

The following resolution was considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2009, and the Committee moves its adoption by the Democratic National Committee.

Submitted by: Gov. Tim Kaine, DNC Chairman/Virginia

Donna Brazile, Vice Chair/District of Columbia
Linda Chavez-Thompson, Vice Chair/Texas
Rep. Mike Honda, Vice Chair/California
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Shultz, Vice
Chair/Florida
Raymond Buckley, Vice Chair/New Hampshire
Andrew Tobias, Treasurer/Florida
Alice Germond, Secretary/West Virginia
Jane Stetson, National Finance Chair/Vermont
John Walsh, Chair, Massachusetts
Debra Kozikowski, Vice Chair, Massachusetts
Augustus Bickford, Massachusetts
Raymond Jordan, Massachusetts
Elaine Kamarck, At-Large/Massachusetts
David M. O'Brien, Massachusetts
James Roosevelt, Jr., At-Large/Massachusetts
Alan Solomont, At-Large/Massachusetts

Diane Saxe, Massachusetts
Susan Thompson, Massachusetts
Steven K. Alari, California
Robert Checkoway, Vice Chair, Democrats
Abroad
Barbara Easterling, At-Large/Virginia
Randy Kelly, Alabama
Bel Leong-Hong, At-Large/Maryland
Christine Schon Marques, Chair, Democrats
Abroad
Johnnie Patton, Mississippi
Christine Pelosi, California
Speaker Nancy Pelosi, California
Karen Onwulwe Pope, Maryland
Vernon Watkins, California
Jim Zogby, At-Large/District of Columbia

Resolution Celebrating the Life of Senator Edward M. Kennedy

WHEREAS, for the last 46 years Edward Moore Kennedy of Massachusetts has served the United States as one of the finest, most accomplished Senators in the history of our country; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kennedy devoted his entire heart and soul- in the great tradition of the Kennedy family - to public service; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kennedy leaves a legacy of dedication to improving the plight of ordinary Americans, the determination to empower the powerless and to end the scourge of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability or economic background; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kennedy was elected to his first full term in 1964 and seven times since as U.S. Senator by the voters of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kennedy and his staff left his indelible mark on the future of millions of Americans by writing more than 300 pieces of legislation made into law; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation led to the creation of Head Start – ensuring pre-school children from low income families have access to nutritional meals and early education; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation led to the passage of the Hart-Cellar Act – creating a more democratic immigration policy by abolishing quotas and lifting a ban on emigration from Asia; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation lowered the voting age to 18 – ensuring all Americans have a voice in our Democracy; and

WHEREAS, his work on the Federal Cancer Research Program quadrupled the amount of money the federal government spent on cancer research; and

WHEREAS, his work strengthened the Meals on Wheels program – ensuring homebound seniors are receiving nutritional meals; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation led to the creation of the Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program (WIC) – ensuring low-income mothers are able to care for themselves and their children by offering food, nutrition counseling and health services; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation led to the passage of Title IX – taking another step towards women's equality by ensuring men's and women's athletics get equal funding on college campuses; and

WHEREAS, his work on campaign finance legislation helped empower the American voter by creating limits on contributions to political candidates and developing a public financing option; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation led to the creation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – ensuring children with disabilities are guaranteed free and appropriate public education; and

WHEREAS, his work on expanding the jurisdiction of the Civil Rights Commission helped protect Americans from discrimination on the basis of disability; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation to deregulate airlines reduced costs for consumers by allowing airlines to choose their own fares; and

WHEREAS, his work on the Refugee Act helped those most in need throughout the world by developing a U.S. policy on humanitarian assistance; and

WHEREAS, his work on fuel assistance protects low-income and working poor families by providing home heating fuel; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation established Martin Luther King Day as a national holiday – bestowing an important honor to one of our country's greatest civil rights leaders; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation led to the creation of COBRA – ensuring workers who lose their jobs can temporarily continue their health insurance coverage while in-between jobs; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation which imposed sanctions on South Africa by banning the purchase of gold, coal, iron and other commodities in protest of apartheid; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation led to the creation of the Americans with Disabilities Act – protecting qualified disabled Americans against employment discrimination; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation led to the adoption of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty – halving the global nuclear arsenal; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation led to the creation of the National and Community Service Trust Act – serving communities across the country by creating AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service; and

WHEREAS, his work on student loan legislation helped millions of Americans obtain a higher education by allowing them to get student loans directly from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation led to the adoption of the Family and Medical Leave Act – ensuring people can take care of their families in case of emergencies or after a new birth by providing twelve weeks of unpaid leave; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation led to the adoption of the Crime Act – putting 100,000 new police officers on the streets and cracking down on gang violence; and

WHEREAS, his work on legislation led to an increase in minimum wage in 1996 and 2007; and

WHEREAS, he worked to support the State Children’s Health Insurance Program which works at the state level to ensure children from low-income families have health insurance; and

WHEREAS, through his work to empower minorities, women and the disabled, Senator Kennedy was a champion of civil rights and equality; and

WHEREAS, for providing health care to millions of our nation's children and fighting for the cause and rights of workers and organized labor, Senator Kennedy was a hero, and

WHEREAS, for working to improve education and educational opportunities for children and college students to fighting for the security and dignity of older Americans, Senator Kennedy was an icon; and

WHEREAS, for his career-long pursuit of quality, affordable health care for every American Senator Kennedy was an inspiration to millions of Americans who continue his fight; and

WHEREAS, by his colleagues and opponents alike, he was and will continue to be a giant; and

WHEREAS, to the American people, he will be remembered as one of the greatest and most accomplished legislators in American history; and to his family he will be remembered as a father, a husband, an uncle, a brother, a grandfather and a friend; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kennedy was adored by millions of Americans and was respected by colleagues on both sides of the aisle for his energy, his passion, his humor, his compassion, his friendship and above all his commitment to serve his country in pursuit of a more common good for every American; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED , that the Democratic National Committee recognizes the accomplishments of United States Senator Edward Moore Kennedy and mourns the loss of such an extraordinary American; and hereby resolves to honor his legacy of lifetime service to the citizens of his beloved Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United States of America and the world.

The following resolution was considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2009, and the Committee moves its adoption by the Democratic National Committee.

Submitted by: Andrew Tobias, Treasurer/Florida
Steven K. Alari, California
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
Ben Jeffers, Louisiana
Belkis Leong-Hong, At-Large/Maryland
Christine Pelosi, California
James Zogby, At-Large/District of Columbia

Resolution Recognizing the Events of September 11th, 2001

WHEREAS, September 11th was a tragic day for both the United States of America and those around the world who believe in freedom and liberty. In the days following those terrible attacks, the country's pain was quickly replaced with resolve to bring those responsible to justice.

WHEREAS, we recognize the brave acts by those heroes of September 11th. The heroic passengers of Flight 93, the firefighters and police officers rushing into the burning towers, and the countless acts of humanity and bravery by those involved in the attacks at the Pentagon and the World Trade Center will never be forgotten, and should serve as an inspiration to people across the country and across the globe.

WHEREAS, our thoughts and prayers remain with the victims and their families. We must honor the lives we lost on that tragic day by continuing to search for those responsible for the September 11th attacks, and bring them to justice. The families of those we lost on September 11th, our troops serving overseas and all Americans deserve no less.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we recognize the importance of the events of September 11th, 2001 and vow to never forget the tragedy and heroism of that fateful day. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the victims and their families, and we will continue to search for those responsible and bring them to justice.

The following resolution was considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2009, and the Committee moves its adoption by the Democratic National Committee.

Submitted by: Gov. Tim Kaine, DNC Chair/Virginia
 Donna Brazile, DNC Vice Chair/District of Columbia
 Linda Chavez-Thompson, DNC Vice Chair/Texas
 Rep. Mike Honda, DNC Vice Chair/California
 Rep. Debbie Wasserman Shultz, DNC Vice Chair/Florida
 Raymond Buckley, DNC Vice Chair/New Hampshire
 Andrew Tobias, DNC Vice Chair/Florida
 Alice Germond, Secretary/West Virginia
 Jane Stetson, National Finance Chair/Vermont
 Belkis Leong-Hong, At-Large/Maryland
 Steven K. Alari, California
 Barbara Easterling, At-Large/Virginia
 Ben Jeffers, Louisiana
 Christine Pelosi, California
 James Zogby, At-Large/District of Columbia

Resolution Commending President Barack Obama's Leadership and Accomplishments Setting the Country in a New Direction with his Agenda for Change

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act gave tax cuts to 95 percent of working families and is creating or saving millions of jobs nationwide by investing in the nation's infrastructure and rebuilding schools and government buildings with greener, more energy-efficient improvements;

WHEREAS, the President signed the expansion of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, which provides quality health care to 11 million children;

WHEREAS, the President signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America act, increasing the size of AmeriCorps by hundreds of thousands, expanding opportunities for Americans to work for change in our communities;

WHEREAS, having signed legislation to protect consumers from unfair rate hikes and abusive fees of credit card companies, President Obama is putting the American consumer first, instead of large corporate interests;

WHEREAS, President Obama issued an executive order prohibiting torture, promoting the safe, lawful, and humane treatment of individuals in United States custody, and of United States personnel who are detained in armed conflicts;

WHEREAS, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, signed and enacted by the President, provides greater assurances of pay equity for women, ensuring that women finally receive equal pay for equal work;

WHEREAS, the President's reversal of a ban on federal funding for potentially life-saving stem cell research puts responsible science and technological innovation ahead of ideology;

WHEREAS, President Obama's budget which invests in America's future by making bold investments in health care, education and renewable energy was approved by the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, President Obama's swift and assertive action to jumpstart the economy and reverse eight years of failed policies has resulted in bringing our economy back from the brink, and reinstated the proposition that the nation's policies should serve the American people and not special interests and Washington insiders;

WHEREAS, President Obama has proposed health insurance reform that will lower costs, preserve people's choices of doctors and plans, provide affordable access to quality health care to every American and end unfair insurance industry practices like denying people coverage for pre-existing conditions, dropping a person's coverage for getting too sick and charging exorbitant out of pockets expenses;

WHEREAS, President Obama and his Administration have taken key steps to improve America's image abroad and adopt policies that ensure the safety of the American people;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party commends President Barack Obama for the extraordinary leadership and accomplishments of his and his Administration and for his demonstrated resolve and success in bringing change to the country; and that we pledge to continue to work with the President in passing his agenda for change.

The following resolution was considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2009, and the Committee moves its adoption by the Democratic National Committee.

Submitted by: Rep. Barbara Lee, California
 Rep. Mike Honda, DNC Vice Chair/California
 Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, DNC Vice Chair/Florida
 Rep. Joe Baca, California
 Alice Germond, Secretary/West Virginia
 Belkis Leong-Hong, At-Large/Maryland
 Steven K. Alari, California
 Ben Jeffers, Louisiana
 Barbara Easterling, At-Large/Virginia
 Christine Pelosi, California
 James Zogby, At-Large/District of Columbia

Resolution in Support of the President's Efforts to Pass Health Insurance Reform Which Lowers Costs, Protects Choice, Including the Choice of Public Insurance Option, and Ensures all Americans have Access to Quality, Affordable Health Care.

WHEREAS, over 45 million Americans are uninsured and millions more are struggling with the skyrocketing costs of health insurance premiums and out of pocket expenses;

WHEREAS, the status quo of our current health insurance system is unsustainable;

WHEREAS, President Obama has called for reform which lowers costs, protects choice, including the choice of a public insurance option, and ensures all Americans have access to quality, affordable health insurance; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has proposed eight ironclad Health Insurance Guarantees to protect Americans who have coverage and reverse years of unfair insurance company practices, which include 1) no discrimination for pre-existing conditions, 2) no exorbitant out-of-pocket expenses, deductibles, or co-pays, 3) no cost-sharing for preventive care, 4) no dropping of coverage for the seriously ill, 5) no gender discrimination, 6) no annual or lifetime caps on coverage, 7) extended coverage for young adults, and 8) guaranteed insurance renewal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will continue to support the President's efforts to pass health insurance reform, which lowers the costs, protects choice, including the choice of public insurance option and ensures the security of all Americans who have insurance coverage and to ensure those who don't have access to quality, affordable health care.

The following resolution was considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2009, and the Committee moves its adoption by the Democratic National Committee.

Submitted by: Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
 William Owen, Tennessee
 Bekis Leong-Hong, At-Large/Maryland
 Steven K. Alari, California
 Barbara Easterling, At-Large/Virginia
 Ben Jeffers, Louisiana
 Christine Pelosi, California
 James Zogby, At-Large/District of Columbia

Resolution Commending Congressional Democrats and the President of the United States for Enactment of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and their Targeted and Immediate Response to an Inherited Economic Crisis

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act rescued our economy from the brink of disaster, is preserving and creating jobs and laying the groundwork for future economic growth;

WHEREAS, critical investments in our nation's infrastructure and schools will create millions of jobs across the country while rehabilitating aging buildings and highways to create greener, more energy-efficient government buildings and schools and expanding health centers and military facilities;

WHEREAS, ninety-five percent of working families saw immediate tax relief from the Making Work Pay tax cut, the largest tax cut in Americans history;

WHEREAS, the Republican Party, the 'Party of No,' adopted Rush Limbaugh's sentiment of hoping that the President would fail, and refused to work with the President or Congressional Democrats to fix our economy, an economy that fell into crisis as a result of eight years of failed Republican economic policies, and refused to offer more than three votes in favor of the Recovery Act; and

WHEREAS, the Recovery Act is stabilizing economic conditions, helping those harmed by the economic crisis, pulling us back from the brink of economic catastrophe, and building the foundation for sustainable economic growth in America;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party recognizes the positive effect that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has already had on our economy, communities and families and that Congressional Democrats and President Barack Obama should be commended for their quick action to rescue our economy and lay the ground work for future growth by passing the most important economic recovery package in American history.

The following resolution was considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2009, and the Committee moves its adoption by the Democratic National Committee.

Submitted by: Christine Pelosi, California
 Don Fowler, At-Large/South Carolina
 Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
 Steven K. Alari, California
 Belkis Leong-Hong, At-Large/Maryland
 Barbara Easterling, At-Large/Virginia
 Ben Jeffers, Louisiana
 James Zogby, At-Large, District of Columbia

Resolution Commending Democrats for Delivering a New Direction for America's Servicemembers, Veterans and Military Families

WHEREAS, Democrats promised a new direction for America's servicemembers, veterans and military families, who have demonstrated great patriotism and sacrifice in their commitment to keeping us safe and free; and,

WHEREAS, in the first 200 days of the 111th Congress and the Obama administration, Democrats have kept this promise, beginning with the FY 2009 Supplemental Appropriations bill that provides our troops with planning, equipment, and leadership to wind down the Iraq war, changes strategy in Afghanistan; and, makes retroactive payments to over 185,000 service members whose enlistments were involuntarily extended since the 9/11 terrorist attacks; and,

WHEREAS, Democrats directed specific aid to servicemembers, veterans and military families in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: the stimulus package provided veterans direct and indirect aid, adding up to \$15.8 billion. Disabled veterans received direct benefits in the form of one-time payments of \$250 and all businesses can now claim a tax credit for 40 percent of the first \$6,000 of wages paid to unemployed veterans. In addition, the stimulus included renovation to national cemeteries and veterans medical facilities, grants to build new veterans care facilities and money to improve VA benefits administration; and,

WHEREAS, Democrats have led the charge to successfully pass and implement the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and recently expanded the Post-9/11 GI bill benefits to cover the full cost of a college education for all children of fallen U.S. servicemembers; and,

WHEREAS, Democrats have passed, and President Obama has signed legislation that provides mental health screenings and more veterans healthcare resources than at any other time in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration; and,

WHEREAS, House Democrats have passed legislation to strengthen national security by bolstering State Department resources to prevent conflict and failed states around the world; authorizing a 3.4% pay raise for our troops; expanding support for military families such as health care and housing; investing 15% more than 2009 for medical care, benefits claims processors, and facility improvements; and permitting veterans medically retired from active service to receive both military retirement and Veterans Disability Compensation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the DNC commends the successful leadership by President Barack Obama and the Democratic Congress to provide a new direction for servicemembers, veterans and military families, and to deliver bipartisan results that make a real difference in their lives, and pledges that Democrats will never waver in our support for our servicemembers, veterans and military families.

The following resolution was considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2009, and the Committee moves its adoption by the Democratic National Committee.

Submitted by: Rep. Mike Honda, DNC Vice Chair/California
 Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
 Steven K. Alari, California,
 Barbara Easterling, At-Large/Virginia
 Ben Jeffers, Louisiana
 Belkis Leong-Hong, At-Large/Maryland
 Christine Pelosi, California
 James Zogby, At-Large/District of Columbia

Resolution in Support of President Barack Obama's Call for Public Service

WHEREAS, on January 20, 1961, President John F. Kennedy, called for a national ethos of public service stating, at his inauguration, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country"

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama renewed America's commitment to public service by creating a National Day of Service, on January 19, 2009, asking Americans to do more than just offer a single day of service to their cities, towns and neighborhoods, but also to make an ongoing service commitment to our communities; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama further inspired and institutionalized America's public service ethos by inaugurating "United We Serve", and Serve.Gov, in cooperation with the Corporation for National and Community Service, as a nationwide initiative calling on all Americans to participate in our nation's recovery and renewal by serving in our communities and meet growing social needs resulting from the economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, "United We Serve" and Serve.gov are putting volunteers on a path to sustained service, asking volunteers to become volunteer organizers by identifying unmet needs in their community; developing their own service projects and engaging others who are interested in the same issue area; providing easy-to-use tools on Serve.gov for volunteers to set outcome-oriented goals and track their community impact; and calling upon Americans to form new community partnerships and join together across historical barriers of religion, race, and ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, "United We Serve" has highlighted sector-specific service, through the creation and promotion of "Education Week", "Community Renewal Week", "Energy and Environment Week", "Health Week", in an effort to raise awareness and focus attention on much-needed improvements within the community; and

WHEREAS, "United We Serve" and Serve.gov is empowering Americans to promote clean energy, energy efficiency, and public land restoration; support education and literacy for all Americans; increase health care access, public health awareness, and prevention; provide community renewal to areas hardest hit by the economic crisis; and ensure our communities are safe from disasters and our veterans and military families are supported; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party supports President Barack Obama's efforts in making sure that "United We Serve" and Serve.gov, an initiative initially scheduled for 81 days of public service in the summer of 2009, grows into a sustained, collaborative and focused effort to promote service as a way of life for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, in this spirit of America's renewed commitment to national service, the Democratic Party recognizes Eunice Kennedy Shriver for personifying the Kennedy family's call to public service by championing the rights of the disabled through the Special Olympics and dreaming of a world which knew no barriers to those with intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party recognizes Sargent Shriver for promoting public service by spearheading the Peace Corps and Volunteers in Service to America, the domestic version of Peace Corps, and understanding that poverty is inextricably linked to the security of our national and global community; and

WHEREAS, America ranks highest among developed nations in inequality levels and poverty rates, and since joblessness often stems from lack of skills and poor education, one way of increasing employment is to better fund capacity-building service programs within high-need, low-income communities, and equip poor populations with the tools needed to better their economic situation; and

WHEREAS, poverty is not political, nor is the need or call for service, and that by assisting neighbors through public service, on this continent or another, we bring a broad spectrum of benefits, from boosted self-esteem to a bolstered sense of security.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party urges every American to seriously consider President Barack Obama's call for public service to our neighbors, near or far, in desperate need of a helping hand, especially during this time of economic downturn; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party urges the expansion of support to American service organizations like Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, HealthCorps, CitizenCorps, and Senior Corps, to answer President Barack Obama's call, asking us to come together to help lay a new foundation for growth.

The following resolution was considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2009, and the Committee moves its adoption by the Democratic National Committee.

Submitted by: Donna Brazile, DNC Vice Chair/District of Columbia
 Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, DNC Vice Chair/Florida
 Rep. Mike Honda, DNC Vice Chair/California
 Linda Chavez Thompson, DNC Vice Chair/Texas
 Raymond Buckley, DNC Vice Chair/New Hampshire
 Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
 Steven K. Alari, California
 Alexis Herman, At-Large/Virginia
 Ben Jeffers, Louisiana
 Belkis Leong-Hong, At-Large/Maryland
 Ramona Martinez, At-Large/Colorado
 Minyon Moore, At-Large/District of Columbia
 Christine Pelosi, California
 Mame Reiley, Virginia
 Virgie Rollins, National Federation of Democratic Women
 Rick Stafford, Minnesota
 James Zogby, At-Large/District of Columbia

Resolution in Support of Accurate, Open and Transparent Elections in the United States of America

WHEREAS, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) is committed to meaningful and comprehensive election reform that will guarantee every eligible American – regardless of race, ethnicity, geography, disability, language, political party, gender, economic status, or education – the constitutional right to equal participation in the political process; and

WHEREAS, eligible voters living abroad and America’s military forces, who risk their lives to protect our democracy and to establish new democracies throughout the world, are at substantial risk of being disenfranchised at home by numerous election administration deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, by preventing eligible voters from exercising their fundamental right to vote, thereby undermining the public’s confidence in election results, the American electoral system is in a state of disrepair and, unless adequately reformed, the very foundations of our own democracy could crumble; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 Congress passed the National Voter Registration Act (“NVRA”), which mandated that all state social service agencies provide an opportunity for their clients to register to vote, yet across the country, states are not complying with that mandate, and are disproportionately denying low income and disabled eligible voters important opportunities to register; and

WHEREAS, although in 2002 Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (“HAVA”), aiming to improve states’ administrations of elections and mandating that states’ voter registration lists include all voters who are duly registered in the jurisdiction, some states nonetheless have enacted “no match, no vote” policies that remove from the voter registration lists those names that do not match other state databases – in up to 30% of cases due to clerical or other minor errors – threatening to cause millions of eligible voters to be improperly purged from the rolls; and

WHEREAS, as many as one-third of eligible Americans are still not registered to vote, and only 61% of those registered cast ballots in the historic 2008 general election, an increase of just 1% from 2004; and

WHEREAS, in the 2008 general election 50,000 provisional ballots were rejected for being cast in the incorrect precinct, and an estimated 12.5 million eligible voters were excluded from voting by administrative deficiencies, including ballots lost through the absentee voting process and clerical errors in registration; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2009, the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District Number One v. Holder*, expressing doubt about the constitutionality and continued necessity of the Voting Rights Act, as amended, (“VRA”) and expanding the jurisdictions eligible to seek a bailout, which would exempt them from the preclearance requirements of Section 5 of the VRA; and

WHEREAS, over the past four federal election cycles eligible Americans have been unnecessarily and unconstitutionally disenfranchised by the failure of the U.S. Department of Justice to aggressively enforce the VRA; by laws disenfranchising former felons, which disproportionately affect minority communities; and by partisan manipulations by Secretaries of State; and

WHEREAS, the DNC will work with Governors, Secretaries of State and lawmakers at every level of government to fight the adoption of state or federal discriminatory voter I.D. legislation which acts as a 21st century poll tax, effectively disenfranchising countless poor, minority, elderly and student voters; and

WHEREAS, during the 2008 presidential election cycle, efforts were taken to disenfranchise voters, including “vote caging,” wherein election officials attempted to cancel or reject voters’ registrations using lists of foreclosed homeowners or based upon mail returned or marked undeliverable by the U.S. Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, in the weeks preceding the November 2008 election, online social networking sites, popular among young voters, were used to deliver deliberately false and misleading information about registration and polling locations, and flyers appeared in low income and minority communities publicizing fictitious information about “special voting days” for Democrats and threatening adverse consequences against voters who had unpaid parking tickets; and

WHEREAS, in the 2008 general election, voter protection observers received nearly 2,000 reports of malfunctioning voting equipment and twenty-eight states either lacked the paper records necessary to conduct post-election audits or did not require manual audits even where a paper record was available; and

WHEREAS, the DNC continues to urge lawmakers to adopt regulations that mandate transparent election administration, including audit protocols and manual recounts in a randomly selected and statistically significant number of precincts; and

WHEREAS, the DNC continues to urge lawmakers to adopt regulations and procedures which ensure that ballots and voting equipment are easy to understand and use, and that all eligible voters are able to cast their votes without impediment, regardless of physical or language limitation; and

WHEREAS, the DNC will continue to work to ensure that no citizen’s right to vote and have that vote counted will be abridged and, toward that end, will put in place programs to protect the ballot in future elections;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in addition to the foregoing recommendations, the DNC calls on the U.S. Congress to pass federal legislation for immediate implementation that provides adequate funding for states to effectively and equitably administer federal elections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DNC, along with state and local parties, will continue to urge state and local Democratic leaders to monitor the implementation of HAVA across the country in 2009 and beyond, and to fight for vigorous enforcement of the NVRA and the VRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DNC calls on the U.S. Congress to pass the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2009 to promote the use of the internet and other technologies to open additional channels for the registration of eligible voters, and to further simplify and expand the voter registration process by requiring states to automatically register citizens to vote using existing information in state databases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DNC calls on the U.S. Congress to pass the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act, amending the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, to ensure that ballots timely cast by eligible U.S. voters living abroad, military and civilian, will be counted; and to support legislation allowing college students full and equivalent access to the polls in the places where they live or reside; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DNC calls on the U.S. Congress to pass federal legislation for immediate implementation that makes voter purging, suppression and intimidation, including the use of deceptive disenfranchising practices, explicit criminal offenses and prohibits Secretaries of State and other election officials from otherwise engaging in partisan conduct during federal elections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DNC calls for legislation that requires the equitable distribution of voting equipment and supplies to all polling places, and that ensures brief and reasonably equivalent wait times for all voters, regardless of where they live, or their race or socioeconomic status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DNC calls on the U.S. Congress to pass federal legislation for immediate implementation that reinforces the entitlement of voters to cast provisional ballots in federal elections and to have those votes counted in an equitable and inclusive manner, with a presumption in favor of validity and a clear mandate that provisional ballots shall be counted in the most generous possible manner in every state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DNC will continue to work with Members of Congress as well as state and local officials and lawmakers, to enact legislation that will ensure fair, non-discriminatory and responsible redistricting laws, regulations and practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DNC will continue its resolve to work with Members of Congress, Governors and lawmakers in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. Territories, local election officials, and community leaders to update and reform our election laws to ensure that voter confidence in our election system is restored and maintained.

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Submitted by: Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, DNC Vice Chair/Florida
 Rep. Mike Honda, DNC Vice Chair/California
 Donna Brazile, DNC Vice Chair/District of Columbia
 Linda Chavez Thompson, DNC Vice Chair/Texas
 Raymond Buckley, DNC Vice Chair/New Hampshire
 Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
 Jane Stetson, DNC Finance Chair/Vermont
 Steven K. Alari, California
 Barbara Easterling, At-Large/Virginia
 Ben Jeffers, Louisiana
 Christine Pelosi, California
 Karen Thurman, Chair, Florida
 James Zogby, At-Large/District of Columbia

Resolution Calling for the Passage of the EARLY Act, H.R. 1740/S. 994.

WHEREAS, each year, nearly 24,000 women under age 45 are diagnosed with breast cancer in the U.S. and an astounding forty percent of these young women indicate that prior to diagnosis, they did not know a young woman could get breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in women under 40; and

WHEREAS, nearly 3,000 women under age 45 will die of the disease this year; and

WHEREAS, young women's breast cancers are generally more aggressive and result in lower survival rates than older women's breast cancers; and

WHEREAS, nearly 25 percent of young women diagnosed with breast cancer delayed seeking medical attention and 25 percent experienced a delay in diagnosis after seeking medical attention; and

WHEREAS, the biology and psychosocial needs of young women with breast cancer often differ from their older, post-menopausal counterparts; and

WHEREAS, a woman's lifetime risk of developing breast cancer is greatly increased if she inherits an altered BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene, and the frequency of inheriting an altered gene is about five times higher in Ashkenazi Jewish individuals than the general population; and

WHEREAS, African American females experience higher death rates from breast cancer than any other racial or ethnic group, even though Caucasian women experience higher incidence rates; and

WHEREAS, a study of breast cancer subtypes by race, showed that 39 percent of pre-menopausal African American women had generally more aggressive triple negative breast cancer versus 16 percent of non-African American women of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic National Committee is committed to increasing the quality and quantity of life for our nation's young people; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1740/S. 994 would create a public health campaign to teach young women that breast cancer can and does occur in young women, and help them establish good breast health habits to follow as they mature; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1740/S. 994 encourages young women to be their own voice, speak up for themselves, and know when they need to go to the doctor; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1740/S. 994 would create an education campaign to increase awareness among health care providers that breast cancer can and does occur in young women; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1740/S. 994 would create a competitive grant program for organizations that provide support services for young women with breast cancer;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that evidence-based information is needed for younger women and their health care professionals to help detect their cancers early and give those who are diagnosed the greatest chance for survival; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee stands in full support of federal funding for breast cancer education for young women and their health providers, and will urge Congress to ensure H.R. 1740 and S. 994 become public law.

The following resolution was considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2009, and the Committee moves its adoption by the Democratic National Committee.

Submitted by: William Owen, Tennessee
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
Steven K. Alari, California
Barbara Easterling, At-Large/Virginia
Ben Jeffers, Louisiana
Christine Pelosi, California
James Zogby, At-Large/District of Columbia

Resolution Urging Action to Promote Prostate Cancer Screening and Testing

WHEREAS, one in every six men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer; and,

WHEREAS, nearly 30,000 men in the United States will die of prostate cancer this year; and,

WHEREAS, nearly 200,000 men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year; and,

WHEREAS, prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in American men; and,

WHEREAS, early detection and diagnosis of prostate cancer is essential for ensuring timely treatment; and,

WHEREAS, the American Urology Association recommends prostate cancer screenings such as PSA's and other diagnostic tools as part of a detection and treatment protocol;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee urges action to promote prostate cancer screening and testing

The following resolution was considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2009, and the Committee moves its adoption by the Democratic National Committee.

Submitted by: Donna Brazile, DNC Vice Chair/District of Columbia
 Linda Chavez-Thompson, DNC Vice Chair/Texas
 Rep. Mike Honda, DNC Vice Chair/California
 Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, DNC Vice Chair/Florida
 Raymond Buckley, DNC Vice Chair/New Hampshire,
 Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
 Steven K. Alari, California
 Barbara Easterling, At-Large/Virginia
 Ben Jeffers, Louisiana
 Caitlin Kraft-Buchman, Democrats Abroad
 Christine Pelosi, California
 Mame Reiley, Virginia
 Christine Schon Marques, Democrats Abroad
 Belkis Leong-Hong, At-Large/Maryland
 Marianne Keaney Stevens, Vice Chair, Maine
 James Zogby, At-Large/District of Columbia

Resolution on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

WHEREAS, the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is an international bill of rights for women that prescribes the necessary steps to end all forms of discrimination – political, economic, social, cultural or civic – against women; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW was drafted in 1979 with the active support of the United States and signed by President Carter in 1980; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW was reported out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 2002 but was not examined by the Bush administration; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW has become the law in 185 countries including all of the Western democracies except the United States, leaving Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Qatar, Nauru, Palau, Tonga and the United States as the only countries in the world not having ratified this fundamental human rights treaty; and

WHEREAS, there are 71 million women in the workforce of the United States and although equal pay for equal work has been the law of our country since 1963, full-time year-round women workers still earn on the average only 78 per cent of what men earn for equal work; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party supports parity, fairness and equal opportunity for all and believes in a society in which women's equal rights are guaranteed; and

WHEREAS, the 111th Congress and President Obama demonstrated their commitment to parity by enacting the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009; and

WHEREAS, American women living abroad in the 185 countries having ratified CEDAW enjoy the protection afforded by CEDAW; and

WHEREAS, the United States has to regain its place as an international human rights leader;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic National Committee urges the US Senate to ratify CEDAW without delay.

The following resolution was considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2009, and the Committee moves its adoption by the Democratic National Committee.

Submitted by: Donna Brazile, DNC Vice Chair/District of Columbia
 Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
 Anita Bonds, State Chair, District of Columbia
 Steven K. Alari, California
 Anna Burger, At-Large/District of Columbia
 MaryEva Candon, At-Large/District of Columbia
 Yolanda Caraway, At-Large/District of Columbia
 Barbara Easterling, At-Large/Virginia
 Ben Jeffers, Louisiana
 Ben Johnson, At-Large, District of Columbia
 Eric Kleinfeld, At-Large, District of Columbia
 Vincent Orange, At-Large/District of Columbia
 Moses Mercado, At-Large/District of Columbia
 Minyon Moore, At-Large/District of Columbia
 Christine Pelosi, California
 Ilir Zherka, National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee
 James Zogby, At-Large/District of Columbia

Resolution in support of the District of Columbia House Voting Rights

WHEREAS, the principle that U.S. citizens have the inalienable right to voting representation on the laws under which they live is the cornerstone that gave birth to our democracy, yet, despite more than two centuries of seeking representation, the citizens of the District of Columbia do not have voting representation in the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, when the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1788, it contemplated that the right to vote would be enjoyed “by the People of the several States,” including the District of Columbia, inasmuch as all U.S. citizens then lived in a state, and, notably, the citizens living on the land designated in the Constitution by its framers as the District continued to have voting rights until 1800, when the land for the nation’s capital ceded by Maryland and Virginia was vested in the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the framers of the U.S. Constitution never intended for District residents, who had voting rights until 1800, to be deprived of full voting rights, and Article I Section 8, clause 17 of the Constitution vests “exclusive” jurisdiction “in all Cases whatsoever, over such District” in the Congress and therefore authorizes Congress to remedy this denial and afford a vote in the House of Representatives to the citizens of the nation’s capital; and

WHEREAS, it violates the most basic American principles that citizens of the District of Columbia are denied a full vote in the Congress and thereby have been disenfranchised since 1800; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the District of Columbia pay the second highest per capita federal income taxes in the nation and have sent nearly 200,000 sons and daughters to war since the founding of the

Republic, yet these citizens do not have a vote on federal tax legislation, military engagement, or any other issues affecting them or their city; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the District of Columbia are the only residents of a national capital in a democracy denied full voting rights; and

WHEREAS, international organizations also have found the denial of voting rights to citizens of the District of Columbia to be a violation of international law and also have called upon the Congress to grant these citizens congressional representation; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act, reintroduced on the first day of the 111th Congress, is a bipartisan bill that would extend to District residents full voting rights in the House of Representatives in a manner consistent with historical precedents, allowing an increase in the number of members of the House on the basis of political equivalence without benefit or disadvantage based on party; and

WHEREAS the House of Representatives passed the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act in the 110th Congress and 57 percent of the Senate voted for the bill but it failed to meet its 60 percent requirement; and

WHEREAS during the 111th Congress, the Senate passed the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act, but it also approved an amendment introduced by Senator Ensign (R-NV) that would eliminate all local gun safety laws in the nation's capital, including elimination of the District's assault weapons ban necessary to protect residents and federal officials in the nation's capital from military-style weapons and armor piercing ammunition; elimination of firearm registration; elimination of any waiting period to purchase firearms after discharge from a mental institution; creation of a unique provision that would make the District the only U.S. jurisdiction where citizens could go to neighboring states to purchase guns and bring unlimited quantities of guns of every kind into the nation's capital; creation of a gun show loophole that would allow residents to purchase weapons without background checks from private individuals and at gun shows, in the nation's capital; and repeal of the District's power to enact any gun safety laws for the protection of residents and others; and

WHEREAS the Democratic National Committee commends the leaders and members of the House of Representatives and the Senate for their current efforts to seek a way to pass the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act without amendments that threaten the safety of hometown District of Columbia and the homeland security of the nation's capital;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee fully supports the passage of the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act and urges the House and Senate to pass this civil rights bill without gun amendments that jeopardize public safety and pledges to join House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, other Democratic and Republican members of the Congress, and citizens throughout the nation in their efforts to pass the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act, without any gun amendments, in the 111th Congress.

The following resolution was considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2009, and the Committee moves its adoption by the Democratic National Committee.

Submitted by: Robert "Big Red" Rankin, California
 Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
 Arthenia Abbott, Vice Chair, Michigan
 Steven Alari, California
 Barbara Easterling, At-Large/Virginia
 Ben Jeffers, Louisiana
 Bob Mulholland, California
 John Patrick, Texas
 Christine Pelosi, California
 James Zogby, At-Large/District of Columbia

Resolution on the Spending of Federal Economic Renewal Grants

WHEREAS, Congress has approved and President Obama has signed into law a taxpayer-sponsored economic recovery package that will provide billions of dollars to help economically devastated cities and states and other public entities immediately to provide jobs to millions of out of work Americans through considerable infrastructure rebuilding, green energy projects and other projects that will require manufactured components; and

WHEREAS, any domestically produced products that are purchased with economic recovery plan monies will immediately help struggling American families and will help stabilize our greater economy; and

WHEREAS, any economic recovery plan spending should -to every extant possible- include a commitment from every State and city as well as every public entity that receives Stimulus monies for Stimulus projects, to use goods that are manufactured in the United States of America wherever practicable; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the Democratic National Committee will work to encourage each State as well as any public entity that receives Stimulus money to maximize the creation of American jobs and restoring economic growth and opportunity by spending economic recovery plan funds on products and services that both create jobs and help keep Americans employed.

The following resolution was considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2009, and the Committee moves its adoption by the Democratic National Committee.

Submitted by: John Burton, Chair, California and the California DNC Members
 Speaker Nancy Pelosi, California
 Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
 Steven K. Alari, California
 James Zogby, At-Large/District of Columbia

Resolution Honoring Inola Frances Henry

WHEREAS, Inola Frances Henry was born on November 15, 1942, in Henderson, Texas and moved to Lawton, Oklahoma, where she attended school and received her teaching credential; and

WHEREAS, Inola Henry settled in Los Angeles, California, in 1965 and in 1969 became a member of the Los Angeles Unified School District, beginning her remarkable 40-year commitment to teaching and mentoring; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1960's Inola Henry became politically active with the California Democratic Party as well as the Los Angeles County Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, in 1978 Inola Henry became a member of the California Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) where she served with distinction for decades as Lead Chair of the CDP Resolutions Committee; and

WHEREAS, in 1978 Inola Henry was elected as a delegate to the Midterm national convention, and in 2000 was elected to the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and was re-elected in 2004 and 2008;

WHEREAS, Inola Henry passed away on July 26, 2009; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee (DNC) honor Inola Frances Henry for her lifelong dedication to teaching and promoting positive race and human relations.