Democratic National Committee

Proposed Resolutions

For consideration at the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on January 21, 2009

#	Synopsis of Resolution – See Resolution for Name(s) of Sponsor(s)
1	Commends DNC Chairman Howard Dean and the Officers of the DNC for Their Hard Work and Dedication on behalf of the Democratic National Committee
2	Urges Immediate Action to Enact a Systematic Loan Modification and Foreclosure Prevention Program that Will Reduce Foreclosures, Make Loans More Affordable Over the Long Term and Stop the Decline in Home Prices
3	Supports Secret Ballots at Individual, Non-representative Voting Levels of the Democratic National Convention Delegate Selection Process
4	Supports Department of Veterans Affairs Voter Registration Compliance with Executive Order 12926
5	Honors George Washington
6	Supports Sen. Levin's Committee on Torture
7	Honors the Life and Career of Senator Claiborne Pell

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The following resolution will be considered by the Democratic National Committee's Resolutions Committee at its meeting on January 21, 2009, held in conjunction with the meeting of the Democratic National Committee in Washington, DC on January 21, 2009.

Submitted by: Lottie Shackelford, DNC Vice Chair for Voter Registration & Participation
Linda Chavez-Thompson, DNC Vice Chair
Congressman Mike Honda, DNC Vice Chair
Susan Turnbull, DNC Vice Chair
Mark Brewer, DNC Vice Chair & ASDC President
Andrew Tobias, DNC Treasurer
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary
Phil Murphy, DNC National Finance Chair
Donna Brazile, At-Large Member / District of Columbia

Resolution commending DNC Chairman Governor Howard Dean and the officers of the DNC for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the Democratic National Committee

WHEREAS, former Vermont Governor Howard Dean was elected Chairman of the Democratic National Committee in February 2005; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Governor Dean, over the past four years the DNC has made significant investments in technology, creating a truly national voter file, improved micro-targeting models and developed 21st century campaign tools that merged traditional organizing with new technology; and

WHEREAS, Governor Dean embarked on an aggressive 50-state campaign in 2005 to make the Democratic Party competitive in every race, in every district, in every state and territory, while integrating national and state party operations and standing up for Democrats' core values; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of Governor Dean, the DNC hired organizers, chosen by the state parties, in every state – experienced local activists who knew their communities; and

WHEREAS, Governor Dean worked to diversify the donor base by shifting the emphasis of Party fundraising to include both small donors and large donors, which enabled the DNC to bring in more than 1.1 million new donors and raised more than $330 million from 2005 to 2008; and

WHEREAS, the DNC created a national communications infrastructure to amplify the Democratic message and reach out to new groups and expand the map to regions where Democrats have not traditionally been competitive – including the South and the West; and

WHEREAS, Governor Dean lead efforts to revamp the beginning of the Party's presidential nominating calendar and in an effort to broaden participation in the nominating process selected the states of Nevada and South Carolina to hold early nominating events; and

WHEREAS, the DNC created VoteBuilder, a unified voter database designed to meet the needs of modern political campaigns with improved data capacity and functionality and brokered swap agreements with 49 states and the District of Columbia, creating a single national and standardized voter file that is available for use by any Democrat running for office, from city council to president, which improved micro-targeting efforts; and

WHEREAS, when in the aftermath of 2004 it became clear that the Democratic Party needed to make voter protection and education a full-time, year-round priority, Governor Dean established National Lawyers Councils in every state and strengthened the Voting Rights Institute and in 2006, for the first time ever, the DNC implemented a 50-State election protection program that built voter protection teams in nearly all states; and

WHEREAS, Governor Dean was assisted in all of these tasks and responsibilities by the other Officers of the Democratic National Committee all who played individual instrumental roles: Vice Chairs Lottie Shackelford, Linda Chavez Thompson, Susan Turnbull and Congressman Mike Honda; Vice Chair & ASDC President Mark Brewer; Treasurer Andy Tobias, Secretary Alice Germond, and National Finance Chair Phil Murphy; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the efforts described above, when Barack Obama became our Party's nominee, the DNC had unprecedented resources in place, including:trained, professional staff on the ground in all 50 States; a state of the art voter file and micro-targeting tools; initial polling on John McCain, and a political roadmap for 24 states;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee expresses its profound thanks to Chairman Governor Howard Dean for his vision and commitment to the principles, ideals and success of the Democratic Party; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee applauds Governor Dean and all of the Officers of the DNC for their tireless work and sacrifice on behalf of the Party and all its candidates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee wishes Governor Howard Dean continued success in all his future endeavors.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on January 21, 2009, held in conjunction with the meeting of the Democratic National Committee in Washington, DC on January 21, 2009.

Submitted by: Congresswoman Maxine Waters, California

Resolution urging immediate action to enact a systematic loan modification and foreclosure prevention program that will reduce foreclosures, make loans more affordable over the long term, and stop the decline in home prices.

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party recognizes the impact the current foreclosure crisis is having on homeowners, communities, cities, and states and calls for significant government intervention to reduce the number of foreclosures; and

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2008 the United States economy was in a state of recession; and

WHEREAS, the cause of such recession is directly related to the crisis in the housing market stemming from falling home prices, resetting adjustable interest rate mortgages and other exotic loan products, securitization of such loans, and limited access of struggling homeowners to refinance, sell, or otherwise modify unsustainable mortgages; and

WHEREAS, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association, the delinquency rate for all mortgages in the third quarter of 2008 was 6.99 percent, 140 basis points higher than the rate for the same period in 2007; and

WHEREAS, according to Realty Trac, in November 2008, foreclosure filings, including default notices, sale notices, and bank repossessions, rose 28 percent from November 2007, affecting 259,085 properties; and

WHEREAS, on December 4 2008, Credit Suisse estimated that 8.1 million American homes, representing 16 percent of all mortgages, will enter foreclosure within the next four years; and

WHEREAS, in August 2008, the Center for Responsible Lending estimated that 2.2 million subprime foreclosures will take place from late 2008 through the end of 2009 and that 40.6 million surrounding homes will lose $352 billion in value because of price declines resulting from these foreclosures; and

WHEREAS, subprime loans are defaulting at higher rates than prime loans and minorities received a disproportionate number of subprime loans, with an analysis of 2006 data from the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act by the Center for Responsible Lending showing that African

Americans received 52 percent of all subprime loans and Hispanics received 41 percent of all subprime loans; and

WHEREAS, current Federal programs to curb foreclosures have been insufficient and have failed to reduce the number of foreclosures or to make troubled loans affordable over the long-term in any meaningful way; and

WHEREAS, loan modifications that make mortgages more affordable for borrowers are more effective than repayment plans in keeping troubled borrowers in their homes over the long term;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party stands in full support of taking immediate action to enact a systematic loan modification and foreclosure prevention program that will reduce foreclosures, make loans more affordable over the long term, and stop the decline in home prices.

The following resolution will be considered by the Democratic National Committee's Resolutions Committee at its meeting on January 21, 2009, held in conjunction with the meeting of the Democratic National Committee in Washington, DC on January 21, 2009.

Submitted by: Christopher Stampolis, California

Resolution in favor of secret ballots at individual. non-representative voting levels of the Democratic National Convention Delegate Selection process.

WHEREAS, the right to vote one's conscience by secret ballot to elect public representatives is celebrated in democracies around the world; and

WHEREAS, the position of President of the United States provides leadership not just as the executive of the U.S. federal government, but as a leader of people striving for freedom across the world; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party strongly supports voting rights for all people, including a long history of advocating for diligent voter protection and respect in this country, campaigns to expand voter registration among all eligible potential voters, and a commitment to high voter turnout at all elections,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee takes a position in favor of secret ballots at levels of the presidential nomination delegate selection process where a voter casts a vote in formal representation of no other person except that voter, as opposed to a vote taken while serving as a delegate formally representing other people, whether the state, commonwealth, district or territory uses a primary or a caucus system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic National Committee asks each participating state, commonwealth, district and territory to include a secret ballot provision for individual voter representation levels in submitted delegate selection plans for the 2012 Democratic National Convention and that the "Delegate Selection Rules for the 2012 Democratic National Convention" shall include this request.

The following resolution will be considered by the Democratic National Committee's Resolutions Committee at its meeting on January 21, 2009, held in conjunction with the meeting of the Democratic National Committee in Washington, DC on January 21, 2009.

Submitted by: Christopher Stampolis, California

Resolution in favor of Department of Veterans Affairs compliance with Executive Order 12926, the Implementation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs claims its local facility directors have unfettered discretion to limit private political discourse, including voter education and even voter registration by election officials on campuses that are home to homeless, institutionalized and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the outgoing Secretary of Veterans Affairs has refused to accept the "voter registration agency" designation conveyed by the States of California and Connecticut, in direct contravention of Section Three of Executive Order 12926, issued by President William J. Clinton on September 12, 1994; and

WHEREAS, the outgoing Secretary of Veterans Affairs campaigned in a Minnesota Veterans Affairs facility by accompanying a Republican Congressional incumbent two days prior to the November 2008 general election, although a balanced voice for the Democratic candidate was not permitted equal time and voter access;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee calls upon the incoming Secretary of Veterans Affairs to accept all designations from State Secretaries of State to designate a Veterans Affairs facility a "voter registration agency" under Section Three of Executive Order 12926; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee requests the incoming Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt a nationwide policy of permitting reasonable voter registration efforts at VA facilities and ceasing the prohibition and censorship of private discussions of political affairs.

The following resolution will be considered by the Democratic National Committee's Resolutions Committee at its meeting on January 21, 2009, held in conjunction with the meeting of the Democratic National Committee in Washington, DC on January 21, 2009.

Submitted by: William Owen, Tennessee

Resolution to Honor President George Washington

WHEREAS, George Washington was Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, when victory for the infant American nation was won, General Washington resigned his commission and returned to private life instead of pursing personal rule; and

WHEREAS, after the ratification of the United States Constitution George Washington was elected the first President of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, after serving two terms as President George Washington declined to run for a third term and warned in his Farewell Address against partisan "factions" that could divide the country; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is named in honor of George Washington; and

WHEREAS, in today's 21st Century world, the front door of a major city is the city's airport; and

WHEREAS, Washington, D.C.'s airport should be a welcoming public facility for all Americans and not be tinged with partisan overtones; and

WHEREAS, for many years Washington, D.C.'s airport enjoyed the nonpartisan name of Washington National Airport;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee hereby requests the United States Congress honor President George Washington by reinstating the name of the Washington, D.C. airport as Washington National Airport.

The following resolution will be considered by the Democratic National Committee's Resolutions Committee at its meeting on January 21, 2009, held in conjunction with the meeting of the Democratic National Committee in Washington, DC on January 21, 2009.

Submitted by: William Owen, Tennessee

Resolution in support of Sen. Levin's Committee on Torture

WHEREAS, the policy of the United States is to recognize and support the Geneva Convention; and

WHEREAS, the Geneva Convention prohibits the torture of prisoners; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army Field manual prohibits the use of torture of prisoners; and

WHEREAS, Sen. Carl Levin chaired a special Committee of the United States Congress investigating the allegations of torture by United States military and civilian personnel; and

WHEREAS, Sen. Levin's Committee recommended that actions be taken by the United States Government regarding the findings of the Committee;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee supports the findings of Sen. Levin's Committee and urges the United States Congress to adopt the findings of the Committee.

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The following resolution will be considered by the Democratic National Committee's Resolutions Committee at its meeting on January 21, 2009, held in conjunction with the meeting of the Democratic National Committee in Washington, DC on January 21, 2009.

Submitted by: Gov. Howard Dean, DNC Chairman, Vermont

Resolution honoring the life and career of Senator Claiborne Pell

WHEREAS, Claiborne Pell was first elected to represent Rhode Island in the U.S. Senate in 1960; and

WHEREAS, Senator Pell served six terms in the Senate, where he focused on education, the humanities, diplomacy, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong interest in railroads inspired him to draft a bill that became the High Speed Ground Transportation Act of 1965, which improved rail service in the Northeast corridor between Washing and Boston; and

WHEREAS, Senator Pell was best known for his sponsorship of the 1972 program that has helped 54 million low- and moderate-income students attend college; and

WHEREAS, he also sponsored the legislation that founded the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities; and

WHEREAS, Senator Pell was committed to maritime and foreign affairs issues, in favor of abortion rights, a consistent vote for labor and an ardent advocate of arms control and the rule of law in international affairs; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, he became Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Pell was stricken with Parkinson's disease in 1994, and his illness forced him to retire in January 1997 after six terms in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Claiborne Pell died on January 1, 2009 at his Newport, Rhode Island home;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee (DNC) honor Senator Clairborne Pell for his dedication and service to his country and to the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party.