Report of the Platform and Resolutions Committee
For Consideration by the South Carolina Democratic Party Convention
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1. IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN

WHEREAS, public education in South Carolina has never been funded in accordance with the state constitution, and
WHEREAS, “minimally adequate” is a subjective concept that jeopardizes our children’s future, and
WHEREAS, education is a cornerstone of economic development for the future of our state, and
WHEREAS, students of color, particularly male students, are suspended at much higher rates than their white counterparts, and
WHEREAS, students who are suspended miss out on schooling necessary to future success and are disproportionately likely to
be incarcerated as adults, and
WHEREAS, public education is an essential foundation of our democracy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the establishment of programs that will assist
students who are failing behind in their education, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Department of Education and school systems across the state
create or expand programs that follow the principle of restorative justice and allow students to remain in the classroom whenever
possible, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports educational programs for all
stakeholders including students, teachers, and parents on matters of bullying, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports full and adequate funding for all
public schools in South Carolina, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party will work to incorporate schools and
neighborhoods by creating more diverse and inclusive school attendance zones, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports higher teacher pay, better benefits
for teachers, and offering job performance-based incentives for teachers, to help ensure the highest quality of instruction possible
for public school students in South Carolina.

2. HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, education is the key to a functioning society and the high cost of tuition keeps many young people from pursuing
higher education, and
WHEREAS, Denmark Technical College and other historically black colleges and universities have a tremendous impact on the
lives of their students, and
WHEREAS, Denmark Technical College is unique in its status as the only residential technical college in South Carolina and the
only technical college that is an historically black college and university in the state;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Democratic Party supports legislation to make state-supported or
public technical schools and community colleges tuition free to students, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports Denmark Technical College as a
standalone college in its present location and opposes the South Carolina Technical College system’s current proposal to have
Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech to take over Denmark Technical College, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports all efforts to increase funding to
public universities and colleges in South Carolina, particularly the historically black colleges and universities.
3. ENSURING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the right to vote is the cornerstone of democracy and that right has been under attack in South Carolina and the United States from home and abroad, and
WHEREAS, "one person, one vote" is fundamental to the fairness of our elections, and
WHEREAS, the popular vote is the expression of the will of the people which should be paramount in the election of its representatives, and
WHEREAS, the South Carolina Democratic Party opposes racial, partisan, and other forms of gerrymandering;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports and will promote passage of House Concurrent Resolution 79 in the United States Congress, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports all efforts to expand voter registration and voting rights to all citizens, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the implementation of policy changes to ensure that votes are counted as cast with a verifiable paper trail, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the creation of a non-partisan commission for the fair and equitable re-apportionment of electoral districts after the 2020 census.

4. PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT AND IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

WHEREAS, unchecked growth and fast-paced development will result in land and resource overconsumption, further exacerbating the state’s affordable housing and public transportation crises, while endangering its farms and forests, and
WHEREAS, offshore drilling is an inappropriate economic development strategy for South Carolina, endangering our state’s coastline and the wildlife, industries, and families it supports, and
WHEREAS, solar energy and other renewable energy technologies are viable alternatives to continued dependence on fossil fuels for energy generation, and
WHEREAS, climate change is upon us, causing temperatures and the sea level to rise, stressing our agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries, and threatening our special places, plants, and wildlife, and
WHEREAS, the citizens of South Carolina have the right to clean, safe water that meets national standards;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party opposes offshore oil and gas development, including seismic testing, and instead supports legislative measures that increase development of and access to alternative energy sources, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports measures to combat climate change and mitigate its far-reaching efforts.

5. EQUALITY FOR ALL

WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and transgender people are at heightened risk of discrimination, and
WHEREAS, increased hatred and vitriol have generated increased fear in the LGBTQ community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party support that wording be added to all state public policy anti-discrimination statements that include “sexual orientation and gender identity/expression” along with race, gender, national origin, religion, and veteran status, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Democratic Party affirm its commitment to the LGBTQ legal protections with respect to housing, employment, public accommodations, and healthcare.

6. WOMEN’S RIGHTS

WHEREAS, women represent approximately 51% of the population of South Carolina, and
WHEREAS, 15.9% of the General Assembly is currently comprised of women, and
WHEREAS, five women have held statewide office in South Carolina, and
WHEREAS, women face discrimination and barriers related to reproductive health care services, and
WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment was passed by both chambers of the United States Congress in 1972, but was not ratified by the necessary number of states by the March 1979 deadline for inclusion in the United States Constitution and South Carolina has not ratified the amendment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports continued efforts to increase the number of women in leadership positions within the Party and in elected office at local, state, and national levels, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports protecting and advancing the reproductive health and rights of women by making every effort to oppose federal and state laws that impede women’s access to healthcare, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by the state of South Carolina and its inclusion as an amendment to the United States Constitution.

7. SUPPORT FOR DREAMERS

WHEREAS, the majority of South Carolinians believe that the United States should pass comprehensive legislation that provides a permanent legal status and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented persons brought to this country as children, commonly referred to as “DREAMers”, and
WHEREAS, the South Carolina Democratic Party is firmly committed to state and national policies that restore every person’s ability to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party calls on the United States Congress to pass a clean DREAM Act or similar legislation that codifies the benefits currently conferred upon participants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

8. IMPORTANCE OF NET NEUTRALITY

WHEREAS, voting to end net neutrality would increase internet prices dramatically, and
WHEREAS, an end to the policy of net neutrality would make the internet less accessible to people with limited means;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party opposes every effort to end the policy of net neutrality in the United States.

9. REPEAL OF THE HERITAGE ACT

WHEREAS, the Heritage Act of 2000 requires a two-thirds vote of the South Carolina General Assembly to move, alter, or correct historical monuments, and
WHEREAS, the people of South Carolina believe in community based governance and the right to decide which historical monuments exist in their own communities;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the repeal of the Heritage Act of 2000.

10. PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, due to years of neglect, our transportation infrastructure in the state of South Carolina is generally falling apart and one in three bridges need major repairs, and
WHEREAS, a healthy public infrastructure is necessary for a robust economy, and
WHEREAS, the citizens of rural South Carolina are often neglected when it comes to infrastructure development;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the appropriation of funds for highway and bridge improvements, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the development of a long-term maintenance plan, including a schedule for major improvements, and stable funding sources to ensure the creation of an adequate and safe statewide transportation network, that also meets the needs of rural communities across South Carolina.

11. REPARATIONS

WHEREAS, House Resolution 40 was introduced in the United States Congress in 1984, but has never been given a hearing, and
WHEREAS, House Resolution 40 only calls for the study of an issue that has never been adequately addressed, and
WHEREAS, the issue of reparations must be addressed if healing and reconciliation are to be accomplished;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports passage of House Resolution 40 in the United States Congress to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.
12. MEDICAID EXPANSION IN SOUTH CAROLINA
WHEREAS, South Carolina has not accepted Medicaid expansion through the Affordable Care Act and there are over 135,000
uninsured South Carolinians, and
WHEREAS, many South Carolina residents who are not currently eligible for Medicaid or Medicare are without health coverage,
and
WHEREAS, the federal government currently pays 60 percent of the costs for these programs, but would pay 100 percent for
three years if South Carolina accepted the Medicaid expansion and 90 percent thereafter, and
WHEREAS, access to healthcare in rural areas is becoming more limited;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports South Carolina’s acceptance of Medicaid
expansion under the Affordable Care Act.

13. HEALTHCARE FOR ALL
WHEREAS, to enjoy the fundamental rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness each person must be able to receive
timely, professional, state of the art healthcare and therapy without regard to age, place of residence, and ability to pay, and
WHEREAS, the South Carolina Democratic Party recognizes that healthcare is a right, not a privilege;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports measures by both the Legislature and Executive
to create an affordable, single-payer healthcare system that works for all citizens with the utmost urgency.

14. IMPROVING STATE ETHICS LAWS
WHEREAS, conflicts of interest and lack of transparency have resulted in unethical influence in state government, and
WHEREAS, current ethics laws shield legislators’ emails and other records from open-records requests enabling legislators to
hide their communications from their constituents, and
WHEREAS, many special interest groups do not have to register as lobbyists under current law;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party support strong ethics reform legislation that will lift the
shield of legislators’ emails and records from open-record requests while honoring the rights and privacy of citizens, require strict
registration of special interests as lobbyists, prevent conflict of interests, and reform the state campaign finance system.

15. REINSTATEMENT OF THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE
WHEREAS, the public owns the airways and the Federal Communications Commission has allowed increasing monopolization of
those airwaves by private broadcasters, and
WHEREAS, the current broadcast media environment has helped create a toxic and skewed discourse;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine, and
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports requirements that private broadcasters renting
public airways be required to broadcast a certain amount of local educational content, including political forums and debates, in
order to maintain their licenses.

16. MENTAL HEALTH
WHEREAS, South Carolina is lacking the adequate tools and services to meet the mental health needs of its communities, and
WHEREAS, patients in mental health crisis centers typically spends days waiting to be admitted to behavioral and other treatment
facilities;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the state of South Carolina establish and fund mental health crisis stabilization centers
throughout the state to serve as temporary placement for patients in need and to meet the immediate needs of individuals in crisis.

17. IMPROVING SAFETY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM
WHEREAS, stricter gun control laws and enforcement of present gun control measures could make schools in South Carolina
safer, and
WHEREAS, there is no substantial research that demonstrates that teachers carrying weapons makes schools safer, and
WHEREAS, background checks for the purchase of firearms can help keep these weapons out of the hands of individuals who
mean to do harm to others, and
WHEREAS, South Carolina consistently places among the states with the highest rates of domestic abuse and domestic violence,
and
WHEREAS, South Carolina consistently ranks in the top five jurisdictions nationally for the rate of women killed by men, and
victims of domestic violence often need special support and assistance due to the intimate nature of the crime and public nature of
its prosecution, and
WHEREAS, the United States has approximately 5 percent of the world’s population, but approximately 25 percent of the global
prison population, and
WHEREAS, the current justice system has led to excessive incarceration rates evidenced by a decades-long increase in the ratio
of prisoners to population despite a decrease in the crime rate, and
WHEREAS, the burden of our over-reliance on incarceration has fallen disproportionately on communities of color, contributing to
racial disparities, poverty, and increasing inequality across the country, and
WHEREAS, our prisons are at over-capacity and hold a disproportionate number of prisoners for minor drug-related offenses, and
WHEREAS, treatment needs to be available to individuals suffering from addiction to opioid drugs, both prescriptive and illicit,
regardless of insurance availability and financial status, to address the ongoing crisis of the widespread addiction to these drugs,
and
WHEREAS, South Carolina’s basic law enforcement course at the Criminal Justice Academy is 12 weeks long while the national
average is 21 weeks long and competent law enforcement requires calm decision making and the deployment of tactics to de-
escalate dangerous situations before they become violent, and
WHEREAS, all human life is precious, and the use of the death penalty prevents the opportunity for redemption and the
enforcement of the death penalty costs more than sentences of life imprisonment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, South Carolina public schools should remain gun-free zones except law enforcement officers,
and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the establishment of programs to
provide awareness training in public schools for domestic abuse prevention, as well as economic, job training, health care, and
secure and sanitary shelter programs for victims of domestic abuse, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports universal background checks for all
firearm purchases and passage of SS16 to close the Charleston Loophole, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports a ban on civilian ownership of
assault-style firearms designed for use in combat zones and passage of H4975, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the decriminalization of marijuana for
personal and medical use in South Carolina, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that effective drug policies should treat opioid addiction as a disease and the South
Carolina Democratic Party will advocate for effective legislation to address the ongoing opioid addiction crisis through funding that
will significantly expand treatment facilities and programs, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports criminal justice reforms including
expanding diversionary programs as alternatives to prosecution, abolishing mandatory minimum sentencing, and prioritizing the
rehabilitation and reintegration in sentencing, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports constitutional and statutory
limitations on the uses of prison labor in private industry, as well as other abuses of the prisoner exception in the Thirteenth
Amendment’s abolition of slavery and forced labor, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports a longer period of training for law
enforcement officers and improved curriculum to include tactics to de-escalate volatile encounters, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the immediate abolishment of the
use of capital punishment in South Carolina.

18. PRIMARY IMPARTIALITY BY PARTY OFFICIALS

WHEREAS, it is crucial to the success of Democratic candidates in November that unity within the Democratic Party is fostered
prior to the June primary elections, and
WHEREAS, the public endorsement of Democratic candidates in primary elections by Party officers in their official capacities can
create unnecessary Party divisions, and
WHEREAS, the ultimate goal of the South Carolina Democratic Party is to win elections in November;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all South Carolina Democratic Party and County Democratic Party Officers refrain from
publicly endorsing Democratic candidates in primary elections.
19. BASE LOAD REVIEW ACT OF 2007

WHEREAS, the issues associated with the failed nuclear power plant in Fairfield County began in 2007 with the passage of the Base Load Review Act of 2007, and
WHEREAS, the SCE&G customers are entitled to a rebate and reduced electric rates for the company’s bad decisions and failures, and
WHEREAS, SCE&G customers will be paying for the cost of these failed plants for decades to come without action by the General Assembly;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party support the immediate repeal of the Base Load Review Act of 2007.

20. SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC POSTAL SERVICE

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service serves 150 million households and businesses each day without any taxpayer funding, providing affordable, universal mail service to all, and
WHEREAS, good postal jobs are vital to strong, healthy communities, and have provided equal opportunities and the foundation for financial stability for workers from all walks of life, and
WHEREAS, the postal service ought to be organized around the principle that the public good must not be sacrificed for the sake of private investment and profit and that a strong public postal service is our democratic right;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party joins a grand alliance to save our postal service in the fight to protect and enhance vibrant public postal services now and for many generations to come.

21. WAGES AND THE WORKFORCE

WHEREAS, there is a lack of funding on the state level for specific secondary and post-secondary job training for skills needed in the 21st century economy, and
WHEREAS, equal pay for equal work is a fundamental component of social justice and economic development, and
WHEREAS, the United States has more wealth yet more income inequality than any other major developed country and, in 2017, 735,600 South Carolinians earned below the poverty level of $14,340 for a family of four;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports increased funding from the state government for career education and job training programs, as well as an increase in tuition waiver opportunities for technical schools and apprenticeship programs, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party affirm its commitment to equal pay for equal work, and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports legislation to create a minimum wage of $15 per hour.