

Indiana Democratic Party (IDP) Draft Resolutions

The following resolutions were drafted by the Indiana Democratic Party for consideration by the Resolutions Committee at their June 10 and June 13 meetings.

Resolution Number and Title

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

IDP CR 01: Remembering Democratic Party Members

IDP CR 02: Concerning Black Lives Matter & Justice Reform

IDP CR 03: Concerning Teacher Pay

IDP CR 04: Concerning Redistricting & Election Reform

IDP CR 05: Concerning an End to Violence

IDP CR 06: Concerning Veterans & Military Service Members

IDP CR 07: Protection for Workers Rights and Organized Labor

RESOLUTION REMEMBERING 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 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 BLACK LIVES MATTER & JUSTICE REFORM

WHEREAS The Indiana Democratic Party supports the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus and supports the thousands of Hoosiers who have participated in multiple peaceful demonstrations to stand in solidarity with the Black community and that we understand 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 take place 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 Eric Holcomb to issue an immediate executive order to immediately ban law enforcement from using chokehold restraints, or other means of restraint that cut off the ability to breathe, as a means of effectuating an arrest in Indiana. This order must include specific repercussions officers will face for violating this ban.
2. If there is no action by the Governor, we urge Indiana mayors, city councils and chiefs of police to 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, as a means of effectuating an arrest in Indiana. Additionally, we urge these entities to immediately implement the use of body cameras for all patrol officers and require them to be on at all times.
3. Urging the Governor to immediately establish a Statewide Criminal Justice Commission, including a diverse appointing of civilian representatives from the cities with significant African American populations, to examine every aspect of our state's criminal justice system and recommend comprehensive criminal justice reform, including the eradication of racist policing policies. We expect these recommendations to become bills that get passed in the 2021 Legislative Session.
4. Urging Indiana mayors, city councils and chiefs of police to establish local Independent Civilian Review Boards, with members selected by local community activist groups, to review public complaints of police violence; and

WHEREAS the Indiana Democratic Party supports the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus in its efforts to craft a legislative action plan during the Summer of 2020 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. The Party also joins with our federal representatives in supporting similar legislation in Congress, as well as innovative oversight policies that will ensure collaboration with those in our communities.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Indiana Democratic Party understands that Black lives matter, and that we lead with our values in making sure every single Hoosier is protected safely under the laws of our state, and we stand in solidarity with those demonstrating for peace and justice.

IDP CR 02

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 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 public 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 13, the Indiana Democratic Party is holding its biennial Democratic Convention, where delegates from across the state of Indiana will gather together virtually,

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 virtually as demonstrations across the country show that Americans and Hoosiers are angry that the cycle of violence lurches on and thousands go unheard,

WHEREAS After countless acts of senseless violence resulting from acts of terror and hate since we last gathered at the 2018 State 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 CONCERNING PROTECTION FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS
AND 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 families.

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

WHEREAS, Governor Holcomb has underfunded the Indiana Occupation Safety and Health Administration, failed to hire an adequate number of workplace safety investigators and, as a result, failed to uphold his charge to keep Indiana workers safe.

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 THAT: The Indiana Democratic Party will fight for Hoosier workers' right to organize. Our Party stands proudly with organized labor and believes unions are the pathway to a stronger middle class. We will hold Governor Holcomb accountable for his failure to keep workplaces safe and push to fully fund the IOSHA to ensure workers can get the job done safe and hold Republicans accountable for their efforts to destroy organized labor by harming the economic well-being and safety of workers.

IDP CR 07