

1. The Tax Policies of the Republicans in the General Assembly Continue to Punish the Poor and the Middle Class

Forwarded to the Convention by New River 2 Precinct, with Meat Camp concurring

WHEREAS sales taxes are famously regressive -- low-income citizens are forced to pay notably larger percentages of their scarce dollars, compared with their better-off colleagues, to meet the necessities of life; and

WHEREAS the North Carolina General Assembly, under Republican control, passed new sales taxes in 2015 (agreed to by Governor Pat McCrory) which went into effect on March 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS the Republican leadership in the General Assembly felt obliged to impose those new sales taxes on goods and services to offset the loss of revenue in tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefitted the already rich; and

WHEREAS those hundreds of new taxes on services -- like automobile repair -- disproportionately punish lower income citizens who struggle to keep old cars on the road and who have no alternative to spending money on repairs; and

WHEREAS certain services that cater to the wealthy were specifically exempt from the new sales taxes, namely the services of lawyers, accountants, architects, psychotherapists, and interior designers, signaling indelibly that the North Carolina tax burden is being shifted from the wealthiest to the poorest in our state; and

WHEREAS the Republican leadership in Raleigh seem to believe that the main thing wrong with North Carolina is that those at the bottom have too much and those at the top don't have enough -- a last gasp effort to cling to legacies of privilege and subordination and to deny the promises of democracy and dignity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the tax policies of the North Carolina General Assembly and of Governor Pat McCrory are an exercise in civic irresponsibility and are condemned by every citizen who believes in fairness and equity.

Passed by the Convention, as amended, on April 16, 2016

2. The U.S. Senate Should Do Its Job

Forwarded to the Convention by Brushy Fork Precinct

WHEREAS it is the President's constitutional duty, under Article II of the U.S. Constitution, to nominate a replacement to fill the current vacancy on the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS a duty to consider such nomination is implied by the Constitution; and

WHEREAS Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has led Senate Republicans in a stated refusal to consider any nominee the President might make;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Senator McConnell and his fellow obstructionists be censured for their unwillingness to follow the Constitution and do their job.

Passed by the Convention on April 16, 2016

3. Resolution on Climate Change

Forwarded to the Convention by Blue Ridge Precinct

WHEREAS the concerned citizens of North Carolina are committed to fighting climate change; and

WHEREAS the concerned citizens of North Carolina want to protect all life forms from the effects of climate change and air pollution; and

WHEREAS climate change poses a serious threat to the state of North Carolina in terms of the economy, public health, and the environment; and

WHEREAS as a result of climate change, the planet is experiencing warming temperatures, a large increase in the amount of rainfall measured during heavy precipitation events, and many more extreme weather events resulting in loss of life and property; and

WHEREAS more frequent heat waves are expected to increasingly threaten human health through more heat stress and air pollution; and

WHEREAS sea-level rise and more frequent heavy rains are expected to increase flooding and storm surge, threatening infrastructure; and

WHEREAS as temperatures rise, agriculture will likely face reduced yields, potentially damaging livelihoods and the regional economy; and

WHEREAS the US Congress has the responsibility to act swiftly and meaningfully on the issue of climate change;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the United States Congress urgently to address climate change in a meaningful and effective way, with a particular emphasis on clean, sustainable energy sources.

Passed by the Convention, as amended, on April 16, 2016

4. Resolution in Support of a North Carolina Constitutional Amendment for Redistricting Reform

Forwarded to the Convention by Blue Ridge Precinct

WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States guarantees the principal of one person one vote; and

WHEREAS the Voting Rights Act of 1965 must be respected; and

WHEREAS the process of redistricting in the State of North Carolina as is now practiced violates both the Constitution of the United States and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS the current redistricting process creates a conflict of interest, allowing state legislators to effectively choose their own constituents; and

WHEREAS the present redistricting process often splits communities of interest such as regions, counties, towns, and even precincts exclusively for the purpose of favoring one political party over another; and

WHEREAS districts are often spread out into such forms that lead to the term "gerrymandering" and thereby violates the basic principle of compact districts; and

WHEREAS voters are more informed and involved when districts are fairly drawn, and elected officials are more responsive and accountable to such voters; and

WHEREAS a State Constitutional Amendment would prevent any political party from easily rescinding redistricting reform;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Watauga County Democratic Party calls on members of the North Carolina General Assembly of both parties to draft non-partisan redistricting legislation, hold hearings, and pass a ballot referendum to put redistricting reform before the voters in the form of a Constitutional Amendment.

Passed by the Convention on April 16, 2016

5. Resolution Honoring President Barack Obama

Forwarded to the Convention by Blue Ridge Precinct

WHEREAS President Barack Obama led America back from the brink of economic collapse and created millions of new jobs while lowering the unemployment rate to only 5 percent; and

WHEREAS he created the Affordable Care Act, thereby giving 17.6 million more Americans health insurance; and

WHEREAS he has been the global champion of a climate change agenda with ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect life on planet Earth; and

WHEREAS he has reopened our embassy in Cuba and is working to normalize relations between the USA and Cuba for the first time in 54 years; and

WHEREAS he is the global leader in establishing the accord to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS he has stood strong against terrorism while using diplomacy to curtail its expansion into a global war; and

WHEREAS he was able to negotiate a bipartisan budget and to overhaul No Child Left Behind in spite of the historic partisan conflict in our Congress; and

WHEREAS he has championed the rights of all people to love and marry whom they wish; and

WHEREAS he has been a role model for Americans on how to maintain dignity and decorum regardless of brutal personal attacks; and

WHEREAS he has been a role model for all Americans on the value of family; and

WHEREAS he is an icon for all nations on the proper conduct of a world leader in a civilized, compassionate world;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the members of the Watauga County Democratic Party honor the 44th President of the United States of America, Barack Obama.

6. Resolution Expressing Concern Regarding Inadequately Considered Provisions and Consequences of HB2 and Calling for Review and Reconsideration of the Legislation

Forwarded to the Convention by New River 2 Precinct

WHEREAS the North Carolina General Assembly was called into special session on March 23, 2016, supposedly to deal with a single controversial provision in the City of Charlotte's recent amendments to its long-standing local ordinance regarding nondiscrimination in public accommodations; and

WHEREAS the special session in fact introduced and enacted sweeping legislation (HB2) dealing with a broad range of individual and local government rights and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS this action was taken without advance notice of the legislation's contents and without opportunity for input from impacted local governments, businesses, or the public, or even most members of our General Assembly; and

WHEREAS initially unrecognized consequences of this inadequately considered legislation are beginning to come to public light; and

WHEREAS those adverse consequences include (but may not be limited to) the following:

- All local ordinances regarding nondiscrimination in public accommodations and employment are revoked and further such ordinances banned;
- There are now no state or local nondiscrimination laws in North Carolina for public accommodations or employment regarding marital status, familial status, sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Local governments are now prohibited from requiring in their contracts with businesses, even for local public work using local public tax revenues, any provisions regarding nondiscrimination or good employment practices, wages, and salaries, sick or family leave or other benefits, or other requirements that exceed the generally applicable minimum state requirements for all private employers;
- Local governments may have been stripped of their ability to use their contract bidding process to promote the development of local minority- and women-owned businesses as contractors and subcontractors on public projects;

- The decades-old right of employees to sue their employer under state law if fired for a legally prohibited reason was eliminated, making North Carolina one of only two states in the nation without any effectively enforceable state law protecting private sector employees from workplace discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, or sex; and

WHEREAS these inadequately considered changes are already raising concerned questions nationally among businesses and industries considering locating, expanding, or doing business in our state, with potentially severe and far-reaching adverse impacts on our state and local economy; and

WHEREAS these inadequately considered changes appear to undercut and retard local efforts to build any community's economic base and promote development of jobs and economic opportunities, especially for historically disadvantaged and underserved citizens; and

WHEREAS these sweeping new restrictions on local efforts to build welcoming communities are severely damaging our state's reputation nationally as a place where all people are welcomed to take part in our civil society and economy without fear or discrimination;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Watauga County Democratic Party calls for a public legislative investigation, review, and determination of the nature of these and other concealed or inadequately considered adverse consequences of HB2; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Watauga County Democratic Party calls on Rep. Jonathan Jordan and Sen. Dan Soucek's appointed successor to work to reconsider and undo these inadequately considered and damaging legislative changes during the 2016 legislative short session, and if necessary in subsequent legislative sessions.

Passed by the Convention on April 16, 2016

7. RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AND PUBLISH A VALUES STATEMENT FOR THE FORSYTH COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

WHEREAS, it is important that we, as Forsyth County Democrats, make known to the electorate of this county the values upon which our local party is based; and

WHEREAS, to that end, an open World Café was conducted at county Democratic headquarters to identify Democratic values that might be used in recruiting and vetting potential candidates and in marketing materials for the local party; and

WHEREAS, seven active Democrats attending the World Café volunteered to mine the collected results to create a statement of the values to which local Democrats and candidates generally aspire; and

WHEREAS, the group met together over a period of several months to examine and to develop such a statement:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Forsyth County Democratic Party adopt a values statement as follows:

The North Carolina State Constitution, Article 1, Section 2 states: "All political power is vested in and derived from the people; all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole."

As members of the Forsyth County Democratic Party, we are committed to the idea that Government exists for the good of the whole, for the good of the people of this state.

We believe that all citizens have both individual rights and collective responsibilities. We believe that individual persons thrive best when we, collectively through representative government, protect the common good. We are grateful to prior generations that provided us with a strong and durable foundation that includes public education, infrastructure that allows for transportation and commerce, recreation, protection of our natural resources, and access to health care.

Therefore, Government exists to both protect and serve our common resources (including, but not limited to air, water and soil, our communities, our people and our future.)

We believe that the protection of persons includes:

- The Right to health care
- Excellent public education from pre-kindergarten on through our community college and university systems, that is adequately funded, and that provides citizens the ability to care for themselves and their families
- Environmental protections of all natural resources for present and future generations
- Equality for all citizens and equal protections for their individual and common safety
- Economic security through the right to a livable wage, a place to call home, adequate nutrition, and strong communities
- The right to vote, an essential right of a free people.

We, the Forsyth County Democratic Party, believe that those elected to serve in our representative government should enact legislation and conduct public policy in accordance with these protections, thereby ensuring the "good of the whole."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Forsyth County Democratic Party publish this values statement on its web site and in materials prepared for public consumption where appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Forsyth County Democratic Party share this values statement with candidates and potential candidates for public office, urging them to generally adopt these or substantially similar values in their respective campaigns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the annual convention of the Forsyth County Democratic Party transmits this resolution to the appropriate congressional district convention(s) for possible adoption by the district convention(s) with such editing/or modification deemed appropriate by the convention(s).

Submitted to the 2016 convention of the Forsyth County Democratic Party by the Walkertown Library Precinct 112 committee on this the 27th day of February, 2016.

8. A RESOLUTION TO ENERGIZE RESISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT DECISIONS AND POLICIES WHICH HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

WHEREAS, the governor of North Carolina made the decision to decline federal Medicaid money which was available at no cost to the state, which meant that many North Carolina citizens have medical needs which are not being met; and

WHEREAS, our state legislature chose to fight a decision by the City of Charlotte to ensure equal access to all its citizens by passing HB2, which reduced the option for local communities to pass local laws specific to the needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the failure of the state legislature and governor to address seriously the problems of coal ash contamination of air, water, and farmland; and

WHEREAS, the governor and legislature discourage the continued growth of solar power in the state resulting in the failure to commit to fossil free energy in North Carolina; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Iredell County will take aggressive steps to reverse the direction of state government by voicing our opposition by whatever means necessary and prudent to this end.

Submitted to the 5th and 9th Congressional District Conventions by
Iredell County Democrats

April 16, 2016