

Prepared April 22, 2019

Resolutions proposed by members for the General Meeting of the DPCA, May 17-19, 2019

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Dear DPCA Members,

The International Chair delegated the handling of DPCA Resolutions to this committee. The DPCA Resolutions Committee received the texts in this document which are the latest revisions as proposed by DPCA Voting Members. These texts may change as a result of the proposer's acceptance of the committee's advice or suggestions from the WebEx meeting on April 24.

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

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

Resolution calling for closer scrutiny of political donation history of U.S.-based venues when considering Democrats Abroad annual general meetings or other global meetings

Proposed by Will Prescott, DPCA Voting Representative, Democrats Abroad Mexico. Sponsored by Democrats Abroad Global Hispanic Caucus.¹

WHEREAS, the practice of political spending, as determined by the U.S. Supreme Court, is a form of protected speech under the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, business entities donating to U.S. political candidates, parties, or causes are assumed to do so in order to influence political decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the Democrats Abroad member (or members) who secure the venue for each annual general meeting in the District of Columbia are commended for doing outstanding work in the event's early preparation stages; and

WHEREAS, Democrats Abroad regularly holds an annual general meeting located in or around the District of Columbia, and

WHEREAS, resources are available to the public for the purpose of ascertaining past U.S. political expenditure by these hotels, corporations, and other businesses known for hosting formal meetings and conferences; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of Democrats Abroad to check which potential global meeting venues have contributed to persons, parties, or causes outside of the Democratic Party's interests;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Democrats Abroad is encouraged to consider the political donation history of potential venues, in or in the vicinity of the District of Columbia, before selecting a Democrats Abroad annual general meeting place or any other meeting where DPCA voting will take place.

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.

Resolution in support of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact¹

Proposed by David Mivasair (DA Canada). Unanimously endorsed by the board of DA Canada.

WHEREAS on five occasions the winner of the national popular vote for President of the United States did not become President, notably twice since 2000; and

WHEREAS shifting demographics make such mismatches between the popular vote and the electoral vote likely to happen with increasing frequency in the future; and

WHEREAS the Electoral College violates the democratic principle of “one person, one vote,” by giving unequal weight to voters by state such that, for example, Wyoming has three electors while California has only fifty-five despite having a population about seventy times larger; and

WHEREAS the Electoral College results in “wasted” votes since any votes cast in excess of a simple majority in a state add nothing to the outcome and are therefore “wasted”; and

WHEREAS this effect is most profound in states that lean strongly toward one candidate; and

WHEREAS the Electoral College process creates so-called “swing states,” in which small differences in voter preference can determine the election outcome for the entire country; and

WHEREAS swing states receive disproportionate numbers of candidate visits and vastly more campaign spending; and

WHEREAS due to their lopsided importance, swing states are identified years in advance, political operatives have clear guidance on where to concentrate voter suppression efforts, voting machine hacking, and other types of voter fraud; and

WHEREAS the Electoral College heightens a “red state/blue state” mentality, reinforcing an “us versus them” attitude and deepening perceived political divides; and

WHEREAS a majority of Americans support the idea that the winner of the national popular vote should be President²; and

WHEREAS amending the U.S. Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College in favor of the national popular vote would require ratification by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the state legislatures; and is therefore unlikely to happen; and

WHEREAS the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, if adopted by states (including the District of Columbia) with a total of 270 electoral votes, would alleviate the aforementioned problems; and

WHEREAS the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact has already been enacted into law in 14 states and the District of Columbia, representing 189 electoral votes (CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, HI, IL, MA, MD, NJ, NY, NM, RI, VT and WA); and

WHEREAS the National Popular Vote campaign strategically liaises with legislators in specific states where it is being considered each year to increase the number of states enacting into law measures supporting the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact; and

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Popular_Vote_Interstate_Compact

² <http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/>

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad wishes to ensure that the votes of all our members count equally toward the election of the President; and

WHEREAS some Americans living abroad decline to join Democrats Abroad or to vote in the Presidential election citing that they do not vote in a 'swing state' and therefore feel that their vote will not make a difference to the outcome of the election; and

WHEREAS the 2016 Democrats Abroad Platform states in the chapter on Election Integrity that we favor the National Popular Vote Compact and it is currently the formal position of Democrats Abroad on the issue, and

WHEREAS members of Democrats Abroad are an important segment of the constituency of those legislators and can be mobilized to advocate for their state legislators to pass this measure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad endorses the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad will actively urge its members who vote in states where the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is being considered, to lobby their legislators in favor of the NPVIC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad will urge the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Party as a whole to promote the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

Resolution for the Global Nominations and Elections Committee to include Regional Vice Chair elections in their mandate

Proposed by Susan Alksnis (DA Canada).

Whereas Regional Vice Chairs (RVCs) serve at the global level as Officers of the Democratic Party Committee Abroad (DPCA) with commensurate responsibilities and privileges; and,

Whereas Regional Vice Chairs have significant responsibilities related to Country Committee development, compliance, and cooperation; and,

Whereas Democrats Abroad wishes to continue to have qualified, effective RVCs in all regions; and,

Whereas it can be a challenge and drain on limited volunteer resources to recruit 9 additional volunteers for the three regional NECs; and,

Whereas there are currently no Charter restrictions against Country Committee Chairs and/or Vice Chairs serving on the NEC for the RVC election they will be voting on, potentially creating a conflict of interest, and the potential for an NEC to include 12-25% of the votes for a position they are recruiting and vetting for, should an entire NEC be made up of Country Committee Chairs or Vice Chairs; and,

Whereas RVC elections occur simultaneously or closely in timing with the International Executive Committee election; and,

Whereas there are currently 4 separate processes for nominations, vetting, candidate statements, and IT/communications support for election of a single International ExCom; and,

Whereas the Global Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) is conducting a formal election process for all other International Officers of DPCA; and,

Whereas candidates for the five International Officer positions are currently required to submit passport information and are screened for malpractice, arrest records, PAC and super PAC involvement, etc, and similar background check is not conducted for Regional Vice Chairs;

Whereas there is a desire to reduce the number of unnecessary or redundant emails to membership, and members receive a significant increase in emails during DA election seasons, and a single communications strategy could serve the election process for all eight international officers while decreasing the inbox pressure on general membership;

Therefore, be it resolved that starting in 2021 the Global NEC will have responsibility for conducting the nominations and election for all eight International Executive Committee members, including the Regional Vice Chairs.

Be it further resolved to task the Bylaw Amendments Committee to bring forward for a vote at the 2020 Annual General Meeting of DPCA, a charter amendment proposal to implement this change.

Resolution to endorse Medicare for All

Proposed by Kent Getsinger (DA Australia) and Siera Burtrum (DA UK).

WHEREAS the United States spends more per capita on healthcare and has the worst health outcomes than any other developed nation on earth;

WHEREAS 70% of Americans support Medicare for All¹;

WHEREAS Medicare for All would ensure that financial hardship would be relieved among the most marginalised and minority groups;

WHEREAS two-thirds of all the bankruptcies today in the United States are due to medical costs and 80% of those filing for bankruptcy had some kind of health insurance²;

WHEREAS one-third of all GoFundMe campaigns in the US are created to pay for medical expenses, a stunning 250,000 campaigns³;

WHEREAS Medicare has been the most financially efficient health care system in the United States with administrative costs averaging only 2 percent of program outlays versus 13 percent for private insurance companies⁴;

WHEREAS the United States is projected to save \$2-5 trillion dollars over 10 years after implementation of Medicare For All⁵;

WHEREAS many Democrats Abroad members live in countries where a majority enjoy and benefit from free access to public healthcare;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad is in a unique position overseas to inform our fellow Americans about examples of successful universal health care and contribute to the campaign for an American Medicare For All system;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad International Executive Committee has expressed support for the US Senate “Medicare for All” bill and similar legislation in 2017⁶;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad collected over 350 stories from its members in support of sweeping healthcare reform⁷;

WHEREAS Americans abroad can become ‘healthcare refugees’ unable to return to live in the US due to pre-existing conditions that make them or their family members ‘un-insurable’ or too expensive to insure;

WHEREAS Medicare is not currently portable to Americans living abroad, which creates a hardship for Americans whose health is endangered by living in countries with inadequate healthcare systems and cannot afford to live in the USA;

¹ Reuters June-July 2018: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/08/28/most-americans-now-support-medicare-for-all-and-free-college-tuition.html>

² Public Citizen 2019: <https://www.citizen.org/medicare-all-prevents-medical-bankruptcies>

³ Time Jan2019: <http://time.com/5516037/gofundme-medical-bills-one-third-ceo/>

⁴ Health Affairs: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20110920.013390/full/>

⁵ Public Citizen “The Case for Medicare for All” Feb 2019, pp. 11-12:
https://www.citizen.org/sites/default/files/the_case_for_medicare-for-all_-_february.pdf

⁶ Democrats Abroad Press: <https://www.democratsabroad.org/press>

⁷ Democrats Abroad Healthcare Stories: https://www.democratsabroad.org/healthcare_stories

WHEREAS Americans living overseas fear for the health, and financial security of family members living in the USA;

WHEREAS access to timely and comprehensive healthcare is a fundamental human right;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad fully endorses Medicare For All; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad will use its influence to continue a campaign amongst its members to influence US House Representatives to support H.R. 1384 and US Senators to support S. 1804, including lobbying on Capitol Hill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad will support Medicare For All in its 2020 Platform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad DNC Members will take a Medicare for All resolution to the DNC Summer Meeting 2019, to its caucuses and councils, and to State Party chairs to enlist their support for the campaign for Medicare for All.

Resolution Honoring Arian Ardie

Proposed by Kat Allikian (DA New Zealand), Dave Van Rooy (DA Indonesia), Wuryati Morris (DA Indonesia), Fritz Gheen (DA Indonesia), Gary Suwannarat (DA Thailand), Wayne Weightman (DA Cambodia), Carmelan Polce (DA Australia), Alex Montgomery (DA Hong Kong), Julia Bryan (DA Czech Republic), Ada Shen (DA France), Will Bakker (DA Luxembourg), Jeffrey Cheng (DA Sweden), Lissette Wright (DA Canada), Jody Quinnell (DA Mexico), Kathy Rothschild (DA Costa Rica), and Amanda Mohar (DA Germany).

Whereas Arian Ardie was a tireless champion of Democrats Abroad and Democratic Party principles;

Whereas Arian Ardie served as Chair of Democrats Abroad Indonesia for several terms;

Whereas Arian Ardie revived Democrats Abroad Indonesia not once, but twice, during his tenure with Democrats Abroad;

Whereas Arian Ardie was a key force during the 2008 Democrats Abroad Global Presidential Primary, organizing the first-in-the-world Super Tuesday vote in Jakarta which, combined with his extensive personal connections to journalists, garnered worldwide media coverage and boosted Democrats Abroad's profile across the globe;

Whereas Arian Ardie, through his relationships with Democratic Party figures including Representative Pramila Jayapal, connected Democrats Abroad Indonesia and the wider Democrats Abroad community with high-profile figures within the Party including Maya Soetoro Ng, President Obama's sister;

Whereas Arian Ardie was also a member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia, serving in leadership roles between 2002 - 2014 and standing as a liaison between American and Indonesian business communities, including green energy companies;

Whereas Arian Ardie was a committed, loving, and very proud father and grandfather and a multi-talented individual: a keen musician, a stellar communicator, a strong community organizer, and most recently, a budding film producer;

Whereas Arian Ardie was a friend to many Democrats Abroad members throughout Indonesia, Asia Pacific, and the world; and

Whereas Arian Ardie's sudden and untimely passing on 11 February 2019 shocked and saddened the Democrats Abroad community.

Be it resolved:

Democrats Abroad declares its appreciation and gratitude to Arian Ardie for his dedicated service to our organization and community, and to a greater sense of purpose as Americans and Democrats.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family and friends — we will miss him, and we honor his memory.

Resolution Addressing the Closure of United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) Offices Outside the U.S.

Proposed by Carmelan Polce (DA Australia) and Wayne Weightman (DA Cambodia). Supported by Julia Bryan (DA Czech Republic).

Whereas in March 2019 the Trump Administration announced, without warning even to USCIS staff, its intention to close all 22 international USCIS offices and transfer those duties, now performed by USCIS employees worldwide, to domestic offices and U.S. embassies and consulates;

Whereas USCIS officers are responsible for adjudicating a wide variety of petitions and applications filed internationally, providing information services, and issuing travel documents to people in a wide variety of circumstances;

Whereas the closure is expected to materially slow the processing of matters such as family visa applications, foreign adoptions and citizenship petitions from U.S. citizens living abroad and members of the military stationed abroad;

Whereas closing the USCIS offices would reassign about 70 staffers who solve a wide array of problems and provide valuable information services such as assisting those who lose their green card, aiding widows of U.S. citizens, helping members of the military obtain legal documents, providing expertise and advice to families going through the process of adopting internationally, investigating fraud in visa applications, providing technical immigration advice to other U.S. government officials, and, within its Refugee Asylum and International Operations division, processing refugee applications;

Whereas the Trump Administration has made no secret of its intention to limit both legal and illegal immigration and to end the policy that allows U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to sponsor non-nuclear family members to immigrate to the U.S., known more recently in the pejorative as “chain migration” and implement a policy of “merit-based” immigration;

Whereas the closure of immigration offices abroad will discourage and thwart immigration applicants by adding considerable time to what are already lengthy wait times for application processing, eliminating processing in foreign languages and removing services that handle emergency applications;

Whereas the practical impact of the policy is that it will separate multi-national families making application to immigrate to the U.S.;

Whereas the naturalization application backlog stood at 738,148 cases on September 30, 2018, a 16% increase over the level just before Trump took office;

Whereas immigration lawyers say the Trump administration has delayed application processing and heightened scrutiny of applications that used to clear quickly, preventing foreigners from being able to work, study and join their families in the U.S.;

Whereas the Trump Administration claims this is a cost-cutting exercise although USCIS's funding comes primarily from fees paid by people who use its services;

Whereas the policy is part of a greater isolationist endeavor by the Trump administration, withdrawing engagement in international institutions and pulling back U.S. international presence generally;

Whereas the work of the USCIS officers is expected to be taken over by State Department officials in U.S. embassies and consulates, though their consent to take over these duties has not yet been obtained;

Whereas the DPCA passed a resolution on October 16, 2011 supporting the reinstatement of the servicing of I-130 immigrant visa applications for non-U.S. family members at USCIS offices that references the particular concerns of Democrats Abroad with regards to family separation during immigration application processing and the right to freedom of movement generally;

Be it resolved that Democrats Abroad supports a policy that:

- enables direct consular filing globally of all applications normally filed with USCIS that are clearly approvable, reverting to the process for Form I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative) applications that was in place prior to 2011; and further
- moves Form I-407 Greencard abandonment filings, which are critically important to non-U.S. spouses of U.S. citizens seeking U.S. travel visas and needing to demonstrate nonimmigrant intent, to consular officials and impose a fee for applications which are currently fee-free and so handled negligently.

Appendix to the Resolution Addressing the Closure of United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) Offices Outside the U.S.

INTERNATIONAL USCIS OFFICES

Latin America, Canada and the Caribbean (LACC) District

- Dominican Republic - Santo Domingo Field Office
- El Salvador - San Salvador Field Office
- Guatemala - Guatemala City Field Office
- Haiti - Port-au-Prince Field Office
- Mexico - Ciudad Juarez Field Office
- Mexico - Mexico City Field Office
- Mexico - Monterrey Field Office
- Peru - Lima Field Office

Asia/Pacific (APAC) District

- China - Beijing Field Office
- China - Guangzhou Field Office
- India - New Delhi Field Office

Asia/Pacific (APAC) District continued

- Philippines - Manila Field Office
- South Korea - Seoul Field Office
- Thailand - Bangkok Field Office

Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) District

- Germany - Frankfurt Field Office
- Ghana - Accra Field Office
- Greece - Athens Field Office
- Italy - Rome Field Office
- Jordan - Amman Field Office
- Kenya - Nairobi Field Office
- Russia - Moscow Field Office (Closed)
- South Africa - Johannesburg Field Office
- United Kingdom - London Field Office

Applications commonly filed abroad:

[I-212, Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the United States After Deportation or Removal](#) for persons who need to obtain consent to reapply for admission to the United States

(consent to reapply) after being deported, removed or voluntarily leaving the United States without having a deportation order.

[Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative](#) for citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States to establish the relationship to certain foreign relatives who wish to immigrate to the United States.

[Form I-131, Application for Travel Document](#) for certain eligible individuals who lack the documentation required to apply for admission at a U.S. port-of-entry or demonstrate their status as a lawful permanent resident.

[Form I-131A, Application for Travel Document \(Carrier Documentation\)](#) to allow lawful permanent residents who do not have a Green Card or Reentry permit to apply for a travel document (carrier documentation) that permits a transportation carrier to allow them to board a flight or vessel to the United States without penalty.

[Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow\(er\), or Special Immigrant](#) to apply for certain benefits granted to various special categories of individuals eligible for immigration.

[Form I-590, Registration for Classification as Refugee](#) for individuals who have been persecuted or fear persecution and are seeking resettlement protection in the United States.

[Form I-600A, Application for Advance Processing of Orphan Petition](#) for prospective adoptive parents to establish qualifications for inter-country adoption.

[Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative](#) for U.S. citizens to request orphan classification for a child who either is or will be adopted by a U.S. citizen to allow the child to enter the United States.

[Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Ground of Inadmissibility](#) for individuals who are otherwise approved to immigrate to the United States, but are ineligible to enter the United States due to applicability of one or more grounds of inadmissibility.

[Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Family Petition](#) for individuals admitted to the U.S. as refugees or granted status as asylees within the past two years, to request follow-to-join benefits for a spouse and/or children.

[Form N-400, Application for Naturalization](#) for members of the U.S. military and their qualified family members deployed abroad seeking to naturalize to become U.S. citizens.

[Requests for Reconsideration \(RFR\)](#) filed by individuals denied requests to be resettled in the U.S. as refugees.

Text for reference: resolution concerning changes to Form I-130 in the immigration process for family members of US citizens living abroad - adopted by the DPCA October 16, 2011

Proposed by Peter Alegi (Italy), Wayne Weightman (Cambodia), Katie Solon (Austria), Gary Suwannarat (Indonesia) and Meredith Wheeler (France). Co-sponsored by Carmelan Polce (Australia), Connie Borde (France), Merrill Oates (Hungary) Dave van Rooy (Indonesia), Kass Corbelli (Italy), Albert Kang (ROK), Peter du Pont (Thailand), and Reno Domenico (Ukraine).

WHEREAS protecting the rights and promoting the interests of American citizens residing abroad has from our founding been one of the principal purposes of Democrats Abroad;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad continues to represent such citizens to the American government, including Congressional and administrative levels, in particular by furnishing information on the concerns of its overseas constituency;

WHEREAS a change has been established, without adequate examination of those concerns, by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service and the Department of State in the procedure for obtaining immigrant visas (Form I-130) for close relatives, eliminating the jurisdiction of the Department of State to receive and to process applications as well as other changes, for the reported purpose of preserving the financial claim of one federal agency;

WHEREAS the new procedure by requiring multiple mailings of the visa application and supporting documents to the US will significantly and adversely affect overseas citizens by seriously delaying the processing and granting of visas, resulting in separation of many families as one spouse is required to return to the United States for any one of many serious reasons without the other who is awaiting a visa;

WHEREAS the new rule will also adversely impact the ability for citizens to visit the US with their spouse and children due to the suspicion that they may be attempting to circumvent the long wait times inherent in the new process;

WHEREAS such separation is not in keeping with President Obama's 2008 campaign statement "Supporting Americans Living Abroad" which states his commitment to addressing issues related to immigration of family members;

WHEREAS the Platform of Democrats Abroad calls for simplifying and expediting visa and immigration processes for the immediate family of American citizens living abroad;

WHEREAS the effect of the new rule is a restriction of the citizen's right to freedom of movement;

WHEREAS the adoption of the changes occurred with no examination of the actual circumstances of the citizens residing overseas who would be impacted;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad must act in fulfillment of its duty to guard the interests of citizens resident abroad, and wishes to assist the government with detailed and accurate information on this matter;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad continues to seek the retraction of the changed rule and reinstallation of the former one, by all legitimate means, including provision of information to American citizens, contacting the agencies concerned, alerting members of the House and Senate and otherwise vigorously advocating the withdrawal of the rule.

Resolution in Support of a Green New Deal

Proposed by Susan Alksnis (DA Canada). Supported by Ken Sherman (DA Canada); David Mivasair (DA Canada); Lissette Wright (DA Canada); Kent Getsinger (DA Australia); Ann Hesse (DA Germany); Merrill Oates (DA Hungary); Jim Mercereau (DA Spain); Angela Fobbs (DA Germany); Bruce Murray (DA Austria); Ed Ungar (DA Canada); Gordon Gaul (DA Japan); Kendra Borgen (DA Netherlands); Kelsey McClendon (DA Germany).

WHEREAS climate breakdown is an existential threat to the global environment, human and non-human life, security and economies; and,

WHEREAS disruptions caused by climate breakdown already negatively affect Americans living outside and in the United States, as well as fellow world citizens, by leading to more and deadlier extreme weather events; rising sea levels; battering the world's infrastructure; decreasing agricultural production; increasing mass migrations; threatening global and national security; disproportionately impacting poor and vulnerable communities, women and girls; and exacerbating systemic injustices (racial, regional, social, gender-based, environmental, and economic); and,

WHEREAS the United States is currently experiencing related crises regarding life expectancy, access to basic needs, wage stagnation, job reductions, anti-labor policies, and the greatest income inequality since the 1920s; and,

WHEREAS the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has determined that in order to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate the world must cut greenhouse gas emissions from human sources in half by 2030 and achieve net-zero global emissions by 2050; and,

WHEREAS the Trump Administration and the Republican Party have not only renounced the national commitment to the Paris Accord but are actively and openly working to increase America's reliance on fossil fuels and emissions of greenhouse gases; and,

WHEREAS congressional Democrats have introduced [H.R. 109](#) and [S.Res. 59](#), supported as of April 15, 2019 by 103 co-sponsors, to implement a "Green New Deal," with the aim of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions; establishing millions of high-wage jobs and ensuring economic security for all; investing in infrastructure and industry; securing clean air and water, climate and community resiliency, healthy food, access to nature, and a sustainable environment for all; and promoting justice and equality; and,

WHEREAS the Green New Deal calls for a 10-year national mobilization effort, including the following goals and projects: building smart power grids; upgrading existing buildings and constructing new buildings to achieve maximum energy and water efficiency; removing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation and agricultural sectors; cleaning up existing hazardous waste and abandoned sites; ensuring businesspersons are free from unfair competition; and providing higher education, high-quality health care, and affordable, safe, and adequate housing to all; and,

WHEREAS at least 19 states have already set or are considering 100% clean or renewable electricity targets, several referencing jobs and social justice, and the Green New Deal specifically¹; and,

WHEREAS the 2016 Democrats Abroad Platform states in chapter 5 on Environment and Climate Change that we support progressive policies that simultaneously protect the environment and improve quality of life, while stimulating economic development, specifically mentioning carbon emissions, sustainable energy, and energy efficiency; transportation; environmental toxin removal; and animal agriculture subsidies; and in other chapters the Platform supports tuition-free public colleges and universities; improving transport networks, cities, water supplies, and housing stock; nationwide infrastructure development and rehabilitation; economic opportunity for all; federally funded job training and job-creation; and universal health care coverage for every American;

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that Democrats Abroad actively supports the Green New Deal and similar legislation, and will mobilize our members to urge their elected representatives, candidates for office, the Democratic Party as a whole, and members of the public to support the creation of a Green New Deal, similar in its goals and scope to H.R. 109 and S.Res. 59.

¹ EQ Research, “States Chart Paths to 100% Targets,” <https://eq-research.com/blog/100/> and Environment America, “Nine States Campaign for 100 Percent Clean Energy,” <https://environmentamerica.org/news/ame/nine-states-campaign-100-percent-clean-energy>

Resolution on Renewable Energy 2019

Proposed by Connie Borde (DA France). Supported by Dana Powers and Jim Christiansen of the DA France Energy Policy Group.

WHEREAS the increasingly dangerous and expensive threat of climate change is compelling us to eliminate sources of anthropogenic carbon pollution and ecosystem collapse, and therefore our life-support system on earth, is jeopardized by a warming of more than 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels

WHEREAS renewable energy is now competitive with coal in 75% of cases, and will soon be less expensive than all fossil fuels, and grid management and energy storage technologies are rapidly developing to meet the challenges of managing high volumes of renewable;

WHEREAS several renewable energy technologies, including photovoltaics, wind turbines (onshore and offshore, and floating), biogas, heat pumps, concentrated solar power are now mature technologies, either cheaper or soon-to-be cheaper than fossil sources of energy;

WHEREAS these technologies reduce drastically the pollution of our air, land, and water and can provide the basis of a new “green” economy with plentiful jobs and adequate energy for our well-being and our industry;

WHEREAS catastrophes continue to engulf our planet - climate chaos, rising sea levels, intensifying storms, floods, landslides, melting glaciers, fires, desertification and more;

WHEREAS climate change science has been under systematic attack by climate change deniers and the present administration continues to appoint skeptics of mainstream climate science, cutting renewable energy programs and the 2020 budget would cut such research from \$2.3 billion to \$700 million;

WHEREAS experimental and pilot programs have been developed to ease the transition from fossil-fuel related jobs to renewable energy and other jobs;

WHEREAS markets alone are not capable of piloting a systems-level change, especially in the face of entrenched monopolistic energy corporations with their subsidies, amortized infrastructure and assets, and well-functioning supply chains and delivery systems

WHEREAS Democrats and Republicans alike have argued that alternative energy programs help ensure U.S. energy security: relying less on oil and gas in the power sector ensures a steady domestic supply and supports the goal of exporting energy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the US federal government should actively support an energy transition to a clean, renewable power system to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050, with binding interim deadlines at 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, and 2045;

That the US government should actively and aggressively pursue a package of measures that would together constitute a strong industrial policy to halt climate change and put the United States back in line with other countries committed to the Paris Agreement.

That the government should support a new mobility system powered by electricity, biogas, or hydrogen as appropriate, such as creation of a national high-speed train system run on hydrogen;

That government should require home renovation and insulation to reduce drastically the energy needs of homes, in such a way that avoided heating and cooling bills repay the investments, with government helping poorer families

That the Department of Energy should return to actively pursuing support of renewable energy and its integration, through support of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and through loan guarantees, investment etc;

That the EPA should regulate carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases, and require states to draw-up plans to achieve the emission-reduction targets for each of the 5-year periods until 2050 and the regulation of greenhouse gases return to the governance of the EPA, the Clean Air Act, with the corresponding strategy of emissions limits, with the States proposing individual plans to reach the limits, approved or disapproved by the EPA;

That States be allowed to go faster than the minimum national targets, those states who want to be pace-setters and pioneers, and pilot new systems and ideas. Targets are minimum targets, not maximum targets

That the natural gas industry should be encouraged to transform itself into the renewable or decarbonized gas industry.

That a program to move businesses into the circular economy and an alternative climate-friendly, eco-system friendly agriculture based on the living soil be encouraged by government programs.

That whatever remaining needs for seasonal transfer of energy and deficiencies in energy production shall be dealt with by employing renewables such as hydrogen (made from electrolysis of water using renewable electricity) and its derivatives, or renewable methane (made by combining renewable hydrogen with recycled carbon);

AND BE IT RESOLVED that the variability of renewable energy sources be dealt with by: balancing different variable energy sources; using demand-side management, such as price incentives; using the grid; using battery storage (prices are continuing downward) especially for small scale; and using hydro power and a group of renewable gases to complement a solar-based and wind-based system where available and appropriate.

Resolution on Open Service of Transgender Members of the Armed Forces and for Improved Health Services of Transgender Military Veterans

Proposed by Martha McDevitt Pugh (DA Netherlands) and Joe Smallhoover (DA France).

WHEREAS on July 26, 2017, President Trump announced via Twitter that the United States Government would reverse the existing policy of allowing transgender servicemembers to serve openly in order to implement a ban on transgender people from serving in the Armed Forces;

WHEREAS President Trump's ban on transgender members of the Armed Forces targets and stigmatizes a whole class of people;

WHEREAS the Department of Defense has failed to provide evidence *that* the existing policy has impaired morale, unit readiness, or unit cohesion.

WHEREAS all five military Chiefs of Staff have testified publicly that the existing policy has had no adverse effect on military readiness;

WHEREAS on August 1, 2017, fifty-six retired generals and admirals released a statement affirming, "This proposed ban, if implemented, would cause significant disruptions, deprive the military of mission-critical talent, and compromise the integrity of transgender troops who would be forced to live a lie, as well as *their* non-transgender peers who would be forced to choose between reporting their comrades or disobeying policy"

WHEREAS the Department of Defense report from 2018 falsely asserts there is "considerable scientific uncertainty" regarding the efficacy of transition-related care;

WHEREAS there is a global medical consensus that such care is effective, safe, and reliable

WHEREAS over 15,000 transgender people are serving in the military today;

WHEREAS transgender servicemembers have served openly since 2016;

WHEREAS gender dysphoria is not the result of a personal decision, but rather, is a medical condition which can result from biological differences present at birth;

WHEREAS the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and three former military Surgeons General each have affirmed the medical efficacy of transition-related care and have expressed opposition to President Trump's discriminatory ban;

WHEREAS a 2016 study by the RAND Corporation found that allowing transgender Americans to serve openly in the Armed Forces would "have minimal impact on readiness and health care costs" and "little or no impact on unit cohesion, operational effectiveness or readiness";

WHEREAS the decision to prohibit transgender people from serving in the military is scientifically and medically unfounded, unjust, and morally reprehensible;

WHEREAS 18 nations allow transgender people to serve openly and effectively in their armed forces;

WHEREAS an estimated 134,000 or more American veterans are transgender;

WHEREAS transgender veterans face difficulties obtaining updated service records which respect their privacy, and which prevents them from receiving VA coverage of necessary medical procedures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad:

strongly opposes President Trump's discriminatory ban on transgender members of the Armed Forces;

rejects the flawed scientific and medical claims upon which it is based;

calls for the revocation, with retroactive effect, of the discriminatory ban on transgender members serving in the military

calls on the Department of Defense to make, produce and publish guidance for transgender individuals on how to update information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and on the DD214 Military Discharge Record;

strongly urges that clinical treatment methods as outlined in the World Professional Association for Transgender Health Standards of Care including psychotherapy, changes in gender expression and role, hormone therapy, or surgery, or any combination thereof be made available to those who have served;

commits to provide our members with a standard statement they can use to contact their representative to urge them to reverse the transgender military ban by voting to pass HR 124, against the reinstatement of President Trump's ban on transgender members in the Armed Forces, and replace it with an inclusive policy that allows qualified transgender Americans to enlist and serve in the Armed Forces;

urges those members of Democrats Abroad who are veterans to ask the Department of Defense not to implement the transgender military ban; and

strongly urges our DNC members to communicate in their caucuses and other DNC work that DA expects Democrats in Congress to support HR 124 and the companion Senate bill.

Resolution urging action on Gun Violence Prevention

Proposed by Susan Alksnis (DA Canada). Supported by Sanchi Rohira (DA-India).

WHEREAS every day an average of 100 Americans are killed with guns and hundreds more are shot and injured¹;

WHEREAS as of October 27th 2018, a total of 307 mass shooting incidents had occurred in the United States since the beginning of that year (Gun Violence Archive, 2018)

WHEREAS at the end of 2018, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported that approximately 40,000 people died due to guns in 2017 and that gun deaths in the United States are at the highest in 50 years²;

WHEREAS firearms are reported to be the second leading cause of death for American children³;

WHEREAS March 2018 saw one among the largest youth-led protest movements in modern US history, the March For Our Lives, which called for comprehensive gun safety legislation at the local, state and federal levels;

WHEREAS the American people elected a gun-sense-majority to the United States House of Representatives during the 2018 midterm elections;

WHEREAS the March For Our Lives had over 800 sister-marches and rallies across the United States and around the world, many of the latter of which were organized and supported by Democrats Abroad members and country chapters;

WHEREAS in March 2018, Democrats Abroad invited all members to join the March For Our Lives' call for stronger gun control;

WHEREAS in March 2018, Democrats Abroad initiated and conducted a 'Virtual March For Our Lives'⁴;

WHEREAS by virtue of currently residing in countries with tougher firearm regulations, Democrats Abroad members closely witness the effectiveness of such legislation in preventing the rampant loss of life that is seen in the United States;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad members are concerned by the possibility of their friends and family, who continue to reside in the United States, experiencing gun violence of various kinds;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad members therefore acknowledge the possibility of societal life free from gun violence and strongly wish for its implementation in the United States;

WHEREAS the 2016 Democrats Abroad Platform calls for universal and complete background checks, greater control of assault weapons and ammunition, funding gun violence research, abolition of all "Stand Your Ground" and "Open Carry" laws, and other measures to help ensure dangerous people are prohibited from having guns;

^{1,3} "Gun Violence In America - Everytownresearch.Org". 2019. *Everytownresearch.Org*. <https://everytownresearch.org/gun-violence-america/>.

² Nearly 40,000 People Died From Guns In U.S. Last Year, Highest In 50 Years". 2019. *Nytimes.Com*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/18/us/gun-deaths.html>.

⁴ "Dems Abroad Marches For Our Lives". 2019. *Democrats Abroad*. https://www.democratsabroad.org/dems_abroad_marches_for_our_lives.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad will actively campaign for the support and enactment of gun-sense legislation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad will call on the Democratic National Committee to urge all policymakers to actively prioritize gun violence prevention legislation;

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 policy goals such as:

- the strengthening and making required universal of background checks on gun sales,
- better monitoring, and extending said background checks to, online gun sales,
- better funding the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) to conduct federal research on gun violence,
- the elimination of ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) restrictions, which disable the proper monitoring of gun sales
- high-capacity magazine bans,
- the banning of the manufacturing and selling of semi-automatic assault rifles and the introduction of programs which manage those already owned (for example: registering them under a federal database/offering to buy them back),
- a stricter disarmament of domestic abusers and high risk individuals,
- pathways for better coordination between local, state and federal law enforcement to prevent individuals likely to perpetrate gun related crimes from accessing firearms;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad will call on the Democratic National Committee and the Party to recognize gun violence as a public health issue.

Resolution on VFA Integrity and Sustainability

Proposed by Merrill Oates (DA Hungary).

Proposer's Summary: To ensure the long-term integrity, sustainability, stability, and security of VoteFromAbroad.org as the premier resource of Democrats Abroad for growing our membership and registering voters.

Proposer's Preface: In order for DA to assume the responsibility of fully managing and sustaining all technical aspects of a custom designed, non-supported, software platform, and to ensure trust in the integrity of the service, DA must define a structure and process by which it is accountable and transparent to our leadership as to how this service is being developed and maintained.

This resolution proposes the creation of a VFA Policy Steering Committee to define the policies and priorities for our VFA platform, and a VFA Technical Management Standing Committee to oversee the development work.

WHEREAS, the VoteFromAbroad.org (VFA) website is the single most important on-line asset Democrats Abroad (DA) has as a tool for both acquiring new members and registering voters – VFA is the “Crown Jewel” of Democrats Abroad;

WHEREAS, it is essential that this tool be developed and maintained with the highest standards of accurate information for voters, of technical security and best practice, and of compliance with appropriate laws and regulations;

WHEREAS, DA has proposed ending our existing hosting, maintenance, and support contract with the independent, non-partisan, Overseas Vote Foundation/US Vote Foundation, which has hosted VoteFromAbroad (VFA2) since 2014 and throughout the 2018 election cycle;

WHEREAS, DA has undertaken to custom develop our own fully in-house owned and maintained version of VFA (now referred to as VFA3);

WHEREAS, the new VFA3 offers many new innovations and capabilities that can improve the voter experience and potentially expand our voter outreach capabilities, in ways that may not otherwise be available;

WHEREAS, the responsibility to maintain, update, and support an in-house software platform now falls fully on the shoulders of DA volunteers, and as this obligation has proven to be a significant challenge, liability, and cost to the organization in the past;

WHEREAS, DA must ensure that we have appropriate and sustainable governance oversight structures and established management processes to sustain such technical operations and commitments beyond the office terms and volunteer efforts of any one person, or group of individuals;

WHEREAS, DPCA is the governing body of DA, it is essential for DPCA leadership to establish and maintain suitable governance structures and technical maintenance processes that ensure appropriate accountability, sustainability, compliance, transparency, and security for the long-term successful management of VFA – as well as for the body to remain reasonably informed of the costs and organizational implications of the policies and intended uses of VFA3,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

A VFA Policy Steering Committee of five (5) or more individuals shall be established with responsibility for reviewing, approving, and defining the high-level features, priorities, policies, and appropriate uses of VFA by Democrats Abroad. This Committee will be responsible for, or appropriately delegate responsibility for, maintaining up-to-date and accurate content within VoteFromAbroad.org.

The VFA Policy Steering Committee shall regularly report its activities and recommendations to the International Executive Committee. All budgetary-related recommendations shall receive approval from the International Executive Committee, prior to implementation. The International Executive Committee may, at any time, adopt rules and regulations on the governance of VFA, which shall be binding upon the VFA Policy Steering Committee.

A separate (non-overlapping) VFA Technical Management Committee of three (3) or more individuals shall be established to oversee and guide the technical implementation and maintenance of the VFA platform. This Committee shall be responsible for defining and guiding all technical configuration and development work done by external or internal software engineers. The VFA Technical Management Committee shall report directly to the VFA Policy Steering Committee.

The appointment of Committee members shall be made by the International Chair with the advice and consent of the International Executive Committee;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,

That the membership of these two committees shall be appointed within thirty (30) days of the adoption of this resolution.