

# **The Delaware Democratic Party**

## **2025 Resolutions Recommendations**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Resolutions Committee met via Zoom meeting on 6/10/2025 to consider and adopt the resolutions submitted to it by members of the State Democratic Party. Committee Chair Tracey Miller and Delaware Democratic Party's Technology Director Kate Coulter committed to compiling the resolutions as adopted into a draft document that will be reviewed by the Committee before the resolutions are presented to the Convention. It should be noted that the order of the resolutions is not indicative of their importance.

Committee members present: *Geraldine Jones, Jessica Jackson, Ed Middleton, Curtis Morris Aiken III, Nathan Stewart, Ian Smith, Jim Miller, Evonne Murray, Julie Jackson, Faith Morris, Dr. Michael Benson, Milton Brown, Richard Perry, Maria Cordonnier, Tracey Miller*

Members not in attendance: *LeSans Alexander, Stephen Rash, Bardo Galindo Ulloa, Joanne Finnigan, Loretta Benson*

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Committee Chair Tracey Miller and Technology Director Kate Coulter*

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### **I. RESOLUTION HONORING JOSEPH ROBINETTE BIDEN, JR., FOR HIS UNWAVERING SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE STATE OF DELAWARE AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

WHEREAS, Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr. was born on November 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and moved to Delaware in 1953, where he attended and graduated from Archmere Academy in 1961 and the University of Delaware in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Joseph R. Biden Jr. began his public service career in the State of Delaware as a member of the New Castle County Council, on which he served from 1970 to 1972, and demonstrated true care for and commitment to the residents and businesses of his adopted home state of Delaware; and

WHEREAS, with his strong desire to serve, coupled with exemplary leadership skills, Joseph R. Biden Jr. was elected to the United States Senate in 1972 at age 29, becoming the sixth-youngest senator in American history upon taking office, and representing the people of Delaware from 1973 to 2009; and

WHEREAS, in the course of his tireless work in the Senate, he served as Ranking Member and Chair of both the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee, championing peace and human rights, defending America's allies, and advocating for criminal justice reform and civil liberties; and

WHEREAS, after representing Delaware in the Senate for 36 years, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. was elected the 44th Vice President of the United States, serving in the historic administration of President Barack Obama from 2009 to 2017; and

WHEREAS, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. was elected the 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, exemplifying brilliant leadership, resilience, and an incredible impact on Delawareans, citizens of the United States, and the world; and

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware has reciprocated its love and admiration for President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. with honors such as the establishment of the Biden Institute at the University of Delaware, the Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Aquatic Center, and the Biden Welcome Center on Interstate-95; and

WHEREAS, Joseph R. Biden Jr. has received numerous Decorations such as the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction, and the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, just to mention a few; and

WHEREAS, Joseph R. Biden Jr. received numerous International Decorations, such as Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, Crescent of Pakistan, Golden Medal of Freedom, St. George's Order of Victory, Order of the Three Stars (1st Class), Order of Boyaca (Extraordinary Grand Cross) and National Order of the Montenegrin Great Star, First Class, just to mention a few; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Delaware Democratic Party, in recognition of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.'s significant and incredible positive impact, during some of the most challenging circumstances imaginable, we congratulate the 46th President of the United States, President Joseph R. Biden Jr., on his incredible political journey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Delaware Democratic Party, in recognition of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. will continue to abide by the values, class, and dignity that President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. exemplified.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Joseph R. Biden, Jr. was the greatest President in American History.

## **II. RESOLUTION CONCERNING ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE**

WHEREAS, quality, affordable healthcare is a human right, not a privilege; and every American deserves the peace of mind that comes with equitable access to care, regardless of income, race, gender identity, or geographic location;

WHEREAS, Democrats have fought to protect and expand the Affordable Care Act, which has secured protections for those with preexisting conditions, while Republicans continue efforts to undermine that progress;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Delaware Democratic officials support the continued expansion of equitable, accessible healthcare and advocate for policies that:

Ensure access to gender-affirming care as essential healthcare, fully covered by public and private insurance plans, and protected from discriminatory laws or denials of service;

Expand, as a form of preventative healthcare, community-based nutrition education and improve access to healthy foods, especially in underserved and rural areas, by supporting mobile health units, local food initiatives, school nutrition programs, and urban farming efforts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Delaware Democrats support:

Making permanent the expanded Affordable Care Act premium tax credits at the federal level, which have lowered coverage costs for millions of Americans and reduced the uninsured rate to historic lows;

Expanding Medicaid and CHIP coverage, to cover low-income and uninsured populations without delay;

Increasing investment in rural and community health centers to ensure access to high-quality care, particularly in underserved areas;

Protecting healthcare access from discrimination based on race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity, and holding federally funded providers accountable to civil rights standards;

Increasing the healthcare workforce, including primary care doctors, mental health professionals, nurses, and specialists trained to serve across the full spectrum of needs, including gender-affirming and preventative care;

Expanding protections from surprise medical bills, including coverage for ground ambulance services, and preventing junk insurance plans that leave families exposed to massive out-of-pocket costs.

*Submitted by: Nathan Stewart*

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### **III. RESOLUTION CONCERNING COMMITMENT TO ITS BIG TENT OF DELAWARE DEMOCRATS OF ALL IDEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES**

WHEREAS, the Delaware Democratic Party has a 40-year history of success in electing Democrats to all levels of Delaware government; and

WHEREAS, Delaware's Democrats have been central to enabling much of the current success and prosperity in our state and are focused on improving the lives of all Delawareans;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Delaware Democratic Party remains committed to its "Big Tent" of Delaware Democrats of all ideological perspectives, including those with more moderate or conservative positions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,

1. The Delaware Democratic Party remains committed to demonstrating to Delawareans that ALL prospective Democratic voters are welcome in the Party, free of political tests or oaths;
2. As Democrats, we are united and committed to working together, treating each other with respect, and not allowing our differences to divide us;
3. The Delaware Democratic Party continues to focus on building Democratic consensus, encouraging the fullest possible participation of all Democratic voters, and disseminating the Democratic Party message, platform, and philosophy.

*Submitted by: Robert E Mills*

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### **IV. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING UNION JOBS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE BUILDING OF THE NEW CONTAINER TERMINAL ON THE DELAWARE RIVER**

WHEREAS, the shipping industry is transitioning to transport the majority of cargo by containers; and

WHEREAS, the new fleet of container vessels are too large to dock at the current Port of Wilmington on the Christina River; and

WHEREAS, in order to attract and accommodate these vessels, preserve Delaware's shipping industry, and protect and preserve thousands of current existing jobs; and create thousands of new, good-paying union jobs for Delawareans, a new Container Terminal must be constructed on the Delaware River; and

WHEREAS, this new terminal must not be a job-killing automated terminal as suggested by a top elected official, but rather a hub of union-supported, human-powered workplaces; and

WHEREAS, workforce development is essential to ensuring Delawareans have equitable access to the opportunities generated by the Wilmington Port project; and

WHEREAS, L.E.E.P.'s Pathway to Apprenticeship Program (P2A) serves as a vital pre-apprenticeship training initiative that prepares local residents for successful entry into union apprenticeship programs in the building trades, and should be recognized as the official feeder program for union construction jobs associated with the Wilmington Port project;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware Democratic Party and its elected representatives shall do everything in their power to ensure that this Container Terminal is built by the UNIONIZED CONSTRUCTION TRADES, TRUCKED BY THE TEAMSTERS, AND OPERATED BY MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, and that the workforce development pipeline includes L.E.E.P.'s Pathway to Apprenticeship Program (P2A) as the gateway for local Delawareans into these union careers.

*Submitted by: Kimoko Harris and Evonne Murray*

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## **V. RESOLUTION CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE**

WHEREAS, historic underinvestment in environmental infrastructure and protection has led to systemic inequities in public health, climate resilience, and quality of life for marginalized populations - including communities of color, low-income neighborhoods, and Indigenous communities; and

WHEREAS, investments in public green space not only improve environmental health and community well-being, but also have the potential to generate local green industry jobs, stimulate local economies, and address longstanding environmental injustice; and

WHEREAS, achieving energy independence, through diversification of energy production including solar and wind energy, at the state and national levels is essential to economic stability, national security, and climate resilience; and

WHEREAS, the growth of the clean energy sector provides a unique opportunity to invest in a 21st-century workforce, expand union-protected green jobs, and reduce economic disparities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Delaware Democratic Party urges the development of green workforce programs that prioritize job training, union representation, and equitable hiring practices in environmental restoration, public works, and clean energy sectors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Delaware Democratic Party encourages collaboration with environmental justice organizations, labor unions, and local communities to ensure inclusive planning, equitable resource allocation, and community oversight of green energy and environmental restoration projects.

*Submitted by: Nathan Stewart*

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## **VI. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRATION REFORM**

WHEREAS, Delaware Democrats are committed to building a state that is safe, welcoming, and inclusive for all people—regardless of immigration status—where every immigrant can access opportunity, secure good-paying jobs, receive a quality education, and live free from exploitation or discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Delaware must remain a state where the rule of law protects every individual's dignity and where due process is guaranteed for all, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Democratic Party opposes any local, state, or federal policy or practice that seeks to detain, deport, or target immigrants without due process and respect for their fundamental rights; and

WHEREAS, immigrants make profound contributions to our economy, culture, and communities, and any immigration policy must honor those contributions and the fundamental human rights of all people;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Delaware Democratic Party supports comprehensive federal immigration reform that keeps families together, and affirms the basic human rights of all immigrants;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Delaware Democratic Party encourages legislators to protect immigrant communities; to prevent Delaware law enforcement agencies from entering into or renewing agreements with federal immigration authorities for the purpose of enforcing civil immigration law, detaining individuals based solely on immigration status, or disclosing sensitive immigration-related information without a judicial warrant or legal mandate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Delaware Democratic Party supports state-level efforts to protect and uplift immigrant communities, including legislation that expands access to education, health care, and legal protections regardless of immigration status;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Delaware Democratic Party calls upon all members of the Delaware State Legislature to support policies that make Delaware a more welcoming and inclusive place for immigrants, consistent with the values of liberty, equality, and justice for all.

*Submitted by: Nathan Stewart*

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## **VII. RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THEODORE “TED” BLUNT**

WHEREAS, Theodore "Ted" Blunt was a lifelong public servant, educator, and leader who dedicated his life to uplifting the City of Wilmington and the State of Delaware through his tireless service and unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and community empowerment; and

WHEREAS, Ted Blunt served honorably as a member of the Wilmington City Council for over two decades, including as Council President from 2001 to 2008, during which time he was a strong advocate for youth programs, public safety, and community development; and

WHEREAS, as an educator, administrator, and mentor, Ted Blunt shaped the lives of countless young people through his work in Delaware's public schools and community institutions, always championing access to quality education and opportunities for all; and

WHEREAS, Ted Blunt was a respected and beloved leader within the Democratic Party, known for his integrity, compassion, and unwavering belief in public service as a vehicle for positive change; and

WHEREAS, his legacy continues through his family, community service, and the many individuals he mentored and inspired throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Democratic Party recognizes that our state and our Party are stronger because of the enduring contributions of Theodore Blunt;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Delaware Democratic Party formally honors the life, service, and legacy of Theodore "Ted" Blunt, and extends its deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn his passing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the permanent record of the Delaware Democratic Party and shared with the Blunt family in recognition of his lasting impact on our community and state.

*Submitted by: Coby Owens*

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#### **VIII. RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COUNCILWOMAN RYSHEEMA DIXON**

WHEREAS, Rysheema Dixon was a dedicated public servant, community leader, and a great advocate for the voiceless who served with distinction on the Wilmington City Council from 2017 to 2022, including as the first African American woman elected At-Large; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Dixon brought a deep commitment to equity, opportunity, and grassroots change, particularly championing issues affecting underserved communities, young people, and small businesses in Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, she was the founder and CEO of RD Innovative Planning, through which she empowered local organizations and individuals to build stronger, more resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, Rysheema Dixon's leadership extended beyond elected office, as she mentored countless young leaders, worked tirelessly for inclusive economic development, and advocated for sustainable solutions to urban challenges; and

WHEREAS, her passing is a profound loss to the City of Wilmington, the State of Delaware, and the Democratic Party, and her example continues to inspire those working for justice and positive change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Delaware Democratic Party honors the life,



service and legacy of Councilwoman Rysheema Dixon;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, colleagues, and all who were touched by her vision and compassion;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Delaware Democratic Party recommits itself to the values Councilwoman Dixon held dear—service, equity, empowerment, and a deep belief in the power of community.

*Submitted by: Coby Owens*

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## **IX. RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LINDA GRAY**

WHEREAS, Linda Gray was a devoted public servant, a respected member of the Wilmington City Council, and a passionate advocate for her constituents in Wilmington’s 1st District; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Gray brought to public office decades of experience as a community leader, legal professional, and tireless volunteer, dedicating her life to uplifting those around her and advocating for equity, justice, and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, she served with honor and integrity on the Wilmington City Council from 2020 until her untimely passing in 2023, where she was known for her steady leadership, thoughtful policy work, and deep compassion for the people she represented; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Gray worked to expand access to affordable housing, improve public safety, support youth and seniors, and ensure that the voices of her community were heard in every level of local government; and

WHEREAS, her work extended beyond the Council chamber, as she remained active in civic life, lending her legal expertise, wisdom, and mentorship to countless community organizations and individuals; and

WHEREAS, Linda Gray’s passing is a great loss to the Wilmington community, the State of Delaware, and the Democratic Party, and her legacy will endure in the lives she touched and the principles she upheld;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Delaware Democratic Party formally honors the life, service, and enduring contributions of Councilwoman Linda Gray;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our deepest sympathy and support to her family,

friends, colleagues, and the residents of Wilmington’s 1st District;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Delaware Democratic Party recommits itself to the values Councilwoman Gray lived by—integrity, service, compassion, and unwavering dedication to the common good.

*Submitted by: Coby Owens*

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**X. RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RICHARD  
“MOUSE” SMITH**

WHEREAS, Richard “Mouse” Smith was a lifelong advocate for civil rights, social justice, and political empowerment, whose deep commitment to his community shaped generations of leadership and progress in the City of Wilmington and throughout the State of Delaware; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith served honorably and effectively as Chair of Wilmington’s 7th Ward for the Delaware Democratic Party, playing a vital role in organizing grassroots political action, mentoring young leaders, and advancing the values of equity and inclusion within the Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, as the longtime President of the Delaware State Conference of the NAACP, Richard “Mouse” Smith led with courage and conviction in the fight against systemic racism, voter suppression, and economic inequality, advocating for the rights and dignity of all Delawareans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith’s leadership and character earned him the admiration of leaders across the nation, including President Joe Biden, with whom he shared a decades-long friendship rooted in shared values and a commitment to justice and public service; and

WHEREAS, his voice was a moral compass in times of challenge, his presence a source of unity and strength, and his impact on civic and political life in Delaware immeasurable; and

WHEREAS, the passing of Richard “Mouse” Smith is a profound loss to the Democratic Party, the civil rights community, and the entire State of Delaware;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Delaware Democratic Party honors the extraordinary life, legacy, and contributions of Richard “Mouse” Smith;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and all who were touched by his leadership, mentorship, and unwavering dedication to justice;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Delaware Democratic Party recommits itself to the principles for which Richard “Mouse” Smith stood: civil rights, racial equity, political empowerment, and community uplift.

*Submitted by: Coby Owens, Fleur McKendell, and Dr. Michael Benson*

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**XI. RESOLUTION HONORING BETSY MARON FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE DELAWARE DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

WHEREAS, Betsy Maron has served the Delaware Democratic Party with distinction and unwavering commitment in numerous leadership roles over the years, including as State Party Chair, State Party Vice Chair, and New Castle County Party Chair; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as State Party Chair, Betsy provided steady leadership, strengthened the Party’s grassroots infrastructure, and worked tirelessly to elect Democratic candidates up and down the ballot; and

WHEREAS, her leadership was marked by inclusivity, integrity, and an abiding belief in the core values of the Democratic Party, fostering collaboration among elected officials, party leaders, and activists across the state; and

WHEREAS, Betsy has dedicated countless hours of volunteer service, always leading by example and inspiring others through her commitment to fairness, equity, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Democratic Party has been made stronger by her efforts, passion, and guidance, and her legacy will continue to shape the Party for years to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Delaware Democratic Party extends its deepest gratitude to Betsy Maron for her years of exemplary service, leadership, and dedication to the Party and the people of Delaware; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Delaware Democratic Party wishes her continued success in all future endeavors, with sincere appreciation for the indelible mark she has left on our Party and our state.

*Submitted by: Coby Owens, Kat Caudle, John Starke, Jeff Balk, and Cassandra Marshall*

# **The Delaware Democratic Party**

## **2025 Resolution Addendum**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Resolutions Committee received a submission of a Resolution via email on June 17, 2025 in light of recent events. On June 18, 2025, they voted to approve or disapprove the resolution. These are their votes.

Committee members voting to approve: *LeSans Alexander, Jessica Jackson, Ed Middleton, Jim Miller, Joanne Finnigan, Maria Cordinnier, Tracey Miller, Dr. Michael Benson, Curtis Morris Aiken III, Evonne Murray, Loretta Benson, Nathan Stewart, Faith Morris, Richard Perry, Julie Jackson, Geraldine Jones*

Minutes compiled and submitted by Resolutions Committee Chair Tracey Miller and Technology Director Kate Coulter

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### **XII. RESOLUTION CONDEMNING POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE MINNESOTA ASSASSINATION**

WHEREAS, the Delaware Democratic Party stands firmly for the principles of democracy, peaceful political engagement, and the protection of human rights and civil discourse; and,

WHEREAS, the recent tragic act of political violence in Minnesota claimed the lives of Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, State Representative Melissa Hortman, and her husband, Mark Hortman, and left State Senator John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette Hoffman, critically injured; and

WHEREAS, political violence is an affront to the values of democracy, peaceful expression, and the freedoms enshrined in our Constitution; and

WHEREAS, such acts of targeted violence against public servants and their families threaten not only the individuals involved but the safety and functioning of our democratic society as a whole;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Delaware Democratic Party:

Condemns in the strongest possible terms the act of political violence committed in Minnesota;

Expresses our deepest condolences to the families of those killed and our heartfelt support to those injured or traumatized;

Reaffirms our commitment to the peaceful resolution of political differences and to upholding democratic values;

Calls upon all elected officials, political parties, and members of the public to reject violence, hate, and extremism, and to promote civil discourse and mutual respect;

Encourages community vigilance and support for efforts to prevent political violence and protect public safety, especially in times of heightened political tension.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to state and national leaders, the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, members of the press, and relevant civic organizations in solidarity and support.

*Submitted by: Betsy Maron and Coby Owens*