

**Democratic Party of Virginia
State Central Committee
September 13, 2008**

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO
NOMINATE 2009 STATEWIDE CANDIDATES BY PRIMARY**

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Virginia will hold statewide elections to chose a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General in 2009; and

Whereas, Virginia Democratic Party Plan section 12.1 gives the authority to the State Central Committee to determine the method of nomination of statewide candidates; and

Whereas, nominating statewide candidates through a primary ensures an open, democratic and fair process; and

Whereas, allowing Virginia Democrats to participate in a primary will provide for the broadest, easiest, and most democratic participation in the nomination process; and

Whereas, a primary will improve candidate recognition and increase voter turnout in the pre-nomination process and strengthen the party for the fall campaign; and

Whereas, in 2008, nearly 1 million Democrats participated in Virginia's presidential primary, demonstrating the value of an open political process in party building; and

Whereas, if the Democratic Party nominates its candidates by a primary, it need not hold a state convention and may select State Central Committee members through district conventions as set forth in Party Plan section 4.18.

Therefore be it resolved that the State Central Committee select the primary as the method of nomination for its candidates for statewide office in 2009.

Be it further resolved that, unless the State Central Committee subsequently determines otherwise, the State Central Committee shall be elected in 2009 pursuant to Party Plan section 4.18.

Memorial Resolution on the Distinguished Public Service of Senator Joseph V. Gartlan Jr.

WHEREAS, the late Senator Joseph V. Gartlan Jr. of Fairfax County served with honor and distinction for 28 years in the Virginia Senate representing the 36th District until his retirement in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Joe Gartlan's long career of distinguished public service demonstrated a deep commitment to the best interests of the Commonwealth of Virginia and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Joe time and time again distinguished himself in leadership positions in the Virginia Senate and as chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission by putting principles above politics; and

WHEREAS, Joe used his Senate seniority and his chairmanships of three Senate committees – Courts of Justice; Privileges and Elections; and Rehabilitation and Social Services – along with his membership on the Rules and Finance Committees to champion the rights of the mentally and physically disabled, protect abused and neglected children, and improve the environment; and

WHEREAS, Joe was a tireless advocate of modernizing mental health laws and improving social services in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Joe played a key role in galvanizing the regional efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, Joe, as described by Governor Tim Kaine, “wore his heart on his sleeve when it came to issues of social and economic justice;” and

WHEREAS, Joe's integrity, passion, conviction, and courage earned him the reputation as the heart and soul of the Virginia Senate; and

WHEREAS, Joe's mastery of extemporaneous speaking and his willingness to work across the aisles helped to build bipartisan support to move important and sometimes controversial issues forward in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Joe's political career spanned his entire adult life, from his days in 1960 working as an advance man for John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign to April 2008, only several months before his death, when he received the prestigious Community Service Award from the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee; and

WHEREAS, Joe was a true Virginia gentleman beloved by his constituents and the less-fortunate members of our society whose causes he championed; and

WHEREAS, the passing of Senator Joseph V. Gartlan Jr. on July 18, 2008 was a loss to all those who knew him and, most importantly, to Fredona, his beloved wife of 58 years, and his six children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee and Central and Steering Committees of the Democratic Party of Virginia recognize the lifelong service and achievements of the Honorable Joseph V. Gartlan Jr. and his exemplary leadership benefiting the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee change the name of its annual Community Service Award to a Fairfax County citizen to the “Joseph Gartlan Community Service Award.”

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Virginia salutes the Honorable Joseph V. Gartlan Jr. for his invaluable contributions to the Commonwealth, and expresses our sorrow over his passing to Fredona, his children, and his grandchildren.

■ *Adopted August 2008 by the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee*