

## Resolutions for SCC Approval Fall SCC, 2020

### 1. Resolution Title: Create a Just Transition Fund for a Sustainable Economy

**Author: Thomas Solomon & Athena Christodoulou, Bernalillo County**

**Whereas:** In 2016, world leaders from 175 countries responded to the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Climate Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2° C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5° C” restoring a stable climate requires an emergency mobilization to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors at emergency speed, to rapidly and safely drawdown or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate change; and

**Whereas:** The Oct 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report on 1.5° C Warming issued an urgent warning that governments had “only 12 years left” to limit warming to 1.5° C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people, globally. And to achieve that goal, global greenhouse gas emissions must be cut in half by 2030 and to zero by 2050; and

**Whereas:** The 4th National Climate Assessment (NCA4), mandated by the U.S. Congress and completed in November 2018, a comprehensive and authoritative report by the United States, finds that “climate change creates new risks and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities in communities across the United States, presenting growing challenges to human health and safety, quality of life, and the rate of economic growth”; and

**Whereas:** This global mandate applies also to New Mexico’s oil & gas sector whose fossil fuel production, when burned, creates greenhouse gas emissions, and thus national and global demand will wind down at least on that schedule, ie in half by 2030 and to zero by 2050; and

**Whereas:** The term “Just Transition” is a framework for a fair shift to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable and just for all its members. And Just transition strategies phase out industries that harm workers, community health, and the ecosystem, while providing just pathways for workers to earn a living wage in new livelihoods; and

**Whereas:** The New Mexico economy and state tax revenue base is, on appearance, overly dependent on the oil and gas sector.

**Be it Resolved:** The Democratic Party of New Mexico calls on the legislature to create A Just Transition fund from Oil & Gas Revenues to pay for the research, planning, and

implementation necessary to end NM's dependence on fossil fuel revenues, achieve carbon neutrality for our state, and build a sustainable economy that works for all New Mexicans. Legislation should be drafted to enact this provision in the 2021 session.

## **2. Resolution Title: The Green Amendment to the NM State Constitution**

**Author: Michael Naes, Sandoval County**

**Whereas:** all people depend upon pure water, clean air, a stable climate, and healthy environments to support and sustain our healthy lives and a healthy economy.

**Whereas:** New Mexico's public natural resources, among them its waters, air, flora, fauna, climate, and public lands, are the common property of all the people, including both present and future generations.

**Whereas:** it is just, moral, and legally important to recognize and protect the environmental rights of all communities equitably, including native American communities, communities of color, low income and immigrant communities.

**Whereas:** protecting healthy natural resources and landscapes is essential to respecting the ancestral lands, fundamental beliefs and way of life, of New Mexico's indigenous communities.

**Whereas:** we owe a moral obligation to respect and protect the inalienable rights of both present and future generations to a healthy environment.

**Be it Resolved:** The state shall take no action that would cause the unreasonable degradation, diminution, or depletion of the environment through direct state action, or inaction, or through the action of others.

**Be it Further Resolved:** The Democratic Party of New Mexico support the addition of a Green Amendment to the New Mexico Constitution which protects the inalienable rights of all people, including future generations, to pure water, clean air, a stable climate and healthy environments.

## **3. Resolution Title: Support Community Solar**

**Author: Robert Carleton, Bernalillo County**

**Whereas:** Community-owned solar legislation is needed to make the process of communities sharing the expense and revenues of solar power systems legal; and

**Whereas:** the New Mexico State Legislature has previously introduced legislation to enable community solar, but failed to enact the legislation thus far; and

**Whereas:** New Mexico has exceptional environmental conditions to facilitate solar energy generation; and

**Whereas:** Community solar democratizes energy production by expanding access, particularly to people who do not own homes or who could not otherwise afford solar equipment, to be an energy producer.

**Be it Resolved:** The Democratic Party of New Mexico supports passage of legislation to enact appropriate measures to enable community-owned solar installations during the 2021 legislative session.

#### **4. Resolution Title: Move State's Primary Election to a Date to be Determined in February.**

**Author: Lee Gamelsky, Bernalillo County**

**Whereas:** New Mexico is a state that reflects and better represents the multi-racial, and the multi-cultural diversity of the united states; and

**Whereas:** democrats and voters nationwide would take interest in the presidential candidates preferred by New Mexicans; and

**Whereas:** New Mexico currently holds its primary elections after the field of candidates has dwindled and the democratic nominee is often a certainty; and

**Whereas:** the state's late-season primary thus proves so inconsequential that presidential candidates neither come to the state to campaign nor send field and advance staff to the state and conserve money by refraining from ad-buys in the state and national media; and

**Whereas:** if New Mexico had a competitive, consequential presidential primary election it could serve as a form of free advertising to showcase New Mexico as people nationwide and worldwide seek news of the presidential candidates as they campaign for office.

**Be it Resolved:** The state of New Mexico's legislature and governor enact laws to move the state's Primary election to a date to be determined in February.

#### **5. Resolution Title: Resolution to ask the Vice President to preside over the US Senate in day-to-day business**

**Author: Colton Dean, Bernalillo County**

**Whereas:** US Senate rules, procedure, and leadership has lead to dysfunction of normal order to the point where legislation passed by the House of Representatives is considered dead before it can be debated.

**Whereas:** the first Constitutional duty of the Vice President of the United States is to preside over the Senate.

**Whereas:** the Democratic Party 2020 candidate for Vice President is Senator Kamala Harris of California.

**Be it resolved:** that if the 2020 Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate, Senator Kamala Harris, becomes the next Vice President of the United States, and the Senate Majority Leader is a Republican, the Democratic Party of New Mexico (DPNM) shall officially ask the Vice President to assume their full Constitutional duty to preside over the Senate in day-to-day business, with the intent to return the Senate to regular order.

**Be it resolved:** that if the Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate, Senator Kamala Harris, becomes the next Vice President of the United States, and the Senate Majority Leader is a Republican, the Democratic Party of New Mexico (DPNM) shall insist the two US Senators from New Mexico support Vice President Kamala Harris in presiding over the Senate in day-to-day business.

## 6. Resolution Title: Universal Basic Income in New Mexico

**Author: Javier Benavidez, Bernalillo County**

**Whereas:** 69% of Americans don't have \$1000 in the bank for emergencies and 34% have no savings whatsoever; and

**Whereas:** a tortured history of colonization, dispossession of land, extraction of wealth, and other tragic injustices has left countless New Mexicans struggling with the toxic stress of poverty, devastating levels of substance abuse, crimes of desperation, and suicide; and

**Whereas:** The State of New Mexico has some of the worst income inequality in the country, with the state's top 1% (average annual income of \$615,082) making 15.5 times more than the bottom 99% (average annual income of \$39,675); and

**Whereas:** A Universal Basic Income investment in New Mexicans would confront the severe economic anxieties brought on by automation and globalization, as well as confront the state's dismal rankings with regard to childhood well-being (studies show significant positive impacts on the lives of children).

**Therefore, Be It Resolved:** that the Democratic Party of New Mexico hereby endorses an exploration of a system of Universal Basic Income in our state.

## **7. Resolution Title: Alleviation of economic disadvantage for the DPNM State Chair**

**Author: Greg Sonnenfeld, Santa Fe County**

**Whereas:** The Democratic Party of New Mexico (DPNM) has an explicit goal of advocating for the working class, working poor and others of disadvantaged socio-economic status.

**Whereas:** The DPNM believes in egalitarian opportunity, selecting leadership from within the communities it represents, and promoting the development of leaders from those communities.

**Whereas:** The unpaid voluntary nature of the job has limited the number of candidates willing to run for the position due to economic circumstances.

**Be it resolved:** The DPNM State Central Committee authorizes the DPNM State Chair to receive compensation, salary, wages, stipend, per diem, in-kind benefit or other novel payment, when such compensation would alleviate financial hardship created as a result of performing substantial work running the DPNM organization.

**Be it further resolved:** any compensation plan shall be approved by majority vote of the DPNM officers, shall require documentation of work hours performed, and shall be equivalent to a living wage to be determined by the DPNM Budget Committee.