

DPCA Resolutions in 2022

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What are resolutions?
Should I write one?

Deadline to submit a resolution
Using the dashboard

Publication of final texts
Order of consideration
Deciding on resolutions



March

Early April

Late April

Early May

May 18-22

Composing a resolution
Working with the committee
Planning an event

Publication of draft texts.
Discussion opens & co-sponsors sign up.
Hearings and a last round of changes

What is a resolution in the DPCA?

A Working Definition

“A formal formulaic statement of an expression of opinion or concern where the basis of the concern and the desired action are clearly stated that any member of DA can draft and any DPCA voting member can submit for decision-making to be voted on by DPCA voting representatives and passed and adopted, or not, at a Global DA general meeting.”

Four Types of Resolutions

- Concerns which DA members have that may help shape the Democratic Party
- Concerns which directly affect Americans living abroad which may effect US policy
- Concerns DA members have which can set or change DPCA policy
- Resolutions which memorialize a deceased DA member to honor their outstanding service

Why Resolutions?

DPCA resolutions are:

- a way to articulate and meet our members' expectations,
- a meaningful assertion of support for movements within the Democratic Party,
- a democratic means of altering the formal structure of Democrats Abroad, and
- a process that brings new people into the decision-making core of Democrats Abroad.

- Will Bakker, DA Luxembourg

Resolutions are ...

... one of the [most powerful] ways Democrats Abroad can make a political statement ... not just ... of one or two, but many who represent ... thousands of others.

If you would like to use our collective voice to stand against injustices ... most Democrats living abroad would agree with you on ... you can help pass a resolution to progress the Democratic Party altogether.

- Farid E. Ben Amor, DA Japan

Why Resolutions?, cont'd

DPCA Resolutions, Why?

resolutions challenge transgressions

oppose unjust retributions

and engage in conversations

to uplift heroes and our nation

voices abroad matter to the DNC

and help to shape America's diverse history

perspectives from abroad are unique

like panoramic views from different peaks

to stay current, fresh, vibrant, and alive

resolutions exist to express our vibe

resolutions are our contributions

in support of voting to offer solutions

DPCA Resolutions, Why?

-Beverle Michael Lax, Counsel, DAKE

Your role with respect to resolutions

DPCA voting members

may discuss resolutions during the global meeting, and will vote on adopting resolutions.

The Sponsor of a resolution

controls the process and makes the draft submission AND must be a DPCA voting member.

Author(s) of a resolution

can be DA member(s) other than the sponsor,
but the author(s) then must enlist a DPCA voter as sponsor

Other DA leaders interested in a resolutions or the process as a whole are invited to organize events to discuss or promote any or all resolutions, and participate in discussion within DA, which will be organized in hearings as well as on mobilize channels (e.g. DA-Discussion), and co-sponsor resolutions in order to indicate support.

Sample: author's role with respect to resolutions

1. You have an idea for a change in policy, or an idea for something new
2. You share your idea in a DA meeting, event, or informal conversation in order to enlist others to discuss and possibly help draft a resolution.
3. The goal of drafting a resolution is to produce a clear, succinct statement of your idea in the common form of “whereas/ be it therefore resolved.
4. You get a member of the DPCA (Democratic Party Committee Abroad) to read and agree to sponsor your draft resolution.
5. You then send your resolution to the editors of the resolutions committee.
6. The editors will read your resolution, and perhaps suggest changes for clarity. The title of your resolution will be posted on the WIKI.
7. You then submit a final draft for discussion, and then a final vote during the DPCA general meeting.

Member engagement with resolutions

Discussion topic for a monthly meeting or as a supplement to your AGM

- Making the Democratic Party accessible to Democrats

Survey or feedback via email or social media

Set expectations and context, because this is still a mediated process

Vague prompt for CC/TC's leaders to pursue: "What topic do you want to see DA address?"

- opportunity for education on 2020 DA Platform

Specific ask after resolutions are available: "How should your representatives vote?"

Be responsive and transparent → plan for follow-up with results or invite to global meeting

The format of a resolution

Title	Whereas	Resolved
<p>Be brief and to the point</p> <p>Consider the purpose and the audience</p> <p>Clever titles aren't great</p> <p>The title should not change with revisions</p>	<p>Background and rationale</p> <p>Brief, clear, and specific</p> <p>Relevance to DA</p> <p>Mention relevant DA documents & precedents (e.g. 2020 Platform)</p> <p>Mention previous DA efforts & positions</p>	<p>Actions for specific entities within Democrats Abroad</p> <p>Appropriate scale and limits</p> <p>Authority over implementation</p>

Additional notes: Sentiments (*approves, deplores, supports, condemns, applauds*) and Memorial Resolutions

The format of a resolution: Sample 1

Resolution to support expansion of electronic ballot options for UOCAVA voters (May 2019)

WHEREAS one of the major objectives of *H.R.1 - For the People Act of 2019* is to expand voter access to the ballot; ...

WHEREAS the restriction of ballot return options by digital communication methods will unquestionably negatively affect the ability of a significant number of voters protected by the Uniformed And Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) to submit marked absentee ballots to the Local Election Official in time to have that ballot counted in future elections.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad endorses expansion of ballot return options by digital communications methods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad will actively campaign for changes to the paper ballot mandate included in H.R. 1 to ensure ballot accessibility by all overseas voters, by clarifying the definition of paper ballot that includes alternative ballot marking or return options for UOCAVA voters using a digital communication method, or by declaring the inapplicability of Section 1502, subparagraph a for UOCAVA voters (omitting (iv) Application to All Ballots).

The format of a resolution: Sample 2

Resolution on electronic ballot return for UOCAVA voters (2019 resolution, rewritten here as another sample)

WHEREAS:

1. One of the major objectives of *H.R.1 - For the People Act of 2019*¹ is to expand voter access to the ballot including UOCAVA² voters.
2. The restriction of ballot return options by digital communication methods will unquestionably negatively affect the ability of a significant number of UOCAVA voters to submit marked absentee ballots to the Local Election Official in time to have that ballot counted in future elections.
3. The expansion of ballot return options may be accomplished by declaring the inapplicability of Section 1502, subparagraph a for UOCAVA voters (omitting (iv) Application to All Ballots).
4. The expansion of ballot return options may be accomplished by clarifying the definition of paper ballot to alternative ballot marking or return options for UOCAVA voters using a digital communication method.

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. Democrats Abroad endorses expansion of ballot return options by digital communications methods.
2. Democrats Abroad will actively campaign for changes to the paper ballot mandate included in H.R. 1 to ensure ballot accessibility by all overseas voters.

The format of a resolution: extras

Footnotes, Appendices, and Links

Purpose: provide context or additional information for those seeking more

Change of internal policy: DPCA will not be asked to *adopt* footnotes, links, or appendices; not in core document

Published online on DA wiki

Not guaranteed to be archived along with texts adopted, but best efforts to include

Resolutions Committee recommends that supporters use discussion channels

Sponsors, Co-sponsors, and Authors

Purpose: encourage discussion prior to DPCA global meeting, indicate support and authorship

Author and Sponsor are integral to the resolution

Change of internal policy: Core document will not include a long list of co-sponsors

Published online on DA wiki

Questions?

Coming up: Writing a resolution, submitting a resolution

Writing a resolution: the topic

Factors for a resolution topic

- Brevity and lucidity
- Direct relevance to Democrats Abroad
(Is Democrats Abroad the only organization to take this stand?)
- Pre-existing agreement by a strong majority of DPCA voting members

The grounds for a successful resolution topic are contested!

KEYS

Order of consideration

Likelihood of adoption

Writing a resolution: the action

Factors for a resolution's required actions

- Clarity and simplicity
- Appropriate agency: Who will do the work?
Global Executive Committee *OR* CCs/TCs *OR* self-selecting volunteers
- Appropriate scope: Fit with mission, within reasonable capacities, and compatibility with a midterm-election year
- Appropriate impact: Meaningful effects that are proportionate to the effort



This is NOT A CHECKLIST for your “resolved” clauses!

Writing a resolution: context & internal organizing

Context: WHEREAS clauses

Contact DA groups before submitting: caucuses, task forces, committees, or your RVC

DA-Discussion and other platforms to gain perspective and support

ALWAYS: Resolutions Committee here to help *resolutions@democratsabroad.org*

Submitting this resolution is a bad idea

Title: To eliminate all restrictions on American freedom

WHEREAS, taxes on Americans are theft and particularly taxes stolen from overseas American citizens.

WHEREAS, Democrats Abroad exists to defend the wealth of Americans outside the USA.

BE IT RESOLVED, the International Treasurer shall appoint a committee of 40 volunteers, each of whom must have been a global committee chair in the last 15 years, to study the problem of taxes and develop a No Tax Pledge within 30 days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Democrats Abroad shall not engage in GOTV activities for any candidate for office who has not signed the No Tax Pledge.

Alternatives to submitting a resolution

Proposals to the ExCom: informal conversation with RVC or global officer

Proposals to the ExCom: formal

Local action / awareness

Collaboration with caucuses, task forces

Non-DA organized action:

- DNC caucuses/councils/committees

- NGOs, local groups, private associations

Draft submission of a resolution

Step 1

Email to:

resolutions@democratsabroad.org

- Subject: Author's name, Draft Resolution
- Body: Message plus name of DPCA member, if any
- Attach draft as attachment

Step 2

Resolutions Committee Member replies:

- Acknowledges receipt of resolution
- Asks you for any further information for Dashboard
- Asks for the name of point person and contact information

Step 3

You Reply to Resolution Committee Member:

- Provide all info requested

Draft submission of a resolution, cont'd



Resolution Committee member replies:

- Emails you confirmation of official submission of your resolution
- Provides a follow-up contact of another Resolution Committee member

Processing a resolution after draft submission

Step 1

2 Resolution Committee Members assigned to you

- They make revisions and editorial suggestions to your resolution

Step 2

Your reply to the Resolution Committee Members

- Acknowledge all comments and suggestions
- Make whatever changes you see fit

Step 3

Official resolution posted

- An interim official draft put on the Wiki 3 days before global hearings
- Final draft put on the Wiki after final changes after global hearings in late April /early May

Hearings on draft resolutions

Hearings: semi-formal discussion of each resolution in preparation for DPCA votes

Schedule: between publication of draft texts and the publication of the formal report

Format TBD but likely turn-taking and time-limited

Comments on the order of consideration

DA members welcome to attend, participate in some form

Questions?

Coming up: Co-sponsors, hearings, and discussion. Then, deciding at the DPCA Global Meeting in May

Overview: Sponsor role in the last two weeks

Review feedback from public hearings and online discussion

Consult with fellow authors or affiliated groups (e.g. caucus or global committees included from the start)

Complete the final text in conversation with the Resolutions Committee and formally approve the text

Educate DA members and DPCA voters on the resolution through online platforms

Invite potential co-sponsors to complete the co-sponsorship form

Continue to answer inquiries at the contact address listed on the dashboard

Get used to the idea that the DPCA owns the text now

Co-sponsors of resolutions

Co-sponsor = a DA member who wishes to indicate full support for a resolution

Inscription as a co-sponsor: Open form, self-verified, DPCA voter status

Open after publication of the final texts in the formal report

Closed shortly before the DPCA Global Meeting, May 21-22

The Sponsor of a resolution, along with authors and others, permitted to solicit co-sponsors using normal channels.

Publication on the DA wiki but not in the formal report for the DPCA meeting

Formal report of the Resolutions Committee

For the DPCA Global Meeting
of May 21-22, 2022

Expected contents of the report

Resolutions submitted with final texts

Links to the DA wiki for footnotes,
appendices, and co-sponsors*

Summary of May 2022 hearings on the
draft texts and order of consideration

Proposed order of consideration for
the DPCA Global Meeting

Optional: Proposed rules for debate
on resolutions

Deciding on resolutions: DPCA global meeting

Order of Consideration

Authority of the International Chair

Suspending the rules to change the order or adopt in groups or extend debate

Once the meeting begins, each resolution is in the hands of the DPCA as a body of equals.

Special rules of debate

Introduction by author or sponsor if permitted

Limited debate: time limits and content

Amendments to the resolution: no special role for authors or sponsor

Voting

Majority vote to adopt a resolution

Other conclusions: refer to committee, run out of time, etc (*next slide*)

After each terminal vote, the next resolution is taken up automatically

After the DPCA global meeting

If a resolution is adopted...

- The text is included in the Resolutions Committee's report to Intl Secretary, including all successful amendments.
- The Executive Committee takes responsibility for taking action as prescribed in the adopted resolution.
- The texts are added to the DA wiki as having been adopted.

If a resolution is not adopted...

- The terminal motion is included in the Resolution Committee's report to Intl Secretary.

Possibilities:

- Failed on motion to adopt
- Postponed
- Referred to a global committee
- Laid on the table / postponed indefinitely
- Not considered during the meeting

Questions?

End of formal presentation

We're ready for your questions and extended comments

Office hours in early April and always at resolutions@democratsabroad.org