



2021 County Convention Delegate Packet

For more information, please visit:
www.orangedems.com/2021-convention



2021 County Convention | Saturday, April 10, 12-4pm

AGENDA

PART I

Introduction

1. Welcome, call to order, pledge of allegiance, statement of inclusion, and invocation.
2. A brief word on what this Convention *actually* is (what we're doing here, and how it fits with the precinct leadership elections we just held). See p. 5 for further information.
3. High-level review of the agenda, and introduction of our OCDP Parliamentarian.
4. Declaration of quorum (for our Convention, 50% + 1 of our 41 precincts represented).
5. "Raised Hand" Vote: Approval of the agenda.
6. "Raised Hand" Vote: Approval of the rules of the day (see Schedule 1).
7. "Raised Hand" Vote: Approval of the minutes from the 2020 County Convention (see Schedule 2).
8. Introduction of our new precinct leadership, and what's ahead at the precinct level.
9. Words from Congressman David Price, Sen. Valerie Foushee, Rep. Verla Insko, and Rep. Graig Meyer.

PART II-A

Election of OCDP's County-Level Officers – see pp. 6-8

1. Explanation of our OCDP Officer elections: What these positions are, how the nominated slate was created, how our voting will work in this virtual format, and how votes will be weighted.
2. Introduction of our nominated candidates (see Schedule 3)/call for additional candidates.
3. OCDP Officer candidate speeches.
4. "Raised Hand" Vote OR Google Form Vote (depending on whether election is contested)
5. Conclusion of Officer elections and announcement of election results.

PART II-B

Election of Orange County's Delegation to the NCDP State Executive Committee ("SEC") – see p. 9

1. Explanation of our SEC elections: What these positions are, how the nominated slate was created, how our voting will work in this virtual format, and how votes will be weighted.
2. Introduction of our nominated candidates (see Schedule 3) and call for additional candidates.
3. SEC candidate speeches.
4. "Raised Hand" Vote OR Google Form Vote (depending on whether election is contested)
5. Conclusion of SEC elections and announcement of elections results.



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PART II-C

Vote to delegate the appointment of Fourth Congressional District Delegates to District Convention

1. Explanation of the Congressional District Delegation and Congressional District Convention: What this is, and the precedent for delegating appointment to the OCDP officer team.
2. “Raised Hand” Vote: Delegation to the OCDP Officer Team of authority to appoint delegates (see Schedule 4 for delegating resolution).
3. How to indicate interest in being a delegate to the Fourth Congressional District Convention.

PART III

Resolutions – see p. 10

1. Explanation of our 2021 OCDP Resolutions: What these resolutions are, where they came from, and where they’ll go.
2. “Raised Hand” Vote: Up or down vote on our Omnibus Resolutions Package (see Schedule 5).

PART IV

Conclusion

1. Calls to action and concluding remarks.
2. “Raised Hand” Vote: Motion to adjourn.



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REGISTRATION LINKS

Party Governance

- Precinct Leader Orientations: Sat., April 24 -or- Wed., April 28 (Zoom)
 - Learn about the goals of precinct organizing and the resources available to help leaders work effectively and efficiently. Highly recommended for both new and experienced precinct leaders!
 - <http://bit.ly/ocdpprecinctleaderorientations>

Community Organizing & Service

- Virtual Voter Registration Trainings (Zoom)
 - OCDP's blue-ribbon voter registration training, updated for 2021, a combined effort of our new and veteran Voter Registration Team leadership.
 - Highly recommended for all OCDP voter registration volunteers, even if you've received prior training (and recommended for all!)
 - <http://bit.ly/ocdpvrtrainings>
- Wednesday, April 21st: Inactive Voter Outreach Project Kickoff (Zoom)
 - There are roughly 12,000 Orange County voters on the "inactive voter" list who risk being cleared from the voting rolls. Join us as we kickoff our campaign to make sure that no one falls off the rolls who shouldn't, and help re-engage folks who haven't voted in a while.
 - <http://bit.ly/ocdpinactivevoteroutreach>

CONTRIBUTION LINK

- Support OCDP with a one-time donation, or become a sustainer:
 - <http://bit.ly/ocdpdonations>



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About the County Convention

Coming on the heels of Orange County's mid-March precinct organizing meetings, where we organized and elected precinct leadership teams in each of our 41 precincts, the County Convention, open to all, is where County Convention Delegates:

- i. Elect volunteer county-level officers (Chair, Vice-Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer) to work in partnership with the precinct leaders for the next 2 years, through Spring, 2023, and generally shape the direction of our party. Information on the slate of county-level officer nominees nominated by the OCDP Nominating Committee, chaired by Commissioner Renee Price, can be found on Schedule 3, and on our County Convention website, though additional candidates can be nominated from the virtual convention floor. See pp. 6-8 for further information on the different officer roles.
- ii. Elect volunteer members of Orange County's delegation to the State Executive Committee of the North Carolina Democratic Party (the 500+ person body responsible for NCDP governance) for the next 2 years, through Spring, 2023. Information on the slate of SEC officer nominees nominated by the OCDP Nominating Committee, chaired by Commissioner Renee Price, can be found on Schedule 3, and on our County Convention website, though additional candidates can be nominated from the virtual convention floor.
- iii. Choose how we designate delegates to the Fourth Congressional District Convention. In N.C., in addition to County Parties, we also have Congressional District organizations.
- iv. Vote on OCDP's Omnibus Resolutions Package, a collection of policy proposals for the Democratic platform, which has already been subject to a workshopping and amendment process. If approved, resolutions from the Omnibus Package regarding local matters will be sent to the appropriate local governmental authority, and resolutions pertaining to state- or federal-level matters will be sent to the state party for their consideration. Ultimately, some resolutions will find their way into the state and national Party platform. The Omnibus Resolutions Package can be found on Schedule 5, and on our County Convention website. See p. 10 for further information on our resolutions process.
- v. Share upcoming orientation/training events, and organizing/community service initiatives.



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About the County-level officer positions

- 1. Where these volunteer positions come from.** The formal roles and responsibilities of our county-level officers are provided for in NCDP's Plan of Organization, as amended by OCDP's Alternative Plan of Organization. Our Alternative Plan, passed in 2019/2020, changes some of the default provisions spelled out in NCDP's plan, and (i) adds a new vice chair position, Fourth Vice Chair, focused comprehensively on voter experience (think voter education, voter protection, poll greeting, etc.); (ii) strengthens representation requirements at the county- and precinct-level; and (iii) formally incorporates the NCDP Code of Conduct. NCDP's Plan of Organization, and OCDP's Alternative Plan of Organization, showing changes from NCDP's Plan, can be found on our County Convention website at www.orangedems.com/2021-convention.
- 2. Nominating Committee Members.** This is the committee that made the decisions, based on submitted nominations, of who would be included on the proposed county-level officer slate (see Schedule 3); challenger candidates may still be nominated from the virtual floor at our Convention:
 - Renee Price - Hillsborough East Precinct/HD50 (Chair)
 - Rebecca Cereese - Colonial Heights Precinct/HD56
 - Eric Chen - Carrboro Precinct/HD56
 - Rani Dasi - Rogers Eubanks Precinct/HD56
 - Emily Elstad - West Hillsborough Precinct/HD50
 - Thomas Link - Eno Precinct/HD50
 - Nan Nixon - Estes Hills Precinct/HD56
 - Diane Ong - East Franklin Precinct/HD56
 - Eliazar Posada - OWASA Precinct/HD56
- 3. Terms of office.** Two years (2021-2023).
- 4. What these volunteer positions are.** While the formal roles are spelled out in NCDP's Plan and OCDP's Alternative plan of organization, in practice, roles are divided up/re-delegated according to officer interests. In Orange County, the Chair and First Vice Chair often act as effective co-chairs. Here are the formal roles:
 - **Chair (per Section 2.05 of OCDP's Alternative Plan of Organization).** The county chair shall:
 1. Preside at county executive committee meetings and county conventions;
 2. Draft, in consultation with the county executive committee, a strategic plan outlining reasonable political goals for the county;
 3. Execute the strategic plan approved by the county executive committee;
 4. Draft, in consultation with the other officers, a diversity, inclusion, and full participation plan outlining strategies and goals for promoting better representation at all levels of party leadership.
 5. Read the NCDP Code of Conduct and review with the County Executive Committee, ensuring that each member of the County Executive Committee is familiar with the procedure for reporting behavior inconsistent therewith.
 6. Appoint an acting precinct chair for up to thirty (30) days – for any precinct that remains unorganized after the second scheduled precinct meeting – for the purpose of organizing the precinct in accordance with this Plan of Organization;



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7. Appoint an acting precinct chair for any newly created precinct for the purpose of that precinct in accordance with this Plan of Organization;
 8. Designate the date and time, consistent with the parameters set by the state chair, at which precinct meetings will be held;
 9. Designate the exact time and place, consistent with the date set by the state chair, at which the county convention is to be held, providing said designation to be given to the precinct chairs at least thirty (30) days prior to said county convention;
 10. Appoint committees as may be required to assist in the execution of these duties;
 11. Encourage and facilitate establishment and continuity of county chapters of state auxiliary organizations;
 12. Attend meetings of the district and state executive committees;
 13. Serve as the spokesperson for the county executive committee;
 14. Serve as the liaison between the county executive committee and the district NC Democratic Party Plan of Organization 10 executive committee, the state party officers, and the state executive committee;
 15. Represent the county executive committee at party and non-party meetings and functions;
 16. Appoint a county party attorney, to serve at the Chair's pleasure;
 17. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by this Plan of Organization or by the county or state executive committees; and
 18. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.
- **First Vice Chair (per Section 2.05 of NCDP's Plan of Organization).** The duties of the first vice chair shall be such as may be assigned by the county chair and shall include the following:
1. Preside at county executive committee meetings and county conventions in the absence of the chair;
 2. Plan and organize county executive committee meetings and county conventions;
 3. Notify precinct chairs as to the number of votes that each precinct is entitled to cast at the county executive committee and the county convention;
 4. Serve as the coordinator for all precinct and party organizing efforts within the county, in consultation with the other officers and consistent with the strategic plan approved by the county executive committee. In significantly ethnic [sic] precincts, consult with and seek the recommendation of acting precinct chairs from the county caucuses representing those ethnic groups or the state caucuses representing those ethnic groups if there is no duly organized county level caucus(es);
 5. Attend meetings of the district executive committee;
 6. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the county executive committee;
 7. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.
- **Second Vice Chair (per Section 2.05 of NCDP's Plan of Organization).** The duties of the county fourth vice chair shall be such as may be assigned by the county chair and shall include the following:
1. Plan and organize training sessions for county executive committee members and other interested active Democrats;
 2. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the county executive committee;
 3. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.

- **Third Vice Chair (per Section 2.05 of NCDP's Plan of Organization).** The duties of the county fourth vice chair shall be such as may be assigned by the county chair and shall include the following:
 1. Serve as the publicity chair for the county executive committee utilizing local newspapers, newsletters, etc. to illuminate policy issues and announce political activities and/or accomplishments to voters in the county;
 2. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the county executive committee;
 3. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office

- **Fourth Vice Chair (per Section 2.05 of OCDP's Alternative Plan of Organization).** The duties of the county fourth vice chair shall be such as may be assigned by the county chair and shall include the following:
 1. Serving as the voter experience and voter protection chair for the county executive committee, responsibilities of which shall include, but are not limited to (i) developing and executing poll-greeting programs for all elections; (ii) assisting in the recruitment and training of poll observers; (iii) collaborating with the voter registration team to develop a comprehensive voter registration plan; (iv) organizing a communications strategy pertaining to changes in precinct boundaries and polling locations; and (v) serving as a principal representative of the county executive committee to the county board of elections.
 2. Carrying out other duties as may be assigned by the county executive committee; and
 3. Transmitting all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office Conduct.

- **Secretary (per Section 2.05 of NCDP's Plan of Organization).** The duties of the county secretary shall include the following:
 1. Keep and maintain in good order all records of the county executive committee;
 2. Issue all meeting notices in writing and consistent with the requirements of this Plan of Organization;
 3. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the county executive committee;
 4. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.

- **Treasurer (per Section 2.05 of NCDP's Plan of Organization).** The duties of the county treasurer shall include the following:
 1. Maintain the county executive committee treasury at an insured commercial bank;
 2. Maintain all records required by law or by the county executive committee of contributions received and disbursements made;
 3. Prepare and file any reports as may be required by law or by the county executive committee;
 4. Coordinate the county executive committee's efforts to reach its sustaining fund goal for the state party;
 5. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.



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About the State Executive Committee Positions

- **Where these volunteer positions come from.** The formal roles and responsibilities of our state executive officers are provided for in Section 4.01 of NCDP's Plan of Organization.
- **What these volunteer positions are.** OCDP's delegation to the 500+ person body responsible for NCDP governance. Among other things, the SEC is charged with electing state party leadership.
- **Terms of office.** Two years (2021-2023).
- **Nominating Committee Members** This is the committee that made the decisions, based on submitted nominations, of who would be included on the proposed SEC slate (see Schedule 3); challenger candidates may still be nominated from the virtual floor at our Convention:
 - Renee Price - Hillsborough East Precinct/HD50 (Chair)
 - Rebecca Ceresse** - Colonial Heights Precinct/HD56
 - Eric Chen - Carrboro Precinct/HD56
 - Rani Dasi - Rogers Eubanks Precinct/HD56
 - Emily Elstad - West Hillsborough Precinct/HD50
 - Thomas Link** - Eno Precinct/HD50
 - Nan Nixon - Estes Hills Precinct/HD56
 - Diane Ong - East Franklin Precinct/HD56
 - Eliazar Posada** - OWASA Precinct/HD56

***Notes Committee Members recused from considering the SEC slate.*



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About the Resolutions Omnibus Package

- **What it is.** The Resolutions Omnibus Package is a collection of policy proposals, submitted and workshopped by members of the OCDP community, as amended and approved by the OCDP Resolutions Committee for submission to the OCDP Convention Delegates for a recommended up or down vote. If approved at our Convention, resolutions from the Omnibus Package regarding local matters will be sent to the appropriate local governmental authority and/or relevant local elected leaders, and resolutions pertaining to state- or federal-level matters will be sent to the Fourth Congressional District Convention, and, if passed there, the state party for consideration. Ultimately, some resolutions will find their way into the state and national Party platform.
- **Where it is.** The Resolutions Omnibus Package can be found on the County Convention website (www.orangedems.com/2021-convention) and on Schedule 5 of this Delegate Packet.
- **2021 Resolutions Committee Members**
 - Hongbin Gu, Glenwood Precinct/HD56 (Co-Chair)
 - Lamar Proctor, Efland Precinct/HD50 (Co-Chair)
 - Ivy Barger, Coles Store Precinct/HD50
 - Michael Fath, Rogers Eubanks Precinct/HD56
 - Catherine Fray, Lions Club Precinct/HD56
 - Heiderose Kober, Orange Grove Precinct/HD50
 - Mark Marcoplos, White Cross Precinct/HD50
 - Marguerite Most, Hillsborough Precinct/HD50
 - Maria Palmer, Weaver Dairy Precinct/HD56
 - Robbie Roberts, Efland Precinct/HD50
 - Thomas Trueblood, Patterson Precinct/HD50
- **Our Resolutions process.**
 - Our resolutions process began with our Resolutions Committee Co-Chairs, Lamar Proctor and Chapel Hill Town Council Member Hongbin Gu, making a call for submissions in March from any member of our Democratic community.
 - From there, Resolutions Committee hosted a (recorded) resolutions workshop via Zoom on March 15 for anyone interested.
 - Monday, March 22 was the deadline for any member of our community to submit resolutions for the Omnibus Package.
 - After the initial submission deadline, the Resolutions Committee met on March 22, March 25, and March 29 reviewing all resolutions that had been received prior to the deadline, and voted on which resolutions would become a part of the draft Omnibus Package. All resolutions were fact-checked, platform-checked, bill-checked, and edited to maintain the spirit of the submitted resolution to the best of the Resolution Committee's ability. Special thanks goes to Committee member and Coles Store



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Precinct Leader Ivy Barger for organizing and editing this document.

- The draft Omnibus Package went out by email to OCDP's entire email list on Wednesday, March 31, with instructions for providing further feedback.
- The draft Omnibus Package was subject to comment during a broadly-publicized Plenary Preview Meeting held on Thursday, April 1.
- The draft Omnibus Package was subject to further comments by County Convention delegates prior to a final comment deadline of Monday, April 5.
- Following the Plenary Preview Meeting, the Omnibus Package was finalized for a recommended up or down vote by County Convention Delegates at the April 10 County Convention.

2019-2021 Party Objectives and Leadership

1. Objectives

- Increase countywide turnout for statewide Democratic candidates in the 2022 general election (precise goal turnout increase goal TBD).
- Expand the breadth and depth of the County-to-County Campaign to break the GOP majority in the North Carolina General Assembly in 2020 and develop stronger, longer-term Democratic partnerships across the state.
- Build a more inclusive Orange County Democratic Party that better centers youth leadership and leadership of color.

2. 2019-2021 OCDP Officer Team

Marilyn Carter, Chair
marilyn.carter@orangedems.com



Jonah Garson, First Vice Chair
jonah.garson@orangedems.com



John Ferguson, Second Vice Chair
john.ferguson@orangedems.com



Brian Crawford, Third Vice Chair
brian.crawford@orangedems.com



Phyllis Portie-Ascott, Fourth Vice Chair
phyllis.portie-ascott@orangedems.com



Alexandra Allman
alexandra.allman@orangedems.com



Dennis Swartzlander
dennis.swartzlander@orangedems.com





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3. 2019-2021 OCDP Leadership Teams

- Organizing Team
 - Jonah Garson
 - Sarah O'Brien (Precinct Coach; Colonial Heights Precinct Chair)
 - Diane Ong (Paul and Sheila Wellstone Organizing Fellow; President, UNC Young Dems)
 - Shelby Clay (Organizing Fellow; County-to-County Campaign, Alamance Team)
 - Ian Gardner (Senior Organizing Fellow; Data Fellow; Recruitment Team Leader, County-to-County Campaign)
 - Oliver Levine (Organizing Intern)
- Data Team
 - Sue Goodman
 - Jane Stein
 - Rosi Ziegler
 - Rebekah Smith
 - Ian Gardner
- Communications Team
 - Alexandra Allman
 - Megan Wagner
- Community Service Team
- Voter Registration Team
 - Sandra Lynch
 - Maggie Holly
 - Phyllis Portie-Ascott (*ex officio*)
 - Jane Brown
 - Janet Zelman
- Voter Experience Team (2020)
 - Phyllis Portie-Ascott
 - Veronica Kim
 - David Parker

County-to-County Campaign's 2020-21 Leadership Team

Nan Nixon, Director
Judith Tsin, Deputy Director/ Service Team Leaders
Cay Stratton, Deputy Director/ Special Projects/Treasurer
Karen McCall, Deputy Director/Communications
Ann Henley, Deputy Director/C2C Expansion East
Mary Parry, Deputy Director/Intern Program
Eamon McKeever, Exec. Assistant to Director
Chloe Elbogen, Organizing Fellow



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**Our 2019-2021 Orange County Delegation to the State Executive Committee
of the North Carolina Democratic Party**

OCDP Chair Marilyn Carter, *ex officio*
DNC Member Diane Robertson, *ex officio*
NCDP Second Vice Chair Matt Hughes, *ex officio*
Barbara Foushee
Eliazar Posada
Tai Huynh
Renee Price
Joe Becker

Congressman David Price, *ex officio*
Heide Kober
Jonah Garson
Mark Kleinschmidt
Penny Rich
John Ferguson
Rebecca Ceresse
Phyllis Portie-Ascott

SCHEDULE 1
Rules of the Day

SPECIAL RULES

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

APRIL 10, 2021

Revised April 8. Content edits in **dark blue**. Format edits also made for readability.

RULE 1. Chair.

The County Party Chair (Chair) shall have general direction of the meeting and shall be authorized to take such action as necessary to maintain order.

The Chair, with the guidance of the appointed Parliamentarian, shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any delegate.

Order of priority of Rules shall be:

1. North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization
2. Rules adopted by the delegates of the Convention, and
3. Robert's Rules of Order (11th Edition).

Courteous respect for one another will be the standing order of the day.

RULE 2. Obtaining Recognition.

When any credentialed delegate wants to speak in debate, the delegate shall indicate so to the Chair electronically by using the "Raise Hand" feature on Zoom. The Chair shall inquire of the delegate the purpose for which the delegate seeks recognition.

If the delegate's purpose in seeking recognition is in order, the Chair will recognize the delegate, and **the delegate shall state their name and precinct name or number.**

RULE 3. Limitations on Speaking and Debate.

All members will be muted until recognized by the Chair. No member shall speak in debate more than once on the same motion.

Debate on a motion is limited to two (2) minutes per person with an overall limit of five (5) minutes per motion or item. The Chair will attempt to alternate between members in favor or opposed to a motion.

- A "Point of Order" should be made only if the Party Plan of Organization, Rules of the Day, or Robert's Rules of Order are being violated by the Chair or another member.

- A "Question or Point of Personal Privilege" should be made only if it concerns the rights of the assembly or the individual's ability to hear, participate, etc. and is urgent in nature.

Neither "Point of Order" or "Question or Point of Personal Privilege" shall be used to debate a matter that is before the body.

RULE 4. Credentialed Voting.

Credentialed delegates are those whose names appear on the official delegates' list submitted by the precincts and who have registered prior to the Convention call to order. The Chair may take voice votes, votes by Zoom hand raise, votes by Zoom polls, or ballots for any and all votes. If a voice or Zoom hand raise vote is used, **any call for Division must be sanctioned by delegates from twenty-five (25) percent of the precincts present** and therefore proceed to a recorded weighted vote.

RULE 5. Quorum.

A quorum shall exist any time there is at least one credentialed delegate present from fifty (50) percent plus one of the organized precincts in the County.

If the presence of a quorum is questioned, the Party Secretary, and/or assistants shall call the roll of precincts with precinct responses as specified by the Chair (Raised Hands, Chat or Voice) to determine if a quorum exists.

Once a quorum has been established, no further quorum call needs be recognized for one (1) hour.

If a quorum exists when the body begins debate on a subject, it is presumed to exist until that item is completed.

SPECIAL RULES

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RULE 6. *Nominations for County Executive*

Committee Officers. Nominations for officers shall be conducted by a nomination committee or taken from the body with **nominating speeches**:

- **limited to five minutes (5)** for the Nominating Committee and
- **limited to two (2) minutes** for each nomination from the floor.

Nominations do not require a second.

Each candidate:

- **may have up to two (2) minutes** to respond to the nomination.

Only nominations for Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary, and Treasurer made in accordance with section 2.03 of the Plan of Organization shall be in order.

RULE 7. *Nominations for State Executive Committee Members.*

Nominations for SEC shall be conducted by a nomination committee or taken from the body with **nominating speeches**:

- **limited to five minutes (5)** for the Nominating Committee and
- **limited to one (1) minute** for each nomination from the floor.

Nominations do not require a second.

Each candidate:

- **may have up to two (2) minutes** to respond to the nomination.

Only nominations for State Executive Committee members made in accordance with section 4.01 of the Plan of Organization shall be in order.

RULE 8. *Election of County Executive Committee Officers.*

If only one nomination has been made for an office, a motion to elect by acclamation will be in order.

If two or more nominations have been made for an office, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the weighted vote requirements in Section 5.02 of the Plan of Organization.

Pursuant to section 5.02 of the NCDP Plan of Organization the county chair shall appoint a sufficient number of tellers to tabulate the votes.

- **The ballot link will be placed in the chat box** when it is time to vote for each office.
- The delegates should click on the link and cast their ballots.
- **If a delegate is calling in by phone they should, press *9 to raise their hand** and they will be moved to a breakout room in order to cast their ballot.
- **If a delegate is online and having trouble getting the link to open, they should raise their hand** and they will be moved into a breakout room in order to cast their vote.
- Voting for each office will end once the last assisted ballot has been cast.
- Votes will be tallied by the teller committee and results announced.

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ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

APRIL 10, 2021

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RULE 9. Election of State Executive Committee Members.

If the number of nominations for State Executive Committee members is equal to the number of members to which the county is entitled, and the nominations conform with section 4.01 of the Plan of Organization, **a motion to elect all nominees by acclamation will be in order.**

Otherwise,

- The SEC ballot(s) link(s) will be placed in the chat box. If a delegate has joined the convention over the phone or has issues using the ballot link, they should raise their hand when asked and they will be moved into a breakout room to have their vote recorded. Each delegate should only complete one ballot, (one time).
- The SEC ballot link(s) will use a google form to record votes, and that form will be configured to send a copy of each voter's completed ballot to them via email.
- Each delegate should Vote for no more than ten (10) people. **Ballots with more than ten (10) votes will be marked spoiled and will not be counted.**

Orange County shall have ten (10) elected SEC seats in 2021, as described in the NCDP Plan of Organization. Furthermore, in compliance with gender equity rules set forth in that Plan:

- five (5) of the ten (10) SEC seats will count towards the female gender identity allotment, and
- five (5) of the ten (10) SEC seats will count towards the male gender identity allotment.

However, when a candidate is asked to declare their gender identity, **they may declare female, male, or gender non-binary.**

Votes for all nominated candidates will be tallied from highest to lowest. They will then be evaluated as follows:

- The gender identity (either female or male) that first achieves 5 positions shall be identified.
 - The first gender non-binary candidate who receives more votes than the 5th-placed candidate shall be displace that 5th-placed candidate.
- The 5 candidates of the second gender identity (either female or male) receiving the most votes shall be identified.
 - The second gender non-binary candidate receiving more votes than the 5-placed candidate shall displace that 5th-placed candidate.
- If there are additional candidates that have declared their gender identity to be non-binary, then this process will repeat.

RULE 10. Election of Congressional District Convention Delegates.

A motion moved by a delegate to empower the County Executive Board to name Fourth Congressional District Convention Delegates shall be in order. Any credentialed delegate may place in nomination the name of a registered Democrat as delegate to the Congressional District convention, as appropriate for the nominee's voting address. If nominations for delegates to a convention are closed and the number of nominations does not exceed the number of seats, a motion to elect all nominees by acclamation shall be in order.

RULE 11. Tellers.

If ballots are used in any contested election **or any other convention business item**, votes shall be collected and recorded using weighted voting.

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Rule 12: *Resolutions.*

Resolutions that have received a favorable recommendation from the County Resolutions Committee do not elicit an objection from the floor shall be considered by the full convention as an omnibus resolution.

Items that receive an objection from **at least 10 credentialed delegates** from the floor shall be considered separately following the omnibus resolutions.

Rule 13: *Amendments to Resolutions.*

Proposals for amendments shall be presented to the Chair or the Chair's designee in writing and shall require a **simple majority vote** for passage. Amendments must receive a second.

Rule 14: *Referral to Committee for Further Study.*

Any Resolution or Platform Item may be referred to a committee appointed by the Chair **by majority vote** of the convention for further study.

Rule 15: *Resolutions from the Floor and Items Receiving Unfavorable Report.*

Resolutions from the floor shall be considered **after all items that have received a favorable recommendation have been considered and voted upon** by the Convention.

Passage requires a vote of two-thirds of the Convention:

- **New items** from the floor shall be submitted in writing to the Chair or the Chair's designee.
- **Items that failed to receive a favorable report** from the Platform Committee may be considered at this time as well, but must also meet the two-third requirement.

SCHEDULE 2
2020 County Convention Minutes



ORANGE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY VIRTUAL 2020 CONVENTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020

MINUTES

Post-convention Note:

*Attendance recording systems (Zoom and Mobilize) confirmed 321 persons attended the Convention, **of which 223** were County Convention Delegates representing **all 40 of 41** organized Precincts in Orange County.*

Chair Marilyn Carter called meeting to order at 12:06 pm

First Vice Chair Jonah Garson outlined OCDP goals for 2020

1. Increase Orange votes for Democrats by 10% - and re-elect Gov Cooper and elect our Supreme Court candidates
2. Expand C2C to flip enough seats to take back the NC House and Senate
3. Strive for a more inclusive party and have fun

So much work to do. Think about ways for everyone to participate.

Chair Marilyn Carter introduced the OCDP Leadership team

Fourth Vice Chair Phyllis Portie-Ascott called for moment of reflection:

The body was asked to reflect for 30 seconds on why and for whom they engaged

Chair Marilyn Carter led the body in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced **Congressman David Price**.

Congressman Price:

Welcome. Critical election in November, most important in our lifetime. We must adapt to the pandemic well into the fall. Voting by mail without partisan obstruction imperative. Fourth installment of funding bill includes special committee overseeing funding for direct payment, expanded unemployment, payroll protection for small businesses.

Systems are overloaded. Go to the right people. Offers his office to help with problems.

Pandemic underscores how much Democratic leadership is needed. Lauds NC Governor Cooper and Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services, for their competent leadership during this crisis, something we do not have at the federal level. This profound misfortune calls for a Lincoln or Roosevelt, and all we have is Trump.

Thanks everyone for coming and working to elect Democrats for President, Senate, and NC.

Chair Marilyn Carter thanked David Price and read NCDP Chairman Wayne Goodman's letter to the Convention delegates.

Technical Expert **Mary Parry** pointed out the features for participating in the virtual convention.

Chair Marilyn Carter called on **Acting Secretary Alexandra Allman** to confirm that quorum has been established for the Convention. Quorum was confirmed and Marilyn explained the protocol for the Convention:

Because OCDP was following the directives of the NCDP in using a virtual meeting platform, the Convention was structured as a webinar with only presenters being able to speak. To comment, delegates were asked to use chat to post a message and raise their hand. Those using a phone were asked to use *9 to raise their hand and send a text message to Diane Ong.

Voting: We are using unanimous consent and Up and down votes – if no nays = unanimous consent. Aye votes are assumed, and no action is needed but Nay votes are to be recorded in chat if necessary. Those on phone can log nay votes via *9 and text message.

Marilyn then introduced the Agenda and repeated the goals introduced earlier by Jonah.

First Vice Chair Jonah Garson gave a brief recap on the work that OCDP has done so far since 2019:

- OCDP leadership met with all precinct leaders one-on-one and developed a comprehensive plan based on the feedback received.
- Conducted intensive canvassing in collaboration with Neighbors on Call to expand volunteer base and engage more Democrats.
- Created an Alternative Plan of Organization, passed by the SEC, to make OCDP leadership more representative of the County and created a Diversity and Inclusivity Working Group.

Marilyn added that she wants to pivot quickly after the Convention to engage precincts in a safe manner and move forward.

Jonah said that the robust turn-out in the Primary was promising and that the two virtual townhalls showed that people are eager to engage and able to adapt to the circumstances. OCDP's first

virtual townhall on COVID relief was successful and the 2nd townhall on contingencies for the November Elections and results from the Primaries was well received.

Chair Marilyn Carter reiterated the other Agenda items and introduced Mark Kleinschmidt as the Parliamentarian:

Convention Business that will require a vote:

- Rules

- Election for Delegates to District and State Conventions

- Election for Judicial, House and Senate Executive Committees

- Resolution Omnibus Package

Our Legislative Delegation: Sen. Valerie Foushee, Rep. Verla Insko, Rep. Graig Meyer

Announcements

Marilyn made the motion for the body to adopt the Agenda and asked only to use chat if objecting to the motion. There was one objection; however, it was determined that the objection pertained to the Resolution Omnibus Package and not to the Agenda itself and the Agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

Marilyn then turned over the proceedings to **Parliamentarian Mark Kleinschmidt**.

Mark made the motion for the body to adopt the Special Rules of the Convention. The body of ~~306~~ delegates present adopted the rules with only 6 objections.

Marilyn explained that the first Resolution for consideration, on Delegates to the District and State Conventions, if granted, gives the Board of the OCDP Executive Committee the authority to appoint Orange County's 204 delegates based on the criteria listed in the Resolution.

After questions from the body, Marilyn clarified that delegates to District and State Conventions are not the same as delegates for Presidential Electors. The latter will be elected at the District and State Conventions according to the rules communicated by the North Carolina Democratic Party earlier.

Marilyn made the motion to adopt the Resolution on Delegates. Point of clarification is answered by Mark: the majority of attendees are delegates and identifying delegate status is not necessary unless a weighted vote is needed. Motion is adopted by the body.

Marilyn introduces **Michael Parker, Chair of the Nominating Committee**.

Michael introduced the other members and explained the duties of the Committee and the guidelines used to choose the slate of candidates.

Recommended slate for Judicial District 15B: 2 positions

- Allen Buansi (i)

Lynette Hartsell

Note: Hathaway Pendergrass was the other incumbent but because he won the election for the vacant NC District Court Judge District 15B seat, he is no longer eligible to serve.

Mark asked for other nominations and hearing none asked for a motion to approve the nominees by acclamation. Michael Parker made the motion and James Bartow seconded. The body approved the slate of candidates unanimously and both were elected.

Recommended slate for House 50 Executive Committee: 2 positions

John Ferguson (i)

Cathy Vinski (i)

Michael Parker made the motion and Joal Broun seconded. The body approved the slate of candidates unanimously and both were elected.

Recommended slate for Senate District 23 Executive Committee: 2 positions

Nan Nixon (i)

Kenneth Woods

Michael Parker made the motion and Matt Hughes seconded. The body approved the slate of candidates unanimously and both were elected.

Michael Parker thanked the body and his Committee members.

Chair Marilyn Carter thanked the **Resolution Committee Co-Chairs Renee Price** and **Hongbin Gu** and asks Renee to overview the Committee Process.

Renee thanked Hongbin and the Resolutions Committee members as well as the precinct members who crafted the resolutions that the Committee received. The Committee met twice in person and then had to schedule the All Precinct Meeting online, the first virtual meeting for OCDP due to the coronavirus outbreak. She thanked Mary and Jonah for their help using Google docs to collect comments. The Committee tried to maintain the integrity of the resolutions that were submitted.

Hongbin thanked Renee and all who worked on the resolutions.

Renee then made the motion for the body to adopt the Resolution for a Resolutions Omnibus.

First Vice Chair Jonah Garson seconded the motion.

Marilyn explained that due to the constraints of a Virtual Convention, the NCDP requested that resolutions, with approval of each County Convention, be passed directly on to the State Party's Resolution Committee. Because of that, there would be no discussion of individual resolutions, only an up or down vote on submission of all resolutions received and accepted by the Resolutions Committee to be passed directly to NCDP.

After some chats indicated that some delegates were not satisfied with this process, Matt Hughes added that anyone who wanted to have input on any of the resolutions before they are presented at the State Convention should contact him.

With 290 Ayes and 9 Nays, the Resolution for a Resolutions Omnibus passed.

Marilyn thanked the candidates for their willingness to serve and the committees for their hard work.

First Vice Chair Johan Garson introduced **NC House Rep. Graig Meyer**.

Rep. Meyer spoke about Education issues and explained that the House bill that was introduced would make a number of statutory changes for this school year: no school openings for this school year, no grades, adding resources for online learning, bridging the broadband gap, more flexibility for school districts, no teacher raises, jump starting the school year early for at risk and special needs students, and planning for long-term distance learning. Polls show that Education still is #1 issue for NC.

Jonah thanked Graig and introduced **NC House Rep Verla Insko**.

Rep. Insko spoke on Healthcare and the critical need to expand Medicaid which has the support in House but is blocked by Republicans in the Senate. She also addressed food and shelter insecurity issues during the pandemic that made vulnerable populations even more at risk.

Jonah thanked Verla and introduced **NC Senator Valerie Foushee**.

Sen. Foushee gave an impassioned GOTV speech, saying that we need to elect Democrats to set things right again in NC:

If you want to save hospitals, flip some seats!

If you want to expand Medicaid, flip some seats!

If you want access to broadband for all, flip some seats!

If you want fair elections, flip some seats!

If you want independent redistricting, flip some seats!

Jonah thanked Senator Foushee and said that she closed it out.

Chair Marilyn Carter thanked all three legislators and moved to the final item on the Agenda:

Announcements and Calls to Action

May 16 – 4th District Convention

Late May CEC Meeting

June 6 – State Convention

Now – Mail-in Voting Request Forms!

Mid-October - Early Voting begins

November 3 – Election Day

First Vice Chair Johan Garson's Call to Action:

- Protect your vote and request a mail-in absentee ballot now.
- Get involved in C2C. It is a one-of-a-kind program. There is no other like it anywhere. Working with other counties to help flip some seats and building a vibrant partnership across NC ensures that there will be no more lost decade for NC Democrats! Get trained and get involved. Sign up for a phonebank. Thank you, Nan Nixon, for all your leadership.
- Support OCDP with donation so we can do the critical work that is necessary. We know it is a hard time for many of you, but we need your support to win.

Chair Marilyn Carter made the motion to adjourn, Mark Kleinschmidt seconded. The convention was adjourned at 2:08 pm.

SCHEDULE 3

Candidates for Party Office Nominated
by the Nominating Committee



Thank you to our Nominating Committee for their thoughtful work to bring us these nominees for consideration at our 2021 County Convention:

Renee Price - Hillsborough East Precinct/HD50, Chair
Rebecca Cerese* - Colonial Heights Precinct/HD56, Member
Eric Chen - Carrboro Precinct/HD56, Member
Rani Dasi - Rogers Eubanks Precinct/HD56, Member
Emily Elstad - West Hillsborough Precinct/HD50, Member
Thomas Link* - Eno Precinct/HD50, Member
Nan Nixon - Estes Hills Precinct/HD56, Member
Diane Ong - East Franklin Precinct/HD56, Member
Eliazar Posada* - OWASA Precinct/HD56, Member

**Notes Committee members recused from considering the SEC slate*

2021-2023 County Executive Committee -- Officer Slate:

Running for	Candidate	Precinct	Current Position
Chair	Jonah Garson	East Franklin HD56	First Vice Chair, SEC Member
First Vice Chair	Phyllis-Portie- Ascott	Cameron Park HD50	Fourth Vice Chair, SEC Member
Second Vice Chair	Anissa Graham- Davis	St Mary's HD50	STEM Foundation President
Third Vice Chair	Alexandra Allman	Weaver Dairy HD56	Secretary
Fourth Vice Chair	Maggie Holly	Cameron Park HD50	Co-Chair, Voter Registration Team
Treasurer	Dennis Swartzlander	Northside HD56	Treasurer
Secretary	Joe Becker	Grady Brown HD50	Chair, Grady Brown Precinct; SEC Member

Thank you to our 2019-2021 Executive Officers, Marilyn Carter (Chair), John Ferguson (Second Vice Chair), and Brian Crawford (Third Vice Chair). We are grateful for their service!

**2021-2023 State Executive Committee Slate of Candidates
on the next page.**

2021-2023 State Executive Committee -- Slate:

Running for	Candidate	Precinct	Current Position
SEC – Female/Nonbinary	Barbara Foushee	Carrboro Town Hall HD56	SEC
SEC – Female/Nonbinary	Marilyn Carter	Cedar Falls HD56	Chair; SEC ex-officio
SEC – Female/Nonbinary	Rebecca Cerese	Colonial Heights HD56	SEC; President, Progressive Dems of Orange County
SEC – Female/Nonbinary	Heiderose Kober	Orange Grove HD50	Precinct Chair; SEC
SEC – Female/Nonbinary	Phyllis Portie-Ascott	Cameron Park HD50	Fourth Vice Chair; SEC
SEC – Male/Nonbinary	John Ferguson	St Mary's HD50	Second Vice Chair; SEC
SEC – Male/Nonbinary	Eliazar Posada	OWASA HD56	Precinct Chair; SEC
SEC – Male/Nonbinary	Thomas Link	Eno HD50	Precinct Chair
SEC – Male/Nonbinary	Kevin Foy	Glenwood HD56	Former Mayor; Chapel Hill
SEC – Male/Nonbinary	Tai Huynh	Northside HD56	SEC

The following leaders serve as ex-officio, voting members of the SEC:
Rep. David Price, DNC Member Diane Robertson, NCDP Second Vice Chair Matt Hughes, Progressive Dems of NC President Lee Nackman, and our incoming OCDP Chair.

Many thanks to our 2019-2021 SEC Members, Joe Becker, Mark Kleinschmidt and Penny Rich.

We are grateful for their service!

**Bios for 2021-2023 Candidates for
County Executive Committee Officers
and
State Executive Committee Members
begin on the next page.**

Bios for 2021-2023 County Executive Committee -- Officer Slate



Jonah Garson—Candidate for Chair

Current First Vice Chair of the Orange County Democratic Party, NCDP State Executive Committee Member, and advisor for the County-to-County Campaign—is an attorney, organizer, and proud Tar Heel, native to Chapel Hill, where he currently resides.

A graduate of Chapel Hill public schools (FPG Elementary, Culbreth Middle, Chapel Hill High '05), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ('09), and Columbia Law School ('14), Jonah left private law practice during the 2018 election cycle to work full-time as a field coordinator and advisor to 30 Democratic state legislative challengers across North Carolina. He then served as the NCDP/DNC Voter Protection Director for the redo election in North Carolina's Ninth Congressional District (redone due to GOP ballot fraud targeting poor voters and non-white voters), before returning to private practice at Parry Law, where he represents

businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individual clients in federal court, state court, arbitration, and regulatory proceedings, and continues to engage in a variety of voting rights and election law work.

Outside of the Democratic Party, Jonah serves in the following leadership roles:

- Executive Committee, Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP;
- Board Member, Carolina Performing Arts;
- Litigation Council Member, North Carolina Bar Association;
- Pro Bono Committee Member, North Carolina Bar Association;
- Founding Board Member, New North Carolina Project; and
- Founding Member, Team4NC (New York-based bridgehead for NC progressive infrastructure-building).

Jonah is excited for the opportunity to work in partnership with Phyllis Portie-Ascott, candidate for First Vice Chair and current Fourth Vice Chair, as well as with the rest of the nominated OCDP officer slate, to continue current leadership's efforts to build a more inclusive, more representative, more fun(!), inter-generational, pro-worker, anti-racist, anti-homophobic, anti-transphobic Democratic community, a community that empowers all-comers to find their highest and best civic use in the midst of our current crises of the pandemic, anti-black violence, and right-wing authoritarianism.

With regard to specific initiatives, if elected, Jonah will work to continue to develop and support the new OCDP Community Service Team—including its “shots-in-arms” campaign, slated to begin in the next couple weeks; the OCDP Renters' Campaign (the “Neighbor-to-Neighbor Initiative”), slated to begin this Spring if approved by the CEC, leveraging deep canvassing and relational organizing techniques to empower renters across the county; the County-to-County Campaign's expansion to deepen county partnerships and promote new Democratic infrastructure where it matters most; and the Voter Registration Team's efforts to build voter registration and education programs to meet folks where they're at in each of our county's 41 precincts.

Finally, Jonah looks forward to continuing to empower a new generation of Democratic leaders who see the Party as an instrument for the public good and advancement of democracy, who refuse to accept another Lost Decade in our state, and who believe progress on this front is impossible without fundamentally changing how we show up for one another as Democrats and as North Carolinians.



Phyllis Portie-Ascott, Candidate for First Vice Chair

I am running for First Vice-Chair of Orange County Democratic Party. As a lifelong resident of North Carolina who spent my formative years in Eastern North Carolina, where hard work, integrity, and serving were the norm, I am honored to serve as a leader of OCDP. As a resident of Northern Orange, I am a business owner and licensed Real Estate Broker with PPA Properties. My educational achievements include a Bachelor of Social Work from East Carolina University, a Masters of Public Administration from NCCU, a Doctorate in Biblical Studies from New Life Bible College and Seminary, and Masters of Divinity from Shaw University. Having completed four Clinical Pastoral Education units, I'm in the writing process to achieve Board Certification as a Chaplain.

Since Fall 2019, I've had the privilege of serving as a State Executive Committee member and 4th Vice-Chair working with many of you. I led the incredible Voter Experience Team, where our goal was ensuring voters had the best experience possible at the polls. I am proud of what we were able to accomplish. We developed Poll Greeting & COVID 19 Protocols, recruited Early Voting Site Coordinators and Poll Runners, developed a Video Poll Greeter Training Program, conducted Poll Greeter Q&A sessions, assisted NCDP Voter Protection with Poll Observer coverage, assisted precinct leaders in recruiting poll greeters and visited the Early Voting and Election Day Polling Sites.

I hope you have experienced me as a hard-working team player with integrity committed to the success of OCDP. I ask for your vote for First Vice-Chair.



Anissa Graham-Davis, Candidate for Second Vice Chair

Anissa is a three-time graduate from North Carolina Central University with Bachelor's, Master's and law degrees. She is happily married to Eric Davis, DDS and is the proud mother of two beautiful daughters. Anissa is an entrepreneur at heart with her own law practice, online boutique, and as a skin care consultant. She is currently opening a smoothie bar featuring premium açai bowls providing families healthy alternatives to fast foods. She and her family created a foundation catering to underrepresented students in STEM and law careers. Anissa is honored to be nominated. Her vision for the party is simple: assist with organizing, mobilizing and focusing on training those who are eager to make sure we show up, turn out the vote and turn North Carolina blue! She's no stranger to work and delights in

the opportunity to work with a team to continue to move our democratic party forward.



Alexandra Allman, Candidate for Third Vice Chair

I am the first 'unofficial' doctor in my family (my dissertation is at its last step with CAO)!! :) There was no silver spoon in my life. It been hard to get this far, but I've learned to just work on my goals one day at a time. Slowly and dedicated. One of my goals is to continue making as much of an impact on my community (and State) as I can, and that is why this year I choose to run for 3rd vice chair this time around, instead of secretary. The point is to grow forward.



Maggie Holly, Candidate for Fourth Vice Chair

Maggie Holly, M.Ed. is a native of Hillsborough, N.C. She has a passion for helping others. Maggie has served the Orange County community in several capacities. Most recently, Maggie has stepped up to serve as OCDP's Voter Registration Co-Chair and is actively engaged in planning future activities.

She is no stranger to hard work. Her professional work is centered around helping people. She is a Human Resources professional and a former classroom teacher. She has a passion for others and wants to make a difference in her local community and the world.



Dennis Swartzlander, Candidate for Treasurer

As OCDP Treasurer for 2 1/2 years I have been pleased to assist Orange County and all of NC in electing more Democrats to national, state, and local offices. I believe that we have a major opportunity to make NC more blue. I believe it is critical and essential in 2022 to elect a Democratic US Senator and as many additional US and NC Democratic office holders as possible.

My career spans AFDC public welfare caseworker 50 years ago, to Director of Ohio Medicaid Systems and Operations 30 years ago, and 25 years ago as Founder, CEO, Chairman of the Board in a successful healthcare software service organization, which was acquired by McKesson. I have an MBA and was a CPA from 1980 to 1997. I have served as treasurer for the 4th Congressional District Exec Committee and for a Carrboro town council successful candidate election.



Joe Becker, Candidate for Secretary

Born in St. Louis, Mo and raised in Louisville, Ky. Joined the Navy at the end of the Vietnam War and served for 6 years. Moved to Raleigh in the 80's to work for IBM in RTP as a Software Engineer. Attended NC Central Law School at night and retired after 20 years at IBM to practice law at Womble Bond Dickinson as a Staff Attorney. I retired from Womble after 15 years in 2019.

In 2018 moved to Hillsborough from Durham. I wanted to be involved in the movement to dethrone then President Trump, so I went to the next County Convention and got elected to the SEC. I attend County meetings every month representing both the SEC and Grady Brown. I am active in Grady Brown was elected to Precinct Secretary. Last month I was excited to become Precinct Chair for Grady Brown.

**Bios for 2021-2023 Candidates
for
State Executive Committee Members
begin on the next page.**

Bios for 2021-2023 State Executive Committee – Slate



Barbara Middleton-Foushee, Candidate for SEC

Born and raised in Duplin County, North Carolina. Graduate of Historic Saint Augustine's University. Currently employed as a Senior Technologist at Laboratory Corporation of America in a Molecular Oncology Lab Co-chairs Community Action and Political Awareness Ministry at First Baptist Church of Chapel Hill. Currently serving on the Carrboro Town Council as Mayor Pro Tem. Basileus of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Eta Phi Zeta Graduate Chapter Silver Life Member and Exec Committee, Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP. Co-Vice Chair of Carrboro Town Hall Precinct and current SEC member. My Brother's and Sister's Keeper of Orange County Advisory Board. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award Recipient given by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP.

Numerous Sorority honors including Woman of the Year and the Finer Womanhood Award.



Marilyn Carter, Candidate for SEC

Marilyn Carter has served as our 2019-2021 OCDP Chair, and she is proud of the work of the Orange County Democratic Party this past election cycle. Marilyn worked to build a more inclusive, welcoming Party that enables Democrats to engage and help WIN elections.

OCDP delivered record-breaking turnout and also stayed nimble in the face of the pandemic in 2020. Marilyn raised funds through the North Carolina-wide Biden Yard Sign program that continues to fund OCDP operations. Marilyn supported our fantastic County-to-County team as they helped a number of Legislative candidates over the finish line. There is much work still to do to turn NC blue, and Marilyn will bring her operational experience and her voice for Orange County to the State Executive Committee.



Rebecca Cereze, Candidate for SEC

Rebecca Cereze is the President of the Progressive Democrats of Orange County, a current SEC member and former precinct chair of Colonial Heights. She is also a social justice activist, award-winning documentary filmmaker and a passionate healthcare advocate. She is the first ever Health Engagement Coordinator at the [NC Justice Center](#), where she collects stories about people who are uninsured in order to push for policy changes. Seeing the ways our Democratic Party can and must be improved so we can break out from under GOP rule, she is ready to push for the types of changes our party needs at the SEC level. Chief among those changes is advocating for paid community organizers around the state that can act as a bridge between the party, and the communities we will need to galvanize to win and regain control of the NCGA, and retain control of the Congress.



Phyllis Portie-Ascott, Candidate for State Executive Committee

Phyllis currently serves as 2019-2021 Fourth Vice Chair of OCDP and is also running for 2021-2023 First Vice-Chair of Orange County Democratic Party; please reference her bio earlier in this document.



Heiderose Kober, Candidate for State Executive Committee

I believe that democracy is not a spectator sport; it can only survive if enough people believe in its principles and take the time and effort necessary to understand and accept their civic responsibility as a self-governing people, individually and collectively, and then use their talents and power to work toward a more perfect union. The SEC is the governing body of the Democratic Party, and if we want to elect candidates that move our county, our state, and our country forward, we must ensure that our Party is inclusive, responsive, transparent, and forward-looking in its governing principles and messaging. As SEC member, I will work hard to make sure that the NC Democratic Party stays true to the principles and values that Orange County Democrats embrace.

I also believe in the Golden Rule that says that whatever rights and privileges I claim for myself, I claim for all. This is the basis for justice. Having grown up in Germany after WW2, I know only too well the great threat that fascism and White Nationalism represent, and I will fight against both relentlessly. The Democratic Party must be the guardian of our democracy, now more than ever. It is us who must bend the arc towards justice for all.



John Ferguson, Candidate for State Executive Committee

I am John Ferguson, a candidate for a seat on the State Executive Committee. In the past, I have served as Chair of the Northern Orange Black Voters Alliance, 2nd vice Chair of the OCDP, Treasurer of the Orange County African American Caucus, and Chair of St. Mary's Precinct.

In addition, I was employed as a teacher, and subsequently as an organizer for the North Carolina Association of Educators and I currently serve on the SEC.. I believe the experience gained from these positions will serve the Party well as we work towards developing policies and making decisions relevant to moving us forward in the current environment. I ask for your vote to be your representative on the State Executive Committee



Eliazar Posada, Candidate for SEC

Eliazar Posada serves as Chair of OWASA precinct. He grew up in South Texas and moved to North Carolina to finish high school. He graduated from Campbell University in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts and Science, in Political Science and Business Management with a Pre-Law Concentration. He also holds a certificate from George Washington School of Political Management in Campaign Management.

After graduation, he joined the team at El Centro Hispano, as the Hola Latino and Youth Coordinator. While in those roles he worked in HIV/STD prevention, safe sex education, stigma reduction and advocacy with a focus on young LGBTQ Latinos before becoming Director of Advocacy and Civic Participation. Eliazar recently became Acting President and CEO at El Centro.



Thomas Link, Candidate for SEC

Tom Link is a lifelong resident of Eno in Orange County, NC and the current Eno Precinct Democratic Party Chair. His grandfather, father and he have all served as the Eno Precinct Democratic Chair of Orange County NC going back to the 1940s. Tom's ancestors and family has lived continuously in Eno Precinct since 1754 farming with family and neighbors, black and white, and knows the importance of "helping each other" through all kinds of life circumstances. Tom retired in 2013 from the US Environmental Protection Agency in RTP after 41 years of service as an economist, air quality analyst and national executive for AFG, representing 20,000 Federal EPA employees nationwide.



Tai Huynh, Candidate for SEC

Tai Huynh was born in Clearwater, Florida to two Vietnamese refugees. His family moved to North Carolina in 2010 after his father lost his job during the recession.

Tai attended UNC Chapel-Hill as a first-generation college student and Morehead-Cain Scholar. He graduated Class of 2020 with a degree in Computer Science with minors in Business Administration and Anthropology.

He currently serves on the Chapel Hill Town Council and is building a Govtech startup. Tai is the first Vietnamese-American elected to public office in the state of North Carolina and looks to continue serving our state for decades to come.



Kevin Foy, Candidate for SEC

Kevin Foy teaches environmental justice and environmental law at North Carolina Central University School of Law. He served twelve years on the Chapel Hill Town Council, including eight years as Mayor. In addition to teaching, he's been working with colleagues at UNC and NC State to develop flood resilience plans for North Carolina communities dealing with climate change.

He is interested in representing Orange County on the State Executive Committee to help ensure that the Democratic Party focuses on local community issues statewide. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Glenwood precinct.

End of Document.

SCHEDULE 4

Resolution to Delegate the Appointment of Fourth Congressional District Delegates to the 2021 to the Board of the Orange County Executive Committee

Delegates to the District and State Conventions

WHEREAS, Democrats in **Orange County** met in Virtual Convention on April 10, 2021,

AND WHEREAS, **Democrats in Orange County** desire to have full representation at the upcoming **Congressional District 4 Convention**,

BE IT RESOLVED, the **Board of the Orange County Executive Committee** is granted the authority to appoint delegates to the Congressional District Convention,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the **Board shall use the following sources** of information to make decisions about delegate appointments:

- **List of attendees at the county convention**
- **Orange County** members of the **State Executive Committee**
- **Orange County** Democratic **Elected Officials**
- Individuals from **Orange County** who have **expressed an interest in serving** in advance of or at the County Convention

SCHEDULE 5
Resolutions Omnibus Package



Orange County Democratic Party 2021 Resolutions Omnibus Package

Format of resolutions follows [this template](#), provided by the North Carolina Democratic Party.

[Revised April 8, 2021:](#)

to refer to Resolution Numbers vs. page numbers.

2021 OCDP Resolutions Committee

Co-Chairs:

Hongbin Gu, Glenwood Precinct/HD56

Lamar Proctor, Efland Precinct/HD50

Members:

Ivy Barger, Coles Store Precinct/HD50

Michael Fath, Rogers Eubanks Precinct/HD56

Catherine Fray, Lions Club Precinct/HD56

Heiderose Kober, Orange Grove Precinct/HD50

Mark Marcoplos, White Cross Precinct/HD50

Marguerite Most, Hillsborough Precinct/HD50

Maria Palmer, Weaver Dairy Precinct/HD56

Robbie Roberts, Efland Precinct/HD50

Thomas Trueblood, Patterson Precinct/HD50

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22. FOR UNIVERSAL BROADBAND IN NORTH CAROLINA

CIVIL RIGHTS

23. IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 40 AND FOUNDATIONAL BLACK AMERICANS
24. IN SUPPORT OF THE NC CRED CAMPAIGN TO REMOVE CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS

VOTING/REDISTRICTING

25. TO EXPAND AND PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES
26. ON REDISTRICTING AS PROVIDED IN THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

1. A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 403, TRANSPARENCY IN CORPORATE POLITICAL SPENDING ACT

WHEREAS, The Transparency in Corporate Spending Act would repeal a policy rider in the 2020 appropriations law and provide an avenue for the federal government to require disclosure of political spending by publicly-traded companies; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* struck down dollar limits for corporate political advocacy under the First Amendment right to free speech; and

WHEREAS, Under *Citizens United*, companies indirectly provide funds for campaign advertising by contributing to dark money "super PACs" (political action committees) even when they are not formally coordinating with a candidate or political party; and

WHEREAS, Dark money donors, including wealthy individuals, and nonprofits that are not required to disclose their donors, spend millions of dollars on independently-produced ads and other communications promoting or attacking candidates; and

WHEREAS, The original sources of donations to "dark money" super PACs are often unclear and difficult to trace; and

WHEREAS, Since *Citizens United*, super PACs, including 501(c)(6) trade associations and 501(c)(4) "social welfare" organizations, which may accept undisclosed "dark money" contributions for election-related advocacy, have been a major funding source for congressional and down-ballot races; and

WHEREAS, As reported by GovTrack, 2,276 super PACs spent over \$2.1 billion dollars to support candidates in state and federal campaigns in the 2020 election where small amounts of money can have a major impact; and

WHEREAS, An election system that is skewed heavily toward wealthy donors also sustains racial bias and reinforces the racial wealth gap; and

WHEREAS, The American people should have full disclosure about how public companies from which they buy products and services spend their money on political advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Lack of transparency is a threat to citizens' faith in the political system and to shareholders' and investors' confidence; provides opportunities for bias, preferential treatment,

and backroom deals; and increases the vulnerability of U.S. elections to international interference; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports increased public oversight of publicly-traded companies to provide more transparency about their spending on environmental, social, and governance issues, and on political advocacy; and

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports H.R. 403, the Transparency in Corporate Political Spending Act, which would remove the policy rider in the 2020 appropriations bill and provide a means for increased oversight of our country's wealthiest corporations, non-profits, and individual donors as well as the adoption of a rule by the Securities and Exchange Commission to require public companies to disclose their political spending; and

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports publicly-funded elections to help candidates rely less on big checks and special interests and be more responsive to the communities they seek to represent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports the Democracy For All Amendment to overturn *Citizens United*, which was reintroduced in 2021 as House Joint Resolution 1 (H.J. Res. 1).

CONSUMER RIGHTS

2. A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO PROTECT CONSUMER PRIVACY RIGHTS AND DATA SECURITY

WHEREAS, Information technology companies frequently harvest and distribute information on consumers without obtaining informed consent; and

WHEREAS, Individuals lack the power and knowledge to understand and/or prohibit this activity; and

WHEREAS, The extraction of personal user data deployed by online companies rises information asymmetry in markets that translates into rising overall economic inequality in the economy; and

WHEREAS, The dominance of large data companies eliminates competition in the marketplace to properly value user data and protect individual privacy and further undermines the market mechanism against abuse and violation of personal data and privacy; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to establish a commission to review predatory and inappropriate data collection techniques that violate the consumer's informed consent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to pass legislation that limits the sale of individual consumer information without the consumer's express consent.

EDUCATION

3. A RESOLUTION ADDRESSING HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY AND STUDENT DEBT RELIEF

WHEREAS, Four-year college and university tuition costs have risen more than twice as fast as inflation in the past 36 years; and

WHEREAS, Resident tuition per semester at UNC-Chapel Hill has risen over 6 times faster than inflation in the same time span and non-resident tuition has risen over 4 times faster than inflation; and

WHEREAS, The burden of excessively high tuition prices falls disproportionately on lower-income students and families, and lower-income families are disproportionately African-American, Native American, Latinx, and Asian-American; and

WHEREAS, The intersectional nature of tuition-cost barriers deepens historical and institutionalized racial disparities, which will only continue to perpetuate these divides in the future; and

WHEREAS, A bachelor's degree is increasingly a minimum requirement for higher-level jobs in today's workforce; and

WHEREAS, Graduates nationally hold over \$1.7 trillion in student loan, of which over \$44 billion is held by North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, Women, specifically African-American women, carry a disproportionately large burden of student debt, holding over \$900 billion of debt; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party urges the United States Congress to substantially increase allocated federal funds to reduce higher education costs to students; and

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to pass legislation to tie North Carolina public colleges and universities' tuition to inflation and keep tuition costs low or free for all students while maintaining full funding for those institutions; and

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to pass legislation to make all North Carolina community colleges tuition free; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party urges the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and the North Carolina General Assembly and Governor to enact immediate student debt relief measures and provisions to limit future student debt.

4. A RESOLUTION TO INVEST IN EDUCATION TO MEET LEANDRO RULINGS

WHEREAS, Throughout history, North Carolina leaders recognized that a strong public education system served both the economic and the social progress of the state; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina was recognized during the 1980s and 1990s as an example of how state policymakers could lift a state from the bottom of the state rankings by making strong investments, and North Carolina became a model extensively studied by the National Education Goals Panel when its efforts resulted in sharp increases in student performance, posting the largest student achievement gains of any state in mathematics, and realizing substantial progress in reading, becoming the first southern state to score above the national average in fourth grade reading and math; and

WHEREAS, Legislative cuts over the last few years, have eliminated or greatly reduced many of the programs that were put in place and have undermined the quality and equity gains that were previously made, and declines in achievement have occurred since 2013 in mathematics and reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and achievement gaps have widened; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of North Carolina affirmed in the *Leandro v. the State of North Carolina* decision in 1997 that the state has a constitutional responsibility to provide every student with an equal opportunity for a sound basic education and that the state was failing to meet that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court ruled in 2004 that North Carolina's constitutional obligation to provide a sound basic education requires competent and well-trained teachers and principals, as well as equitable access to sufficient resources; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, Judge David Lee, who oversees North Carolina's compliance with *Leandro*, ordered WestEd, an independent, nonparty consultant to develop detailed, comprehensive, written recommendations for specific actions necessary to achieve sustained compliance with the constitutional mandates articulated in the *Leandro* case; and

WHEREAS, On December 10th, 2019, WestEd released their findings and a sequenced action plan to meet the State's constitutional obligation; and

WHEREAS, In September 2020, Judge David Lee signed a consent order calling for \$427 million in additional education spending to help the state meet its constitutional obligation to provide all children with the opportunity to obtain a sound basic education. More than half — \$235 million — of the recommended \$427 million in additional spending would be earmarked for teacher pay raises, and \$144.8 million would be spent to revise the state's school funding formula to direct more money to students with the greatest needs; and

WHEREAS, From the late 1940s through the turn of the century, North Carolina voters approved state obligation bonds on average every 10 years when it became apparent that local resources could not keep pace with growing facility needs, and it has been 25 years (1996) since the state of North Carolina last issued a significant infusion of funding for school construction (\$1.8 billion school bond issue in 1996, which in today's dollars would be worth more than \$2.9 billion); and

WHEREAS, Counties in North Carolina have attempted to provide funds to address the gap left by inadequate school funding at the state level, at times to the detriment of other important social programs, and many counties lack the resources to properly fill that gap; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to introduce and negotiate passage of legislation that will fund the action plan outlined by WestEd and endorsed by Judge David Lee to provide a sound basic education for students in the state of North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to refer a bond measure to the ballot which provides a minimum of \$2.9 billion for school construction.

5. A RESOLUTION TO FUND UNIVERSAL, QUALITY, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

WHEREAS, The neuroscience of early child brain development, established over decades of research in neuroimaging and behavioral investigation, informs us of the critical time period of birth to five years for learning and setting the foundation for a prosperous and sustainable society; and

WHEREAS, The neuroscience of early child brain development also indicates that most neural connections for language, learning, and higher cognitive function are formed within the first 24 months of life and early experiences determine whether the circuits are strong or weak; and

WHEREAS, In the absence of strong responses during early childhood the brain's architecture does not form as expected, which can lead to disparities in learning, disabilities and behavior problems; and

WHEREAS, Numerous organizations including the NC League of Women Voters, the NC Coalition for Early Education Coalition, The Think Babies™ NC Alliance believe that “policies, programs, and funding should ensure healthy beginnings, support families with young children, and make high-quality early care and learning environments more accessible and affordable to all parents who want and need them, ensuring strong development for North Carolina’s infants and toddlers in their earliest years, will prepare our babies to grow, learn and succeed – and help our communities, workforce and economy become stronger”; and

WHEREAS, Research by Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman showed that every \$1 invested in high quality early childhood programs can yield returns between \$4 and \$16 by increasing personal income, economic development, and societal benefits; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to prioritize long term funding for universal, quality, early childhood education from Birth to 5 years through investing in early childhood priorities established by the Leandro court case and state action plan, including expansion of SmartStart and NC Pre-K programs, early learning salary supplements for the early childhood workforce; and strengthening the NC Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program.

6. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A REVIEW OF THE ROLE AND USE OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

WHEREAS, The events of the last year, involving racial violence and the abuse against people of color by the police, and a white supremacist insurrection, have traumatized and divided our nation, and

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, upon a motion passed by the State Board of Education in recognition of the need to restructure our state's K-12 social studies curriculum in a way that teaches the state and country's history of racism and continuing racial discrimination, recently undertook a comprehensive revision of the curriculum; and

WHEREAS, There is related concern that police in our schools reinforce the discriminatory discipline practices imposed more heavily on children of color and/or children from low-income families; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls on our County Commissioners, Orange County School Board, and the Chapel Hill Carrboro School Board to review the role and school's use of school resource officers (SROs); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That such a review may determine whether budgets for school safety officers should be redirected to student support services.

ENVIRONMENT/LAND USE

7. A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ENACTMENT OF A CARBON TAX AND DIVIDEND

WHEREAS, The United States has re-joined the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement that seeks to limit global temperature increases to no more than two degrees Celsius (and preferably 1.5 degrees Celsius) by 2100; and

WHEREAS, There is a scientific consensus that carbon emissions are contributing to global temperature increases and that reduction of carbon emissions will be essential to meeting the Paris Climate Agreement goals; and

WHEREAS, The United States is the second-greatest contributor, after China, to world carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, The European Union has already taken concrete measures to reduce carbon emissions by setting a price on carbon; and

WHEREAS, There is a consensus among economists that a carbon tax is the most equitable and efficient way to reduce carbon emissions through raising the cost of such emissions and rebating the revenue generated by the tax to all U.S. citizens, thus minimizing any regressive impact on lower-income citizens; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the adoption of a federal carbon tax that raises the cost of carbon emissions and rebates the revenues of the tax to all American citizens.

8. A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTION OF SEVEN MILE CREEK AND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROTECTED AND CRITICALLY PROTECTED ENO RIVER WATERSHEDS

WHEREAS, One of the goals of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners is to “Create, preserve, and protect a natural environment that includes clean water, clean air, wildlife, important natural lands, and sustainable energy for present and future generations;” and

WHEREAS, Safe and abundant water is a critical component of preserving and growing Orange County’s economy; and

WHEREAS, Seven Mile Creek is a major tributary of the Eno River and lies within the Upper Eno Protected Watershed and the Upper Eno Critical Watershed in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has designated the Upper Eno Watershed a class “WS-II Watershed” with “High Quality and Nutrient Sensitive Water”, which means that it provides high quality drinking water for 7300 residents of Hillsborough and other communities downstream; and

WHEREAS, Significant water pollution runoff resulting from industrial development affecting the Upper Eno Critical Watershed would empty into Seven Mile Creek, and

WHEREAS, Seven Mile Creek empties into a section of the Eno River that has recently been proposed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to be designated as critical habitat for three native, imperiled North Carolina species; and

WHEREAS, A report by The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission lists development and pollution as primary threats to these populations; and

WHEREAS, The “Seven Mile Creek Natural Area” (which Seven Mile Creek runs through) is a portion of a larger 366-acre “Upper Eno Nature Preserve”, and is part of one of the larger blocks of natural land undisturbed by roads and development in central Orange County; and

WHEREAS, The “Seven Mile Creek Natural Area” includes portions of two significant natural heritage areas, one of which (“Seven Mile Creek Sugar Maple Bottom”) is considered the richest bottomland remaining in the county, hosting state-listed rare plants and significant wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, The Orange County Comprehensive Land Use Plan states that the County’s “Environmental Responsibility for Natural Resources” is to: “Assess and where possible mitigate adverse impacts created to the natural resources of [the proposed development] site and adjoining area;” now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party recognizes the importance of sustainable management of freshwater resources, and deems it an essential responsibility of the Orange County leadership to preserve the integrity of Seven Mile Creek and to maintain the County-designated boundaries of the Protected and Critically Protected Eno River Watersheds.

9. A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE LAND USE PRIORITIES IN AND AROUND BUCKHORN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT WITHIN RURAL ORANGE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Orange County and the City of Mebane are seeking to expand the Buckhorn Economic Development District in order to encourage opportunities for industrial growth; and

WHEREAS, The Buckhorn Economic Development District and unincorporated area of Efland were identified as early as 2001 as a Commercial Industrial Transition Activity Node (CITAN) in Orange County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan; and

WHEREAS, Orange County provided construction of water and sewer facilities, transferring ownership to the City of Mebane of the entire service area per a 2004 Utility Service Agreement between the City of Mebane and Orange County; and

WHEREAS, Orange County and the City of Mebane embarked on collaborative planning known as the Efland-Mebane Small Area Plan in 2006 to address potential future growth within said area; and

WHEREAS, A 2012 Utility Service Agreement Amendment expanded the utility service area and resulted in the inclusion of unincorporated county land into the City of Mebane's future land use development plan; and

WHEREAS, The Buckhorn Area Plan Study was commissioned by Orange County and the City of Mebane's planning departments to identify county parcels outside of Mebane's corporate limits most suitable for immediate industrial development; and

WHEREAS, The Buckhorn Area Plan Study has identified county parcels outside of Mebane's corporate limits and comprehensive land use plans most suitable for extending utility service area for industrial growth; and

WHEREAS, Orange County and the City of Mebane are seeking to expand the Buckhorn Economic Development District in order to encourage opportunities for industrial growth; and

WHEREAS, Because no county easement exists east of Buckhorn road, potential developers are required to petition the City of Mebane to annex county lands in order access utilities to support future development; and

WHEREAS, Expanding the boundaries of such properties would surround rural area residents with industrial growth incongruous with existing Land Use plans and result in the incorporation of rural residential areas into the Economic Development District; and

WHEREAS, The expansion of the Buckhorn Economic Development District by the City of Mebane, but not Orange County, leaves residents without recourse in the event of annexation;

WHEREAS, Land Use Priorities should be determined through a public hearing process; and

WHEREAS, The consequences of encroaching industrial development into residential areas creates air, noise, sound, and water pollution that would negatively impact the surrounding environment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party encourages the Board of County Commissioners to develop an inter-local agreement that incorporates development standards adopted by both Orange County and the City of Mebane for Land Use Priorities.

FINANCIAL

10. A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE POSTAL BANKING ACT

WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service is provided to the people by the United States government by Act of Congress, is authorized by the Constitution, and is supported by the people; and

WHEREAS, A USPS office is located in every North Carolina county, and these offices provide the infrastructure to expand USPS services with expanded and accessible lower-cost banking services; and

WHEREAS, The number of bank branches in the United States is declining and low-income neighborhoods have been hardest hit; 93% of branch closings since 2008 have been in neighborhoods with a median income below the national average; and

WHEREAS, Rural households in North Carolina are less likely to have home internet access, which can provide an alternative to traditional banking services, even as branch banks abandon rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Recent estimates suggest that one in four households is at least partially outside the financial mainstream, or underserved by traditional banks; and that one in 13 households is unbanked, or without a bank account; and

WHEREAS, Traditional banking services are increasingly expensive, and that minimum balance requirements to open and maintain an account can be beyond the means of many underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, The USPS already offers a variety of financial services including money orders and cashing treasury checks; and

WHEREAS, Expanding the kinds of financial products available from the postal service could help underserved populations, who are more likely to be African American and Latino, and who are disproportionately located in rural areas of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, The average underserved household has been estimated to spend over \$2,000 annually in fees and interest with Alternative Financial Services (AFS) industries such as payday lenders and through services such as check cashing fees and prepaid debit cards fees; and

WHEREAS, Expanding low-cost alternatives to traditional retail bank services could help addressing racial and wealth inequality; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party 2021 Platform specifically recognize that postal banking services promote an economy that serves the people of North Carolina, and reaffirms its support for consumer-driven products and services such as bill payment, savings accounts, and small-dollar loans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports the reintroduction of the Postal Banking Act which would amend Title 39, United States Code to provide expanded, basic financial services, and as most recently introduced in the 116th Congress.

FIRST AMENDMENT

11. A RESOLUTION TO REPEAL ARTICLE 6G OF CHAPTER 147 OF THE N.C.G.S., DIVESTMENT FROM COMPANIES BOYCOTTING ISRAEL

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States in the case of *NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co.* unanimously affirmed that boycotts are protected free speech under the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Boycotts were an effective non-violent means of protest in the 1960s to oppose segregation and Jim Crow laws in the US; and

WHEREAS, Boycotts were an effective non-violent means of protest in the 1980s to pressure South Africa to end apartheid rule; and

WHEREAS, Boycotts are a non-violent means of protest to help restore the full human rights of the Palestinian people as stated in the North Carolina Democratic Party platform; and

WHEREAS, Article 6G of Chapter 147 of the N.C.G.S., entitled Divestment from Companies Boycotting Israel, places an undue burden on North Carolina businesses seeking to contract with North Carolina state government and entities that also participate in constitutionally protected free speech to restore full human rights of the Palestinian people; and

WHEREAS, General Statute § 147-86.80(4) defines a “Restricted company” as a company that appears on the list of companies that are engaged in a boycott of Israel developed by the State Treasurer under G.S. 147-86.81(a)(1); and

WHEREAS, General Statute § 147-86.82, entitled Restrictions on Contracts with the State or Subdivisions of the State, states:

- (a) A company that is identified as a restricted company is ineligible to contract with the State or any political subdivision of the State;
- (b) Any contract entered into with a company that is identified as a restricted company at the time of contract is void ab initio;
- (c) Upon receiving information that a company that was not identified as a restricted company at the time of contract has later been identified as a restricted company, the State agency shall review the information and offer the company an opportunity to respond. If the company fails to demonstrate that the company should not have been identified as a restricted company within 90 days after notification by the State agency, then the State agency shall take action as may be appropriate and provided for by law, rule, or contract;
- (d) Contracts in existence on October 1, 2017, with restricted companies shall be allowed to expire in accordance with the terms of the contract; and

WHEREAS, Article 6G amounts to state imposed speech on private companies in favor of a foreign country; and

WHEREAS, Similar laws passed by state governments in Kansas, Arizona, Texas and Arkansas have either been found unconstitutional and/or the enforcement of said laws has been blocked by the courts; and

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Democratic Party platform makes a commitment to “restoring full human rights for the Palestinian populations”; and

WHEREAS, repeal of this unconstitutional law will be essential to achieve those goals; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party encourages the North Carolina Democratic Party to support the repeal of General Statute, Chapter 147 – Article 6G, Divestment from Companies Boycotting Israel (§ 147-86.80 - § 147-86.84) for being an unconstitutional law infringing on the First Amendment right to free speech.

HEALTHCARE

12. A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HR 1976 - MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2021

WHEREAS, Every person in North Carolina needs and deserves high quality health care to live a decent life; and

WHEREAS, The number of Americans without health insurance before the COVID-19 pandemic was nearly 30 million and more than 40 million were underinsured, despite the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, The current COVID-19 pandemic has led to record levels of unemployment, loss of employer-sponsored health insurance, a severely strained health care system, and widespread illness and mental health crises, placing significant stress on individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, Millions of people ration healthcare and medications and tens of thousands die each year in the US as they delay or do not seek needed healthcare because they don't have the money, making them sicker and poorer; and

WHEREAS, Such people are much more likely to develop serious illness if exposed to COVID-19 and face higher mortality rates from the disease as a result; and

WHEREAS, Millions of people have private insurance coverage so inadequate that a major illness leads to financial ruin, with medical bills contributing to two-thirds of all bankruptcies and one-third of GoFundMe campaigns in the US; and

WHEREAS, The ever-increasing costs of healthcare mediated by insurance companies severely challenge already strapped state, municipal, individual and family budgets; and

WHEREAS, The existing system threatens small businesses that cannot compete with larger companies in providing affordable health insurance; and

WHEREAS, There are over 1 million North Carolinians that are uninsured, with over 7000 in Orange County, and with health coverage costing the county \$1,615,735 for fiscal year 2020-2021 with annual increases; and

WHEREAS, The Medicare for All Act of 2021 (HR 1976) would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States, including every person in North Carolina, for all preventative and necessary medical care, including doctor office visits and prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care with no co-pays, deductibles, or out-of-pocket costs; and

WHEREAS, The Medicare for All Act of 2021 would provide freedom and choice to patients by removing insurance companies and healthcare networks from their relationships with doctors and other healthcare providers, medical offices, and hospitals, allowing them to get the care they need anywhere in the country; and

WHEREAS, Recent polls show that a majority of Americans support a universal single payer system as provided in the Medicare for All Act of 2021; and

WHEREAS, The Medicare for All Act of 2021 would simplify the existing costly bureaucratic system which is designed to limit patient choices and stand between patients and the healthcare they need in order to make as much money as possible for insurance and hospital companies, their CEOs and their shareholders; and

WHEREAS, The universal system proposed in the Medicare for All Act of 2021 is far less expensive than the current system and would cover the healthcare needs of every person in the U.S. from cradle to death; and

WHEREAS, Numerous academic studies have concluded that the savings on administrative costs under a single-payer Medicare for All system would be enough to cover the uninsured and underinsured — the problem is lack of will, not lack of money; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party urges our House and Senate delegation to the United States Congress to vocally support and vote in support of HR 1976 - Medicare For All Act of 2021.

13. A RESOLUTION TO PAY FAMILY CAREGIVERS WHO PROVIDE HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES

WHEREAS, 2015 was the first year nationally that more money was spent on home care than nursing home care, a trend that will continue as nursing home care becomes too expensive for many American families; and

WHEREAS, About 41 million Americans provide care without pay to a family member, and do so for an average of 16 hours per week, according to a 2019 study by the AARP Public Policy Institute; and

WHEREAS, Family caregivers often are forced to take unpaid leave or quit their jobs to care for a family member, thus losing their paychecks, retirement and pension benefits as well as social security benefits; and

WHEREAS, A few programs exist that give stipends/financial aid to family members who care for US military veterans and eligible Medicaid recipients in some states; however, most Medicaid programs do not permit spouses and parents of minor children to be paid caregivers; and

WHEREAS, Medicare pays nothing for in-home care provided by family members and only pays professional home health service providers for intermittent skilled nursing, physical and occupational therapy, medical social services, and home health aide services, leaving the bulk of custodial and personal care to be provided by family members; and

WHEREAS, A number of European countries (e.g., Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Sweden) incorporate cash-for-care schemes within the framework of their Long Term Care plans to give disabled or elderly people the opportunity to choose among different kinds of care and care providers, and to allow recipients to compensate and employ family members who provide custodial and personal care; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls on the United States Congress to create a cash-for-care plan for disabled Medicare recipients that allows beneficiaries a certain amount of funds based on their need for care to be spent on securing the necessary care for themselves that is aligned with their medical, financial, and personal circumstances, including the option to employ family members to provide custodial and personal care; and

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to revise its Medicaid rules to allow spouses and parents of minor children to be paid caregivers and make free caregiver training and certification available through NC's Community Colleges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls on the United States Congress to pass a law that guarantees Social Security Credits for workers who have to spend time outside the workforce to care for dependent children or sick or disabled family members to improve the adequacy of Social Security benefits, as well as work toward gender equality as it is generally women whose gaps in workforce participation lead to fewer years of contributions, lower lifetime average earnings, and consequently lower Social Security payments.

14. A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A NORTH CAROLINA HEALTHCARE CONSUMER PROTECTION BUREAU

WHEREAS, Healthcare represents nearly 20% of the American economy and a large share of individual households' income; and

WHEREAS, Patients lack the power, insider knowledge, and resources necessary to remediate disagreements with large healthcare organizations, navigate difficult care decisions, contest surprise medical bills for unknowingly receiving care from out-of-network providers, or dispute claims from debt collectors; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2016 study by the Kaiser Foundation, 70% of those with medical debt reported that they had to cut spending on basic necessities (food, clothes, etc), 59% reported that they had to use most or all of their savings; 41% reported that they had to take a second job; and 37% reported that they had to borrow money; and

WHEREAS, According to the CFPB, half of all collections tradelines that appear on credit reports are reported by debt collectors seeking to collect on medical bills claimed to be owed to hospitals and other medical providers, affecting the credit score of nearly one-fifth of all consumers in the credit reporting system; and

WHEREAS, Medical bankruptcies represent 62% of all personal bankruptcies, as ordinary families often cannot pay for rapidly rising medical expenses; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls for the North Carolina General Assembly to create a North Carolina Healthcare Consumer Protection Bureau under the auspices of the State Attorney General's office that provides resources and assistance to North Carolina patient consumers before, during, and after receipt of healthcare services.

15. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ENACTMENT OF MEDICAL AID IN DYING (MAID) LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, An End of Life of incurable, interminable pain and suffering should not be forced on any individual who, in full consciousness and mental competence, wishes to terminate their life through humane medical intervention; and

WHEREAS, The suffering patient and their family, loved ones, and caregivers are often legally impeded in fulfilling the patient's wishes to abbreviate the dying process on their own terms and at the time and place of their choosing; and

WHEREAS, MAID describes a medical practice defined by rigorous established standards of care, which enables a mentally competent, terminally ill adult to obtain a prescription which the patient may choose to self-administer to advance the imminence of an approaching death; and

WHEREAS, In the absence of MAID, patients may become desperate to relieve suffering caused by the terminal illness and turn to violent alternatives; and

WHEREAS, Many find comfort, peace of mind and a sense of autonomy in having access to options at the end of life, including MAID, even if they choose not to exercise those options; and

WHEREAS, Compassion and a respect for the autonomy of the individual as the one best situated to decide their end of life should outweigh the state's interest in preserving life at all costs; and

WHEREAS, Ten US jurisdictions (OR, WA, VT, ME, HI, NJ, CA, CO, DC and NM) have enacted laws allowing the physician-assisted early termination of life, with over twenty-five other states, (including North Carolina in 2015, 2017 and 2019) considering such legislation; and

WHEREAS, National polls indicate over 66% of registered voters are in favor of allowing a competent adult with less than six months to live to be able to access MAID; and

WHEREAS, Since Oregon became the first US State to enact MAID legislation in 1997, fewer than 6,700 people nationwide have applied for a MAID prescription, and in no case has any abuse, coercion, or undue influence been reported or alleged, and every application for a MAID prescription has been in strict compliance with the relevant laws and regulations; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Orange County Democratic Party recognizes the practice of MAID as a desirable medical option for terminally ill, mentally competent adults who so choose; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That North Carolina shall enact an End of Life Option Act allowing an adult patient, of sound mind, diagnosed by two qualified physicians as suffering from an incurable, terminal illness likely to result in death within six months, to obtain a

prescription for medication, which the patient may choose to self-administer to advance the time of approaching death, and any third party assisting such adult patient shall be immune from criminal prosecution or civil process arising therefrom, and the cause of death arising from usage of said MAID shall be the underlying disease or illness, and shall not be deemed a suicide.

IMMIGRATION

16. A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE ANTI-IMMIGRATION BILLS IN NC HOUSE AND SENATE

WHEREAS, NC Senate Bill 101 (Require Cooperation with ICE 2.0.) is an anti-immigrant "show me your papers" bill that circumvents the local authority of sheriffs by requiring them to cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and assist in the federal government's deportation pipeline or face criminal charges; and

WHEREAS, This proposed House Bill 62 (Gov. Immigration Compliance/Enjoin Ordinances) is also an anti-immigrant bill that would further would allow anyone in NC to sue their local government if they believed that it the government was enacting any kind of pro-immigrant "sanctuary" policy; and

WHEREAS, There is no legal definition of "sanctuary" policies, so the intent of these bills is not compliance with the law, but to force punish sheriffs or other local elected officials to cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) who choose to put community needs over federal immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, This bill, driven by racism and xenophobia, would open local governments to an unlimited number of groundless suits from citizens and anti-immigrant groups, draining valuable time and money from the government; and

WHEREAS, Members of immigrant communities would be more fearful of government and therefore less likely to call the police or trust other local governmental agencies, such as the Health Department, and so would be less likely to become vaccinated against Covid, thus endangering themselves as well as the greater community; and

WHEREAS, The Immigrants' Rights Alliance of North Carolina, a coalition of 30 organizations dedicated to protecting and defending the rights of immigrants in North Carolina said in a statement: "We strongly urge the North Carolina General Assembly to reject SB 101 and HB 62. North Carolinians deserve better from their elected officials than these divisive and harmful proposals;" now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party urges all lawmakers to oppose SB 101 and HB 62 and similar bills that seek to interfere with local governments' relationship with their immigrant communities, and call on Governor Cooper to veto it, should it pass the NC Senate.

JUSTICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

17. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FEDERAL JUDICIAL REFORM

WHEREAS, By its explicit terms, the Code of Conduct for United States Judges does not apply to Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Deference to and enforcement of the judgments and rulings of courts critically depends on public confidence in the legitimacy, integrity, and independence of judges and justices; and

WHEREAS, Courts are in danger of losing legitimacy when the public loses faith that judges and justices are ethical, unbiased, and fair; and

WHEREAS, There is before the United States Congress, sec. 7001 of H.R.1, For the People Act of 2021, which has passed the U.S. House of Representatives, and which would require a Code of Conduct be issued for all federal judges, including U.S. Supreme Court Justices; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports sec. 7001 of H.R.1 which would require a Code of Conduct be issued for all federal judges, including U.S. Supreme Court Justices; and

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports extending the Code of Conduct to U.S. Supreme Court Justices, and providing a formal mechanism for review of conflicts by sitting Justices and lower federal court judges; and

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports strengthening ethical rules in the Code of Conduct for all U.S. Judges and Justices to ensure that judges and justices recuse themselves when they have conflicts of interest, and to ensure accountability for judges who violate these rules; and

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports transparent review of all federal judicial candidates by legislatively requiring the Judicial Conference of the United States to publicly post judicial nominees' financial reports, recusal decisions, and speeches, and by requiring the IRS to provide retrospective disclosure of five years of federal and state tax returns by all federal judicial candidates; and the extension of this transparency to all appointed candidates while they serve on the bench; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports strengthening disciplinary actions available to the federal Judicial Conference to prevent judges from escaping misconduct investigations by leaving the court or by elevation to the United States Supreme Court.

18. A RESOLUTION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AND EQUITABLE CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, Chapter 7A, Article 28 of the North Carolina General Statutes stipulates the imposition of monetary sanctions upon defendants in every criminal case, when the defendant is convicted, or enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or when costs are assessed against a prosecuting witness; and

WHEREAS, These monetary sanctions are comprised of fines levied as punishment for criminal offenses, plus criminal court costs and fees, assessed on a by-use basis throughout the criminal justice process in accordance with the Criminal Court Costs and Fees Chart; and

WHEREAS, The North Carolina State Constitution delegates authority to the North Carolina General Assembly to define criminal court costs and fees and set corresponding financial obligations, as detailed within the Criminal Court Costs and Fees Chart; and

WHEREAS, The North Carolina State Constitution also delegates authority to the General Assembly to determine how revenue emanating from the collection of criminal court costs and fees is allocated; and

WHEREAS, The largest share of revenue from the collection of criminal court costs and fees is directed to the state General Fund and subsequently allocated to fund a range of government programs unrelated to the court system; and

WHEREAS, Criminal court costs and fees have risen exponentially over the past two decades, while the state repealed its estate tax, implemented a modified flat income tax, and reduced the corporate income tax rate; and

WHEREAS, Despite state and federal constitutional protections prohibiting punishment of an individual for their poverty, payment of criminal court fines, costs, and fees is enforced through draconian penalties with collateral consequences that trap people in a perpetual cycle of debt, including: additional monetary sanctions, probation extensions, exclusion from anti-poverty programs, driver's license revocation, and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Under this economically-skewed system, low-income people routinely receive harsher punishments than high-income people for similar criminal offenses; and

WHEREAS, Judges have a constitutional obligation to inquire about an individual's financial status before imposing criminal court fines, costs, and fees, but judges waived criminal court fines, costs, and fees in less than five percent of applicable judgements statewide in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Over the past ten years, the state has implemented numerous administrative and procedural requirements to restrict the capacity of judges to waive criminal court fines, costs, and fees; and

WHEREAS, Racial disparities exist at every stage of the criminal justice system, including the imposition and collection of criminal court fines, costs, and fees; and

WHEREAS, The financial burden of criminal court fines, costs, and fees is disproportionately felt by low-income people and people of color; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 650,000 people held unpaid criminal court debt in North Carolina as of 2020; and

WHEREAS, The N.C. Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice on December 14, 2020 recommended several policy changes relating to the imposition and collection of criminal court fines, costs, and fees, including: assessing a defendant's ability to pay prior to levying any criminal court fines and fees, reducing use of criminal court fines and fees, eliminating state government reliance on criminal court fines and fees, and developing a process to eliminate criminal justice debt; and

WHEREAS, State reliance on the collection of court costs, fines, and fees is a form of regressive taxation disproportionately imposed upon people of color; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party urges the General Assembly, the Office of the Governor, and the state Judicial Branch to consider all avenues to rework the current process of imposing and collecting criminal court fines, costs, and fees, including: uniform assessments of a defendant's ability to pay, expansion of judicial authority to grant waiver, statewide investment in criminal debt relief and restoration clinics, end the suspension and revocation of driver's licenses for failure to pay, and reduction of criminal court fines, costs, and fees generally.

19. A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HB 261: RAISE MIN AGE / JUVENILE JURISDICTION

WHEREAS, North Carolina has the lowest minimum age limit in the US that allows for children as young as six to be sent to juvenile court; and

WHEREAS, A 6-year-old was referred to juvenile court in NC in 2021 for picking a flower out of someone's yard while waiting for the school bus and was given crayons and a picture to color because his attention span was so short when he appeared in court; and

WHEREAS, The criminalization of children's behavior reveals a distinct racial and gender bias; for example, Black residents are 22 percent of North Carolina's population, but nearly half of the juvenile complaints filed against children ages 6 to 11 from 2015 to 2018 were against Black children, overwhelmingly boys; and

WHEREAS, A growing body of longitudinal neuroimaging research demonstrates that the human brain continues to develop well into a person's 20s, and it shows that the frontal lobe, responsible for executive functioning (such as long-term planning, working memory, and impulse control), is among the last areas of the brain to mature (suggesting that it is developmentally inappropriate for a child to be held accountable for misconduct in a criminal legal sense); and

WHEREAS, The National Center for Juvenile Justice recommends that the minimum age at which children should be brought before a judge in juvenile court be raised to age 14, a standard set forth by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as the most common minimum age of criminal responsibility internationally; and

WHEREAS, Many children who find themselves in the juvenile legal system for breaking laws and rules often have cognitive-communication disorders (CCDs) that go untreated or unidentified; and

WHEREAS, A 2018 article in the Journal of Gender, Social Policy and the Law on CCDs and the school to prison pipeline, found that more than 80% of young people affected by zero-tolerance policies were found to have a CCD, a learning disability, or some combination; and

WHEREAS, N.C. State Rep. Marcia Morey (D-Durham) filed H.B. 261 on MARCH 11, 2021 to raise the minimum age for juvenile jurisdiction from age 6 to age 10; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports the efforts of H.B. 261 to raise the age at which a child can be brought before a judge from 6 to 10 as a good first step in dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to form a committee to continue investigating ways to further dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, including:

- further increasing the minimum age at which a child is brought before a judge on delinquency charges to 14 years old;
- allocating resources to close the gap in services that requires parents to seek assistance by bringing their child in front of a judge on undisciplined minor charges; and
- having the child's cognitive-communication abilities assessed by a licensed and accredited speech-language pathologist or psychologist before that child is adjudicated to determine the best treatment and dispensation of justice for the child.

20. A RESOLUTION ON HATE CRIMES

WHEREAS, The 2019 Briefing Report of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, "In the Name of Hate: Examining the Federal Government's Role in Responding to Hate Crimes," emphasized that the greatest challenges to understanding the severity and magnitude of hate crimes is the lack of sufficient data and lack of police training to report and identify hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, The 2019 FBI Report shows a 64 percent increase in Hate Crimes in North Carolina between 2013 and 2017 - not including the many more unreported; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's Hate Crimes statute, adopted in 1993, does not require the collection of hate crimes data by law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, In 2019 approximately 65 percent of North Carolina law enforcement agencies voluntarily reported to the FBI Hate Crimes Database; however, of the agencies reporting, only 24 percent reported a hate crime -- with 76 percent reporting zero incidences of hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, The University of North Carolina School of Government reported that of the 57 hate crimes charged under the current NC Hate Crimes statute in 2019, only 9 resulted in a conviction; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's current Hate Crimes statute is one of only 15 in the nation that does not recognize hate crimes based on disability, gender identity or sexual orientation and allows for only a misdemeanor penalty; and

WHEREAS, Officials overseeing police training in North Carolina recently reported that their recruits spend about 30 minutes of class time on hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper's 2020 Racial Equity Task Force Report recommended that law enforcement training "include education on improving interactions with diverse populations, developing emotional intelligence skills, de-escalating tense situations and recognizing and addressing implicit bias;" and

WHEREAS, The tragedy which occurred in Atlanta, Georgia on March 16th was motivated by the suspect's apparent hatred of Asian Americans and of women and reflected a recent national increase in violence against said groups and others; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to support the adoption of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, HB 354, introduced in the House of Representatives by Representatives Nasif Majeed, Verla Insko, Pricey Harrison, and

Marcia Morey and in the Senate by Senators Jay Chaudhuri, Valerie Foushee, and Mujtaba Mohammed.

21. A RESOLUTION OPPOSING CHILD MARRIAGE IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, Current North Carolina state law permits minors as young as 14 to marry legally in North Carolina by court order; and

WHEREAS, Persons as young as 16 in North Carolina are permitted to marry solely with the consent of both parents, with no protection in place to determine if the minor is a victim of coercion; and

WHEREAS, Child marriage (under age of 18) is internationally recognized as a violation of human rights as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNFPA, 2012); and

WHEREAS, A 2020 study by ICRW on Child Marriage in North Carolina found that North Carolina has the lowest statutory legal age of marriage in the country (along with Alaska); and

WHEREAS, Between 2000 and 2019, marriage licenses in North Carolina in which at least one applicant was a minor numbered 3,949 and involved 4,218 minors, with only half of North Carolina's 100 counties reporting. Extrapolate across the other 50 counties in the state, and marriage applications involving minors in the past twenty years can be reasonably estimated at 8,000, or 400 per year, or more than one per day; and

WHEREAS, The majority of marriage applications in North Carolina involving a minor age 15 or below involved persons of age differences of more than 4 years, consummation of which would classify as statutory rape under existing law, absent the possibility of marriage under North Carolina statute; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to support H41, Amend Lawful Age to Marry/18 Years of Age, introduced in the House of Representatives by Jason Saine, Kristin Baker, Ashton W. Clemmons, and Brian Turner and SB 35, introduced in the Senate by Senators Vickie Sawyer, Danny Britt, and Valerie Foushee.

UNIVERSAL BROADBAND

22. A RESOLUTION FOR UNIVERSAL BROADBAND IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the level of reliance on the internet and the number of uses to which it has come to be applied have both skyrocketed. Working and learning from home, safe online shopping, visiting with family and friends online, and telemedicine all have become a necessity rather than a choice. While broadband access in rural and underserved communities has been a problem for years, the pandemic has made the gaps in service a critical issue; and

WHEREAS, Democrats are working diligently to bring reliable and affordable broadband to North Carolinians in the following ways:

- In 2020 Gov. Roy Cooper signed into law a bill that allowed electric cooperatives to seek federal funds to provide broadband to rural communities; thanks to this law, Piedmont Electric and RiverStreet Networks have launched a broadband pilot program in an effort to bring a reliable, affordable internet service to the unserved and underserved areas of our communities.
- The FIBER NC Act, currently stalled in committee, would give local governments the authority to build infrastructure for broadband and lease it to private corporations in a public-private partnership.
- HB 1122, if passed, would enact myriad measures to bridge the “digital divide,” including appropriating funds for a pilot program, called the “Homework Gap Initiative,” that would provide services to teachers and students and provide Wi-Fi on school buses. HB 1122 also authorizes public-private partnerships to bring broadband to unserved and underserved areas in rural North Carolina.
- HB 289, if passed, would authorize the Office of Broadband Infrastructure in the Department of Information Technology to map broadband across NC and this office also would be the designated agency for receipt and disbursement of federal grant funds intended for the State for broadband expansion; and

WHEREAS, These efforts are encouraging, but no bolder steps can be taken to make universal broadband a reality until the law passed in 2011 that has effectively halted the development of new municipal broadband systems is repealed. That bill, HB129, also known as the Level Playing Field Act, was a pet project of then-House Speaker and now-U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis on behalf of his friends in the cable industry. Now it is widening the state's economic rural-urban divide; and

WHEREAS, Wilson, the only community in North Carolina that is exempt from HB129 because its utility Greenlight was already providing such services at the time of the passage of this law, successfully demonstrated that community-owned broadband can drive local economic development and connect businesses, families, schools, teachers, and students with fast internet, all at lower costs and higher reliability than corporate providers; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports all efforts to bring about Universal Broadband to North Carolina because access to affordable and reliable internet services would encourage economic growth in rural areas, protect every child's constitutional right to a quality education, allow access to healthcare from underserved communities, and strengthen family and community ties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Orange County Democratic Party firmly believes that access to broadband is a basic necessity for all North Carolinians that facilitates work, learning, healthcare, safety, life and leisure activities regardless of where they live and therefore calls for the repeal of the 2011 Law misleadingly called the Level Playing Field Act because, in the words of former FCC Chair Tom Wheeler: "The efforts of communities wanting better broadband should not be thwarted by the political power of those who, by protecting their monopoly, have failed to deliver acceptable service at an acceptable price."

CIVIL RIGHTS

23. A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 40 AND FOUNDATIONAL BLACK AMERICANS

WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives has pending legislation, H.R. 40, Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act; and

WHEREAS H.R. 40 does not specifically define the proposed beneficiaries of reparations, referring variously to “African-Americans,” “Black people,” “Africans and their descendents,” and “people of African descent;” and

WHEREAS Foundational Black Americans are the descendants of the Black people who survived one of the greatest atrocities in recorded history- American slavery. Foundational Black Americans (FBA) are the descendants of the Black People who built the United States from scratch; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports the commission proposed by H.R. 40 and calls on Congress and the President of the United States to pass into law meaningful policies (including any that may be implemented as a result of work done by the commission that may arise out of H.R. 40) that are beneficial to Foundational Black Americans.

**24. A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NC CRED
CAMPAIGN TO REMOVE CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS**

WHEREAS, The nonprofit North Carolina Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System (NC CRED) has a campaign to remove Confederate monuments around the state, including 42 monuments outside North Carolina courthouses; and

WHEREAS, Confederate monuments honor the legacies of slavery and white supremacy, and negate the ideal of equal justice for all; and

WHEREAS, The campaign is encouraging individuals who live or work in communities with these monuments to learn their history, and whether efforts are underway to remove them; and

WHEREAS, The campaign is working to identify members of each affected county's board of commissioners who might support removing the monuments; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party supports the NC CRED campaign goal to remove Confederate monuments from courthouse grounds in North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the OCPD send a copy of this Resolution to James Williams, Jr., chair of NC CRED, and request that it be distributed to all Commission members.

VOTING/REDISTRICTING

25. A RESOLUTION TO EXPAND AND PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, Voting is an essential right that allows citizens a voice in governance; and eligible citizens must be registered in order to vote; and

WHEREAS, Despite record turnouts in the November 2020 elections, only about 67% of eligible voters voted, and a December 2020 poll found the 80 million non-voters to be more disengaged and disaffected, less likely to believe politics can make a difference, and more likely to be younger, make less money, and have lower levels of education; and

WHEREAS, The 2020 presidential election was the most litigated in history with at least 60 legal challenges filed to invalidate lawfully-cast ballots, often in jurisdictions with a high proportion of minority voters; and

WHEREAS, As of mid-February 2021, states have carried over, pre-filed, or introduced over 250 bills nation-wide with provisions that restrict or expand voting access (or do both); and

WHEREAS, The Democratic Party is working to make sure all eligible Americans vote, including by legislative changes in the voter registration process and increased election security to address problems such as the “Big Lie” that the presidential election was “stolen;” and

WHEREAS, Since the inauguration of President Joe Biden, Democrats in the United States Congress have introduced two major pieces of legislation to address voting rights: the For the People Act and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (to reinstate the full strength of the 1965 Voting Rights Act); and

WHEREAS, The 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA) has been recognized as the most effective civil rights legislation in United States history by safeguarding minority voting rights at state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013) removed the federal oversight section of the VRA, which required pre-clearance for changes in voting rights by states identified as having a history of minority voter disenfranchisement, including North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Within months of the Shelby County decision states began to enact restrictions that would have been subject to federal pre-clearance, and that have contributed to a trend of new restrictions adopted under the guise of “election integrity”; and

WHEREAS, Work to reinstate the full protections of the original, bipartisan VRA is ongoing in the current United States Congress through H.R. 4, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act; and

WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Advancement Act does not target displacing state or local voting procedures, so long as the procedures do not unconstitutionally infringe on the electorate's right to vote free from discriminatory conditions; and

WHEREAS, the For the People Act (H R 1 and S 1) also includes voting rights and election security protections including affirming Congress's commitments to update and restore the protections of the 1965 VRA; protect Native American voting rights; support statehood for the District of Columbia with congressional voting rights for residents; provisions requiring early voting, voting by mail and same-day voter registration for federal elections; and provisions requiring states to modernize registration procedures and to establish and operate automatic voter registration; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party and the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly support the passage of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the For the People Act.

26. A RESOLUTION ON REDISTRICTING AS PROVIDED IN THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

WHEREAS, North Carolina's United States representatives and state legislators are elected from political divisions called districts with district lines drawn every 10 years following population data received from the Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Under state law district lines in North Carolina are drawn by the North Carolina General Assembly, and have traditionally been drawn by the majority party with little or no input from the minority party, or the public, and without sufficient safeguards to ensure that districts fairly represent voters; and

WHEREAS, In North Carolina partisan gerrymander by the manipulation of voting maps has entrenched the majority party's political power; and

WHEREAS, District lines drawn with the intent to advantage the majority party in North Carolina have resulted in drawn-out and expensive court challenges in state and federal courts; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly spent over \$10.79 million in taxpayer dollars defending redistricting lawsuits by drawing and redrawing voting maps courts later declared unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, In 2019 in *Rucho v. Common Cause*, the Supreme Court further crippled challenges to partisan gerrymandering by finding that while partisan gerrymandering may be "incompatible with democratic principles", federal courts are not the forum to hear partisan map-drawing cases; thereby, leaving challenges of political gerrymandering with state courts; and

WHEREAS, After the 2020 Census is released this year, the Republican-led North Carolina General Assembly will begin drawing new political maps that would be used through the 2030 elections, which is likely to trigger one of the most intense political fights this year; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina will likely gain another House seat with the release of 2020 Census data, increasing NC's delegation from 13 to 14 seats, and population growth in Democratic-leaning urban areas expected to outpace growth in rural areas where Republicans are favored by large margins; and

WHEREAS, Although North Carolina's changing demographics may not be in Republicans' favor, Republicans have the advantage politically. With a Republican majority in the North Carolina General Assembly coupled with Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's inability to veto the maps, Republican legislators will have to consider the threat of lawsuits when drawing new districts, but not bipartisan support; and

WHEREAS, Although a majority of North Carolinians favor a nonpartisan redistricting process, Republican Senate leader Phil Berger has voiced his opposition to an independent commission to draw the new maps, thus leaving resort to the courts as the way for voters to challenge new maps; and

WHEREAS, The NC Legislature will draw its maps based on 2020 Census data prior to any commissions potentially being formed under The For the People Act; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls for the US Senate to pass the For the People Act (HR1 and S1) as soon as possible because the harm done by gerrymandered maps will last a decade or more; and

RESOLVED, That the Orange County Democratic Party calls on members of the NC Legislature to pass the Fair Maps Act, House Bill 437 which was recently filed in the NC General Assembly. This legislation proposes to add a referendum on the 2022 ballot that asks voters to approve the establishment of an independent redistricting commission consisting of an equal number of Republicans, Democrats, and Unaffiliated voters who would be tasked to draw maps that protect communities and are free from political influence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Orange County Democratic Party calls on all North Carolinians who want fair maps and fair elections to become engaged in the redistricting process by petitioning their NC Senator and NC House member, advocating for fair maps by speaking out at hearings and community forums, supporting Voter Rights groups, and getting out the vote for Democratic judges as the legal fight may well go beyond the 2022 Elections.