

Resolutions considered by the Global Meeting of the DPCA: London, 21 April 2013

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- Resolution on Nuclear Energy
- Resolution supporting an Objective System of Nonpartisan Redistricting
- Resolution creating a Travel Stipend to Increase Diverse Participation at Global DPCA Meetings
- Standing Resolution on DPCA Membership Database Management Procedures, Membership Verification and Penalties for non-Compliance

Some of these resolutions were referred to DPCA committees. For more details, please contact Will Bakker, International Secretary.

Resolution on Gun Control

Proposed by Connie Borde (France). Adopted by DPCA Executive Committee. Adopted by the DPCA general membership at the Global Meeting in London, 21 April 2013.

WHEREAS the continued killing of our fellow citizens, including most recently little children in Newtown, CT, in gruesome displays of violence has been made possible by the widespread availability of automatic and semi-automatic weapons;

WHEREAS the Democratic Party states in its platform that it will seek reasonable and commonsense regulation of firearms;

WHEREAS the repetition of violent episodes involving automatic or semi-automatic guns in public places has become an untenable threat to the health, well-being and safety our fellow US citizens and residents in the United States;

BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad urges the DNC to take all necessary and appropriate steps to place at the top of the legislative agenda of the Democratic Party, and that of its elected officials in both state and federal governments, the immediate implementation of the Democratic Party Platform position on Firearms to adopt “reasonable regulation”, and in particular “to enact commonsense improvements – like reinstating the assault weapons ban and closing the gun show loophole” in order to protect the lives and the liberties of US citizens and residents.

Resolution on Democrats Abroad Country Committee Election Procedures

Proposed by Merrill Oates (Hungary). Substitute resolution proposed by Peter Alegi (Italy), John Eastwood (Taiwan) and Merrill Oates (Hungary), and adopted by the DPCA general membership at the Global Meeting in London, 21 April 2013.

WHEREAS open, free, and fair elections are the cornerstone of the democratic process;

WHEREAS the Democratic Party Committee Abroad (DPCA) seeks to be a model of the democratic process and meet the highest standards of integrity and transparency in our elections at all levels of the organization;

WHEREAS the DPCA Charter (Section 2.3) grants the DPCA Executive Committee the authority to "adopt such rules for elections as it deems necessary from time to time. Such rules shall also apply to elections conducted by the Regions and the Country Committees";

WHEREAS there is established precedent (as in the case of the Code of Conduct) for DPCA as a body to endorse and re-affirm relevant rules and guidelines already passed by the DPCA Executive Committee;

WHEREAS concerns about election violations in the past have underlined the need for formalized and clearly articulated minimum election standards that are applicable to all levels of the organization;

BE IT RESOLVED that the principles and standards set out in the Democrats Abroad Country Committee Election Procedures, are useful tools for helping Democrats Abroad Country Committees ensure open, free, and fair elections throughout DPCA;

AND LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the DPCA Executive Committee promptly form a Task Force to study our country committee election needs, to consult our membership, and to make recommendations to update and to ensure that these procedures remain relevant to the organization.

Resolution on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Proposed by Martha McDevitt-Pugh (Netherlands), Bob Bragar (Netherlands), John Chudy (Guatemala) and Wayne Weightman (Cambodia). Amended and adopted by the DPCA general membership at the Global Meeting in London, 21 April 2013.

WHEREAS The United States of America has been shaped fundamentally and positively by immigrants;

WHEREAS Americans who live abroad have a special interest in the quality of our immigration system;

WHEREAS family unity has always been a fundamental cornerstone of American society, yet current immigration laws undermine this unity;

WHEREAS US citizens who currently live abroad often face undue and cruel delays and restrictions in returning, or traveling, to the United States with their foreign-citizen spouses, partners and family members;

WHEREAS, due to outdated policies, American citizens and legal permanent residents must often wait years to be reunited with their closest family members;

WHEREAS America's immigration system urgently needs reform;

WHEREAS under current law same-sex spouses of US citizens are not recognized as family causing exile abroad of untold numbers of US citizens or forced long-term separation from loved ones;

Therefore, We:

FAVOR simplifying and expediting procedures for obtaining permanent US residence and citizenship for non-American spouses and close family members of US citizens;

FAVOR providing the immediate family members of US citizens living abroad who are seeking US visitor visas (B-1 and B-2) the maximum visa validity (currently 10 years) irrespective of the reciprocity tables applicable to the family members' country of residence;

CALL FOR passage of the Uniting American Families Act which would change immigration law to give US citizens with same-sex partners the same legal treatment as those with heterosexual spouses;

APPLAUD President Obama's 2012 Executive Order to stop the deportation of young immigrants, who contribute to our nation's common good;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT DEMOCRATS ABROAD supports President Obama's framework that would reform family-based immigration to reunite families in a timely and humane manner that is consistent with our values.

Resolution on Alice Germond

Proposed by Stanley Grossman (DNC Member, UK). Adopted by the DPCA general membership at the Global Meeting in London, 21 April 2013.

WHEREAS Alice Germond served for 11 years as Secretary of the Democratic National Committee. In that role she exemplified the ideal of a political leader dedicated to the highest principles of the Democratic Party;

WHEREAS Alice was a good friend of Democrats Abroad. She often travelled outside the US and always found the time to visit the local Country Committee. Those of us who had the privilege to attend events with her—whether in London, Paris, Madrid, Geneva, Rome, Hong Kong, Tokyo or a host of other cities—came away inspired by the example she set and the wise guidance she imparted;

BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad extend its warm thanks to Alice Germond for her strong unwavering support and, especially, for her warm friendship;

AND LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that Alice Germond will be welcome as a treasured guest when she visits any of the 164 countries and territories where Democrats Abroad has a presence.