



RESOLUTIONS FOR APRIL 5th CONVENTION CHATHAM COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

April 5, 2014

LOCAL

1. Homelessness in Chatham County - Bynum Precinct

WHEREAS, while it's reasonable to expect that homelessness exists in Chatham County, exact figures are unknown,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Chatham County Democratic Party urge Chatham's Board of Commissioners to seek advice from our county's Social Services and any other Chatham agency or organization to identify options and actions the Board can consider to help meet our citizens' needs.

2. Affordable Housing and Chatham Park - Bynum Precinct

WHEREAS, there is a substantial need for affordable housing in Chatham County,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that requirements for the developers of Chatham Park, whose plans feature homes exceeding \$300,000.00 in value, should include affordable housing, in the spirit of humanity that is our history.

3. Child Hunger in Chatham County - Bynum Precinct

WHEREAS the issue of hunger among children in Chatham County has been recognized,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County Democratic Party request that the local Board of Commissioners increase funding to appropriate non-profits to eliminate child hunger.

NORTH CAROLINA -

4. End Coal Ash Storage in Chatham and Across NC - Three Rivers Precinct

Whereas the recent spill of coal ash toxins into the Dan River demonstrates that the storage of coal ash in ponds - particularly near rivers and streams - is inherently unsafe and threatens people and ecosystems near and far,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Chatham County Democratic Party urges our County and State leaders to demand that Duke Energy remove their coal ash storage pond near the Cape Fear River south of Moncure and all other storage ponds in North Carolina.

5. Ban Hydraulic Fracturing Gas Extraction in North Carolina - West Williams and Three Rivers Precincts

WHEREAS, Hydraulic fracturing (Fracking) is a method of drilling for natural gas that requires literally millions of gallons of water that become polluted and highly toxic in the process; and

WHEREAS, Hydraulic fracturing would pollute our state's waters by requiring 1 to 8 million gallons of water from our wells, streams and rivers and 80 to 300 tons of chemicals to be pumped into each of those gas wells; and

WHEREAS, this water would then seep into ground water and resurface from the wells as highly toxic waters; eventually polluting more water; and

WHEREAS in North Carolina, the buffer between shale gas deposits and the aquifer is thousands of feet smaller than in other states; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina already faces droughts that affect our groundwater and water table; and

WHEREAS, it is known that Hydraulic fracturing not only poses unacceptable risks to the environment, but inadequately stored waste fracking fluid contaminates the soil, streams and rivers by also releasing methane and radon emissions into the air; and

WHEREAS Fracking's record in other states shows that it would create additional earthquake risks to the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant, which is built on a fault-line;

WHEREAS, potential natural gas extraction estimates are based on an unreliably small sample of wells in central North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the long term costs to our environment, public health and quality of life outweigh the claims of benefit argued by the proponents of Fracking;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Chatham County, is opposed to hydraulic fracturing (Fracking) in our communities, counties and state and insist that Fracking be prohibited and such legislation be enforced without exception; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Chatham County calls upon our Congressional delegation in the U.S. House and Senate to enact a prohibition of Hydraulic fracturing in North Carolina.

NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL -

6. Just Say No to Fast Track for "Trans Pacific Partnership" - Hadley Precinct

WHEREAS the rising gap between rich and poor is made worse by an increasingly rigged global economy by creation of new rights for corporations and wealthy individuals, and

WHEREAS the secretly negotiated Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) creates new burdens on government when it has to defend its standards for health and safety and the environment against claims of "lost future profits" in special tribunals populated by the same lawyers who specialize in bringing such claims, and

WHEREAS \$360 million has been awarded and \$12.4 billion in claims is pending under current North America Free Trade agreement (NAFTA) rules alone, causing scarce public dollars to be seized by corporations newly granted standing to sue governments, and

WHEREAS the cost of defending an enlarged group of such claims from all the Trans Pacific partners is predictably huge and would discourage passage of responsible legislation,

WHEREAS the lower cost for products promised by "Free Trade" advocates is according to Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, is exceeded by \$3300 per year in depressed wages (lost real wages) per average working American under the 20 year old NAFTA agreement,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Chatham County Democratic Party calls on all our NC Representatives in Congress to oppose Fast Track status for the TPP, and if Fast Track is achieved by the Republican majority, to vote NO to the TPP when it comes to a vote.

7. Palestine Statehood -Bynum and Hadley Precincts

WHEREAS we, as a free people, believe all nations possess a right to freedom, equality and independence, and

WHEREAS all inhabitants of Palestine and Israel have the inherent right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," and

WHEREAS such rights are secured to each person by participation as an equal citizen of a democratic and sovereign state,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we support the right of Palestine to statehood, freedom from occupation, with all rights inherent in a free nation.

Resolution in favor of ending gerrymandering in North Carolina April 4, 2014

Whereas the redistricting procedure known as “gerrymandering” has been used for redistricting by many states including North Carolina for many years by both political parties,

Whereas gerrymandering benefits the party in power rather than benefitting the voters and their interests,

Be it resolved that the Chatham County Democratic Party endorses legislation to end gerrymandering in North Carolina by adopting the following best practices (including but not limited to):

- The Legislative Services Office, or a separate, independent commission should draw district lines, not the legislature.
- District lines should not be drawn to dilute or augment voting strength of a language or a racial minority group in a district.
- District lines should not be drawn to favor an incumbent or a political party including factors such as the political affiliation of registered voters, or previous election voting patterns or demographic information other than head counts.
- Districts should reflect a whole county rule and should be compact and contiguous.
- The redistricting process should be transparent with ample opportunity for public input and/or feedback on the proposed maps.
- The legislature would give final approval or rejection to the new legislative maps with changes allowed only for technical reasons.

Submitted by
Chris Kaman (West Williams)
Ted Dunn, Chair of West Williams

Resolution in Support of Reasonable Campaign Finance Regulation of State and Local Party Committees

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party believes that Democratic state and local party committees are essential partners to Democratic elected officials and Democratic national party committees;

WHEREAS, state and local party committees play a vital role in the American political system and are particularly suited to grassroots political activity in support of the party's political and electoral goals;

WHEREAS, regulatory hurdles put in place over the past several years have served to hinder state and local parties from effectively participating in the political process

WHEREAS, these hurdles include old and cumbersome rules governing the ability of parties to engage in grassroots political activity, amendments to Federal campaign laws that have federalized most of the parties' electoral activities and recent court decisions that have increased the power of outside organizations to spend unlimited, unregulated and, in many cases, undisclosed funds in connection with state and federal elections;

WHEREAS, based upon the complexity of federal law, parties are increasingly subject to a higher level of regulation than other political organizations and are more likely to be audited or fined by the Federal Election Commission for reporting errors as well as the inadvertent use of non-federal funds for activities that have been federalized under recent changes to federal campaign finance law;

WHEREAS, these developments have put an inordinate burden on state and local party committees without proper justification and have served to lower the effectiveness of party committees in the political process;

WHEREAS, candidates at all levels of office have little incentive to work with parties due to structural barriers to association created by unnecessary and burdensome regulations;

WHEREAS, the current campaign finance laws have created serious financial problems for state and local party committees as campaigns and donors seek out organizations that have fewer obstacles to participation in the political process;

WHEREAS, the decrease in regulation of outside groups is a primary cause of the current state of extreme politics in America;

WHEREAS, state and local party committees play an essential and moderating role in American politics by espousing mainstream political ideas that appeal to a majority of Americans in contrast to single issue organizations that support radical one issue agendas;

WHEREAS, unless the law is changed, party committees will eventually become irrelevant and unable to compete with the unlimited availability of resources of outside groups; and

WHEREAS, the Association of State Democratic Chairs (ASDC) has established a Committee on Campaign Finance Reform tasked with making recommendations to enhance the role of party committees in federal and state elections without affecting either contribution limits to parties or creating unlimited expenditures by party committees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ County Democratic Party endorses the recommendations put forth in the ASDC Committee on Campaign Finance Reform report entitled "Legislative Recommendations for Campaign Finance Reform."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alamance Democratic Party Democratic Party, will work with members of Congress, the Washington State Democratic Party, the national party committees, and the Obama administration to amend federal campaign finance laws to ensure the vitality of state and local party committees by lifting some of the unnecessary and burdensome regulations that continue to hinder their development.

A similar resolution was passed by the Association of State Democratic Chairs at its Nov. 23, 2013 meeting in New Orleans, LA