**2024 Resolutions**

**Submitted to the Forsyth County Democratic Convention**

**Declaring Support for Women’s Reproductive Rights**

Whereas Republican state legislators in North Carolina passed and implemented a new state law prohibiting a woman from exercising a right to choose abortion after 12 weeks of pregnancy (when North Carolina’s previous law prohibited abortions after 20 weeks);

Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democrats of Forsyth County oppose the recently enacted change in North Carolina law restricting women’s right to choose abortion;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that our Democratic Party will work against restrictions on women’s reproductive health care which are being discussed by Republican law-makers, including Republican legislators in North Carolina.

**2024 Resolutions**

**Submitted to the Caldwell County Democratic Convention**

**Resolution Against Strike-Breaking and Union-Busting Activities**

Whereas, the right of workers to engage in collective bargaining and peaceful strikes is fundamental to the principles of fair labor practices;

Whereas, strike-breaking activities and union-busting tactics undermine the rights of workers to organize, collectively bargain, and advocate for better working conditions;

Whereas, recognizing the detrimental impact of such practices on the well-being and rights of workers, leading to increased inequality and exploitation;

 Whereas, understanding that the strength of labor unions lies in their ability to collectively negotiate for fair wages, improved working conditions, and job security;

Therefore, be it resolved that The North Carolina Democratic Party unequivocally opposes strike-breaking and union-busting activities as a violation of the fundamental rights of workers;

Be it further resolved that The North Carolina Democratic Party condemns any attempts to undermine the collective bargaining power of labor unions and supports the right of workers to organize and engage in peaceful strikes;

Be it finally resolved that The North Carolina Democratic Party pledges to actively advocate against and raise awareness about strike-breaking and union-busting practices, striving to protect the rights and dignity of workers.

**Resolution in Solidarity with Organized Workers and the Current Labor Movement**

Whereas, organized labor has been instrumental in securing fair wages, safe working conditions, and reasonable working hours for workers across various industries;

Whereas, a recent surge in labor movements has emerged, driven by the urgent need to address the challenges faced by the working class;

Whereas, this recent labor movement represents a powerful expression of collective action, uniting workers across diverse industries to demand fair wages, improved working conditions, and justice in the workplace;

Whereas, understanding that the success of recent labor movements is essential for advancing the rights and well-being of workers in the face of evolving economic and societal landscapes;

Whereas, organized labor has historically been at the forefront of challenging oppressive structures and fighting for the liberation of workers from economic injustice;

Whereas, the existence of strong labor unions has been linked to reduced income inequality and improved overall societal well-being;

Whereas, the struggle for workers' rights is inherently linked to the broader fight against systemic oppression, discrimination, and exploitation;

Whereas, North Carolina follows only South Carolina with the lowest union membership rates in the nation.

Whereas, North Carolina has often been seen historically as a leader of progress in the South on many issues, but has historically failed to empower the working class. It has instead chosen to favor large corporations and big businesses.

Therefore, be it resolved that The North Carolina Democratic Party expresses its strong support for organized labor unions and recognizes their invaluable contributions to the advancement of workers' rights;

Be it further resolved that The North Carolina Democratic Party commits to actively promoting the principles of collective bargaining, fair wages, and safe working conditions within its sphere of influence;

Be it further resolved that The North Carolina Democratic Party commit to securing North Carolina worker’s right to organize a union and

Be it finally resolved that The North Carolina Democratic Party will actively engage in efforts to raise awareness about the importance of labor unions and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to strengthen the rights and representation of workers everywhere.

**2024 Resolutions**

**Submitted to the Watauga County Democratic Convention**

**1. Highway Safety Issues in Deep Gap**

*Forwarded to the Convention from the Stony Fork Precinct*

**Whereas**the construction and design of the new U.S. 421 highway was promoted to increase safety and control the flow of traffic; and

**Whereas**the intersection of 421/221 and the old 421 intersection in Deep Gap going towards Boone (AKA Dollar General crossroad) has numerous multiple directional choices (14) creating safe motion dangers, frequent accidents, and confusion for drivers new to the area; and

**Whereas**several deaths and many accidents have occurred in this intersection (most recently  involving a Sheriff’s deputy vehicle); and

**Whereas**drivers cresting the mountain climb under the Blue Ridge Parkway bridge tend to increase speed on the straightaway through the intersection; and

**Whereas**the geography of that area creates frequent and thick fogs which make visibility at the intersection difficult and hazardous; and

**Whereas**, the citizens of Stony Fork who use this intersection daily are concerned about the hazards of driving in this area;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**that the Watauga County Democratic Party request the Watauga County Commissioners, the NC DOT, and other affected partners to convene a special committee

     1. to collect, study, and analyze accident data;

     2. to share data with the public; and

     3. to pursue with responsible parties a method to reduce accidents at the intersections by installing warning signage, flashing lights, or speed reduction mandates.

**2. Ceasefire in Gaza**

*Forwarded to the Convention from the Stony Fork Precinct*

**WHEREAS** as people of conscience we mourn the loss of life everywhere, regardless of nationality; and

**WHEREAS** as sentient citizens we recognize that every human being deserves to live a life of peace and dignity, regardless of where they live and where they work; and

**WHEREAS** the Democratic Party plays an important role in the movement for peace and justice at home and around the world; and

**WHEREAS** the Gaza Strip is home to millions of displaced people, half of whom are under 18 years old; and

**WHEREAS** the ongoing collective punishment of these civilians -- by means of constant bombing, the shutting off of water and electricity, and the denial of food and medical aid -- constitutes a war crime under the Geneva Convention; and

**WHEREAS**as American taxpayers, we provide nearly $4 billion a year in military aid to the state of Israel, which is carrying out these war crimes against the civilians of the Gaza Strip; and

**WHEREAS** we believe it is imperative that U.S. policymakers take measures to immediately de-escalate the violence to prevent the further loss of civilian life; and

**WHEREAS** a growing number of international and domestic citizens are demanding an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT** RESOLVED that the Stony Fork Precinct and the Watauga County Democratic Party call on our state's Congressional delegation to support House Resolution 786, introduced by US Rep. Cori Bush, calling for an immediate de-escalation and ceasefire in Israel and occupied Palestine.

**3. Environment and Climate Change**

*Forwarded to the Convention from the Stony Fork Precinct*

**Whereas** development in the Town of Boone and in Watauga County continues to encroach on existing green space and established forested lands, which destroys old and "historical" trees (as defined by ordinance); and

**Whereas** vehicular traffic and congestion will continue to increase within the Town of Boone and in Watauga County; and

**Whereas** increased air and ground pollutants will continue to compromise our environment; and

**Whereas**these factors can increase the speed of climate change within our high country, and contribute to overall environmental harm;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Town of Boone and Watauga County take strong and urgent action to provide mitigating options to reduce the negative impact on trees and air, and on river waters by:

 1. Implementing conservation and protective efforts for existing trees in their jurisdiction, particularly heritage and elder trees; and

 2. Establishing a reciprocity requirement in all future developments requiring the planting of 10 or more trees for every single tree removed for development; and

 3. Establishing a reciprocity standard allowing for the purchase, sponsorship, or protection of off-site sanctioned and protected forested land; and

 4. Aggressively pursuing the purchase and protection of green spaces and forested land within their jurisdiction; and

 5. Establishing perimeter park-and-ride sites along all four gateways into Boone that would allow drivers to park and access public transportation into the inner city and surrounding community with regular and predictable transport schedules serviced by EV buses and transport vehicles; and

 6. Establishing multiple EV charging stations throughout the county and town to make EV charging access available in all future multi-housing and parking building design; and

 7. Beginning the process of replacing Town and County vehicles with EV machines wherever and whenever possible.