

Indiana Democratic Party (IDP) Resolutions

The following resolutions were drafted by the Indiana Democratic Party or by State Convention delegates and were passed out of the Resolutions Committee at the Convention on Saturday, June 16, 2018. Following their passage by the Resolutions Committee, they were included in the Committee's report and passed by the Convention body at the General Session that afternoon.

These non-binding resolutions that were passed express a sense of the Convention body.

Resolution Number and Title

(Resolution number is indicated at the bottom right of resolution.)

IDP Res. 2018-01: Remembering Democratic Party Members

IDP Res. 2018-02: Concerning the IN Dept. of Child Services

IDP Res. 2018-03: Concerning Teacher Pay

IDP Res. 2018-04: Concerning Redistricting & Election Reform

IDP Res. 2018-05: Concerning an End to Violence

IDP Res. 2018-06: Concerning Veterans & Military Service Members

IDP Res. 2018-07: Honoring Organized Labor

DR 2018-01: Gender Equality Resolution

DR 2018-05: Direct Votes by State Delegations on Resolutions

DR 2018-08: Democrats Unite: Support of the Unity Reform Commission

DR 2018-10: Inclusion of Dreamers and Undocumented Hoosiers

NDR 2018-01: Concerning the Affordable Care Act

NDR 2018-02: Concerning Establishment of a Women's Caucus

Note:

IDP Resolutions drafted by the Indiana Democratic Party staff.

DR Resolutions drafted by State Convention Delegates and submitted by June 4 submission date.

NDR Resolutions drafted by State Convention Delegates and submitted after June 4 submission date.

RESOLUTION REMEMBERING DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERS

WHEREAS Many members of our Democratic family passed away since our last biennial State Democratic Convention; and

WHEREAS The men and women who left us served their communities, state and the Democratic Party with honor and worked to make Indiana a welcoming place for all Hoosiers; and

WHEREAS They fought to move our state forward and championed causes that helped improve our quality of life, expand the middle class, fight for full equality for all, protect education and grow the Hoosier economy; and

WHEREAS Because of their collective leadership over the years, Indiana is a better place to live, work, and raise a family, and their presence will be greatly missed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Indiana Democratic Party keeps those we have lost in our thoughts and prayers, and will never forget these men and women who fought for justice, peace, equality, and fairness for all Hoosiers.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES

WHEREAS The Indiana Democratic Party supports and advocates for the highest quality of life for all residents, including the most vulnerable Hoosiers – children; and

WHEREAS Indiana had 29,315 children in foster care during fiscal year 2016, according to federal data from the Administration for Children and Families, and the Department of Child Services has systematically failed to protect children and Governor Eric Holcomb and Republicans alike have admitted to the disastrous issues within the department and committed to inaction; and

WHEREAS Indiana has half the population of Illinois and twice the number of abused and neglected children in the system.

WHEREAS An 18-month old boy from Anderson County died in January from injuries reported in December, which should have been followed up by a DCS worker; and

WHEREAS DCS workers visited a home just two hours before a two-month old child tragically died; The numerous examples of inadequate training and funding leading to a crisis statewide that has left children vulnerable; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Indiana Democratic Party recognizes the long-lasting impact of the Department of Child Services and is committed to working towards policies that yield better training of staff and workers, effective procedures, and increased funding to save lives and give children a chance at a future.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING TEACHER PAY

WHEREAS The Indiana Democratic Party continues to fight for higher pay for teachers across the state as they deserve compensation that measurably reflects the time and dedication they have given to students, communities and Hoosier families; and

WHEREAS Average teacher pay in Indiana dropped by 15 percent between 2000 and 2017, the largest drop in the nation; and

WHEREAS Indiana faces a teacher shortage with 94 percent of school districts experiencing a teacher shortage in 2017; and

WHEREAS Hoosier Democrats stand with teachers and for the increase of funding to schools to support higher pay and attract the best and most qualified educators to work in our schools; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Indiana Democratic Party appreciates the hard work of teachers in the classroom and in the community to prepare young Hoosiers for the future. Hoosier Democrats believe teachers deserve nationally-competitive compensation to reflect the value they add to families across Indiana and will continue to negotiate for better policies to make this possible.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING REDISTRICTING & ELECTION REFORM

WHEREAS, American democracy is built upon fair, competitive elections. In 2014, Indiana had the dubious honor of the lowest voter turnout in the nation; and

WHEREAS, partisan redistricting, or gerrymandering, limits Hoosiers' and Americans' ability to participate in the democratic process and dilutes an individual's vote; and

WHEREAS, Indiana has some of the shortest voting hours and most restrictive voting requirements in the country; and

WHEREAS, outside interests with the deepest pockets have undue influence on the outcome of elections; and

WHEREAS, to restore the integrity of Indiana's electoral process, Indiana must embrace redistricting reform, expand access to the ballot box and reform campaign finance; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: It shall be the policy of the Indiana Democratic Party to endorse redistricting reform and support legislative efforts to replace the current process with a truly independent redistricting commission. True reform also means making it easier for Hoosiers to cast their ballot. Hoosier Democrats will support policies to extend polling hours, make voter registration automatic for eligible citizens, expand vote by mail and add early voting locations. Hoosier Democrats will advocate for changes to campaign finance laws to eliminate the extraordinary influence exercised by special interests and the wealthy.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN END TO VIOLENCE

WHEREAS On Saturday, June 16, the Indiana Democratic Party is holding its biennial Democratic Convention, where delegates from across the state of Indiana will gather together,

WHEREAS At this Convention, the Indiana Democratic Party will pass a platform that encompasses the goals and values of our Party, which include earning a livable wage, strong public schools, universal access to affordable care, safe and secure communities and fair elections,

WHEREAS The Party will gather just days after an act of violence struck a middle school in Noblesville, bringing a nationwide epidemic all too close to home,

WHEREAS After countless acts of senseless violence resulting from acts of terror and hate since we last gathered at the 2016 Democratic Convention leave us shocked and saddened,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Indiana Democratic Party urges our elected officials to continue the fight to pass commonsense legislation to end violence of any kind against innocent Americans,

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER That this legislation be comprehensive in examining mental health, acts of hate, enforcing background checks, strengthening child access prevention laws and closing the gun show and terrorist watch list loopholes so that our country may eventually see a reduction in senseless violence against Americans.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING VETERANS AND MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS

WHEREAS The Indiana Democratic Party honors those who serve in our United States military and Indiana National Guard and Air National Guard, as well as those who have served; and

WHEREAS Indiana Democrats continue to applaud the sacrifices of these individuals and their families to serve our nation and to defend and protect the principles of democracy, principles we as a party hold in the highest regard; and

WHEREAS it is our steadfast belief that we must continue to be committed to giving our brave men and women the tools to succeed in whatever endeavor our nation faces either at home or abroad.

WHEREAS Our party is committed to providing our aging and newly returned veterans the benefits they deserve and more importantly, have earned, protecting the safety of our citizens; and

WHEREAS our duty to those who serve our nation does not end when they leave that service: we must guarantee that our veterans have access to the health benefits, education and job opportunities we promised to them.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Indiana Democrats say thank you to the men, women and families of our armed forces for their sacrifice and commitment to defending our nation's freedom.

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE
MEN AND WOMEN OF ORGANIZED LABOR**

WHEREAS, we must recognize organized labor's critical role in building Indiana's middle class. Labor unions have fought for fair wages, good benefits and safer workplaces.

WHEREAS, as a result, every Hoosier worker enjoys the benefits organized labor fought so hard for and won.

WHEREAS, stronger labor unions strengthen the entire workforce. They are instrumental in raising wages for Hoosiers across the economy.

WHEREAS, the right of workers to bargain collectively drives wages higher and fuels the growth of the middle class. "Right to Work" laws and other attempts to diminish Hoosier workers' rights have led to stagnant income growth. Restoring prevailing wages laws will help turn lagging wage growth around. It's time to end Republicans' war on working men, women and families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Indiana Democratic Party will fight for Hoosier workers' right to organize. Our Party stands proudly with the men and women of organized labor and believes unions are the pathway to a stronger middle class.

Gender Equality Resolution
For consideration by the
2018 Indiana Democratic Party's Convention Resolutions Committee

Submitted by: Kim Saylor
Marion County Delegate

WHEREAS the Indiana Democratic Party has continually fought for all Hoosiers to live free from discrimination;

WHEREAS the Indiana Democratic Party is committed to gender balance in the Party leadership positions;

WHEREAS Democrats and our Party are leading the charge nationally to fight for equality for all;

AND WHEREAS the Indiana Democratic Party strives to be inclusive of every Hoosier's sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we hereby encourage the State Central Committee to consider updating Party Rules so that the following offices are gender diverse as indicated below:

- Precinct committeeperson and Vice Precinct Committeeperson
- County Chairs and County Vice Chairs
- District Chairs and District Vice Chairs
- State Chair and State Vice Chair

Each set of offices should continue to be of different gender identity. In instances where an individual is non-binary, the alternation position shall be of any gender.

Resolution 1 – Direct Votes by State Delegations on Resolution**Category of Resolution: Transparency and Inclusion****Source: #CD3IdeaBox**

Whereas the Indiana Democratic Party is committed to transparency and inclusion,

Whereas the Delegation of the Indiana Democratic State Convention represents the largest meeting of Democrats in the State of Indiana,

Whereas each Delegate voice should be considered,

Whereas counting convention votes on the convention floor is difficult,

Whereas State Convention Delegates traditionally vote for National Delegate or contested statewide elections on voting machines,

Be it resolved that the delegation of the 2018 Indiana Democratic State Convention supports the following practice:

Starting in 2020, all properly submitted Resolutions during State Conventions shall be voted on individually by private ballot, by the Delegates of the State Convention. Results of the resolution voting will be summarized and considered by the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee will report the results to the Convention Floor for final approval of the body.

DR 2018-05

Resolution 4- Democrats Unite- Support of the Unity Reform Commission
Category of Resolution: Inclusion and Equality
Source: #CD3IdeaBox

Whereas the recommendations of the Unity Reform Commission are pending within the rules process of the Democratic National Committee,

Whereas the candidate receiving the most popular vote in the 2016 Indiana Democratic Primary received zero superdelegate votes from Indiana,

Whereas the Indiana Democrats need to come together to ensure long term success.

Be it resolved that:

The 2018 Indiana Democratic Party State Convention Delegation supports full passage of the recommendations of the Unity Reform Commission, including the reduction in unpledged delegate/superdelegate votes by over 400 votes and / or supports full passage of the recommendations of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee Proposal from June 2018 which limits the role of superdelegates.

Clinton: Hard Total Earned from the Primary Result = 39 Delegates

Sanders: Hard Total Earned from the Primary Result = 44 Delegates

Unpledged/Superdelegates for Indiana = 9

Floor Voting for Clinton: 48 Delegates

Floor Voting for Sanders: 43 Delegates

Abstention on Floor: 1 Delegate

Resolution 6- Inclusion of Dreamers and Undocumented Hoosiers
Category of Resolution: Inclusion
Source: #CD3IdeaBox

Whereas including all voices is a priority of the Indiana Democratic Party,

Whereas the Indiana Democratic Party supports policies that Impact Dreamers and undocumented Hoosiers,

Whereas Dreamers and undocumented Hoosiers are unable to register to vote,

Whereas Dreamers and undocumented Hoosiers are currently unable to serve as Indiana Democratic Party State Convention Delegates,

Be it resolved that:

Pending legal review, to promote inclusion and to welcome Dreamers and undocumented Hoosiers formally into the Indiana Democratic Party, starting in 2020, voter registration is not a requirement to serve as a State Convention Delegate by appointment by a county chair.

- Elected delegates must be registered voters.
- Appointed delegates can be Dreamers or undocumented Hoosiers.
- The County Chair may certify the appointed person's Party affiliation.

Reference:

Indiana Democratic Party Rules

Rule 8. Eligibility for Membership & Party Offices

- (a) Any legally qualified Indiana voter who supports the purposes of the Party may be a member.
- (b) Except where prohibited by law of these Rules, any bona fide Party member may participate fully in Party meetings and be elected to Party office.
- (c) A party member may only be a candidate for precinct committee person or state convention delegate if:
 - 1) His or her most recent primate election in Indiana in which the candidate voted was in the Democratic party primary; or
 - 2) The Democratic Party county chair of the county in which the person resides certifies that the person is a Democrat.

DR 2018-10

**RESOLUTION OF THE DELEGATES OF THE INDIANA DEMOCRATIC
PARTY GATHERED IN CONVENTION IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
ON SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2018**

Whereas, we Hoosier Democrats have strongly been supportive of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) which, in addition to extending Medicaid coverage to an additional 400,000 of our fellow Hoosiers, has as one of its primary features ensuring that those who are in the private insurance marketplace are not locked out of coverage due to pre-existing health conditions, and

Whereas, it is reliably estimated that on average 27% of those under the age of 64 have a pre-existing health condition such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer or arthritis and the ACA has eliminated the anxiety and worry of over a million and a half Hoosiers who no longer have to fear that an insurance company will refuse coverage to them, and

Whereas, Hoosier Republicans - while they have long opposed the ACA and Republican members of Congress from Indiana have voted numerous times over the past eight years to repeal the ACA - have always claimed they would preserve one of the most popular portions of the Act, that of ensuring that those with pre-existing health conditions cannot be denied coverage, and

Whereas, President Trump promised voters in 2016 during a presidential debate, also during a “60 Minutes” segment aired after the election and even to a Joint Session of Congress in February 2017 that he would insist that pre-existing conditions be covered in any repeal bill and he even tweeted on September 20, 2017 that he would not sign “Graham-Cassidy if it did not include coverage of pre-existing conditions,” the Trump Justice Department one week ago filed a brief in a pending federal court case in Texas that claims that because the individual mandate no longer contains a tax penalty (thanks to the Trump tax bill) the protection for pre-existing conditions must be struck down as well, and

Whereas, even Vice President Pence pledged to skeptical voters a week before the 2016 election that the GOP ticket would “protect Americans with pre-existing conditions” and yet the Trump-Pence Justice Department has filed the above noted legal brief that would shred that pledge, and

Whereas, Hoosier Republicans claimed they would repeal the ACA while preserving protections for those with pre-existing conditions, yet Republican Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill has filed suit along with Republican attorneys general in 19 other states seeking to have provisions such as the guarantee on pre-existing coverage declared null and void, and

Whereas, the actions of the Trump-Pence Administration through the Jeff Sessions-led Justice Department and litigation brought by our own Indiana Attorney General represent a clear and unmistakable breach of faith with voters who trusted and relied on promises made to them during the 2016 campaign that the protections for pre-existing conditions would not be touched, and yet the GOP’s actions represent the worst kind of bait-and-switch with the electorate and speak loudly of Republican efforts to weaken protections for the sick and vulnerable.

NDR 2018-01

NOW THEREFORE, WE, THE DELEGATES GATHERED TODAY IN CONVENTION, RESOLVE TO STAND UNITED AND TO WORK TIRELESSLY TO ELECT DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL WHO ARE COMMITTED TO PROTECTING AND DEFENDING ALL PROVISIONS OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND IMPROVING THE STATUS OF HEALTHCARE IN AMERICA WITH MEDICARE FOR ALL, INCLUDING THIS MOST SACRED COVENANT WITH VOTERS – THAT OF GUARANTEEING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THOSE WITH PRE-EXISTING HEALTH CONDITIONS.

Respectfully submitted by:

James Wieser, Chairman, Lake County Democratic Party

Jeff Chidester, Chairman, Porter County Democratic Party

Jim Kimmel, Chairman, LaPorte County Democratic Party

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT WOMEN'S CAUCUS

WHEREAS, Women in Indiana continue to be marginalized and discriminated against as evidenced by the widening gender wage gap, threatening of reproductive and health services, lack of affordable quality childcare, infant and maternal mortality rates at twice the national average, and continuing lack of prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence against women; and

WHEREAS, Women are more likely to live in poverty than men; and

WHEREAS, Women carry the burden of unpaid labor caring for Indiana families; and

WHEREAS, Women are more likely to work part-time, low-wage jobs in order to care for children and are therefore more likely to be ineligible for health care, retirement, and investment benefits; and

WHEREAS, more Women are needed to engage in the political process to effectuate legislation that advances women's issues;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Indiana Democratic Party will establish a permanent Women's Caucus that will have representative voting member of on the State Central Committee and organize throughout the nine Indiana Congressional districts.