

Buncombe County Democratic Party
March 16th, 2024 Annual County Convention Resolutions

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Local Resolutions

#1 A Resolution to Conduct Municipal Elections in Odd-Numbered Years

WHEREAS, The state of North Carolina conducts elections on a two-year cycle beginning in odd-numbered years;
and

WHEREAS, County boards of elections are appointed for two-year terms beginning in June of odd-numbered years;
and

WHEREAS, Early voting and precinct election officials are appointed for two-year terms by each county board of elections beginning in July of odd-numbered years; and

WHEREAS, Odd-numbered-year elections have candidates file in July for an October primary (if necessary) and November general election, while even-numbered-year elections have candidates file in December for a March primary and November general election; and

WHEREAS, Odd-numbered year elections offer an opportunity to acquaint county board of elections members and election officials with the programs and processes involved in conducting an election early in their terms, and on a smaller, more-manageable scale, than do even-numbered year elections; and

WHEREAS, Conducting all municipal elections in the county in odd-numbered years would result in a more experienced elections workforce for the larger, more complex even-numbered-year elections; and

WHEREAS, Requiring candidates for municipal office to file for election a full 11 months before an even-numbered-year election constitutes a barrier to entry for non-incumbents from which voters derive no benefit; and

WHEREAS, Conducting campaigns for municipal office is more challenging in even-numbered years due to the competition for attention and resources posed by higher profile campaigns, such as those for national and state offices; and

WHEREAS, Holding an election on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November every year provides a consistency of practice that promotes voting, and serves to keep the public more up-to-date regarding changes in election policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, Municipal elections in the City of Asheville were changed from odd-numbered to even-numbered years in 2018 without any civic discussion or debate; and

WHEREAS, Municipal elections in Biltmore Forest, Black Mountain and Montreat were changed from odd-numbered to even-numbered years at the request of those municipalities after the change in Asheville's elections; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Buncombe County Democratic Party supports conducting all municipal elections in the County in odd-numbered years and asks the County's representatives in the General Assembly to sponsor legislation returning the municipal elections in Asheville, Biltmore Forest, Black Mountain and Montreat to odd-numbered years.

Submitted by Precinct 17.1 to the BCDP on February 17th, 2024.

#2 In Support of Malvern Hills Pool and Pool House

WHEREAS, Malvern Hills Pool has been a central resource for a diverse population in West Asheville to learn to swim, exercise, and join together in a green and walkable location since the 1930s; and

WHEREAS, Public trust in the city requires planning and financial support to maintain and update community facilities such as the pool and pool house; and

WHEREAS, The continual closing and statements suggesting closure regarding the pool and historic pool house requires a long-term solution and reassurance that the community and the residents who live there are valued and that the pool house will be restored and the pool replaced to preserve the West Asheville culture and health; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Buncombe County Democratic Party strongly urge the city of Asheville to renovate the Malvern Hills Pool House and replace the Malvern Hills pool in its current location; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage of this resolution by the Annual Convention of the BCDP, it will be forwarded to the City Of Asheville.

Submitted by Precinct 12.1 and 26.1 to the BCDP on February 18th, 2024.

National Resolutions

#3 Resolution to Enhance US Security by Recognizing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

WHEREAS, The ominous danger of destructive damage by the use of nuclear weapons is an existential threat to everyone on the planet; their potential for complete devastation doesn't discriminate between nuclear or non-nuclear states. This reality is evident daily by the ongoing war in Ukraine where Russian leadership has repeatedly threatened possible use of nuclear weapons. Such use, whether intentional or accidental due to human error or equipment failure could quickly become catastrophic and dramatically impact all of current life on our planet earth; and

WHEREAS, Use of the weapons about which all leaders of nuclear countries have declared we don't want to use these weapons, humanity is faced with a standoff precipitated by one member of the U.N. Security Council, Russia. Faced with this intractable situation, nuclear countries continue the development and refinement of existing nuclear weapons, investing trillions, misusing funds that could provide support for their own sorely needed domestic needs - building more nuclear weapons that no one wants to use! Diverting those funds to domestic needs, yet keeping enough of them to continue the Build Down procedures in compliance with the former Intermediate - Range Nuclear Forces Treaty would be an enormous contribution to U.S. and worldwide security, health & safety; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That to implement and enhance U.S. security by diverting the cited funds as proposed and to fully address the existing opportunity to recognize and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition Of Nuclear Weapons that is now recognized by over 100 countries and ratified as international law by 71 countries worldwide, and for the U.S. to assiduously work to bring other nuclear powers to participate in this effort.

Submitted by Precinct 45.1 to the BCDP on February 19th, 2024.

#4 Resolution: The Democratic Party Shall Create Legislation That Requires Political Candidates and Elected or Appointed Public Officials to Disclose 1) Their Tax Returns, 2) Information About Advice Given to Private Entities, and 3) Information About Gifts Received (Including Speakers Fees)

WHEREAS, An effective democracy depends on public trust; and

WHEREAS, Citizens of a democratic state deserve a government free of bias and special interests; and

WHEREAS, Citizens of a democratic state have a right to be represented by public officials who are committed to act in the public's best interest; and

WHEREAS, Citizens of a democratic state need to know if their public officials are free of conflicts of interest or other corrupting influence; and

WHEREAS, Public officials in a democratic state are (or should consider themselves to be) in the employ of every citizen equally no matter their color, gender, religion, or social or economic status; and

WHEREAS, If a public official gives advice to one citizen, but not another, this is a violation of their responsibility to act in the common interest; and

WHEREAS, If a public official receives compensation or a gift from one citizen or group of citizens, all citizens deserve to be informed in order to be able to judge whether or not a conflict of interest might exist that would interfere with the official's ability to act fairly and without bias; and

WHEREAS, It must be determined whether a donated gift is properly the property of the US, or of the public official who receives it; and

WHEREAS, The history of the United States is replete with examples of violations of these basic principles; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party shall prepare and promote legislation at the federal and state level that would regulate those issues that compromise our trust in elected or appointed officials, and pose potential threats to our democracy itself, and that these regulations shall include the items listed below:

- 1) Candidates for elected or high-level appointed office shall be required to submit their federal tax returns for public scrutiny for the most recent a) ten years for Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, and b) five years for other candidates;
- 2) These elected or appointed officials shall also be required to provide their federal tax return for public scrutiny every year of their incumbency;
- 3) These elected or appointed office holders shall also be required to provide their federal tax returns for public scrutiny for two or three years after leaving office;
- 4) If an elected or appointed office holder provides advice or counsel to private individuals or entities, they shall report this for public scrutiny; this includes information presented at lectures and conferences;
- 5) All honoraria, awards, gifts, or other emoluments received by an elected or appointed office holder (and their immediate family) shall be reported for public scrutiny;
- 6) Promulgated rules shall establish appropriate monetary value limits for such honoraria, awards, gifts, or other emoluments;

- 7) The donor of an honorarium, award, gift, or other emolument shall be required to state, in writing, the purpose of such a donation, to whom it is being given, and whether it is in compensation for a service provided by the office holder;
- 8) These rules should define acceptable sources, and acceptable purposes for such honoraria, awards gifts, or other emoluments;
- 9) Promulgated rules shall establish a mechanism for their enforcement, and appropriate penalties for their infringement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, in addition to generally applicable legislation, the Democratic Party shall establish enforceable rules that can be imposed on Democratic candidates and office holders in the presence or absence of any federal or state regulation.

Submitted by Precinct 44.1 to the BCDP on February 19th, 2024.

#5 A Resolution in Support of Palestinian Civilians and Human Rights Groups

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Democratic Party, as an organization devoted to justice and human rights, must be involved in fighting antisemitism without simultaneously suppressing the rights of individuals and organizations who engage in nonviolent protest, activism in support of Palestinian rights, or criticism of the Israeli government and its actions; and

WHEREAS, The ongoing conflict between Hamas and Israel, along with the longer-term illegal occupation of Palestine by Israel, have resulted in the deaths of thousands of Israeli and Palestinian civilians, many of which are children, and the destruction of homes, schools, religious centers, and shelters across the Gaza Strip; and

WHEREAS, Israel's ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip has only served to magnify the crisis, leading to millions of Gazans without access to food, water, electricity, medicine, or any means of escaping the conflict; and

WHEREAS, People of Muslim and Jewish faith across the United States are currently facing discrimination, anti-Muslim hate, anti-Semitism, and targeted harassment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party call for an immediate surge of resources to the Gaza strip and the creation of humanitarian corridors to facilitate the transfer of resources and the protection of Palestinian civilians; and

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for an immediate ceasefire by all parties in and around Gaza in order to preserve the lives of civilians and facilitate the distribution of that aid; and

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party calls for all future arms sales and security assistance to both Israel and Palestine to be conditioned on concrete and verifiable steps towards ending human rights violations; and

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party restate our opposition to anti-Muslim bigotry, racism, antisemitism, and all attempts to silence or punish individuals and organizations who speak out for human rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party urges public officials to learn about the issues facing Palestinians firsthand through travel, meetings with advocates for longterm peace, and all other methods.

Submitted by Precinct 3.1 to the BCDP on February 20th, 2024.

#6 A Resolution Calling for an end to Youth Curfew Laws

WHEREAS, For decades, local governments across the country have implemented youth curfews in an effort to combat a perceived growth in youth crime rates and victimization; and

WHEREAS, Far from lowering those rates, youth curfew implementation has repeatedly shown their failure in doing so, resulting in either no impact or even increases in crime during curfew hours while the lifting of curfews has not seen corresponding increases in crime; and

WHEREAS, Youth curfews have instead criminalized the right of young people to simply exist within their communities, levying harsh fines, negative interactions with law enforcement, and arbitrary harassment of children and young adults alike; and

WHEREAS, These problems only exacerbate existing discrimination, over-targeting members of minority communities and giving discretionary, pre-due process enforcement powers to individual members of law enforcement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Young Democrats of North Carolina oppose the creation, expansion, and existence of youth curfew laws across the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Young Democrats of North Carolina call on our elected officials across the state to take action to oppose discriminatory youth curfew laws wherever they exist.

Submitted by Precinct 3.1 to the BCDP on February 20th, 2024.

#7 A Resolution Requiring Legislative Thresholds be Based on Total Seats

WHEREAS, In order to address the business of government, state, territorial, and national legislative bodies require a quorum of members - most often a majority - be present in order to function; and

WHEREAS, Until such quorum is determined to have been lost, the work of the given legislative body is done via votes based on the fraction of “present and voting” members rather than fraction of total seats of the body; and

WHEREAS, The determination of voting thresholds by present and voting members rather than by total seats effectively disenfranchises the communities whose legislator is absent or otherwise unable to participate; and

WHEREAS, Legislative bodies often strategically “garage” votes until absences cause thresholds to fall as a way of bypassing the will of the majority to pass legislation or do other business that would normally not have the necessary support; and

WHEREAS, The absence of a legislator should not be taken as that community’s disinterest or neutrality in the given business of government; and

WHEREAS, The threshold of votes fluctuating based on attending members leaves vulnerabilities in our democratic government in which actors supporting the passage of unpopular legislation can artificially lower the necessary thresholds of affirmative votes by blocking the attendance of opposed members; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party and all its elected members support changing the threshold requirements of public legislative bodies from present members to total seats of the body in all cases except under legislative emergency as dictated by the constitutions of the operating political entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That additional voting methods be explored to allow for the greater participation of physically absent legislators.

Submitted by Precinct 3.1 to the BCDP on February 20th, 2024.

#8 A Resolution Calling for the end to Constitutional Age Requirements

WHEREAS, Article Two, Section Six; Article Three, Section Two; and Article Six, Section Six of the North Carolina State Constitution establish minimum age requirements for State Senators, Governors, and all other elected officeholders respectively; and

WHEREAS, Article Four, Section Eight of the North Carolina State Constitution establishes a maximum age limit for Justices and Judges; and

WHEREAS, Article One, Section One; Article One, Section Two; and Article Two, Section One of the Constitution of the United States establish minimum age requirements for Representatives, Senators, and Presidents respectively; and

WHEREAS, Many other political subdivisions - such as states and territories - include age requirements within their own constitutions; and

WHEREAS, Age has no intrinsic relationship with intelligence, ability, or any other attribute desirable in our representative democracy; and

WHEREAS, Limitations on who can hold public office are inherently antidemocratic and must only exist where absolutely necessary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party and all its elected members support amending the North Carolina State Constitution to remove the language creating age requirements for public officeholders; and

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party and all its elected members support amending the Constitution of the United States to remove the language creating age requirements for public officeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party and all of its elected members support amending state and territorial constitutions across the country to remove the language creating age requirements for public officeholders.

Submitted by Precinct 3.1 to the BCDP on February 20th, 2024.

#9 A Resolution Calling for the end of the Natural Born Citizen Clause

WHEREAS, Article Two, Section One of the Constitution of the United States states that “No Person except a natural born Citizen... shall be eligible to the Office of President;” and

WHEREAS, This clause alone permanently disqualifies 45 million Americans, 23 million of which are current citizens, from ever becoming President based solely on where they were born; and

WHEREAS, Birthplace, in itself, has no bearing on the qualities or allegiances of any person to any nation; and

WHEREAS, Limitations on who can hold public office are inherently antidemocratic and must only exist where absolutely necessary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party and all its elected members support amending the Constitution of the United States to remove the language creating the natural born citizen clause.

Submitted by Precinct 3.1 to the BCDP on February 20th, 2024.

#10 A Resolution to Professionalize the State Legislature

WHEREAS, Both the North Carolina State House and Senate are considered part-time legislative bodies; and

WHEREAS, This part-time designation provides legislators with less pay, resources, and staff than they would have in a full-time position; and

WHEREAS, Factors such as no-notice, in-person votes on legislation, legislative sessions that can be lengthened indefinitely, and large constituency bases requiring varied constituent services make this part-time status incompatible with the real-world requirements of the office; and

WHEREAS, The base legislative salary of \$13,951 annually is incongruous with the ideals of a “citizen legislature” and, instead, limits legislative service to only those who can afford to otherwise supplement their legislative income; and

WHEREAS, This low base pay creates incentives for legislators to cater to private interests who can provide post-office benefits like jobs or more direct financial support; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party and all its elected members support moving to a full-time state legislative model; and

RESOLVED, That the pay, resources, and staff of the state legislators be increased to match the additional work that would be required by this change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That additional voting methods be explored to allow for the greater participation of physically absent legislators.

Submitted by Precinct 3.1 to the BCDP on February 20th, 2024.

#11 A Resolution Requiring Adequate Reading Time for Legislative Items

WHEREAS, The 2023 permanent rules adopted in the North Carolina State House and Senate require less than 24 hours notice period between favorable report by the relevant committee and vote by the chamber as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Since multiple pieces of legislation are scheduled for discussion each day, representatives are given scant time to fully read each piece of legislation; and

WHEREAS, This breakneck pace of legislation can cause misreadings and misunderstandings of bills and other legislative items that can run dozens of pages in length; and

WHEREAS, Even these scant reading times can be circumvented through cumbersome amendments or entirely bypassed through committee reports or budgeting bills that do not require even the short periods provided by the permanent rules; and

WHEREAS, This rapid consideration of legislation does not allow for the adequate measurement of constituent support or conference with experts in their relevant fields or for those constituents and experts to bring their concerns with legislation to their legislators' attention in the first place; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That future versions of the House and Senate permanent rules include language and redundancies to ensure that adequate reading time be given to new pieces of legislation; and

RESOLVED, That other rules items be similarly amended to provide adequate reading times where necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That actions used to disrupt the regular order of legislation be curbed to prevent such actions from being effective in averting proper reading times of new legislation by our representative officials.

Submitted by Precinct 3.1 to the BCDP on February 20th, 2024.

#12 A Resolution Calling for New Elections in the Palestinian Territories

WHEREAS, New presidential elections and legislative elections for the Palestinian National Authority – the governing body of the Palestinian territories – have not taken place since 2005 and 2006 respectively; and

WHEREAS, Without serious pressure from the international community, Palestinian President Mahmood Abbas has been able to repeatedly and indefinitely postpone new elections, most recently after polling and internal reports showed that a free and fair contest would likely result in his personal loss and/or the victory of candidates who would not be personally loyal to himself; and

WHEREAS, The lack of government accountability created by almost two decades with no new elections has produced a system in which widespread corruption, cronyism, and political favoritism are allowed to flourish; and

WHEREAS, Arab allies of the Abbas regime have used their regional influence to prevent new elections where their preferred candidates were projected to lose; and

WHEREAS, Israel has threatened to withhold security assistance and block development and humanitarian funding designated for the Palestinian territories should elections result in the victory of candidates Israel disapproves of, further pressuring Palestinian leaders to delay elections across the Palestinian territories; and

WHEREAS, In violation of its obligations as established in the Oslo Peace Accords and over the requests of the Palestinian National Authority, the European Union, and the United Nations Special Reporters on Palestine and Human Rights, Israel has worked to block the entrance of international election observers into Palestinian territories under the guise of Covid restrictions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That, in furtherance of our commitment to democracy around the world, the United States join the United Nations in calling for new Palestinian presidential and legislative elections throughout East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, along with neutral observers to verify that such elections remain free, fair, democratic, peaceful, and credible; and

RESOLVED, If elections continue to be postponed, that the United States work with its allies to assist in overcoming the obstacles causing further delay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Once elections are held and are verified to have been conducted in a free, fair, democratic, peaceful, and credible manor, that the United States affirm a duly elected Palestinian National Authority's right to take over Palestinian governance and policy implementation from the current Palestinian National Authority and Abbas regime.

Submitted by Precinct 3.1 to the BCDP on February 20th, 2024.

#13 Keeping Home Ownership Affordable through supporting the End Hedge Fund Control of American Homes Act

WHEREAS, Our nation currently faces a crisis of housing affordability as more American families struggle to become homeowners even as the job market strengthens; and

WHEREAS, Hedge funds own and control large parts of the American housing market; and

WHEREAS, Following the 2008 housing crisis, large private equity hedge funds bought large portfolios of foreclosed homes; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, large hedge fund investors bought 42.8% of homes for sale in the Atlanta metro area and 38.8% of homes in the Phoenix area, the highest rate in 16 years; and

WHEREAS, Predatory hedge fund investors targeted homes in neighborhoods with significantly larger Black populations and approximately 30% more single mothers than the national average; and

WHEREAS, Ending the hedge fund control of housing will:

- Ban hedge funds and all other investors from owning large numbers of homes by establishing a \$20,000 federal tax penalty per single family home owned in excess of 100. To help ensure affordability for families, revenues from this tax are reserved for down-payment assistance programs;

- Allow for an orderly exit from the housing investment market, this legislation allows hedge funds and other investors to sell the homes they own over several years;
- Hedge funds and investors must sell at least 10% of the total number of single family homes to families (not companies or any other businesses) per year. And they are banned from selling any single family home to other corporations;
- The definition of an investor includes any taxpayer, whether they are a Hedge fund, and private equity investor, a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), an individual, or any other business entity;
- To ensure this tax penalty focuses on problematic actors, this legislation excludes nonprofit organizations, public housing agencies and other government entities as well as home builders; and

RESOLVED, That we support the Act Ban Hedge Fund Investors from owning single family homes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on our Senators and Representatives to vote in favor of and pass the End Hedge Fund Control of American Homes Act.

Submitted by Precinct 59.1 to the BCDP on February 21st, 2024.

#14 Resolution on Supporting 2023 Green New Deal

WHEREAS, The Green New Deal Resolution states that it is the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal; and

WHEREAS, The New Green Deal ensures that new programs support its overarching goals of creating good-paying jobs, promoting justice and equity, and acting on climate with the urgency and scope demanded by the science; and

WHEREAS, The New Green Deal ensures that every program from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act must be explicitly designed and implemented with these principles in mind; and

WHEREAS, The New Green Deal promotes justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth; and

WHEREAS, The New Green Deal invests in the infrastructure and industry of the United States to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century: secure clean air, clean water, climate resiliency, community resiliency, healthy food, access to nature, and a sustainable environment for all people of the United States for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, The New Green Deal achieves net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers; and

WHEREAS, The New Green Deal creates millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensures prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on our Senators and Representatives to vote for the 2023 Green New Deal.

Submitted by Precinct 59.1 to the BCYD on February 21st, 2024

#15 Resolution on Tax Reform

WHEREAS, Both North Carolina and the Federal Government have been shifting more of the tax burden onto individuals and lightening or eliminating the burden on corporations; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina used to have a progressive tax system that required higher earners to pay more taxes; and

WHEREAS, The Glass Steagall Act , which had prohibited the interlocking of commercial and investment activities, was repealed in 1999; and

WHEREAS, The Justice Department uses too-big-to-fail banks and end the too-big-to-jail doctrine as an excuse to not prosecute financial crimes; and

WHEREAS, Corporations use stock buybacks instead of reinvesting in their company quality and employees; and

WHEREAS, Insider trading & owning individual stock is a common practice at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, There is a revolving door between corporation lobbyists and government jobs; and

WHEREAS, High income earners and corporations regularly avoid paying their taxes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED:

- Implement Senator Sanders' Real Wall Street Reform;
- Break up too-big-to-fail banks and end the too-big-to-jail doctrine (which the Justice Department uses as an excuse to not prosecute financial crimes);
- Reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act;
- Audit the Federal Reserve and make it a more democratic institution;
- Cap interest rates, overdraft fees, mandatory daily minimums, and ATM fees and allow every post office to offer basic and affordable banking services;
- Eliminate high frequency trading in financial markets; and

RESOLVED:

- Define stock buybacks as fraudulent price manipulation; mandate corporations disclose timing and extent of buybacks to shareholders, as was done before 1982 SEC rule change;
- Eliminate hedge funds, which create a two tiered-financial system (minimum investment requirements of hedge funds exclude all but the most wealthy; such exclusion is an assault on the basic principle in a republic that all citizens are equal before the law);
- Expand coverage of the 2012 STOP Act ((Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act) to incorporate individuals included when the Act was originally passed, thereby banning insider trading & owning individual stock by Congress, senior congressional staff, cabinet secretaries & White House staff; include criminal penalties for violations; extend its reach to limit securities trading to diversified funds, and other significant business activities, such as real estate transactions;
- Create an independent U.S. Office of Public Integrity to preclear purchases and enforce STOP Act provisions;

- Enact the Ban Conflicted Trading Act to prevent Congress and senior congressional staff from trading individual stocks and holding positions on corporate boards;
- Define “corporate lobbyists” to include lobbyists compensated by 501(c)(6) organizations like chambers of commerce; require paid lobbyists to wait at least 5 years before taking government jobs; criminalize lobbying for foreign entities by United States citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

- Reinstating a progressive NC income tax system, in which higher earners pay a higher marginal tax rate than lower earners;
- Implement progressive restructuring of tax codes at local, state, and federal levels to ensure a radical and sustainable redistribution of wealth. (A Vision for Black Lives);
- Repeal the 2018 NC Tax Cap Amendment, which limits NC’s maximum marginal tax rate to 7%, so that higher earners can contribute more to NC’s recovery and economic growth;
- Fully fund the IRS’s enforcement efforts, reversing the decades-long decline in enforcement audits of high-income earners. Additional tax collected would far exceed the increased cost of enforcement;
- Eliminate preferential treatment of investment income, which delivers more than \$200B annually in tax savings to high earners and is an important cause of income and wealth inequality;
- Eliminate the step-up in basis, which is widely used by wealthy people to pass appreciated investments to heirs while avoiding all taxes on the capital gains;
- Eliminate the Social Security wage base cap to help secure retirement benefits for our elderly;
- Subject all personal income to Social Security tax, which would make Social Security sustainable with no need to reduce benefits and would even allow the Social Security tax rate to be lowered;
- Fully fund the IRS’s enforcement efforts, reversing the decades-long decline in enforcement audits of high-income earners. Additional tax collected would far exceed the increased cost of enforcement;
- Fundamentally reform our individual and corporate income tax system, focusing on simplification and fairness, eliminating the myriad tax breaks for high earners.

Submitted by Precinct 59.1 to the BCYD on February 21st, 2024.

#16 Deficit Reduction Strategy: Shifting the Tax Burden from the Middle to the Top: Tax Relief through the Ultra-Millionaire & Real Corporate Profits Tax

WHEREAS, The richest top 0.1% has seen its share of American wealth nearly triple from 7% to 20% between the late 1970s and 2016, while the bottom 90% has seen its share of wealth decline from 35% to 25% in that same period; and

WHEREAS, The richest 130,000 families in America now hold nearly as much wealth as the bottom 117 million families combined; and

WHEREAS, The families in the top 0.1% are projected to owe 3.2% of their wealth in federal, state, and local taxes this year, while the bottom 99% are projected to owe 7.2%; and

WHEREAS, Too many of our wealthiest companies seek to cash in on all the benefits of America while skipping out on the infrastructure and government investment bill; and

WHEREAS, The 1200 most profitable US firms report more than \$100 million in profits to their shareholders but pay little to no taxes due to a maze of tax breaks and deductions; and

WHEREAS, Both North Carolina and the Federal government have been shifting more of the tax burden onto individuals and lightening or eliminating the burden on corporations; and

WHEREAS, More than half (53%) of North Carolina and half of Federal Tax revenue comes from individual income tax, with only 6.4% of NC and 6% of Federal revenue coming from corporations; and

WHEREAS, The misleadingly-named “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017” provided massive tax cuts to the wealthy and to corporations and minor tax cuts or even increases to lower-income individuals; and

WHEREAS, An Ultra-Millionaire Tax would tax the wealth of the richest Americans and apply only to households with a net worth of \$50 million or more—roughly the wealthiest 75,000 households, or the top 0.1%; and

WHEREAS, The Ultra-Millionaire tax on roughly 75,000 households would bring in \$3.75 trillion in revenue over a ten-year period; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Ultra-Millionaires would pay an annual 2% tax on every dollar of net worth above \$50 million and a 6% tax on every dollar of net worth above \$1 billion; and

RESOLVED:

- Zero additional tax on any household with a net worth of less than \$50 million (99.9% of American households);
- 2% annual tax on household net worth between \$50 million and \$1 billion;
- 4% annual Billionaire Surtax (6% tax overall) on household net worth above \$1 billion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That under the Real Corporate Profits Tax of 2021, for every dollar of profit reported to shareholders above \$100 million, corporations will pay a 7% tax in addition to any other required tax.

Submitted by Precinct 59.1 to the BCYD on February 21st, 2024.