

Michigan Democratic Party

Resolutions

Spring 2022

State Endorsement Convention

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**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE**

WHEREAS, The Michigan Democratic Party expects all elected officials holding local, state, and federal office to pledge to uphold certified election results; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Democratic Party expects all candidates for local, state, and federal office to pledge to not challenge certified election results without court-ready evidence; and

WHEREAS, The 2020 elections were the most secure and successful elections in the history of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, 147 members of the United States Congress attempted on January 6, 2021 to overturn the will of the American people; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Michigan Democratic Party, call for all candidates for local, state, and federal office to pledge to not vote to overturn the will of the people.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT

WHEREAS, Rationing healthcare in the United States according to one's ability to pay has diminished the overall health of our citizens to the point that the U.S. ranks below most other industrialized nations in health outcomes, and ranks even worse for infant mortality and life expectancy, yet ranks first in healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, Before the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 30 million Americans had no health insurance and 50 million more Americans were underinsured; and

WHEREAS, The pandemic has greatly increased these numbers of uninsured and underinsured Americans, as 45 million additional people have lost job-related health insurance, with the impacts most severe among people of color; and

WHEREAS, Without new strategies, the endlessly rising costs of healthcare continue to challenge our already strapped municipal budgets and our businesses that keep our communities thriving; and

WHEREAS, The Medicare for All Act will guarantee that all people living in Michigan will be fully covered for health care without paying premiums, deductibles, copays or other out-of-pocket expenses; provide lifelong coverage for doctor's visits, major medical treatments, prescription drugs, vision health, dental health, mental health, in-home and institutional rehabilitative long-term medical care; slash the cost of bureaucracy; protect the doctor-patient relationship; and assure patients a free choice of doctors; and

WHEREAS, In Michigan and throughout the country, Black, Hispanic, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, and rural communities suffer from significant healthcare disparities compared with their White counterparts, including higher rates of being uninsured, of poor or fair health status, chronic diseases, significantly higher preterm births, maternal and infant mortality, overall mortality, and alarmingly higher rates of COVID-19 hospitalization and death than would be predicted for their population sizes in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Those same communities of color would see reductions in healthcare disparities by having access to the high-quality universal healthcare provided by the Medicare For All Act, without the interruptions in care present in an employer-based for-profit system; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, The Michigan Democratic Party supports the Medicare for All Act and calls on Michigan's Congressional delegation and all federal legislators to co-sponsor and do everything in their power to successfully move this Act through the legislative process and be enacted into law.

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RUSSIA

WHEREAS, The Russian Federation government without provocation invaded the sovereign nation of Ukraine; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Michigan Democratic Party, condemn the Russian Federation government-led invasion of Ukraine and support Ukrainian sovereignty.

**RESOLUTION URGING AMERICANS TO STOP BUYING
FROM COMPANIES STILL DOING BUSINESS IN RUSSIA**

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed Congress from Kyiv and asked Americans to help Ukrainians resist the Russian invaders; and

WHEREAS, Zelenskyy asked our government for military and economic assistance, and asked ordinary Americans to stop buying products from companies that continue to do business in Russia; and

WHEREAS, More than 400 U.S. and multinational companies have pulled out of Russia since February 24th, some companies are still defying demands that they exit Russia or reduce their activities there; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party urges Americans to stop buying the products of companies that are still doing business in Russia and condemn companies that continue to do business with Russia during the Ukrainian invasion.

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO
THE “AUDIT MI” BALLOT PROPOSAL**

WHEREAS, A free and democratic election was held on November 3, 2020 for various offices; and

WHEREAS, The people of Michigan voted and the State of Michigan affirmed the results of the election; and

WHEREAS, Over 60 court cases claiming voter fraud, submitted to every level of the court system including the Supreme Court of the United States, were dismissed or not heard due to the lack of any evidence of said claims of fraud; and

WHEREAS, State Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey and State Speaker of the House, Lee Chatfield, publicly announced that no fraud or improprieties could be found in the voting in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, The current system of certifying and auditing elections is fair and responsible; and

WHEREAS, The proposed ballot initiative will undermine the legitimacy of the 2020 election; and

WHEREAS, The proposed ballot initiative will strip the power to audit elections away from the Secretary of State and local election officials; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party is in opposition to the “Audit MI” Ballot Proposal.

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO
THE “SECURE MI VOTE” BALLOT PROPOSAL**

WHEREAS, A free and democratic election was held on November 3, 2020 for various offices; and

WHEREAS, The people of Michigan voted and the State of Michigan affirmed the results of the election; and

WHEREAS, Over 60 court cases claiming voter fraud, submitted to every level of the court system including the Supreme Court of the United States, were dismissed or not heard due to the lack of any evidence of said claims of fraud; and

WHEREAS, This proposed ballot initiative is an attempt by the Republican Party to suppress the rights of Michigan citizens to vote; and,

WHEREAS, The 2020 election had record voter participation, in large part due to the high number of absentee ballots; and

WHEREAS, This proposed ballot initiative will make it more difficult to obtain and cast an absentee ballot; and

WHEREAS, This proposed ballot initiative will impact the availability of polling locations; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party is in opposition to the “Secure MI Vote” Ballot Proposal.

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO
THE “LET MI KIDS LEARN” BALLOT PROPOSAL**

WHEREAS, The “Let MI Kids Learn” ballot proposal proposes to divert funding away from public schools to be given to private educational organizations; and

WHEREAS, This diversion of funds will have a negative impact on the quality of public education in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, This ballot proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of students attending public schools; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party is in opposition to the “Let MI Kids Learn” ballot proposal.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE “MICHIGANDERS FOR FAIR LENDING” BALLOT PROPOSAL**

WHEREAS, The “Michiganders for Fair Lending” ballot proposal proposes to cap the maximum interest rate for payday loans; and

WHEREAS, This ballot proposal would allow the Michigan Attorney General to prosecute lenders who exceed the maximum interest rate; and

WHEREAS, The current laws regarding interest charged on payday loans do not adequately protect the citizens of Michigan; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party is in support of the “Michiganders for Fair Lending” ballot proposal.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE “MICHIGAN UNITED” BALLOT PROPOSAL**

WHEREAS, Current laws require that those convicted of crimes serve their entire minimum sentences; and

WHEREAS, The current system does not provide credits of any kind for prisoners who earn degrees or train or work while serving their sentences; and,

WHEREAS, The cost of housing and maintaining prisoners is costly; and,

WHEREAS, The primary goal of the system should be the rehabilitation of prisoners; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party is in support of the “Michigan United” ballot proposal.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE “REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR ALL” BALLOT PROPOSAL**

WHEREAS, The “Reproductive Freedom For All” ballot proposal would amend Michigan’s Constitution to explicitly affirm Michiganders’ fundamental right to reproductive freedom; and

WHEREAS, This ballot proposal would repeal a decades-old law that makes abortion a felony, which would become an active law if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, This ballot proposal would give the freedom of reproductive choice to all citizens of Michigan; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party is in support of the “Reproductive Freedom for All” ballot proposal.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE “RAISE THE WAGE MI” BALLOT PROPOSAL**

WHEREAS, This ballot proposal would increase the minimum wage for workers in Michigan from \$9.87 per hour to \$15 per hour over 5 years; and

WHEREAS, This ballot proposal would benefit workers and small businesses recovering from the pandemic; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party is in support of the “Raise the Wage MI” ballot proposal.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE “MI RIGHT TO VOTE A” BALLOT PROPOSAL**

WHEREAS, The current law allowing the Legislature to bypass the veto of the Governor to enact or amend laws, through a ballot petition signed by a minority of registered voters, is not representative of the will of the people; and,

WHEREAS, The “MI Right to Vote A” ballot proposal would end the state Legislature’s ability to bypass the Governor’s veto and enact laws proposed through ballot measures; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party is in support of the “MI Right to Vote A” ballot proposal.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE “PROMOTE THE VOTE 2022” BALLOT PROPOSAL**

WHEREAS, Voting rights in Michigan have been threatened by a barrage of legislative proposals that would have the effect of limiting the ability of registered and eligible voters to vote in the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, The proposed legislation would, for example, (1) mandate that absentee voters must present a specific type of photo ID to the election official in order to request an absentee ballot, which would inhibit elderly or homebound people from compliance; and (2) prohibit prepaid postage for absentee ballots, which threatens to invalidate ballots returned for insufficient postage; and

WHEREAS, At least one petition initiative (“Secure MI Vote”) is collecting voter signatures that, if a sufficient number is obtained, could be adopted by the Michigan Legislature and not be subject to veto by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, If the “Secure MI Vote” petition is adopted by the Legislature, it would have the effect of suppressing the vote and undermining trust in elections through provisions that, for example, (1) require a voter ID for in-person voting and get rid of the current ability to vote without an ID by submitting a sworn affidavit and (2) bar unsolicited absentee ballot applications such that the Secretary of State could no longer mail applications to every voter in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, A coalition of various groups (“Promote the Vote 2022”) recognizes the threats to voting rights posed by these legislative and citizen-led petition initiatives and further recognizes that voting rights can best be protected by amending Michigan’s Constitution so that these rights are enshrined in the Constitution, overriding any legislative changes to voting rights; and

WHEREAS, Promote the Vote would amend Michigan’s Constitution to:

- Allow nine days of early voting
 - Allow for receipt of absentee ballots from military and overseas voters beyond Election Day as long as the ballot is postmarked by Election Day
 - Publicly subsidize absentee ballots and a tracking system for the ballot location
 - Continue to allow voters to sign an affidavit attesting to their identity rather than relying exclusively on a state ID in order to vote
 - Allow public resources and charities to fund local elections
 - Allow voters to register once for absentee ballots for all future elections
 - Require at least one ballot dropbox for every 15,000 voters in a municipality
 - Establish that post-election audits can only be conducted by state and local officials;
- and

WHEREAS, The goal is to put this initiative on the November 2022 ballot for voters to decide and, in order for the question to appear on the November 2022 ballot, Promote the Vote 2022 must secure over 425,000 valid voter signatures before July 11, 2022; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party endorses and supports the “Promote the Vote 2022” ballot proposal as the best approach to permanently securing voting rights in Michigan.

RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE BURIAL SITE PROTECTION LAWS

WHEREAS, It is broadly recognized that burials and human remains are sacred, and that the historic resting places of indigenous peoples, in particular, are more likely to be identified outside of modern cemetery boundaries; and

WHEREAS, The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) does not protect burials, burial accouterments, or human remains located outside of federal or tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, Michigan has no laws to protect burials from intentional non-archaeological disturbance or to require the respectful treatment of human remains discovered during the course of non-archaeological ground-disturbing activities, with the exception of those discovered on the bottomlands of the Great Lakes; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party, in consultation with concerned and knowledgeable stakeholders not limited to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), develop legislation for the protection of burials and human remains identified and/or recovered outside of federal or tribal lands.

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR
REMOVAL OF THE CUSTER MONUMENT IN MONROE**

WHEREAS, The George Armstrong Custer Equestrian Monument is a 14-foot bronze sculpture located in Monroe, Michigan, on the southwest corner of Elm Avenue and North Monroe Street along the River Raisin; and

WHEREAS, the city of Monroe is resting upon Potawatomi lands; and

WHEREAS, the Custer monument was unveiled in 1910 by President William Howard Taft and approved by white settlers seeking to assert their superiority and dominance; and

WHEREAS, Custer, notoriously known as the “Indian Killer”, is widely perceived as offensive; and as a painful public reminder of the genocide of Indigenous peoples and the present realities of systemic racism in our country; and

WHEREAS, Custer led the Massacre at the Washita River of the Cheyenne Chief Black Kettle and his band of Tsistsistas; and was responsible for numerous other atrocities and crimes against humanity; and before the ink was dry on the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty protecting the Black Hills, Custer deliberately publicized the gold which was present in the region; and knowingly desecrated Bear Butte by riding up the holy mountain brandishing his sword after he was told that all weapons were to be left at the bottom of the sacred place to the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Sioux peoples, among others who share culture and history there; and

WHEREAS, Custer amassed 726 demerits at West Point Military Academy and was court-martialed twice in his military career; and

WHEREAS, Custer was court-martialed for leaving part of his regiment at Fort Wallace without permission; forcing his men to march on private business; commanding his officers to shoot three deserters without trial; and refusing medical treatment for one of his men, resulting in the man’s death; and

WHEREAS, Custer was found guilty of five charges, and suspended for a year without pay, was demoted from the rank of General, and died as a Lieutenant Colonel; and

WHEREAS, for a decade, 1866-1876, Custer violated treaties forged in sacred trust between the United States government and Tribal Nations; defied orders and led ruthless attacks on compliant Tribal Nations; involved raping, torturing, murdering innocent Native women and children; and personally directed the shooting of 640 ponies at the Washita River where survivors said they heard nothing but the screams of men, women, and children and horses throughout the night; and

WHEREAS, Custer undermined the freedoms gained for African Americans after the Civil War by campaigning with Andrew Johnson against the Fourteenth Amendment, which gave former enslaved people national citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Custer expressed sympathy for the Ku Klux Klan and contempt for enforcement of their suppression under the Ku Klux Klan Act during his deployment in Kentucky from 1871–1873; and

WHEREAS, decades of research show that racist policies, symbols, and behaviors are linked with lower well-being, educational barriers, physical health problems, employment problems, such as higher job turnover for people who endure racism and ethnocentrism like many American Indians and Alaska Natives; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party calls for immediate action by the City of Monroe to remove the Custer monument from downtown Monroe, as the first step in removing monuments and renaming structures honoring Custer throughout the state of Michigan.

Reference: The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #SAC-21-003

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR
IMPROVED LAWS REGARDING
AGRICULTURAL MONOPOLIES AND MINORITY FARMERS**

WHEREAS, The agricultural industry is crucial to Michigan's economy, constituting 21.5% of the state's gross product and approximately 17.2% of the state's total workforce¹; and

WHEREAS, Despite the significance of this industry, Michigan farmers today receive approximately 14.6 cents on every dollar spent by consumers², which is far lower than the 31 cents for every consumer dollar farmers earned in the 1980s³; and

WHEREAS, A primary reason for this disparity is corporate agricultural monopolies and their unfair business practices, such as six corporations controlling 75% of the world pesticides market; four corporations controlling more than 75% of the global grain trade⁴; and one corporation simultaneously controlling 72% of poultry production, 43% of egg production, and 55% of pork production worldwide⁴; and

WHEREAS, To operate, farmers must purchase equipment such as seeds, machinery, and fertilizer from a monopoly-controlled company that engages in price gouging, thus increasing the costs of goods to farmers; and

WHEREAS, Influential wholesale buyers also use their power to offer a lower purchase price to farmers selling their harvest, thus forcing farmers to produce higher quantities, which further increases the surplus of product, which in turn further lowers the market price, amplifying a vicious cycle that is not only detrimental to farmers but also to our environment, especially the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, This increased production also produces more waste in the form of pesticides, fertilizers, and sediment, which makes its way into ground water, surface water, and the Great Lakes, resulting in pesticides being the single highest pollutant found in the Great Lakes⁷; and

WHEREAS, Pesticides are a central tool in producing higher yields of crops, but can be incredibly toxic to humans and contribute to a plethora of medical conditions, from cancer to neurological and developmental disorders^{6, 7}; and

WHEREAS, The Saint Joseph River, which runs westerly through Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan, is the single largest contributor of the deadly pesticide Atrazine to the second-largest great lake, Lake Michigan⁸; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes account for 84% of North America’s freshwater and 21% of the world's supply of surface freshwater⁹, so protecting the Great Lakes is in the best interest of Michigan and our nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Farm bankruptcies in the Midwest are at their highest level in a decade; and

WHEREAS, The average age of farmers is 58 with 95% of them being white, creating a need for beginning and minority farmers to have fair access to land and resources to ensure that these groups are represented in the agricultural industry; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party demonstrate its commitment to rural Americans by addressing agricultural monopolies through advocating for antitrust and farm policies that will:

- Ensure a fair price for family farmers by enacting supply-management programs to prevent shortages and surpluses;
- Guarantee farmers a livable wage by establishing price floors and matching supply with demand to guarantee farmers the cost of production and family living expenses;
- Provide state-level relief to assist in preventing independent family farm bankruptcies;
- Enact policies to support minority and beginning farmers so that they have fair access to land and resources;
- Allocate state funding to purchase land and equipment for sustainable farming;
- Provide incentives to community ownership of farmland, thereby allowing more people to work the land and produce food for local consumers; and
- Provide state aid to help farmers make the transition to sustainable agricultural practices which help develop rural communities yet protect the climate and environment, such as financial programs that compensate farmers for improving ecosystems or providing farmers with grants and debt relief.

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**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR
AN INVESTIGATION INTO
THE SHELBY TOWNSHIP POLICE CHIEF AND
THE HANDLING OF THE ARRESTS OF THE “SHELBY 5”**

WHEREAS, Shelby Township Police Chief Robert Shelide made several unacceptable and disparaging social media posts regarding protestors participating in the national protests surrounding the death of George Floyd, advocating to “let cops take care of the barbarians”, calling protestors “wild savages”, and calling for “body bags for those subhumans”; and

WHEREAS, These crude and clearly unacceptable comments demonstrate an attitude which should not be condoned in his role as a police chief and should not carry over into any actions by the Shelby Township Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Numerous civic, community, and advocacy groups across Macomb County were concerned with the subsequent arrests of non-violent protestors who held a peaceful rally and march on October 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Non-violent protestors known as the “Shelby 5” were charged with multiple felonies and misdemeanors while holding said peaceful rally and march during a demonstration calling for the removal of Shelby Township Chief Robert Shelide; and

WHEREAS, Article 1 Section 3 of the Michigan Constitution states that “The people have the right peaceably to assemble”; and

WHEREAS, The First Amendment of the United States Constitution states that it is “the right of the people peacefully to assemble”; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party call upon the Office of the Michigan Attorney General to conduct an investigation into the actions taken by law enforcement personnel against the “Shelby 5” to determine whether their civil rights were violated and whether unduly biased attitudes by Chief Shelide were a factor in those actions taken or the conduct of the personnel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party call upon the Office of the Michigan Attorney General to investigate the legitimacy of the felony and misdemeanor charges brought against the “Shelby 5” by the Office of the Macomb County Prosecutor.

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR
REINSTATING THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE**

WHEREAS, The “fairness doctrine” was a rule of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) introduced in 1949, requiring the holders of broadcast licenses to present controversial issues of public importance, and to do so in a matter that reflected differing viewpoints; and

WHEREAS, In 1987 the FCC abolished the “fairness doctrine” rule; and

WHEREAS, The demise of the rule has contributed to the rising level of partisan polarization in the United States; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Michigan Democratic Party support devoting airtime to discussing controversial matters of public interest, and to air contrasting views regarding those matters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Democratic Party shall encourage the national Democratic Party to join us in supporting this resolution.

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR
IMPROVEMENTS TO NO-FAULT AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE LAWS**

WHEREAS, Michigan's repeal of mandatory catastrophic coverage for auto accident injuries is depleting the MCCA fund; and

WHEREAS, Due to this depletion, a future shortfall will negatively impact injured Michiganders currently covered by this fund; and

WHEREAS, Insurance companies denying payments to caregivers of catastrophically injured Michiganders has already caused caregivers to go out of business and no longer serve the injured; and

WHEREAS, If the fund depletes, drivers who maintain unlimited coverage on their policies may not receive future benefits despite paying for them; and

WHEREAS, The promised reduction in auto insurance rates for Michigan drivers has not been realized; and

WHEREAS, The elimination of mandatory unlimited coverage could cause bankruptcy or necessitate government-paid care for vulnerable road users due to lesser coverage by drivers; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party urge state legislators to improve the provisions for catastrophic coverage of automobile crash injuries in the current no-fault automobile insurance law.

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR
MAKING UNEMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS
EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL TAXES**

WHEREAS, Taxing unemployment compensation and Social Security benefits is a double taxation; and

WHEREAS, Before 1981 these benefits were exempt from federal, state and local taxation; and

WHEREAS, Unemployment compensation benefits were established to help working families who had lost employment in their time of need, and Social Security was established to help seniors; and

WHEREAS, Those receiving benefits need the entire amount of the benefit to pay for necessities such as housing, food, heating, health care, medication, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, Other government assistance programs are tax-exempt;

WHEREAS, Restoring the tax-exempt status of unemployment compensation and Social Security benefits would help Michigan by putting cash flow back into the economy; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan Democratic Party urge the appropriate federal, state, and local elected officials to reinstate the tax-exempt status for unemployment compensation and Social Security benefits.