestic violence, food instability, and other critical social needs.
 - demilitarize police departments, as these tools of war have no place in the policing of communities and these funding resources could be better utilized in other areas conducive to the public's well-being.
 - ban the use of tear gas, and other chemical respiratory irritants, as means of crowd control, as tear gas is banned in war by Geneva Convention standards and has no place in American policing.

- require yearly independent psychological evaluations for all law enforcement officers.
- promotes elimination of qualified immunity from police officers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports the following reforms in policing proposed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer, on June 29th, 2020:

- Require independent investigations of all shootings and use of force that resulted in the death of unarmed civilians at the hands of law enforcement.
- Ban chokeholds/windpipe blockage.
- Further limit the use of no-knock warrants.
- Require "duty to intervene" policies, which require other officers to intervene to prevent an observed use of excessive force by another officer.
- Classify false, racially-motivated 911 calls as a hate crime.
- Require in-service training for all licensed law enforcement officers to maintain licensure.
- Authorize the Michigan Coalition of Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to do the following:
 - Audit law enforcement agencies to ensure they are accurately reporting violations of law or improper use of force.
 - Establish penalties for agencies who don't comply with reporting.
 - Direct the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Mental Health Diversion Council to make recommendations on best practices and training for police departments when responding to situations involving persons with mental illnesses.
- Provide incentive programs for law enforcement agencies to hire/retain officers who live where they work.
- Require retention of disciplinary records resulting from violations of law or improper use of force.
- Invest in programming in communities around the state that connect local police and community leaders to build relationships.
- Invest in expanding existing community relationship programs to break down barriers between police and communities around the state.

Resolution to Eliminate No Knock Warrants

WHEREAS, no-knock warrants endanger police officers and citizens, such as Breonna Taylor and Aiyana Stanley-Jones; and

WHEREAS, citizens have no way of knowing who is entering their home when police exercise a no-knock warrant; and

WHEREAS, citizens have a right to defend their home; and

WHEREAS, exercising such a right may result in the death of the citizen or police officer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State of Michigan eliminate the no –knock warrant.

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.

WHEREAS, Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement has a long history in the United States dating back to the 1930s.

WHEREAS, Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement can be an effective method of fostering partnership between law enforcement and local communities that is utilized by multiple jurisdictions including Atlanta, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Arlington, TX, Chicago, Boston, Fresno, CA, Louisville, Baltimore County, MD, Honolulu, Charlotte – Mecklenburg, NC, Los Angeles County, Memphis, Columbus, Long Beach, Detroit, Wichita, Minneapolis, Fairfax County, VA, Houston, Miami-Dade County, New York, Las Vegas, Montgomery County, MD Philadelphia, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Nashville, Salt Lake City, Oklahoma City, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Omaha, Raleigh, Orlando, Tulsa, Phoenix,, Virginia Beach, Prince George’s County, MD, San Antonio, San Diego, Tampa, and Tucson, and

WHEREAS, Independent Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement, although generally following one of three models, as outlined by the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement, takes various forms dependent on various parameters including the size of the jurisdiction, its resources, the current relationship between law enforcement and the community, and its goals and

WHEREAS, Detroit has one of the nation’s oldest and most robust systems of oversight in its Board of Police Commissioners which along with information provided by the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement and the National Police Foundation as well as other organizations provides information of value in establishing mechanisms for civilian oversight of law enforcement.

WHEREAS, Ann Arbor’s Independent Community Police Oversight Commission was established to encourage respectful treatment, build mutual trust between the police and the community and foster transparency and accountability of the police.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Racism and police violence against marginalized communities are public health emergencies. Thus, the governing bodies of all law enforcement jurisdictions in MI that do not have civilian oversight of law enforcement mechanisms establish an independent commission comprised of representatives of all stakeholders to establish the goals of civilian oversight of law enforcement in the community, plan how to build a coalition to support these goals, recommend the structure for a body charged with oversight, determine its duties, powers, authority, and funding, and establish the process by which such a body will be incorporated in local governmental structure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Governing bodies that have an established independent commission evaluate ways in which the core functions of transparency and accountability can be reinforced and strengthened.

WHEREAS, In North America, European powers, including France and Great Britain, justified the taking of Native American lands on the basis of the “Doctrine of Discovery”, first promulgated by Pope Alexander VI in 1493, and subsequently expanded on by other European monarchs; and,

Whereas, the principal feature of the “Doctrine of Discovery” is that lands that had not been previously inhabited by Christian peoples were deemed “empty”, notwithstanding the fact that they were in fact inhabited by human beings; and,

WHEREAS, the “Doctrine of Discovery” was cited approvingly by Chief Justice John Marshall in *Johnson v McIntosh* in 1823, and continues to be cited in American law to justify the treatment of Indigenous peoples not as sovereign nations, but as “domestic dependent sovereigns” without full authority over their own natural resources, and was most recently cited approvingly in the case of *City of Sherrill v Oneida Indian Nation of New York* in 2005; and

WHEREAS, in the historic period, the Anishnaabe, including the Ojibwe, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi tribes inhabited what is now the geographical area of the majority of the State of Michigan, and that there are twelve federally recognized Native American tribes in Michigan; *now, therefore, be it*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that at all meetings of the State Central Committee, general membership, and of any committee, subcommittee, convention, caucus, or affiliated group of the Michigan Democratic Party, that the meeting shall begin with an Indigenous land acknowledgement; *and, further*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party is instructed to appoint a Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Committee immediately following the adoption of this resolution, to consist of not less than seven persons, to draft an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement for use by the State Central Committee and general membership meetings of the party, and that the committee as appointed have the power to appoint an additional number of members or consultants to the committee to be added to the committee, but the total number of the committee may not exceed twelve persons; *and, further*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee report to the County Convention meeting in November 2020 on the land acknowledgement as drafted by such committee, and that the committee shall be thereby dissolved

Resolution to expunge prior nonviolent marijuana possession convictions

WHEREAS, marijuana is a substance which has been criminalized in the past; and

WHEREAS, the use of recreational marijuana became legal in the state of Michigan in November of 2018; and

WHEREAS, there are over 200,000 Michigan residents with nonviolent marijuana convictions on their records

WHEREAS, prior nonviolent marijuana convictions have not yet been expunged

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Michigan Democratic Party is committed to supporting the automatic expungement of prior nonviolent marijuana convictions.

Resolution Supporting Broadband for All

WHEREAS, Governor Whitmer, Lt. Governor Gilchrist, U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, State Representative Donna Lasinski and former State

Representative/Congressional candidate Gretchen Driskell have gone on the record that high speed broadband is a top infrastructure priority; and,

WHEREAS, broadband is the only true future proof internet access technology available today, is an essential component of everyday life in the 21st century, and is defined as a minimum of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload; and

WHEREAS, in Washtenaw County alone almost 8,000 households (about 20,000 people) do not have access to broadband at their homes; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the dire and immediate need for affordable, reliable high speed broadband internet access at homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the WCDP recognizes that the inequitable access to affordable, reliable high speed broadband disproportionately impacts communities of color and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the digital divide is exacerbating the homework gap and learning inequity for students without broadband access at home; and

WHEREAS, educators are burdened with having to develop instruction for students both with and without high speed broadband at home; and

WHEREAS, lack of broadband access stifles entrepreneurship and attraction of both businesses and talent; and

WHEREAS, lack of broadband access negatively impacts economic development, property values, personal prosperity, education, health and safety and overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS, farmers rely on high speed broadband to monitor their crops, maintain their essential and costly equipment as well as tracking commodity prices, promoting agri-tourism and selling their products; and

WHEREAS, having broadband access enables cost savings in many areas of personal commerce, yielding hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in overspending by those without broadband; and

WHEREAS, communities without broadband experience higher rates of lost lives, injury, and crime, and residents in these communities have difficulty leveraging capabilities like TeleHealth, online banking, virtual meetings, working remotely and distance learning; and

WHEREAS, broadband access can combat the isolation experienced by our seniors and those living alone by enabling them to stay connected to family and friends; and

WHEREAS: broadband is an essential infrastructure that has heretofore been allowed to operate as an unregulated monopolistic utility resulting in a lack of competition; and

WHEREAS, the broadband coverage data reported by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Form 477, is self-reported by incumbent service providers and aggregated to the census block level making the data unreliable and lacking in the granularity needed for accurate coverage inferences; and

WHEREAS, special assessment districts are not allowed for communication infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, wireless solutions are a line of site technology that cannot reach everyone; and

WHEREAS, 5G is a wireless technology that only enhances existing internet service and requires high speed fiber optic cable towers every 328 feet; and

WHEREAS, building large scale cell towers is prohibitively expensive (\$250,000 to erect) and must be fed by fiber optic anyway; and

WHEREAS, satellite isn't a viable solution due to low data limits, high lag times and diminished or dropped connectivity; and

WHEREAS, data caps make true unlimited access to high speed connectivity unaffordable; and

WHEREAS, "unlimited" data plans throttle speeds down to a crawl at unreasonably low use thresholds necessitating expensive data add-ons to maintain a level of connectivity with minimal lag time and buffering; and

WHEREAS, incumbent internet service providers (ISPs) such as Verizon, Comcast, Charter, Frontier, SBC and AT&T not only lobby against measures supporting expansion of Michigan's high speed fiber network into less densely populated areas but also refuse to expand into or provide access to their high speed fiber optic infrastructure in these under and un-served communities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Democratic Party:

- recognizes the Broadband Internet access as a human right;
- adopts "Internet for All" as a part of the 2020 Platform and urges the Democratic National Committee to adopt the same at the national level;
- strongly urges all Democrats running for office in Michigan, all incumbents, and the presidential nominee to adopt and promote policies creating public Internet infrastructure and making it free or affordable for all Michiganders, and to consider the direct conflict of interest in accepting campaign contributions from any entity engaged in, or lobbying for, the communications industry;
- instructs the Michigan Delegation to the United States Congress, to support legislation via co-sponsorship of bills that appropriates funding for municipal internet/communication infrastructure and equipment for all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WCDP urges Governor Whitmer, Lt. Governor Gilchrist, Michigan's State Legislators and Michigan's Congressional Delegation to enact measures that will achieve affordable and reliable high speed broadband access for all.

Resolution in Memory of Mr. Owen Bieber

WHEREAS, Mr. Owen Bieber first joined the United Auto Workers in 1948 and quickly rose through the ranks at the local, regional, and national level;

WHEREAS, Mr. Bieber served for twelve years as International President of the UAW, leading

the UAW through a very challenging time;

WHEREAS, Mr. Bieber served on the Governor's Commission on Jobs and Economic Development, the AFL-CIO Executive Council, and the NAACP Board of Directors;

WHEREAS, Mr. Bieber was also a leader in the Democratic Party, serving as chair of the Kent County Democratic Party and as a member of the Democratic National Committee;

WHEREAS, Mr. Bieber's commitment to social and economic justice took him around the world, including supporting the Solidarity movement in Poland and anti-apartheid efforts in South Africa;

WHEREAS, in recognition of all that Mr. Bieber did, the former UAW Regional Headquarters on Leonard Street was renamed in his honor.

WHEREAS, Mr. Bieber passed away February 17, 2020;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that with deep gratitude, the Michigan Democratic Party remembers and honors the life of Mr. Owen Bieber.

Resolution of Michigan Recognizing the Contributions of its Indigenous People by Designating each Second Monday in October “Michigan’s Indigenous People Day”

WHEREAS, the state of Michigan recognizes the significant impact on its history, the culture, and economy created by the 12 federally recognized sovereign tribes within its borders: Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indian, Hannahville Indian Community, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Michigan, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Potawatomi Indians (Michigan and Indiana), Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan.

WHEREAS, the state of Michigan has the largest number of American Indian people East of the Mississippi River; Michigan is one of ten states with significant Native American population, the number of American Indian people in Michigan is approximately 130,000 with 67% living in urban areas.

WHEREAS, the cities of Traverse City, East Lansing, and Alpena have dissolved Columbus Day formerly the second Monday of October by establishing Indigenous Peoples Day, the States of Minnesota, Vermont, Alaska, and South Dakota celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day on the former Columbus Day as well as 55 additional cities.

WHEREAS, Columbus Day has been designated a federal holiday since 1937, advocates for the change to recognizing Indigenous people argue that Columbus did not “discover” America in 1492 but instead began the colonization of the continent. Yearly, on the second Monday of October, millions of Americans honor Christopher Columbus’ “discovery” of this land. The day is always a controversial one, as it glorifies a man who launched a large scale genocide that led to the American Holocaust which began European colonization. Celebrating Michigan’s Indigenous Peoples Day marks a significant victory for Michigan’s tribes while they remain negatively impacted by Columbus’ legacy.

WHEREAS, the Michigan Democratic Party recognizes the annexation of the homelands of the Chippewa, Ottawa, Odawa, Ojibawa, and Potawatomi nations knows that Michigan tribes have lived in Michigan since time and memorial and values the progress society has made through Michigan’s Indian technology and culture.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Michigan’s Indigenous People’s Day memorializes the contributions as well as the ongoing disputes between Michigan’s tribes and celebrates the thriving culture and values that Michigan’s tribes contribute to across the state.

#1

Resolution in Support of Declaring a Climate Emergency

WHEREAS, the consensus conclusion of scientific and policy assessments from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) calls for urgent and decisive actions by governments around the world to make "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society" in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid the most disastrous impacts; and

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2018, the U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment was issued, which detailed the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy and underscored the need for ***emergency climate action at all levels of government***; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Assessment of the Impacts of Climate Change on the Great Lakes highlights the significant impacts in our unique backyard. All over Michigan we are increasingly experiencing the predicted impacts of climate change including flooding of streets and homes, power outages, and heat waves. Farmers cannot plant or delay planting due to flooded fields. Record low temperatures with snow and ice close schools and businesses. Moreover, these economic and environmental hardships disproportionately affect the most vulnerable citizens of Lansing; and

WHEREAS, over 1,000 local governments in 18 countries have already signed emergency declarations; and

WHEREAS, at their most recent meeting the U.S Conference of Mayors, an organization representing more than 1,400 cities, issued a resolution declaring a climate emergency, calling for de-carbonization in time to keep the global rise in temperatures to a 1.5 degree Celsius level and emphasizing that such efforts must involve local governments and their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the death and destruction already wrought by global warming of approximately 1.1 degrees Celsius above late 19th century levels demonstrate that Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by rising seas, increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, diseases, droughts and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, according to a sweeping new United Nations report, driving the sixth mass extinction of species and — if reached — would require 10 million years for recovery; and

WHEREAS, climate change has a disproportionate effect on impacted communities, such as indigenous tribes, rural communities, coastal communities, workers, low-income households and people of color, who typically have fewer resources for adapting to climate change and so consequently are the most vulnerable to displacement, adverse health effects, job loss, property damage and other effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a "climate mobilization" at all levels of government on a scale even larger than that seen for World War II to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of effective federal engagement, it is the responsibility of the individual states, counties and cities to take immediate leadership actions to address climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports the declaration of a climate emergency and supports immediate and ongoing policies and actions by state, county, and local governments to combat climate change.

#2

Resolution to urge the Michigan legislature to raise Michigan's minimum wage

WHEREAS, the One Fair Wage campaign collected 372,105 signatures to place a minimum wage increase initiative on the ballot in November 2018, that would have raised the minimum wage to \$12 by 2022; and

WHEREAS, in September 2018 Republican legislative leadership voted to approve this initiative preventing it from appearing on the ballot; and

WHEREAS, after the 2018 election, during lame duck session, republican legislative leadership then voted to gut the minimum wage increase that was passed three months prior by using a political maneuver called "adopt and amend" and thus lowering the minimum wage that was guaranteed in the statewide petition drive; and

WHEREAS, these are very significant lost wages that can provide for more food on the table, provide needed money for rent and better living conditions, and to pay for necessary car repairs to get to and from work or school; and

WHEREAS, we can do better for our hard-working people of the state and add more spending power to our local economy; and

WHEREAS, we call on all of our state leaders to fight for this needed minimum wage increase;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports the passage of House Bill 4299 and Senate Bill 168, which would restore the minimum wage increase that the legislature originally passed.

#3

Resolution Addressing Economic Justice and the Business of Payday Lending

WHEREAS, payday lenders are organizations that provide short term loans at extremely high interest rates, in some cases as much as 369% for a two-week \$300 loan; and

WHEREAS, payday lending operations have been proven to disproportionately target communities where a high percentage of individuals and families are economically disadvantaged, specifically locating in communities of color, rural poor communities and where citizens are found to be economically vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, payday lenders operate under a predatory business model that ensnares low income individuals in a cycle of borrowing at inflated rates, demonstrated by the fact that 70% of borrowers take out a new loan on the same day that they pay one off; and

WHEREAS, the payday-loan market nationally accounts for nearly forty billion dollars annually, and in Michigan, payday lending companies drain more than \$103 million each year from struggling Michigan families by charging exorbitant fees on micro-loans that people use to bridge the gap between paydays, with the majority of those fees inflating the profit margins of out-of-state and out-of-country companies; and

WHEREAS, many states, in an attempt to protect their economically vulnerable citizens have enacted strict limitations on the amount borrowed, the term, and interest and fee caps, some mirroring the 36% top interest rate cap imposed by the Federal Military Lending Act, adopted to protect active military members and their dependents from predatory payday lenders; and

WHEREAS, in the Michigan Legislature, bills that impose standards similar to the Federal Military Lending Act have languished and legislation that expands the predatory lending practices of payday lenders has been fast-tracked; and

WHEREAS, HB 5097, would allow payday lenders to go beyond the \$600, 31 day limit and begin issuing two-year loans of up to \$2500, at alarmingly high interest rates of up to 132%, resulting in borrowers having to pay back more than \$7000; and

WHEREAS, a broad coalition of state and local financial, civic and community advocacy organizations, such as the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM), Michigan Catholic Conference, Habitat for Humanity, Michigan Poverty Law Program, Michigan Coalition for Responsible Lending and many others, have expressed opposition to the unreasonably high-costs and un-accountable, predatory expansion proposed by this legislation on behalf of payday lenders; and

WHEREAS, Credit Unions and Banks offer similar, short term loans at considerably lower interest rates and fee structures as an alternative to the excessively high interest rates of predatory payday lenders.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Michigan Democratic Party, stands for the principles of social and economic justice by opposing the expansion of payday lending operations and their reach, further, into the pocketbooks of low-income and economically vulnerable individuals, families and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Michigan Democratic Party calls for the passage of state legislation that at minimum, imposes strict limitations that mirror or exceed the protections of the Federal Military Lending Act rate cap of 36% annually, a \$600 per loan limit, a cooling-off period of at least 30 days between loans and a debt-to-income ratio of 41%; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports the creation a program that works with non-profit community based organizations, Credit Unions and Banks to expand access to short term credit vehicles at interest rates that are fairer and more equitable for the expanded pool of low income and economically vulnerable citizens within our state as a result of the misguided policy initiatives from previous administrations that have devalued work and working people.

#4

Resolution Supporting the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

WHEREAS, the current Electoral College system has allowed a candidate to win the Presidency while losing the popular vote twice in the past 20 years. It is further noted that state winner-take-all elector allocation laws encourage candidates to focus disproportionately on a limited set of swing states, and, by extension, critical issues important to more populous states often get little attention or debate.

WHEREAS, the existing system discourages voter turnout and allocates obsolete power to state-level majorities; the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is constructed to give equal weight to every voter's ballot, regardless of what state they live in, rendering state-level majorities irrelevant. Encouraging full participation and increasing voter turn-out is consistent with the Democratic Party standard of supporting access to and exercise of the franchise for ALL voters.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports legislative action to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact will be of benefit to all citizens of Michigan.

#5

Resolution in support of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2018 (HR-763) to rapidly phase out fossil fuel emissions and limit climate change

WHEREAS, the climate change Earth is experiencing now is known to be caused by greenhouse gas emissions generated by the burning of fossil fuels, and

WHEREAS, our the rapidly changing climate represents a serious global threat to the environment, species diversity, and ultimately to human civilization, and

WHEREAS, an existential threat of this magnitude cannot be made a “wedge issue” and must have durable bipartisan support, and

WHEREAS, a market-based solution with bipartisan support exists and can correct for the negative economic and environmental externalities caused by the burning of fossil fuels, while reducing the need for regulation, and

WHEREAS, returning 100% of net revenues of a predictably escalating fee on carbon-based fuels to citizens on an equal basis will protect the most vulnerable, add jobs, grow the economy, and be revenue neutral, and

WHEREAS, efficient markets strengthen our economy and benefit our nation by encouraging competition, innovation, and technological progress, and

WHEREAS, efficient markets should reflect all costs of goods to ensure that they advance America’s prosperity and national interests, and

WHEREAS, emissions of carbon dioxide, other greenhouse gases, and harmful pollutants into the air impose substantial costs to the environment and are a current and growing threat to future generations, and

WHEREAS, creation of a Carbon Dividend Trust Fund, to be distributed to the American people, will make markets more efficient, create jobs, stimulate competition, innovation, and technological progress that benefit all Americans and future generations, and

WHEREAS, bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, entitled the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2018 (HR-763) which is designed to address these issues and accomplish these goals, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party recognizes the threat of climate change, the urgent need for a durable bipartisan solution, that such a solution has been introduced by Democratic and Republican sponsors in the U.S. House and Senate as the “Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2018”, and that the Michigan Democratic Party supports this act.

#6

Resolution Supporting Taxation of Excessive Compensation

WHEREAS, CEO over-compensation hurts average Americans by transferring wealth upward from employees and shareholders to already affluent top executives; and

WHEREAS, the increase in CEO compensation has increased at a higher rate than the pay increase of their employees over the past 45 years; and

WHEREAS, the CEO compensation as a multiple of average worker pay in the United States is out of step with other industrial nations such as the United Kingdom, Germany, and Japan; and

WHEREAS, CEOs of S&P 500 Index companies received, on average, \$13.94 million in total compensation in 2017, while their production and non-supervisory employees were only paid, on average, \$38,613—a CEO-to-worker pay ratio of 361:1; and

WHEREAS, taxation of excessive CEO compensation will help encourage companies to create high-wage jobs and pay their CEOs reasonable amounts;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party call for Congress to impose a tax on the portion of total compensation of business executives which exceeds a multiple of their lowest paid employees, be they foreign or domestic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Michigan Democratic Party supports actions to promote an imposition of a tax on excessive CEO compensation.

#7

Resolution Supporting Fair 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, is attempting to add LGBTQ protections to ELCRA through the initiative petition process;

WHEREAS, the petition seeks to define "sex" as including gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression;

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

#8

Resolution in Opposition to Grade 3 Law, MCL: 380.1280f

WHEREAS, the bill adds a 4th “R” to public education, the word **retention**, and

WHEREAS, the bill contains a loophole, children can be retained on subpar reading scores, and

WHEREAS, retention is based on 3 standardized tests at the primary grades including kindergarten, the Kindergarten Reading Assessment/Kindergarten Entry Observation also known as KRA/KEO, and

WHEREAS, students in high poverty and urban areas such as in Detroit will be held back, and

WHEREAS, no state funding will be provided for the recommendation in the bill for Literacy Coaches, possibly using parent volunteers and not certified teachers, and

WHEREAS, English Language Learners will be tested but not provided coaches, and

WHEREAS, “Read at Home” plans dependent on parental involvement, asking parents to replace teachers and/or Literacy Coaches

WHEREAS, this law was adopted from a policy from the State of Florida without the financial backing that makes it work, and

WHEREAS, mathematics could be included in a future bill, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports the overturn of the “Read by Grade 3” Law, MCL: 380.1280f.

#9

Resolution in Support of a Statewide Septic Code

WHEREAS, Michigan is blessed with abundant natural beauty and Michigan’s fresh water resources account for 21% of the World’s surface fresh water.

WHEREAS, these natural resources serve to sustain the population of Michigan and serve as the basis for a robust tourist economy.

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 1.4 million septic systems used by homes and businesses in Michigan (Detroit Free Press, Jan 16, 2017) resulting in 280 million gallons of wastewater/day, which is delivered into the ground. Approximately 10% of these systems are considered to be failing (EPA). A study in 2015 found DNA of human fecal bacteria in 64 Michigan rivers that were tested (Verhoughstraete et al., Proc Nat Acad Sci 2015; 112(33): 10419-10424).

WHEREAS, Michigan is the only state without a uniform septic regulation and most counties have no local regulation after the initial build.

WHEREAS, it is unlikely that sewer systems will be built to replace septic systems, especially in rural areas, in the foreseeable future.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports the creation of a statewide septic code that protects Michigan’s surface and ground waters from human waste and other contaminants that allows those without adequate resources to test, inspect and improve their septic systems in a timely fashion.

#10

Resolution in Support of Increasing Rural Health Care Access in Michigan

WHEREAS, Many of Michigan's rural residents are older in age, have limited income and must travel 30 miles or more for medical/dental/mental health care. In addition, people in rural areas are more likely to die prematurely from heart disease, cancer, injury, chronic respiratory disease and stroke than are their urban counterparts (<https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/factsheets/research-in-rural-communities.htm>).

WHEREAS, many rural hospitals are closed or struggling. It remains difficult to recruit medical providers to rural areas due to lower pay, lack of appropriate spousal employment, and lack of interaction with colleagues. This leads to a shortage of emergency, critical care, and appointments for needed providers, including medical, mental health and dental providers.

WHEREAS, many working age residents have inadequate or no health insurance due to lack of jobs that include health insurance as a benefit as well as lack of full time work, despite Healthy Michigan and exchanges provided by the Affordable Care Act.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party supports a statewide rural health initiative to increase the number of rural health clinics and hospitals and incentivize medical, mental health and dental providers to serve in rural areas.