

2018 SDDP State Convention Adopted Resolutions

Author/Source: Joseph Yracheta, Senate Candidate District 23
Resolution # 2

Resolution Supporting the Investment in High-Tech Infrastructure at South Dakota Public Universities

WHEREAS, South Dakota is a state with some of the highest SAT (9th) & ACT (14th) scores in the USA and

WHEREAS, South Dakota is 49th in the nation with respect to high tech R&D and attracting such dollars and educators/trainers/trainees and

WHEREAS, the people of South Dakota will have to transition from an agricultural based economy due to climate change and world market forces that privilege high tech and

WHEREAS, the SD private sector spend 1.5 times the amount that the federal government spends in South Dakota on high tech R&D and

WHEREAS, our potential as a high tech R&D hub is enhanced by an abundance of land, sun, water and human resources and

WHEREAS, the high-tech development of natural, human, microbial, livestock and mineral resources of our state should, wherever possible, remain in the commons and/or be competitive with the private sector, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Democratic Party encourage legislation that will incentivize, plan for the future wealth of the state, and financially support (where possible) the acquisition of high tech infrastructure for our public universities and other public institutions of higher learning so that our common resources and intellectual capital can remain bountiful and flexibly unencumbered for the benefit of all South Dakota.

Author: Ray Ring and Kathy Tyler
Resolution # 6

Personal Conscience Resolution

WHEREAS, we recognize that members of our party have deeply held and sometimes differing views on issues of personal conscience, NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Democratic Party recognizes that individual members have a right to abide by their conscience on difficult issues and are welcome participants at every level of the party.

Author/Source: Peter F Klebanoff

Resolution #: 7

Resolution to Study and If Practical Implement an Industrial Hemp Agricultural Program

WHEREAS, South Dakota is an agricultural state, and

WHEREAS, many of the commodity crops produced in South Dakota are subject to significant swings in market price creating personal risk to our farmers and revenue risks to our state budgets, and

WHEREAS, a greater diversity of potential high-production crops will afford South Dakota farmers greater flexibility in crop selection so as to maintain livable incomes, and

WHEREAS, implementing a new type of crop with significant commercial possibilities will also create opportunity for development of post –production processing opportunities, creating new jobs, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of South Dakota supports studying Industrial Hemp as a potential new crop opportunity in South Dakota and, if studies demonstrate the envisioned potential, implementing laws to facilitate development of an Industrial Hemp production ecosystem, including potentially working with the sovereign tribal governments to create post-production facilities and opportunities on reservations to create employment opportunities for our native brothers and sisters.

Author/Source: Subcommittee on State and Local Government

Resolution #: 18

Resolution on Improving Voting Access

WHEREAS, the right of every citizen to have a voice in the operations of our government and country is a fundamental right of all US citizens and one of the core principles that makes us among the greatest nations to ever exist, and

WHEREAS, existing processes, policies, and procedures suppress the rights and abilities of, and/or create inconveniences for many of our South Dakota Citizens thereby reducing the probability or possibility of them being able to vote, and

WHEREAS, the configuration of many of the legislative boundaries within South Dakota have been purposefully manipulated to diminish the voice or opinion of many voters, and

WHEREAS, there have been recent legislative efforts to minimize the people's voice in the initiated Measure and Constitutional Amendment process, and

WHEREAS, numerous actions have been taken by various entities to make it difficult to vote in elections and to purge qualified registered voters from the voting rolls, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports:

- 1) A non-partisan, independent redistricting commission to set the legislative boundaries with the South Dakota representation and voting jurisdictions to better represent the voice of the people
- 2) An automatic voter registration system that registers each eligible South Dakotan upon their eighteenth birthday into the voting system
- 3) A Vote-by-Mail program where, at a county's discretion they can choose to hold all elections partially or exclusively through first class mail
- 4) A review of the Initiated Measure and Constitutional Amendment process to ensure access for South Dakotans and that the outcomes are not overridden through malicious legislative action
- 5) Ending aggressive voter purge tactics.

Author/Source: Agriculture & Rural Life Subcommittee on behalf of Orrie Swayze

Resolution: #19a

Resolution to Demand the EPA does not finalize proposed rule changes to make E16 and higher blends illegal for non-flex auto use.

WHEREAS, The EPA is set to finalize this year's big oil's dream legislation, the EPA rule to make ethanol premium 94 octane blends illegal for use in non-flex fuel autos

WHEREAS, Since the 1990 introduction of E85, thousands of Americans using non-flex fuel vehicles have splash blended cheaper, consensus half E85 blends for their non-flex fuel autos and have reported increased power and no change in miles per gallon.

WHEREAS, research has confirmed that use of blended fuels such as E30-E50, are safe to use in non-flex fuel vehicles and consumers have consistently reported having no issues using these blends, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Democratic Party strongly demands that the EPA does not finalize rule changes to make ethanol blends E16 or higher illegal for use in non-flex fuel vehicles.

Author: Michael Raver
Resolution # 23b

Resolution to Support a Single Payer Health Care Program in South Dakota

WHEREAS, every country in the developed world except the United States has either Single Payer or a Public Option, and

WHEREAS, South Dakota is a perfect testing ground to implement Single Payer on the state level due to extremely low population density, and

WHEREAS, 643,000 bankruptcies per year occur due to healthcare related issues in the United States each year, compared to 0 in other developed countries, and

WHEREAS, 20 million Americans are uninsured under ACA and 32 million more will lose health insurance under Trumpcare, while all Americans are covered under Single Payer, and

WHEREAS, Single Payer provides healthcare for ½ to 1/3 the cost of what Americans pay today in our privatized healthcare system, and

WHEREAS Americans pay more for healthcare than most of the industrialized world while simultaneously experiencing a lower life expectancy than the rest of the industrialized world, and

WHEREAS the majority of citizens of the United States approve of Single Payer Healthcare, and

WHEREAS Healthcare is a right, not a privilege as outlined by FDR's economic bill of rights when he proclaimed: The right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Democratic Party resolves to join the rest of the free world and encourage Single Payer as a Healthcare.

Author: State Senator Reynold Nesiba
Resolution # 24

RESOLUTION OPPOSING IM 25

WHEREAS, Initiated Measure 25 would increase tobacco taxes to provide funds for scholarships for students enrolled in a postsecondary technical institute in South Dakota;

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure 25 would not provide funds for scholarships for students who choose to attend a public or private nonprofit postsecondary university in South Dakota;

WHEREAS, tuition and fees for all postsecondary educational institutions in South Dakota have increased significantly in the past 10 years while the incomes of many low- and middle-income families have stagnated or declined;

WHEREAS, South Dakota's sales and excise tax burden is well above the national average;

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure 25 would impose \$35 million in additional taxes on consumers of tobacco products;

WHEREAS, excise taxes on tobacco products are highly regressive and impose a disproportionate burden on low-income consumers;

WHEREAS, tobacco tax revenues are steadily declining and are not a reliable source of funding for postsecondary education scholarships programs;

WHEREAS, smoking is a health hazard and tobacco taxes revenues should be used primarily to fund smoking prevention and cessation programs;

WHEREAS, to ensure that students from low- and middle-income families in South Dakota have access to affordable postsecondary educational opportunities, the state should increase funding for need-based scholarship programs;

WHEREAS, to ensure that South Dakota has a well-educated and well-trained workforce with a wide variety of technical and professional skills, state subsidized postsecondary education scholarship programs should be available to students enrolled in public and private nonprofit universities as well as technical institutes; and

WHEREAS, funding for state subsidized postsecondary scholarship programs should be based on a fair and reliable source of revenue, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Democratic Party recognizes that South Dakota needs a well-educated and well-trained workforce, that students from low- and-middle income families need financial assistance with the cost of attending postsecondary educational institutions in South Dakota, including public and private nonprofit universities as well as technical institutes, and that Initiated Measure 25 does not adequately address these critical needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Democratic Party urges voters to reject Initiated Measure 25, and encourages the South Dakota Legislature to establish a need-based scholarship program that is available to students enrolled in any accredited public or private nonprofit postsecondary educational institution in South Dakota and to fund the scholarship program with a broad-based and reliable source of revenue.