*Prepared May 23, 2018*

Resolutions proposed by members for the General Meeting of the DPCA, May 26-27, 2018

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Dear DPCA Members,

Resolutions pertaining to the DA Charter have been referred to the DPCA Bylaws Committee.

The Resolutions Committee reviewed all these texts for consistency, redundancy and clarity, in the interests of favoring an efficient review prior to voting at the Global Meeting in May. We will give the report of our committee at the upcoming global meeting. The authors of each resolution consented to the text presented here.

DPCA Resolutions Committee: Susan Vaillant, Carol Adamson, Rick Wicks, Will Bakker

# Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) Resolution

Proposed by Shari Temple (DA-Germany) and Quaide Williams (DA-Germany).[[1]](#footnote-1)

WHEREAS the U.S. Constitution does not explicitly grant equal rights to women;

WHEREAS the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution was first introduced in Congress in 1923;

WHEREAS Congress passed the ERA in 1972 and, as required by the Constitution, sent it to the States for ratification;

WHEREAS only 35 of the required 38 States ratified the amendment to the Constitution by the specified deadline;

WHEREAS women’s rights, including but not limited to reproductive rights, are in jeopardy;

WHEREAS women’s wages are less than 80% of men’s wages and “equal pay for equal work” lacks any form of legal protection;

WHEREAS a Constitutional amendment would make explicit that equal rights for women are guaranteed and protected by the law of the land;

WHEREAS Democrats should build on the momentum generated following the election of Trump and the ongoing sexual harassment and abuse scandals highlighted by the #metoo movement;

WHEREAS the members of Democrats Abroad, living in over 190 countries in the world, include women voters in all 50 states;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad has expressed support in its 2016 Platform for revival of the campaign to ratify the ERA;

WHEREAS the Democratic Party Platform of 2016 similarly expressed support for revival of the campaign to ratify the ERA;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad shall initiate a campaign among its members to promote the passage of the ERA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad will urge the Democratic National Committee and the Party as a whole to strive for the enactment of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad will work with the DNC and the State parties to promote and support the campaigns to gain passage of the ERA.

# Resolution in support of Residence-Based Taxation

Proposed by Joe Smallhoover (DA France). Sponsored by DA Taxation Task Force.

Whereas, the United States taxes its citizens and residents on their worldwide income, unlike all other industrialized countries that tax income based on a principle of territoriality;

Whereas, the United States is the only country in the world (other than Eritrea), which taxes foreign sources income of citizens living outside the country based on a principle of citizenship-based taxation (CBT), resulting in double taxation on the same income of U.S. citizens residing outside the United States;

Whereas, in 2010 the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) was enacted into law to identify and apprehend U.S. taxpayers illegally avoiding paying taxes in the United States by moving untaxed earnings and assets into offshore accounts;

Whereas, FATCA, implemented in furtherance of CBT, has had serious negative consequences such as:

* Higher costs associated with hiring overseas American workers causing multinational corporations, including those headquartered in America, to hire fewer Americans abroad and thus decreasing American exports;
* Double-taxation and onerous tax preparation and compliance costs puting American job seekers at a significant disadvantage to other non-American workers;
* Financial institutions, both U.S. and foreign, denying access to banking and other financial services to overseas Americans, thus denying employment and investment opportunities and forcing them to choose between U.S. citizenship and their livelihood;

Whereas, the FATCA legislation has the unintended consequence of treating the many millions of honest Americans living outside the United States who are not trying to hide from taxation on an unfair par with tax evaders;

Whereas, the overwhelming majority of Americans living abroad have the same sorts of jobs as their friends and families in the United States and pay taxes on their earnings in their countries of residence;

Whereas, all other industrialized countries use residence-based taxation (RBT) to tax the income of their citizens and residents, thereby avoiding both double taxation and the need to engage foreign powers in tax enforcement of citizens living abroad;

Whereas, the Foreign Bank Account Report (FBAR) is mandated under rules established by the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act of 1970;

Whereas, the cost of enforcing CBT far exceeds the revenues it generates;

Whereas, an American living overseas has a legitimate need for local banking services within his or her own country of residence;

Whereas, Democrats Abroad fully supports efforts by the U.S. federal government to prevent financial crimes, including money laundering and tax evasion;

Whereas, the Internal Revenue Service has well-established guidelines for determining that an American is a bona fide resident of a foreign country;

Whereas, the findings of an October 2017 survey by Democrats Abroad of U.S. citizens of all political preferences residing abroad indicate that 84% of survey participants support a switch from Citizenship Based Taxation to Residency Based Taxation, which would not impact the taxation of their U.S.-sourced income which they would continue to report[[2]](#footnote-2);

Whereas, according to witness testimonies before a congressional hearing in April of 2017, being subjected to taxation by two jurisdiction and banking service discrimination are the main reasons for Americans living abroad renouncing U.S. citizenship;

Be it resolved that, the Democrats Abroad supports ceasing taxation based on citizenship and supports the universally-accepted notion of taxation based on the residence of the taxpayer;

Be it further resolved that Democrats Abroad calls on the Democratic National Committee to recognize the serious taxation problems faced by Americans living abroad and calls on Congress to

1) amend the Internal Revenue Code to abolish taxation based on citizenship and instead adopt Residency-Based Taxation, a system in which Americans living outside the U.S. would continue to declare income generated in the U.S. but would be exempted from reporting to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) income earned in their country of residence,

2) exempt U.S. citizens residing outside the United States from FATCA reporting of accounts in their countries of residence, and

3) reform to FBAR regulations for Americans abroad, especially by reducing the out-of-proportion penalties for non-willful non-compliance.

# Resolution in support of amending the section on Trade in the Democrats Abroad Platform

Proposed by Julia Bryan (DA Czech Republic). Sponsored by DA Hispanic Caucus.

WHEREAS, existing language in the Democrats Abroad Platform as adopted in 2016, currently states:

“SUPPORT legal and economic incentives to increase export opportunities for small--‐ and medium--‐sized U.S. businesses in order to stimulate (i) their economic growth, (ii) the employment of more workers in well--‐paying jobs, and (iii) their social responsibility in matters of labor rights and fair trade,”[[3]](#footnote-3) then

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Democrats Abroad calls on Congress and the Administration to increase export opportunities for small- and medium-sized U.S. businesses, as well as the prioritization of women- and minority-owned U.S. businesses, for the purposes listed in the current Democrats Abroad Platform;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad rejects irresponsibly announced “trade wars” that neglect the effect of careless declarations and reckless policies on small-and medium-sized, and women- and minority-owned U.S. businesses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad intends to update the aforementioned language in its next Platform with the following amended statement:

“SUPPORT legal and economic incentives to increase export opportunities for small-and medium-sized, and women- and minority-owned U.S. businesses in order to stimulate (i) their economic growth, (ii) the employment of more workers in well--‐paying jobs, and (iii) their social responsibility in matters of labor rights and fair trade.”

# Resolution for DA to submit a resolution to the DNC requiring Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials (PLEO) to cast their Presidential primary ballots in proportion to the popular vote in their home states

Alternate title: **Promotion of Fair Representation by All Automatic Delegates (“Superdelegates”), including Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials (PLEO)**

Proposed by Susan Alksnis (DA Canada).

**Whereas** diminishing radical right wing Republican majorities at all levels of government is critical in the 2018 and 2020 elections to halt the grave threats facing democracy in American and to safeguard our democratic institutions such as the judiciary, independent press, representational elections, etc.

**Whereas** winning elections by Democratic candidates requires securing votes from Independent voters and other voters who now outnumber members of the Democratic Party,

**Whereas** trust in the Democratic Party by independents and democratically-aligned voters was significantly eroded over the course of the 2016 Democratic Presidential Primary and General Election,

**Whereas** a significant number of Americans feel that the Democratic Party institutions are out of touch with average Americans and have unfair, undemocratic processes; many Americans have stopped voting altogether because they do not believe candidates are willing or able to advance the peoples’ will, and mistakenly view the two major political parties as equally repugnant; and increasing numbers of Americans are calling for a third party,

**Whereas** the DNC members elected by Democrats Abroad cast their 2016 Presidential primary ballots in reverse proportion to the outcome of DA’s global primary.  DA increased primary participation by 50% in 2016 (over 2008), but the trust of these newly engaged voters was immediately threatened when DA’s superdelegates cast 75% of their ballots for Clinton and only 25% for Sanders, bringing the overall DA ballots cast for Sanders at the convention to 59% -  diminishing the voice of our state voters by 10% - from 69% to 59%

**Whereas** restoring public trust in the Democratic Party, will enable it to regain its strong following and truly work toward positive change in America, genuinely seeking and following the will of voters and collaborating with like-minded civic organizations across the country.

**Whereas** renewed trust in Democratic Party processes and policies for average Americans has the potential to help DA recruit many more of the estimated 6.7 million Americans eligible to vote overseas, many of whom are hungry for an organization they can passionately support to bring positive, forward-moving change to the US., and thereby tip numerous states and districts from red to blue,

**Whereas** the DNC established the Unity Reform Commission to ensure the presidential nominating “process is accessible, transparent and inclusive”, and yet instructed that PLEOs “remain unpledged and free to support their nominee of choice,” which perpetuates an outdated, maligned, misunderstood, and undemocratic system that weakens the voices of voters and grass roots organizers, and damages public perception of the Democratic Party as democratic and in line with the best interests of everyday Americans,

**Whereas** requiring all delegates to cast their ballots in proportion with the primary/caucus election outcome in their home states will support the Unity Reform Commission’s mandate to: “consider and make appropriate recommendations as to: (1) how to make the party and its candidates more competitive in all regions of the country; (2) how to make the DNC and state parties full and accountable partners in the process of mobilizing voters and winning elections at all levels; (3) how to support and oversee Democratic efforts in legislative and congressional reapportionment and redistricting to ensure Democratic majorities in state legislatures and in Congress; (4) how to broaden the base of the party and empower rank and file Democrats at the grassroots level; and (5) how to expand the DNC’s donor base (a) to make it less dependent on large contributions, (b) to get more people invested in the party, and (c) to enable the party to support important electoral programs,”

**Whereas** a number of state Democratic Party committees have passed resolutions to eliminate all unbound/unpledged delegates, and additional state parties have debated such resolutions or submitted them for future conventions,

**Whereas** eliminating unbound/unpledged delegates asserts powerfully and publicly the Democratic Party’s firm commitment to the core democratic principle of one person-one vote, that all votes have equitable weight.

**Whereas** Democratic Party leaders and grassroots volunteers and members proclaim the importance of unifying and reforming the Party to mobilize democratically-aligned Americans – wherever they are, whatever their circumstances – to join with Democrat candidates in making our country truly a land of opportunity and compassion for everyone, not just those at the very top,

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Democratic Party Committee Abroad calls on the Democratic National Committee to amend their rules and delegate selection plans, prior to the 2020 Presidential election cycle, to require that all automatic delegates (“superdelegates”), including Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials (PLEOs) be pledged on a first ballot to cast their votes in the same proportion as the popular vote in their home state primary election or nominating caucus; and

**Therefore be it further resolved** that the Democratic Party Committee Abroad’s representatives to the Democratic National Committee are urged to propose and support changes in the delegate selection processes to require that all automatic delegates (“superdelegates”, including PLEO’s) in each state vote in the same relative proportion as the popular vote in the presidential primary or caucuses of the state they represent at least on a first ballot at the Democratic National Convention; and

**Therefore be it further resolved** thatDA’s DNC members be required to cast their Presidential primary ballots in proportion to the popular vote in DA’s Global Presidential Primary.

# Debt Relief

Proposed by Eric Jackson (DA Panama).

Whereas Donald Trump has gone bankrupt four times, and if you count businesses bearing his name and in which he has or had an interest, such as the former Trump Ocean Club in Panama, through front people or entities he has had even more bankruptcies. Yet tens of millions of Americans struggle under student loan and credit card debts with little chance of any relief in bankruptcy. And,

Whereas, the difficulty escaping debts incurred under different economic times or upon promises and presumptions that did not materialize means in its aggregate that many Americans are forced into servitude that wastes their potential contributions to the society and the economy. And,

Whereas, the situation gets all the worse when some states take away citizens’ right to vote over debts owed to state or local governments, and when the federal government threatens to take away citizens’ right to travel over tax debts.

Be it therefore resolved that Democrats Abroad opposes disenfranchisement over debts, and the denial or revocation of passports over debts.

Further, that Democrats Abroad urges Congress to revise the bankruptcy laws to give ordinary Americans parity with the advantages that Donald Trump has enjoyed.

# ResolutionHonoring Stanley Grossman upon His Passing Away

Proposed by Joe Smallhoover (DA France), Julia Bryan (DA Czech Republic), and Inge Kjemtrup (DAUK).

Whereas Stanley Grossman served for many years on the Executive Committee of Democrats Abroad UK.

Whereas Stanley Grossman served as the International Treasurer of Democrats Abroad from 2004 to 2008.

Whereas Stanley Grossman served as a member of the Democratic National Committee representing Democrats Abroad for eight years from 2008 to 2016.

Whereas Stanley Grossman was a delegate at the Democratic National conventions in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

Whereas Stanley Grossman served with distinction as a member of the Democrats Abroad tax team for many years.

Whereas throughout his many years as a Democratic Party activist Stanley Grossman developed close working relationships with numerous members of Congress as well as with other members of the Democratic National Committee, members of Democrats Abroad across the world, and Democrats in the United Kingdom.

Whereas Stanley Grossman’s contributions to Democrats Abroad and its advancement are inestimable.

Whereas Stanley Grossman defended his positions with intelligence and élan but was always willing to listen to and compromise with other members of the Party in furtherance of our common cause.

Whereas Stanley Grossman was a dear friend to many members of Democrats Abroad and the Democratic National Committee.

Whereas the untimely passing of Stanley Grossman has left many of his friends and family bereft.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved:

Democrats Abroad expresses its sadness at Stanley Grossman‘s passing away and extends our sincerest condolences to his widow, Anna Janaszek; his children, Kerstin Mendelsohn, and Aaron Grossman; his grandchildren; his sister Roberta Gluck and all members of his family and loved ones.

1. Endorsed by Hilary Bown, Ricki Lieberman, Meredith Wheeler, Pauline Manos, Eliot Goldman, Vasilios Gikas, Marian Dent, Salli Swartz, Patti McCann, Tiffany Fliss, Emily Lines, Allison Colobert, Reno Domenico, Robin Guinot, Tre' Shawn Griffin-Noordermeer, Merrill Oates, Anne-Shelton Aaron, Christina Samson, Helenka D. Kinnan, and Elizabeth Voss. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ‘Can we please stop paying twice? Reforming the U.S. Tax Code for Americans abroad’ 2017, *Democrats Abroad*, October, available at <https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/democratsabroad/pages/13975/attachments/original/1507632642/Can\_We\_Please\_Stop\_Paying\_Twice\_DEMOCRATS\_ABROAD.pdf?1507632642>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “Democrats Abroad 2016 platform” 2016, *Democrats Abroad*, 1 July, p. 35. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)