

# Advice for Resolutions

DPCA Resolutions Committee, March 2022

*The best examples for your review are resolutions that were previously adopted by the DPCA. Be aware that the actions required by RESOLVED clauses for one meeting may not be appropriate in another (e.g. during a major GOTV effort). As always, the Resolutions Committee is here to help at [resolutions@democratsabroad.org](mailto:resolutions@democratsabroad.org)*

[Resolution on issue directly affecting Americans living abroad](#)

[Resolution on issue of concern to Americans living abroad](#)

[Resolution on a matter of internal governance for the DPCA](#)

[Memorial Resolution](#)

## Resolution on issue directly affecting Americans living abroad

WHEREAS, these short paragraphs are to introduce the issue, why it matters to Democrats Abroad or Americans living abroad, and the current context for the Resolved clauses.

WHEREAS, these short paragraphs should also acknowledge previous positions taken by DA, and sometimes the Democratic Party, that are relevant to the resolution. These clauses should provide a reason either for changing DA's position or for introducing a new position for the DPCA.

BE IT RESOLVED, these statements should clearly state the consequences of adopting the resolution. They should indicate an action or actions that the DPCA is capable of taking.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, these statements should call for actions proportionate and appropriate for the DPCA to undertake in a midterm election year.

Here are some examples of actions that may fit the issue and the context of a year focused on GOTV:

- a letter or a public statement
- a shift in priorities for an existing committee or task force
- an educational campaign among members or via social media

# Resolution on issue of concern to Americans living abroad

*Here is an alternate format using “WHEREAS” and “RESOLVED” to indicate context and action, respectively.*

## WHEREAS:

These short paragraphs are to introduce the issue, why it matters to Democrats Abroad or Americans living abroad, and the current context for the Resolved clauses. DA takes positions on issues beyond those directly affecting our members and constituents but the expectations are higher for the urgency, relevance, and effectiveness of these resolutions.

These short paragraphs should also acknowledge previous positions taken by DA, and sometimes the Democratic Party, that are relevant to the resolution. These clauses should provide a reason either for changing DA’s position or for introducing a new position for the DPCA.

## BE IT RESOLVED:

The statements following “resolved” should clearly state the consequences of adopting the resolution. They should indicate an action or actions that the DPCA is capable of taking.

Here are some examples of actions that may fit the issue and the context of a year focused on GOTV:

- a letter from the DPCA, composed by the ExCom or the International Chair, sent to Democratic leaders or state parties or governmental agencies
- a statement posted to the DA website for 180 days and promoted by social media as appropriate
- an addendum to the 2020 DA Platform and due consideration for the 2024 platform
- a study group of volunteers to develop educational materials for members

# Resolution on a matter of internal governance for the DPCA

WHEREAS, these short paragraphs should set forth the need for a change in internal policy or the establishment of a new policy or entity within Democrats Abroad.

WHEREAS, these resolutions are in contrast to Charter amendments, the most binding kind of resolution and the hardest to change in the future. These resolutions are appropriate for serious

matters of global governance that may nevertheless change in the future by a new resolution or a change of the laws and bylaws that govern DA.

WHEREAS, many of the ideas that could be DPCA resolutions should be submitted to the DPCA Executive Committee instead, as a formal or informal proposal. The DPCA Executive Committee implements adopted resolutions anyway, and a direct interaction with the ExCom is more flexible and adaptable to the organization as a whole.

BE IT RESOLVED, the statements following “resolved” should clearly state the actions required if the resolution is adopted. They should indicate an action or actions that the DPCA is capable of taking.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the actions and consequences should take into account all their effects on other parts of the DPCA, or the resolutions should mandate a study group or an implementing process to resolve those effects.

## Memorial Resolution

This type of resolution can be free-form but it must consist of plain text. A memorial should be brief and focused on the particular roles in DA that were held by the deceased individual and the impact of that person on DA.

Please contact the Resolutions Committee from the start, so we can help best honor the life you wish to memorialize.