



Resolutions Passed by the South Carolina Democratic Party Convention April 28, 2007

1. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party is committed to eliminating the impact of special interest money on elections in our State and Be it further resolved that the South Carolina Democratic Party will actively support the passage of legislation providing for public financing of elections for all statewide races and all races for State Senators and State Representatives.

2. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party is committed to support a comprehensive early childhood intervention package including funding that will provide for implementation in each of the eight plaintiff school districts in the case of Abbeville County school district , et al v. State of South Carolina , et. al., and implementation statewide for all children who qualify for a free or reduced lunch.

3. Resolved: That the South Carolina State Constitution should be amended to require an efficient, effective, safe and high quality public school system, and be it further resolved that the South Carolina Democratic Party is committed to a system of full and equitable State funding for public schools, and be it further resolved that the South Carolina Democratic Party is opposed to using tax dollars to support private K-12 schools.

4. Resolved: That any state general revenue surplus should be utilized to improve essential services such as education and the infrastructure rather than dispersing these funds as a tax refund.

5. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party calls on the state to protect the democratic voting process from programming error, equipment malfunction, and malicious tampering of DRE systems by installing voter verified paper records for every machine in use.

6. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party is committed to the introduction and active support of state legislation that provides a “living wage” for South Carolina’s workers. Specifically, such legislation should specify that the minimum wage paid to adult workers in South Carolina shall be an amount that when annualized, shall be the amount necessary to meet the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal

Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902 © for a person in a family or household of two people.

7. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party supports legislation making it easier for citizens to register and vote by establishing universal registration and early voting centers.

8. Resolved: That walkways and bike ways should be encouraged by appropriate state government actions.

9. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party support legislation that would require the counties of South Carolina to allow their taxpayers to pay real estate taxes after the receipt of the bill in increments, without penalty.

10. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party request that the Legislature of South Carolina make a commitment to the health benefit of its constituency with an increase in the cigarette tax at least equal to the median among the principal tobacco producing states with such resultant proceeds directed to; health care initiatives for those afflicted with traumas resultant from first or second hand exposure to tobacco use; and remedial agriculture assistance to tobacco growers who take substantial acreage from tobacco growing and replace it with agricultural products beneficial to the population.

11. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party support legislation that eliminates the sales tax cap on boats, cars and airplanes.

12. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party calls for legislation adopting sentencing alternatives for nonviolent crimes.

13. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party, is committed to equal treatment under the law for all citizens, opposes any amendments to the Constitution of the state of South Carolina that codifies discrimination in any form. We believe that family issues like good parenting, hospital visitation, and shared benefits are family business, regardless of gender, and should not be limited by the state Constitution.

14. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party call upon the State Legislature to not allow the Governor to cut Medicaid benefits to those who so desperately rely on that help or to alter the current Medicaid system without State Legislative support.

15. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the Home Rule authority of local governments to establish and enact local land use regulations and is opposed to state mandated authority particularly with regard to the establishment of setback requirements for large, commercial poultry Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations.

16. Resolved: That the State Party recognizes the rights of parents to provide private, religious or home schooling but private educational operations must be conducted with private not public funds.

17. Resolved: That a dialogue begin between the US and Cuba with the goal of resuming economic and diplomatic relations between the two countries.

18. Resolved: That State law must be strengthened to ensure that the definition of “public use” categories in the exercise of eminent domain be clearly defined and limited.

19. Resolved: That the Democratic Party oppose "Takings" or any other legislation that reduces municipal and county governments' ability to govern in the public interest.

20. Resolved: That the Democratic Party supports removal of the financial burden for youthful offenders from municipalities, and that the cost of incarceration at the Department of Juvenile Justice of youthful offenders be paid by the state.

21. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party opposes any legislation imposing requirements in addition to those in the constitution on candidate for county offices.

22. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party opposes any increase in the state sales tax.

23. Resolved: That the Democratic Party of South Carolina opposes any and all efforts to undermine science education in South Carolina public schools, especially through the introduction of intelligent design or creationism. The Party also calls upon the State Legislature, the Governor and the Superintendent of Education to oppose the same.

24. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the U.S. Federal Government to permit and generously fund stem cell research.

25. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party commends the State Legislature’s passage of breastfeeding rights legislation and calls upon the State Legislature and the Governor to build upon this effort to include protections for employed mothers and to actively promote breastfeeding in the State.

26. Resolved: That the United States Government should begin withdrawing U.S. Forces so that all U.S. Forces are removed from Iraq no later than December 31, 2007 and that the U.S. Government should ask the United Nations and NAO to provide any other assistance that the Government of Iraq may require.

27. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party calls upon the Congress of the United States to establish an independent prosecutor who will be responsible for investigating unlawful surveillance and wiretapping activities by the present administration and calls upon said prosecutor to prosecute all violations of civil liberties by the government and its representatives to the fullest extent of the law.

28. Resolved: Whereas South Carolina workers are denied the right to fully benefit from collective bargaining because of the Right to Work Act. Therefore be it resolved that the South Carolina Democratic Party encourages lawmakers to repeal the Right to Work Act.

29. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party will work for universal health care coverage.

30. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party will push for improvements in military and Veteran pay, disability compensation, health care and other benefits.

31. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party opposes out-sourcing state jobs to other countries.

32. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party supports a woman's right to reproductive choice and the freedom to make decisions concerning her health.

33. Resolved: That the South Carolina Democratic Party supports renewal of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act making it permanent.

34. Resolved: That the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2002 was enacted with the laudable goals of raising student achievement and closing achievement gaps among various subgroups of students. All children should be taught by highly qualified, caring teachers who help bring out the potential of all children. NCLB is set to be reauthorized in this 110th Congress and provides policy makers an opportunity to amend provisions of the law. The South Carolina Democratic party supports the goals of No Child Left Behind, but is concerned about the impact of some of its provisions. NCLB requires annual testing in reading and math and bases school accountability decisions on those two tests administered one day out of the year. NCLB does not currently allow states to design accountability systems which look at multiple measures of student learning and school effectiveness. NCLB does not allow schools to use growth in student achievement over time to meet federal accountability requirements. NCLB eliminated the class size reduction program. NCLB does not allow master teachers certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to be deemed "highly qualified" and should provide more opportunities to place highly qualified teachers in our nation's public school classrooms. The South Carolina Democratic Party strongly supports public education and advancing educational opportunities for all children. Now therefore, be it resolved, that the South Carolina Democratic Party strongly urges Congress to amend the No Child Left Behind to allow the use of multiple measures to assess student learning and school effectiveness, to restore class size reduction program to give students more individualized attention, and to increase the number of highly qualified teachers in our nation's public schools.

35. Resolved: That Party resolutions have a preamble that states: The Platform and Resolutions of the South Carolina Democratic Party reflect the values and beliefs of South Carolina Democrats and shall provide guidance to Party officers, staff, candidates, and the general public as to the principles of the South Carolina Democratic Party.

36. Resolved: South Carolina Democrats have five long-term goals for our state that we believe will dramatically increase our chances of success in the global economy of the 21st century. These goals cannot be reached immediately, but we believe they are attainable within two to four years if we begin now.

We believe that education is the key to our long-term success. If we don't fix our education system, nothing else really matters. Therefore our long-term goals are:

1. **Commitment to World Class Learning-** pass a Constitutional Amendment to establish a 'top quality, world class' education system instead of a 'minimally adequate' system as the state's standard for public education.
2. **Ready to Learn-** create universal statewide 4 year old kindergartens with adequate support services in health and nutrition to ensure that all children are ready to learn.
3. **Unlimited Learning-** provide universal access to unlimited learning and job skills training for colleges, graduate schools or tech schools- regardless of an individual's wealth. With a combination of financial aid, tax credits, loans and community service, everyone should be able to get all the education and job skills required to help them develop to their full potential.
4. **Universal Minimum Health Care-** ensure a minimum level of health care for everyone. There is no single best way to achieve this goal. Many states are experimenting with different methods. Two of the most promising are the universal minimum health insurance plans enacted by Republican governors in Massachusetts and California. Regardless of the specific policy formula chosen, the goal should be the same- a minimum level of healthcare for all.