

# Florida Democratic Party

## 2019 Adopted Resolutions

### **Resolution Title:** Campaign Finance Reform

**WHEREAS**, under current law, private interests such as large corporations and wealthy individuals can give virtually unlimited donations through dark money groups, which may result in parties and elected officials becoming beholden to such interests and not the needs of the people they're elected and sworn to serve; and

**WHEREAS**, dark money groups allow money to be transferred between organizations, create a subterfuge around donation restrictions, and functionally determine "leadership" roles throughout Florida's government, based on fundraising records or influence, not aspects of competent public service or good character such as honesty or integrity; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, in order to eliminate pay-to-play cronyism and ideally one day restore public trust in our system of government, our State and federal government should enact legislation that effectively separates political action committees from parties and public officials or candidates, and that prohibit any political donation that exceeds what an individual can give directly to a campaign and any increases in either amount should be tied to increases in the minimum wage; and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, to rebalance and restore a system more representative of the people's voice and interests by considering publicly funded elections and/or "democracy credits," helping to dilute the severely inappropriate influence dark money has on Florida's government.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Florida Democratic Party continue to advocate for small dollar donations, a constitutional amendment overturning Citizens United and a further constitutional amendment stating that money does not equal speech.

### **Resolution Title:** Demand Clean Water

**WHEREAS** Florida's current water policy cannot sustain the anticipated consumption of nine billion gallons of water a day, as expected by the anticipated population growth in the year 2030;

**WHEREAS** 2.6 million septic tanks and aging wastewater systems statewide, biosolids spread near drinking water supplies and stormwater contaminated with fertilizer nutrients, pesticide toxins and roadwash pollution, all continue to harm our waters and threaten the health of not only our ecosystems but millions of Floridians and visitors every year;

**WHEREAS** harmful algal blooms, fish kills, marine life mortalities and reports of cancer clusters due to contaminated land and groundwater directly threaten the stability of Florida's tourism, growth and real estate industries and property values;

**WE RESOLVE** to support immediate actions to monitor and eliminate harmful human impacts and restore our waters and ecosystems through 1) effective investment in wastewater infrastructure upgrades (advanced filtration and septic-to-sewer connections where appropriate); 2) investing in best available technology (such as biogas energy) to process human waste onsite, thereby eliminating the need to process biosolids elsewhere; 3) ending the practice of for-profit corporations drawing substantial amounts of water from our aquifer system / drinking water supply, practically free; 4) implementing effective measures to assure septic systems are only permitted where appropriate (having no effect on Florida's groundwater or surface water systems); and 5) to conduct routine and widespread water quality tests to immediately notify Floridians of any

health threats from toxins produced by cyanobacteria, carcinogens dumped by industrial recklessness, or pathogens leached from shoreline neighborhoods with failing wastewater infrastructure.

**WE RESOLVE** to adequately protect our waters, we support communities' rights in reclaiming home rule authority and recognizing and protecting the inherent rights of nature, as we have done for corporations, as a reflection of our shared values and interests.

**Resolution Title: Resolution to Reestablish the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps on the 2020 Democratic Federal Election Platform**

**WHEREAS**, a reestablished 21st Century Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) should be made a part of the 2020 Federal Election Platform; and

**WHEREAS**, the reestablished CCC as domestic policy would be a real National service, annually providing employment for more than 300,000 citizens of military age and older Native Americans and Veterans as CCC enrollees to perform needed work on our environment and natural infrastructure and also be first responders in disaster relief; and

**WHEREAS**, CCC conservation work projects would be of sound fiscal policy to mobilize resources for our nation's climate emergency. Their work would promote sustainable and regenerative environmental projects such as planting trees, fighting forest fires, developing and safeguarding watersheds for clean drinking water, flood and soil erosion control, and other projects to heal our nation's land and marine environments. After work, enrollees would be provided with recreation or vocational activities or classroom education programs that would enable them to enter the private and public sector with competence and confidence; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that The Florida Democratic Party supports this resolution to reestablish the United States Civilian Conservation Corps, the popular New Deal agency under the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and calls upon the National Democratic Party to include this proven domestic policy for inclusion on the Federal Election Platform of all running for Federal Office in 2020 and beyond.

**Resolution Title: Supporting the Admission of Puerto Rico as a state of the United States**

**WHEREAS**, 3.2 million U.S. citizens live in the territory of Puerto Rico, who are denied equal rights simply because, under Article IV of the U.S. Constitution, Congress has the absolute power to make rules and regulations for the U.S. territories. U.S. citizens living in Puerto Rico do not have full representation since they cannot vote for the U.S. President, nor do they have elected representation in the U.S. Congress, except for a non-voting delegate called Resident Commissioner.

**WHEREAS**, 250,000 Puerto Ricans have moved to Florida, in particular Central Florida, between 2010-2018 mostly due to lack of opportunities, unequal treatment, and the devastation suffered with the passing of Hurricane Maria. A poll made by ALG Research on March 2019 among Puerto Rican registered voters in Florida revealed their vast support for Puerto Rico statehood. More than three-fourths of respondents support Puerto Rican statehood (77% yes / 15% no / 9% don't know). Statehood also has broad, bipartisan support: 73% of Democrats, 84% of Republicans, and 78% of voters registered as No Party Affiliation.

**WHEREAS**, the 2016 Democratic Party Platform declared that "Democrats believe that the people of Puerto Rico should determine their ultimate political status from permanent options that do not conflict with the Constitution, laws and policies of the United States" and that "Puerto Ricans should be able to vote for the people who make their laws, just as they should be treated equally..." The Democratic National Committee unanimously approved a resolution endorsing statehood for Puerto Rico during its October 2017 meeting in Las Vegas. DNC Chairman Tom Perez also expressed his personal view in favor of the admission of Puerto Rico as a state of the Union.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Democratic Party of Florida supports the self-determination expressed by our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico in their quest to acquire equal rights by becoming a state of the United States.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Democratic Party of Florida hereby calls upon our duly elected members of the U.S. Congress, to support the admission of Puerto Rico as a state of the United States.

**Resolution Title: Supporting the Rights of the Developmentally Disabled**

**WHEREAS**, Florida has approximately 34,500 children and adults with a developmental disability such as spina bifida, autism, cerebral palsy, Prader-Willi syndrome, and intellectual disability. This number represents 0.15% of our total population receiving supports and services through the iBudget / Home and Community Based Services Waiver. These individuals would not even qualify for this waiver unless they meet the criteria for institutional care and their care has to cost less than institutional care.

**WHEREAS**, Florida has approximately 22,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities on a waiting list, many waiting for services not just for months or years, but decades. The combined total of those receiving services and those waiting for services comprise 0.25% of Florida's total population.

**WHEREAS**, Florida is currently ranked 50th in the nation in total fiscal effort of its iBudget / Home and Community Based Services Waiver and the state is now calling for a redesign of how this program works. This redesign includes capping amounts individuals could spend annually on services designed to ensure that they are able to remain in their homes and communities.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Florida Democratic Party supports individuals with developmental disabilities and recognize their right to lead meaningful, productive lives included in their communities as respected citizens.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Florida Democratic Party opposes any cuts, reduction of services or caps to services to Florida's most vulnerable population.

**Resolution Title: Housing Floridians**

**WHEREAS** a Florida resident, on average, needs to work 108 hours per week at minimum wage to afford a two-bedroom apartment;

**WHEREAS** Florida is home to three of the most rent-burdened metropolitan areas in the nation; and Central Florida is suffering from severe affordable housing shortages, with only 13 affordable and available rental homes for every 100 extremely low-income renter households;

**WHEREAS** Republican administrations and legislation have directly undercut the power of local governments to responsibly plan for sufficient affordable housing for their residents;

**WE RESOLVE** that dedicated revenue streams through the Sadowski Act should be protected from legislative raiding and political compromises, while enabling creative solutions such as abandoned property use or greater discretion to local authorities to help resolve community homelessness.

**WE RESOLVE** that home rule authority and due deference should be returned to local governments to responsibly plan for and manage best ways to meet the affordable housing needs of their low-income residents and working families.

## **Resolution Title: Recognizing the contributions of Hispanics in Florida**

**Summary:** The Florida Democratic Party recognizes the contributions and the connection Hispanics have in Florida, dating back centuries before the founding of the United States.

Resolution Language:

**WHEREAS,** The FDP recognizes the connection and the deep roots Hispanics have in Florida, dating back centuries before the founding of the United States.

**WHEREAS,** Florida is home to the third largest Latino population in the country with nearly 5 million Latinos and growing.

**WHEREAS,** the FDP supports and will expand Hispanic representation within the FDP leadership and elected offices.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** The FDP aims to build more-inclusive leadership within the party and will support a more-inclusive bench, one that reflects the ever growing Latino population in Florida.

## **Resolution Title: Resolution on Common Sense Gun Reform**

**WHEREAS,** the right of the people to bear arms under the Second Amendment is subject to reasonable regulation through appropriate legislation to protect public safety; and

**WHEREAS,** the Florida Democratic Party believes that it is irresponsible for legislators not to take reasonable action to reduce the epidemic of gun violence that uniquely afflicts our nation and terrorizes local communities on a regular basis, including but not limited to: the 2018 Parkland Massacre, the 2016 Pulse Massacre, and the tens of thousands of people who are killed by community Gun Violence, like 2 year old Carnell Williams-Thomas, killed in 2017 and 17 year old Noricia Talabert Killed in 2015 in South Miami Dade County.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY:**

We are committed to the long-term goal of reducing gun violence and ensuring Gun Safety through Common Sense Gun Reform.

## **Resolution Title: Resolution Condemning President Trump's Racist Acts and Comments**

**WHEREAS,** America was conceived by its Founders as a haven for people fleeing from persecution around the world, whose Founders emphasized their belief that America gained from attracting people seeking freedom and opportunity and, until today, our nation's presidents, regardless of party or philosophy, have all embraced the idea and fact that immigration has been a powerful, positive force throughout our nation's history for making and keeping our nation great and unique; and

**WHEREAS,** Native peoples, immigrants, enslaved African-Americans and all their descendants, most of whom came to this country seeking freedom and a better life without great wealth or education, have made America stronger; it is beyond question that immigration has defined and propelled our nation's progress and vitality, making it so important a national value and indispensable source of our national strength and continued greatness that our dedication to it is forever inscribed on the base of The Statue of Liberty; and

**WHEREAS,** Florida's population is a remarkably diverse community made stronger by this diversity, it is incumbent upon the Florida Democratic Party to not stand silent but to unequivocally stand with the United

States House of Representatives in its condemnation of President Trump's ignorant and blatantly bigoted and racist comments directed against naturalized Americans and Americans of color.

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED** that in solidarity with the United States House of Representatives and with the ideals of our nation and aspirations of the people of Florida, the Florida Democratic Party affirms its belief that:

1) immigrants and their descendants, as well as descendants of Native people and enslaved African Americans, have made America stronger, and that those who newly take the oath of citizenship to this nation are every bit as American as those whose families have lived in the United States for generations; America must remain open to those lawfully seeking refuge and asylum from violence and oppression, no matter their race, ethnicity, faith, age, or country of origin to retain our strength, diversity, and moral leadership; and

2) the majority of members of the United States House of Representatives were right to condemn President Donald Trump's racist actions and comments that have legitimized and increased fear and hatred of new Americans and people of color.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED** that in celebration of our diversity, the Florida Democratic Party will identify Notable individuals to be recognized during Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, Women's Month, International Disability Day, Pride Month, and all the groups that form the fabric of the State of Florida and the United States. (We must create a full list.)

### **Resolution Title: Hurricane Recovery and Disaster Preparation Resolution**

**Summary:** The Florida Democratic Party believes that Hurricane Michael victims, like all victims of Climate Change, should receive help and support to restore their homes, lives, and communities. In addition there is a clear need for comprehensive preparedness and disaster resilience measures throughout Florida and other areas.

**WHEREAS**, Climate change is a reality, on October 10, 2018, one year ago, category 5 Hurricane Michael landed between Mexico Beach and Panama City decimating the Florida Panhandle. Hurricane Maria, a category 5, devastated Puerto Rico; Hurricane Irma tore through South Florida, and Hurricane Dorian destroyed our Bahamian neighbors. All of these disasters bring harm and struggle to Floridians. Once news coverage fades, people move on, while survivors in the region continue to face the long and expensive process of healing and recovery.

**WHEREAS**, the current Republican leadership has failed at both the state and federal level to respond to those impacted by natural disasters. The people and property of Northwest Florida, Central Florida, South Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Bahamas all share the struggle of devastation in many areas; their people, properties, and communities continue to fight for survival, transitional housing, basic healthcare including mental health, and restoration of their economy. They remain in need of improved public policy focused on "best practices" for preventing, restoring, rebuilding, and recovering in Florida.

**WHEREAS**, insurance companies in the State of Florida specifically have denied, delayed, and underpaid too many claims; contractors and hurricane victims struggle for transitional housing, and too often it appears this is the result of bad faith. Litigation, appraisal, along with other remedies, are often too lengthy and cumbersome for property owners, who just wish to restore their lives and return to their homes and communities. This lengthy process further delays compensation to victims and fails to incentivize prompt claim payment, which then further victimizes survivors.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the FDP supports a full response to survivors of Hurricane Michael, Maria, Irma, and Dorian, and their ongoing efforts to restore their homes and businesses. This includes policy initiatives that provide for timely payment of insured party claims, in addition to supporting efforts to address the uninsured and underinsured with low/no-interest loan options.

**FURTHER, WE RESOLVE** that comprehensive hurricane harm reduction measures be integrated into future public policy related to regulatory efforts and prevention measures.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that prevention and preparedness measures are to be supported by policymakers based on best practices to minimize the losses and reduce recovery time and cost, should another major disaster hit Florida directly or near her borders. Additionally, to protect the lives and property of all Floridians, the FDP supports Florida lawmakers in taking all possible actions to restore, rebuild, and prevent future harms and property loss, and to always remember those in our Panhandle, and those in the above said regions, who are still struggling to recover.

### **Resolution Title: A Resolution Opposing Symbols of Racism and Hate Speech**

**WHEREAS**, Symbols of racism and hate speech have no place in a civil society and symbols of racism and hate speech have been proven to motivate individuals to act in a hateful manner in both words and deeds, leading to great harm in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Lake County's Board of County Commissioners voted to support the import and display of the General Edmund Kirby Smith Confederate statue in the same building where the Groveland Four, recently pardoned by the Florida Clemency Board, were beaten and two of whom were killed by the racist Sheriff Willis McCall and brutal mob; and

**WHEREAS**, "Hate Speech" by anyone, but especially by government officials, like that most recently finding humor in public threats of harm/death toward the LGBTQ+ community, is totally unacceptable, especially as it relates to the LGBTQ+ community in a "Post Pulse" Florida, where 49 were murdered and 53 more were injured in a mass shooting in Orlando Florida.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Florida Democratic Party condemns the import, display, and glorification of any/all Confederate statues within the State, as they stand as symbols of hate, racism, white nationalism, and rebellion; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Florida Democratic Party stands in support of justice and equality with and for the LGBTQ+ community. We reject hateful words and deeds directed at the LGBTQ+ community and their allies, and support all efforts of Florida Democratic Party members to hold elected officials accountable in any manner possible for their participation in destructive, transphobic, or hate-driven words or actions.

### **Title: Health Care is a Human Right**

**WHEREAS**, health care is a human right; and

**WHEREAS**, socioeconomic factors should not be a determining factor in access to quality health care; and

**WHEREAS**, poverty should never be the cause of death; and

**WHEREAS**, despite spending more per capita than any country in the world, the United States has worse health outcomes when compared with other countries in the areas of maternal mortality, infant mortality, life expectancy, diabetes, heart disease, and preventable deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, too many Americans are one medical crisis away from bankruptcy, or are forced to choose between rent and life-saving medical treatments; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Florida Democratic Party shall fully support and advocate for a guaranteed right to universal health care which includes, but is not limited to: treatment for HIV-AIDS and communicable diseases, immunizations, mental health and substance misuse, capped-price insulin, and a full range of women's health care services, including abortion; and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that our right to quality health care supersedes the right to profit through a convoluted, costly and inefficient system; and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, the Florida Democratic Party recognizes health care as a human right.

### **Resolution Title: Resolution to Protect and Expand Voting Rights**

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Democratic Party believes that voting is a sacred and fundamental right that must be protected from domestic and foreign interference. Maximizing voter participation is a Democratic core principle and we support policies that expand voter participation.

**WHEREAS**, our inclusive Democratic Party intrinsically values all voters' participation because we believe voting is both a right and responsibility for each and every person, and understanding the will of each voter is paramount; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida GOP-led state legislature has demonstrated time and again their hostility to voting rights;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Florida Democratic Party supports expanding voting rights by joining 16 other states in adopting Automatic Voter Registration, which helps eliminate voter fraud and saves taxpayers money, allowing same-day registration and changes at the polls, and demanding ongoing transparency around election security by expanding voting audits, and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that Florida Democrats will work to keep polls open longer, consider implementing ranked choice voting, foster just-in-time voter education at the polls, and supporting the creation of a national holiday for elections; and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that to expand voter access, Florida Democrats should continue and expand its efforts to register as many as possible of the 1,000 new voters moving into our state everyday, with particular emphasis on the Puerto Rican community and those returning citizens, who recently had their voting rights restored by the people of Florida, in spite of GOP efforts to restrict the will of the voters; and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that the Florida Democratic Party stands in opposition to such gimmicks as the Universal or "jungle" primary, which would increase the influence of big-spending special interests and billionaires, reward those parties that are most effective in limiting choices from that Party, and which is the only system that can produce two general election choices that a majority of voters have already rejected.

## **Resolution Title: Resolution Supporting Immigration, Immigrant Rights, and Dreamers**

**Summary:** The Florida Democratic Party supports passing compassionate immigration policies that are consistent with the values of freedom, opportunity, and respect for human rights that our country seeks to uphold.

Resolution Language:

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Democratic Party believes immigration enriches our country and our state, where one in five residents is an immigrant, and supports an immigration policy guided by love rather than fear that honors America's call to the word's "huddled masses yearning to breathe free";

**WHEREAS**, immigrants are equal members of our communities and contribute to our economy. We are a nation of immigrants: diversity makes our nation stronger, not weaker.

**WHEREAS**, these Dreamers are valuable, law abiding and positively contribute to our society, many as outstanding students, teachers, employees and members of the military; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Florida Democratic Party supports comprehensive immigration reform that addresses fairness, family reunification, and a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in our communities, and is consistent with the values of freedom, opportunity, compassion, and respect for human rights that we uphold.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, the Florida Democratic Party affirms that the United States must remain a beacon of opportunity open to people of all faiths and backgrounds and should offer shelter to refugees fleeing war, persecution, famine, and the horrific results of natural disasters.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEREBY RESOLVES** as follows: that Dreamers are children of undocumented immigrants who live in this country, who are now between the ages of 12 and 35 and of good moral character, have complied with the registration requirements of the Selective Service Act, and if 18 years of age or older have graduated from an American high school, obtained a GED, or been admitted to an institution of higher education and should be granted:

1. "conditional" U.S. resident status subject to reasonable requirements such as graduating from a two-year community college, completion of at least two years toward a four-year college degree, or two years of service in the US military; and
2. that after this conditional period, those who meet at least one of these requirements would be eligible to apply for and be granted permanent resident status, which would eventually allow them to become U.S. citizens.

## **Resolution Title: Climate Change Requires Comprehensive Public Policy and Education to Protect Floridians**

**Summary:** The Florida Democratic Party (FDP) resolves to support public policy and education that connects reversing climate change with serving the full range of Democratic goals and values.

**WHEREAS**, scientists agree that climate is changing and that human civilization is largely responsible for the current changes through the burning of fossil fuels and the release of other greenhouse gases;

**AND WHEREAS** greenhouse gas emissions and climate change are causing the melting of ice sheets, the warming of oceans, the rise of sea level, the acidification of oceans, the increasing strength, frequency, and duration of many weather-related disasters across the globe, but especially in coastal states like Florida, the intrusion of salt water into coastal aquifers, and the migration northward of biomes and tropical diseases and other deleterious effects;



**AND WHEREAS** climate change associated sea level rise and precipitation changes increase the frequency of flooding in coastal areas, lowers water quality, damages economic stability, hurts agriculture and tourism-related employment, lowers real estate values, drives economic impacts related to health, infrastructure, insurance, electricity, water resources, agriculture, and ecosystems, forces human migration and immigration, and can make chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease and asthma, deadlier;

**AND WHEREAS** vulnerable populations including those with low incomes, some communities of color, immigrant groups, Indigenous peoples, children and pregnant women, older adults, vulnerable occupational groups, persons with disabilities, and persons with preexisting or chronic medical conditions suffer disproportionately from climate change impacts, are more at risk for displacement, suffer disproportionately from climate economic impacts related to health, infrastructure, electricity, water resources, agriculture, and ecosystems, are most at risk for displacement, and are the targets of violence, especially in times of climatic stress;

**AND WHEREAS** climate change topics have been ignored or actively denied in the past and are neither adequately covered in Florida schools, nor adequately discussed by local and state governments;

**AND WHEREAS** the socioeconomic impact of doing nothing is too great to bear, both in dollars and human struggle;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the FDP views climate change not as a single issue but rather as an umbrella issue under which the full range of Democratic priorities and values can and must be advanced in order to preserve humanity. Therefore FDP hereby supports a comprehensive and integrated public policy initiative that reflects the needs of communities affected by and at risk due to climate change.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that appropriate curriculum regarding climate science, prevention of global warming, mitigation of potential damage, adaptation to rising sea levels and the possible need for evacuation and migration will be developed and incorporated into State Standards for every grade level from elementary through high school;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that classroom and science teachers throughout Florida will be trained in climate science so that they can adequately respond to citizen inquiries on these topics.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that FDP commits to support public policy that recognizes climate change is the reality of all Floridians and will encourage Democratic representatives to consider how climate change mitigation and adaptation can be incorporated into state legislation, including the transition of electric utilities to 100% renewable energy by 2035 and develop a state-level program to support the carbon fee & dividend concept.