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2 Report of the Platform and Resolutions Committee
3 For Consideration by the South Carolina Democratic Party Convention
4 April 21st, 2018

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8
9 1. IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN

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11 WHEREAS, public education in South Carolina has never been funded in accordance with the state constitution, and
12 WHEREAS, "minimally adequate" is a subjective concept that jeopardizes our children's future, and
13 WHEREAS, education is a cornerstone of economic development for the future of our state, and
14 WHEREAS, students of color, particularly male students, are suspended at much higher rates than their white counterparts, and
15 WHEREAS, students who are suspended miss out on schooling necessary to future success and are disproportionately likely to
16 be incarcerated as adults, and
17 WHEREAS, public education is an essential foundation of our democracy;

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19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the establishment of programs that will assist
20 students who are failing behind in their education, and
21 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Department of Education and school systems across the state
22 create or expand programs that follow the principle of restorative justice and allow students to remain in the classroom whenever
23 possible, and
24 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports educational programs for all
25 stakeholders including students, teachers, and parents on matters of bullying, and
26 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports full and adequate funding for all
27 public schools in South Carolina, and
28 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party will work to incorporate schools and
29 neighborhoods by creating more diverse and inclusive school attendance zones, and
30 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports higher teacher pay, better benefits
31 for teachers, and offering job performance-based incentives for teachers, to help ensure the highest quality of instruction possible
32 for public school students in South Carolina.

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34 2. HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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36 WHEREAS, education is the key to a functioning society and the high cost of tuition keeps many young people from pursuing
37 higher education, and
38 WHEREAS, Denmark Technical College and other historically black colleges and universities have a tremendous impact on the
39 lives of their students, and
40 WHEREAS, Denmark Technical College is unique in its status as the only residential technical college in South Carolina and the
41 only technical college that is an historically black college and university in the state;

42
43 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Democratic Party supports legislation to make state-supported or
44 public technical schools and community colleges tuition free to students, and
45 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports Denmark Technical College as a
46 standalone college in its present location and opposes the South Carolina Technical College system's current proposal to have
47 Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech to take over Denmark Technical College, and
48 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports all efforts to increase funding to
49 public universities and colleges in South Carolina, particularly the historically black colleges and universities.

52 3. ENSURING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

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54 WHEREAS, the right to vote is the cornerstone of democracy and that right has been under attack in South Carolina and the
55 United States from home and abroad, and

56 WHEREAS, "one person, one vote" is fundamental to the fairness of our elections, and

57 WHEREAS, the popular vote is the expression of the will of the people which should be paramount in the election of its
58 representatives, and

59 WHEREAS, the South Carolina Democratic Party opposes racial, partisan, and other forms of gerrymandering;

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61 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports and will promote passage of House Concurrent
62 Resolution 79 in the United States Congress, and

63 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports all efforts to expand voter
64 registration and voting rights to all citizens, and

65 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the implementation of policy
66 changes to ensure that votes are counted as cast with a verifiable paper trail, and

67 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the creation of a non-partisan
68 commission for the fair and equitable re-apportionment of electoral districts after the 2020 census.

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70 4. PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT AND IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

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72 WHEREAS, unchecked growth and fast-paced development will result in land and resource overconsumption, further
73 exacerbating the state's affordable housing and public transportation crises, while endangering its farms and forests, and

74 WHEREAS, offshore drilling is an inappropriate economic development strategy for South Carolina, endangering our state's
75 coastline and the wildlife, industries, and families it supports, and

76 WHEREAS, solar energy and other renewable energy technologies are viable alternatives to continued dependence on fossil fuels
77 for energy generation, and

78 WHEREAS, climate change is upon us, causing temperatures and the sea level to rise, stressing our agriculture, forestry, and
79 fishing industries, and threatening our special places, plants, and wildlife, and

80 WHEREAS, the citizens of South Carolina have the right to clean, safe water that meets national standards;

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82 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party opposes offshore oil and gas development, including
83 seismic testing, and instead supports legislative measures that increase development of and access to alternative energy sources,
84 and

85 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports measures to combat climate change
86 and mitigate its far-reaching efforts.

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88 5. EQUALITY FOR ALL

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90 WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and transgender people are at heightened risk of discrimination, and

91 WHEREAS, increased hatred and vitriol have generated increased fear in the LGBTQ community;

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93 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party support that wording be added to all state public policy
94 anti-discrimination statements that include "sexual orientation and gender identity/expression" along with race, gender, national
95 origin, religion, and veteran status, and

96 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Democratic Party affirm its commitment to the LGBTQ legal
97 protections with respect to housing, employment, public accommodations, and healthcare.

98

99 6. WOMEN'S RIGHTS

100

101 WHEREAS, women represent approximately 51% of the population of South Carolina, and

102 WHEREAS, 15.9% of the General Assembly is currently comprised of women, and

103 WHEREAS, five women have held statewide office in South Carolina, and

104 WHEREAS, women face discrimination and barriers related to reproductive health care services, and

105 WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment was passed by both chambers of the United States Congress in 1972, but was not
106 ratified by the necessary number of states by the March 1979 deadline for inclusion in the United States Constitution and South
107 Carolina has not ratified the amendment;

108

109 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports continued efforts to increase the number of
110 women in leadership positions within the Party and in elected office at local, state, and national levels, and

111 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports protecting and advancing the
112 reproductive health and rights of women by making every effort to oppose federal and state laws that impede women's access to
113 healthcare, and
114 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports ratification of the Equal Rights
115 Amendment by the state of South Carolina and its inclusion as an amendment to the United States Constitution.
116

117 7. SUPPORT FOR DREAMERS

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119 WHEREAS, the majority of South Carolinians believe that the United States should pass comprehensive legislation that provides
120 a permanent legal status and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented persons brought to this country as children, commonly
121 referred to as "DREAMers", and
122 WHEREAS, the South Carolina Democratic Party is firmly committed to state and national policies that restore every person's
123 ability to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;
124

125 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party calls on the United States Congress to pass a clean
126 DREAM Act or similar legislation that codifies the benefits currently conferred upon participants in the Deferred Action for
127 Childhood Arrivals program.
128

129 8. IMPORTANCE OF NET NEUTRALITY

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131 WHEREAS, voting to end net neutrality would increase internet prices dramatically, and
132 WHEREAS, an end to the policy of net neutrality would make the internet less accessible to people with limited means;
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134 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party opposes every effort to end the policy of net neutrality in
135 the United States.
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137 9. REPEAL OF THE HERITAGE ACT

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139 WHEREAS, the Heritage Act of 2000 requires a two-thirds vote of the South Carolina General Assembly to move, alter, or correct
140 historical monuments, and
141 WHEREAS, the people of South Carolina believe in community based governance and the right to decide which historical
142 monuments exist in their own communities;
143

144 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the repeal of the Heritage Act of 2000.
145

146 10. PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

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148 WHEREAS, due to years of neglect, our transportation infrastructure in the state of South Carolina is generally falling apart and
149 one in three bridges need major repairs, and
150 WHEREAS, a healthy public infrastructure is necessary for a robust economy, and
151 WHEREAS, the citizens of rural South Carolina are often neglected when it comes to infrastructure development;
152

153 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the appropriation of funds for highway and
154 bridge improvements, and

155 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the development of a long-term
156 maintenance plan, including a schedule for major improvements, and stable funding sources to ensure the creation of an
157 adequate and safe statewide transportation network, that also meets the needs of rural communities across South Carolina.
158

159 11. REPARATIONS

160
161 WHEREAS, House Resolution 40 was introduced in the United States Congress in 1984, but has never been given a hearing, and
162 WHEREAS, House Resolution 40 only calls for the study of an issue that has never been adequately addressed, and
163 WHEREAS, the issue of reparations must be addressed if healing and reconciliation are to be accomplished;
164

165 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports passage of House Resolution 40 in the United
166 States Congress to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13
167 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal
168 for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-
169 Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate
170 remedies, and for other purposes.

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12. MEDICAID EXPANSION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, South Carolina has not accepted Medicaid expansion through the Affordable Care Act and there are over 135,000 uninsured South Carolinians, and
WHEREAS, many South Carolina residents who are not currently eligible for Medicaid or Medicare are without health coverage, and
WHEREAS, the federal government currently pays 60 percent of the costs for these programs, but would pay 100 percent for three years if South Carolina accepted the Medicaid expansion and 90 percent thereafter, and
WHEREAS, access to healthcare in rural areas is becoming more limited;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports South Carolina's acceptance of Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act.

13. HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

WHEREAS, to enjoy the fundamental rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness each person must be able to receive timely, professional, state of the art healthcare and therapy without regard to age, place of residence, and ability to pay, and
WHEREAS, the South Carolina Democratic Party recognizes that healthcare is a right, not a privilege;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports measures by both the Legislature and Executive to create an affordable, single-payer healthcare system that works for all citizens with the utmost urgency.

14. IMPROVING STATE ETHICS LAWS

WHEREAS, conflicts of interest and lack of transparency have resulted in unethical influence in state government, and
WHEREAS, current ethics laws shield legislators' emails and other records from open-records requests enabling legislators to hide their communications from their constituents, and
WHEREAS, many special interest groups do not have to register as lobbyists under current law;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party support strong ethics reform legislation that will lift the shield of legislators' emails and records from open-record requests while honoring the rights and privacy of citizens, require strict registration of special interests as lobbyists, prevent conflict of interests, and reform the state campaign finance system.

15. REINSTATEMENT OF THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE

WHEREAS, the public owns the airways and the Federal Communications Commission has allowed increasing monopolization of those airwaves by private broadcasters, and
WHEREAS, the current broadcast media environment has helped create a toxic and skewed discourse;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine, and
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports requirements that private broadcasters renting public airways be required to broadcast a certain amount of local educational content, including political forums and debates, in order to maintain their licenses.

16. MENTAL HEALTH

WHEREAS, South Carolina is lacking the adequate tools and services to meet the mental health needs of its communities, and
WHEREAS, patients in mental health crisis centers typically spends days waiting to be admitted to behavioral and other treatment facilities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the state of South Carolina establish and fund mental health crisis stabilization centers throughout the state to serve as temporary placement for patients in need and to meet the immediate needs of individuals in crisis.

17. IMPROVING SAFETY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, stricter gun control laws and enforcement of present gun control measures could make schools in South Carolina safer, and
WHEREAS, there is no substantial research that demonstrates that teachers carrying weapons makes schools safer, and

230 WHEREAS, background checks for the purchase of firearms can help keep these weapons out of the hands of individuals who
231 mean to do harm to others, and
232 WHEREAS, South Carolina consistently places among the states with the highest rates of domestic abuse and domestic violence,
233 and
234 WHEREAS, South Carolina consistently ranks in the top five jurisdictions nationally for the rate of women killed by men, and
235 victims of domestic violence often need special support and assistance due to the intimate nature of the crime and public nature of
236 its prosecution, and
237 WHEREAS, the United States has approximately 5 percent of the world's population, but approximately 25 percent of the global
238 prison population, and
239 WHEREAS, the current justice system has led to excessive incarceration rates evidenced by a decades-long increase in the ratio
240 of prisoners to population despite a decrease in the crime rate, and
241 WHEREAS, the burden of our over-reliance on incarceration has fallen disproportionately on communities of color, contributing to
242 racial disparities, poverty, and increasing inequality across the country, and
243 WHEREAS, our prisons are at over-capacity and hold a disproportionate number of prisoners for minor drug-related offenses, and
244 WHEREAS, treatment needs to be available to individuals suffering from addiction to opioid drugs, both prescriptive and illicit,
245 regardless of insurance availability and financial status, to address the ongoing crisis of the widespread addiction to these drugs,
246 and
247 WHEREAS, South Carolina's basic law enforcement course at the Criminal Justice Academy is 12 weeks long while the national
248 average is 21 weeks long and competent law enforcement requires calm decision making and the deployment of tactics to de-
249 escalate dangerous situations before they become violent, and
250 WHEREAS, all human life is precious, and the use of the death penalty prevents the opportunity for redemption and the
251 enforcement of the death penalty costs more than sentences of life imprisonment;

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253
254 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, South Carolina public schools should remain gun-free zones except law enforcement officers,
255 and
256 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the establishment of programs to
257 provide awareness training in public schools for domestic abuse prevention, as well as economic, job training, health care, and
258 secure and sanitary shelter programs for victims of domestic abuse, and
259 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports universal background checks for all
260 firearm purchases and passage of S516 to close the Charleston Loophole, and
261 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports a ban on civilian ownership of
262 assault-style firearms designed for use in combat zones and passage of H4975, and
263 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the decriminalization of marijuana for
264 personal and medical use in South Carolina, and
265 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that effective drug policies should treat opioid addiction as a disease and the South
266 Carolina Democratic Party will advocate for effective legislation to address the ongoing opioid addiction crisis through funding that
267 will significantly expand treatment facilities and programs, and
268 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports criminal justice reforms including
269 expanding diversionary programs as alternatives to prosecution, abolishing mandatory minimum sentencing, and prioritizing the
270 rehabilitation and reintegration in sentencing, and
271 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports constitutional and statutory
272 limitations on the uses of prison labor in private industry, as well as other abuses of the prisoner exception in the Thirteenth
273 Amendment's abolition of slavery and forced labor, and
274 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports a longer period of training for law
275 enforcement officers and improved curriculum to include tactics to de-escalate volatile encounters, and
276 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the immediate abolishment of the
277 use of capital punishment in South Carolina.

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279 18. PRIMARY IMPARTIALITY BY PARTY OFFICIALS
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281 WHEREAS, it is crucial to the success of Democratic candidates in November that unity within the Democratic Party is fostered
282 prior to the June primary elections, and
283 WHEREAS, the public endorsement of Democratic candidates in primary elections by Party officers in their official capacities can
284 create unnecessary Party divisions, and
285 WHEREAS, the ultimate goal of the South Carolina Democratic Party is to win elections in November;
286
287 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all South Carolina Democratic Party and County Democratic Party Officers refrain from
288 publicly endorsing Democratic candidates in primary elections.
289

290 19. BASE LOAD REVIEW ACT OF 2007

291
292 WHEREAS, the issues associated with the failed nuclear power plant in Fairfield County began in 2007 with the passage of the
293 Base Load Review Act of 2007, and
294 WHEREAS, the SCE&G customers are entitled to a rebate and reduced electric rates for the company's bad decisions and
295 failures, and
296 WHEREAS, SCE&G customers will be paying for the cost of these failed plants for decades to come without action by the General
297 Assembly;
298
299 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party support the immediate repeal of the Base Load Review
300 Act of 2007.

301
302 20. SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC POSTAL SERVICE

303
304 WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service serves 150 million households and businesses each day without any taxpayer
305 funding, providing affordable, universal mail service to all, and
306 WHEREAS, good postal jobs are vital to strong, healthy communities, and have provided equal opportunities and the foundation
307 for financial stability for workers from all walks of life, and
308 WHEREAS, the postal service ought to be organized around the principle that the public good must not be sacrificed for the sake
309 of private investment and profit and that a strong public postal service is our democratic right;
310
311 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party joins a grand alliance to save our postal service in the
312 fight to protect and enhance vibrant public postal services now and for many generations to come.

313
314 21. WAGES AND THE WORKFORCE

315
316 WHEREAS, there is a lack of funding on the state level for specific secondary and post-secondary job training for skills needed in
317 the 21st century economy, and
318 WHEREAS, equal pay for equal work is a fundamental component of social justice and economic development, and
319 WHEREAS, the United States has more wealth yet more income inequality than any other major developed country and, in 2017,
320 735,600 South Carolinians earned below the poverty level of \$14,340 for a family of four;
321
322 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports increased funding from the state government for
323 career education and job training programs, as well as an increase in tuition waiver opportunities for technical schools and
324 apprenticeship programs, and
325 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party affirm its commitment to equal pay for equal
326 work, and
327 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Carolina Democratic Party supports legislation to create a minimum
328 wage of \$15 per hour.