

Resolutions Adopted by the Indiana Democratic Party’s
2020 State Convention Resolutions Committee

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IDP CR: Indiana Democratic Party Committee Resolution (Offered by the Party)
CSR: Committee Sponsored Resolution (Offered by a Member of the Resolutions Committee)

RESOLUTION CONCERNING BLACK LIVES MATTER & JUSTICE REFORM

WHEREAS, The Indiana Democratic Party supports the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, supports the thousands of Hoosiers who have participated in multiple peaceful demonstrations to stand in solidarity with the Black community, and understands that Black lives matter; and

WHEREAS, During this tumultuous time, the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus released an agenda focused on justice reform action steps designed to seek change in the halls of state government; and

WHEREAS, The Indiana Democratic Party joins the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus in calling for the following reforms:

1. Urging Governor Holcomb immediately to issue an executive order banning law enforcement from using chokehold restraints, or other means of restraint that cut off the ability to breathe. This executive order must include specific repercussions officers will face for violating this ban.
2. If Governor Holcomb refuses to issue an executive order to ban chokeholds, we urge Indiana mayors, city councils, and chiefs of police to each immediately establish a local policy that outlaws the use of a chokehold restraint, or other means of restraint that cut off the ability to breathe. Additionally, we urge Indiana mayors, city councils, and chiefs of police to immediately require all patrol officers to use body cameras. Body cameras must be turned on at all times while a law enforcement officer is interacting with a member of the public and is actively on duty.
3. Urging Governor Holcomb immediately to establish a Statewide Criminal Justice Commission and to appoint diverse civilian representatives from across Indiana, including from cities, towns, and rural areas with African American populations, to examine Indiana's criminal justice system, and to recommend comprehensive criminal justice reform, including eradicating racist policing policies and practices. We expect these recommendations to become bills that get passed in the 2021 Indiana Legislative Session.
4. Urging Indiana mayors, city councils and chiefs of police immediately to establish local Independent Civilian Review Boards, with members selected by local community activist groups and civilians, to review public complaints of police violence.
5. Urging Governor Holcomb immediately to establish a publicly accessible database cataloging law enforcement officers' use of force, including the use of lethal and nonlethal force and weapons; and

WHEREAS, The Indiana Democratic Party supports the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus in its efforts to craft a legislative action plan during the 2020 Summer to seek input statewide on legislation addressing these matters in a number of areas, such as lethal force, racial profiling, mental health and implicit bias, dispute resolution and de-escalation training for officers, and other areas. The Indiana Democratic Party also joins our Indiana Congressional representatives in supporting similar legislation in Congress, and innovative oversight policies that will help ensure collaboration with members of our local communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Indiana Democratic Party understands that Black lives matter, that the Indiana Democratic Party leads with our values in helping ensure that Black Hoosiers are protected under Indiana law, and that the Indiana Democratic Party stands in solidarity with those demonstrating for peace and justice.

RESOLUTION REMEMBERING INDIANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERS

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

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

WHEREAS, These individuals sought to move Indiana forward, and championed causes to promote full equality for all, protect education, expand the middle class, grow the Hoosier economy, and improve the quality of life for all Hoosiers; and

WHEREAS, Because of their collective leadership over the years, Indiana is a better place to live, work, and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, The presence of these individuals is and will continue to be greatly missed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Indiana Democratic Party offers our profound gratitude to members of our Democratic family who passed away since our last biennial State Democratic Convention, and we pledge never to forget these individuals who fought for justice, peace, equality, and fairness for all Hoosiers.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING TEACHER PAY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, The Indiana Democratic Party continues to fight for higher pay for public school teachers across the state as Hoosier teachers deserve compensation that measurably reflects their qualifications and skills, and the time and dedication they give 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 92 percent of school districts experiencing a teacher shortage in 2019¹; and

WHEREAS, The Indiana Democratic Party demands increased funding for Hoosier public schools and higher pay for teachers to continue to attract the best and most qualified educators to work in our schools;

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. The Indiana Democratic Party will continue to fight for increased funding for Indiana public schools, and for Hoosier teachers to receive fair and equitable compensation comparable to positions requiring higher education.

*1: ISU Survey: Indiana Teacher Shortage Continues, Tribute-Star, Published September 28, 2019

https://www.tribstar.com/news/local_news/isu-survey-indiana-teacher-shortage-continues/article_4bb28ade-d607-5085-8fab-f8677ec85948.html

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 among some of the shortest voting hours and most restrictive voting requirements in the country; and

WHEREAS, Special interest groups with deep pockets have undue influence on the outcome of Indiana 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;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The Indiana Democratic Party supports expanding access to the ballot box, including policies to extend polling hours, making voter registration automatic for eligible citizens, and expanding no-excuse vote by mail and early voting locations. Hoosier Democrats will advocate for changes to campaign finance laws to eliminate the extraordinary influence exercised by wealthy special interest groups.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN END TO VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, On Saturday, June 13, the Indiana Democratic Party is holding its biennial Democratic Convention, where delegates from across the state of Indiana will gather together virtually; and

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

WHEREAS, The Party will gather virtually as demonstrations across the country show that Americans and Hoosiers are angry that the cycle of violence lurches on and thousands go unheard; and

WHEREAS, After countless acts of senseless, hate-based violence resulting from foreign and domestic terror since we last gathered at the 2018 Indiana Democratic Party State Convention leave us shocked and saddened; and

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; and

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 SERVICEMEMBERS

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

WHEREAS, The Indiana Democratic Party continues to applaud the sacrifices of these individuals and their families who serve our nation by defending and protecting the principles of democracy—principles we as a Party hold in the highest regard; and

WHEREAS, The Indiana Democratic Party steadfastly commits to giving our brave servicemembers the tools to succeed in whatever endeavor our nation faces either at home or abroad; and

WHEREAS, The Indiana Democratic Party is committed to providing our aging and newly returned veterans the benefits they deserve and, more importantly, have earned; and

WHEREAS, The Indiana Democratic Party recognizes the duty to those who serve our nation does not end when they leave that service: veterans must have guaranteed access to the health benefits, education, and job opportunities we promised to them, and that they deserve;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Indiana Democratic Party expresses a hearty “thank you” to the servicemembers and their families for their sacrifice and commitment to defending our nation’s freedom, and pledges to support military members during and after their service.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING PROTECTION FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS AND ORGANIZED LABOR

WHEREAS, The Indiana Democratic Party recognizes organized labor's critical role in helping to build Indiana's middle class by fighting for fair wages, good benefits and safer workplaces; and

WHEREAS, Every Hoosier worker enjoys the benefits organized labor fought so hard for and won; and

WHEREAS, Stronger labor unions strengthen the entire workforce and are instrumental in raising wages for Hoosiers across the economy; and

WHEREAS, When Indiana workers enjoy their right to bargain collectively, wages grow higher and this fuels the growth of the middle class. Legislation curtailing collective bargaining, such as so-called "Right to Work" laws, diminish Hoosier workers' rights and have caused Hoosier incomes to decline. For wages to grow, prevailing wage laws must be restored. It is time to end Republicans' war on working families; and

WHEREAS, The global pandemic has laid bare the need for stronger workplace protections. It is not enough to call workers heroes; employers must be required to pay a fair wage and must be held accountable for keeping workers safe; and

WHEREAS, Governor Holcomb has failed to uphold his charge to keep Indiana workers safe, as he underfunded the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA), and he failed to hire an adequate number of workplace safety investigators; and

WHEREAS, Republican state administrations have fought to dismantle the organized labor movement through the passage of the so-called "Right to Work" law, by the repeal of the Common Construction Wage law, and through the war on Indiana's public schools and educators;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Indiana Democratic Party will fight for Hoosier workers' right to organize. The Indiana Democratic Party stands proudly with the Labor Movement and believes unions are the pathway to a stronger middle class. The Indiana Democratic Party pledges to hold Governor Holcomb accountable for his failure to keep workers and workplaces safe and for his failure to fully fund IOSHA. Additionally, the Indiana Democratic Party will hold Republicans accountable for their efforts to destroy organized labor by harming the economic well-being and safety of Hoosier workers.

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING DRIVER’S CARDS FOR UNDOCUMENTED
HOOSIERS**

Category: Inclusion

Source: Lauro Alberto Zuniga,

2020 Indiana Democratic Party (IDP) State Convention Delegate – Noble County,

2020 IDP Resolutions Standing Committee Member (CD3)

2020 IDP Affirmative Action Committee member for the 2020 State Convention

WHEREAS, The Indiana Democratic Party supports undocumented Hoosiers by advocating for in-state tuition for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)¹ recipients, accepts both DACA holders and DREAMERS as appointed state convention delegates only if vacancies exist within their county delegation after the primary election², and recognizes the \$500 million USD economic impact DACA recipients contribute to the Hoosier economy³; and

WHEREAS, Democratic legislators introduced legislation during the 2020 Session of the Indiana General Assembly – Senate Bill 419 by State Senator David Niezgodski (SD-10)⁴ and House Bill 1083 by Representative Chris Campbell (HD-26) and Representative Earl Harris (HD-02)⁵ – following years of similar legislation being introduced and suggestions from grassroots immigrant rights organizations; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Conference on State Legislatures⁶, fifteen states and the District of Columbia have enacted similar legislation for their undocumented immigrant populations; and

WHEREAS, The Indiana Democratic Party firmly believes in investing in Hoosiers, safe and strong communities, equality and justice for all by protecting the rights of all Hoosiers, and securing the future of our most vulnerable Hoosiers⁷;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the body of the 2020 Indiana Democratic State Convention continues to support Indiana’s undocumented population by supporting the issue of driver’s cards and driver's cards learner permits and will support legislative initiatives to make driver’s cards and driver’s cards learner permits a reality for all undocumented Hoosiers.

¹ “A World Class Public Education” – 2018 Indiana Democratic Party Platform, pg. 12 <<http://www.indems.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-IDP-Platform-FINAL-AS-PASSED-AT-CONVENTION.docx.pdf>>

¹ “Resolution 6- Inclusion of Dreamers and Undocumented Hoosiers Category of Resolution: Inclusion” – 2018 Indiana Democratic Party Resolutions, pg. 12 <<https://www.indems.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2018-State-Convention-Resolutions-Passed-Final1.pdf>>

¹ “An Economy That Works for All Hoosiers” – 2018 Indiana Democratic Party Platform, pg. 08 <<http://www.indems.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-IDP-Platform-FINAL-AS-PASSED-AT-CONVENTION.docx.pdf>>

¹ Senate Bill 419 <<http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2020/bills/senate/419>>

¹ House Bill 1083 <<http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2020/bills/house/1083>>

¹ “States Offering Driver’s Licenses to Immigrants” – National Conference of State Legislatures

<<https://www.ncsl.org/research/immigration/states-offering-driver-s-licenses-to-immigrants.aspx>>

¹ 2018 Indiana Democratic Platform <<http://www.indems.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-IDP-Platform-FINAL-AS-PASSED-AT-CONVENTION.docx.pdf>>

**Resolution Recognizing the 51st Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the June
Celebration of Pride Month**

Category: Inclusion

Source: **Nickolas Dunlap**

- 2020 Indiana Democratic Party (IDP) State Convention Delegate - Wayne County
- 2020 IDP Resolutions Standing Committee Member - Indiana Stonewall Democrats
- Secretary of the Indiana Stonewall Democrats
- 6th District Chair for the Indiana Young Democrats

Katie Doyle

- 2020 IDP State Convention Delegate - Marion County
- 2020 IDP Resolutions Standing Committee Member - Indiana Young Democrats
- 2020 IDP Affirmative Action Committee Member
- Vice President of the Indiana Stonewall Democrats
- Treasurer of the Indiana Young Democrats

Lauro Alberto Zuñiga

- 2020 IDP State Convention Delegate – Noble County
- 2020 IDP Resolutions Standing Committee Member - Indiana’s 3rd Congressional District
- 2020 IDP Affirmative Action Committee Member

Dayna Colbert

- 2020 IDP State Convention Delegate – Hamilton County
- 2020 IDP Resolutions Standing Committee Member - Indiana’s 5th Congressional District
- Chairwoman for the Hamilton County Young Democrats
5th District Chair for the Indiana Young Democrats

Sofia McDowell

- 2020 IDP State Convention Delegate – Monroe County
- 2020 IDP Resolutions Standing Committee Member - Indiana Democratic Latino Caucus
- 9th District Vice President for the Indiana Democratic Latino Caucus

WHEREAS, The month of June is recognized internationally as Pride Month to commemorate the Stonewall Riots, which began on the 28th of June, 1969, as the NYPD raided the Stonewall Inn and arrested many; and

WHEREAS, On June 8, 2020, the City of Indianapolis's City-County Council proudly recognized June 2020 as Pride Month to honor the historic relevance of the black, brown, and transgender activists who had actually organized the six-day Stonewall Riots; and

WHEREAS, Brave persons, particularly transgender women of color such as Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, stood up to injustice on June 28th, 1969, which sparked an uprising against the NYPD, with confrontations and protests at the Stonewall Inn and the surrounding area lasting until the 3rd of July, 1969; and

WHEREAS, The Stonewall Riots inspired thousands of LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer\Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and plus) and nonbinary persons to emerge from the shadows and come out publicly as they stood up for their community on the 28th of June, 1969, and beyond, putting their lives and safety at risk; and

WHEREAS, Despite the progress made since the Stonewall Riots, members of the LGBTQIA+ community have been the target of biased policing and remain at significant risk of violence and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, According to the annual hate crime report published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, LGBTQIA+ persons, particularly LGBTQIA+ persons of color, continue to be the target of bias-motivated violence, and efforts to address this violence may be hindered by a continued lack of trust in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, No person in the United States should have to fear being the target of violence because of who they are or whom they love; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Indiana Democratic Party recognizes the 51st Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, continues to condemn violence and discrimination against members of the LGBTQIA+ community from anyone, recommits itself to securing justice, equality, and well-being for LGBTQIA+ persons in Indiana,

continues to fight for a more fully comprehensive hate crimes bill in the General Assembly, and commends the bravery, solidarity, and resiliency of the LGBTQIA+ community in the face of violence and discrimination, both past and present.

Resolution Concerning safety for persons with disabilities at protests

Category: First Amendment, Accessibility

Author: Robin Grimm

Sponsor: Lauro Alberto Zuñiga,

2020 Indiana Democratic Party (IDP) State Convention Delegate – Noble County,

2020 IDP Resolutions Standing Committee Member (CD3),

2020 IDP Affirmative Action Committee member for the 2020 State Convention

Co-Sponsors: Lindsay Brown and Sofia McDowell

WHEREAS During protests all participants, including persons with disabilities, are allowed to gather peacefully pursuant to the Indiana State Constitution and the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS When police are informed that a person has a disability or injury, that law enforcement respond in accordance with laws that protect persons with disabilities instead of using excessive force; and

WHEREAS Any person with disabilities has the right to assemble and protest; persons with disabilities should not have to fear for their safety; and

WHEREAS Every Hoosier regardless of race or ability deserves to be treated with basic human decency;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Indiana Democratic Party supports peaceful protests and that persons with disabilities should be fully afforded opportunities to protest in Indiana, and to not be met with violence and force from law enforcement. Law enforcement should have regulations on the tactics used and have bans on military actions and weaponry used on American citizens, particularly persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities should be able to peacefully protest, just like their peers and not feel like they are in danger.