



2020 State Convention Adopted Resolutions

Adopted by the South Dakota Democratic Convention
June 20th, 2020

Resolution #1:

Adopt Equitable Policies and Reform Social Justice System in Order to Abolish Systemic Racism and Oppression

Author/Source Name(s): Julian C. Beaudion, Sioux Falls 2020
City Council Candidate; County: Minnehaha

Whereas: South Dakota is a state represented by citizens from over 100 countries and more than 120 languages and dialects spoken, and;

Whereas: The State of South Dakota is currently 16% people of color and is projected to increase to 30% people of color by 2040, and:

Whereas: The need for equitable policy reform and social justice reform will benefit a growing percentage of the South Dakota workforce and education system, and;

Whereas: Implementing policies to require representation in law enforcement, executive settings, non profit organization board of directors, media outlets, banking positions and educational settings, therefore;

Be It Resolved: That the Democratic Party of South Dakota fully supports the reconstruction of policies, laws, leadership and systems across the State of South Dakota, to include Tribal Land, so that the citizens of our state may have more equitable opportunities; therefore creating space for equality in justice, law, wages, education, business ownership, executive positions, government positions and more.

It is resolved that full support is in resources, voice and action in the midst of injustices because silence and inaction is not an option.



SDDP State Convention 2020

Resolution #2:

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

Author/Source Name(s): Joseph M. Yracheta, Selby; County: Walworth

Whereas: South Dakota is a state with some of the highest SAT (3rd) & ACT (22nd) scores in the USA, and:

Whereas: South Dakota is 50th in the nation with respect to high tech Research and Development (R&D) investment dollars, and:

Whereas: Attracting such R&D investment dollars and professionals is critical, and;

Whereas: The people of South Dakota will continue to diversify from a mostly agrarian-based economy due to climate change and world market influences that require technological advances, and;

Whereas: The SD private sector spends three times the amount that the federal government spends in South Dakota, and:

Whereas: High tech R&D investments account for only 4.3% (\$2.1 billion) of the state economy, 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: Human resources and 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, 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 incentivize 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 may remain bountiful and flexibly unencumbered for the benefit of all South Dakota.



SDDP State Convention 2020

Resolution #3:

Reform the South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations

Author/Source Name(s): Joseph M. Yracheta, Selby; County: Walworth

Whereas: All government departments represent the egalitarian and democratic principles of our national constitutional republic which are recapitulated in State governments, the South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations is currently misaligned and requires reform, and;

Whereas: The Tribes of South Dakota are Federally recognized Domestic Dependent Nations that have the inherent right to establish treaties with the federal U.S. government, and relations with the State of South Dakota are efforts of cooperative diplomacy at best , and;

Whereas: Federally recognized tribally enrolled American Indians are afforded the rights and privileges of tribal, state and federal citizens , and;

Whereas: The South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations is a governmental entity to serve the dual needs of sovereign tribal citizens and the peaceful coexistence with state law and policy, the function of the department and position of Secretary should be reformed from a gubernatorial-appointed position to that of an elected or non-partisan one, therefore:

Be It Resolved: that the South Dakota Democratic Party will devise reforms of the Department of Tribal Relations so that the conjoined voices of tribes in South Dakota are heard as their own and are not compromised by the Governor's office or through human resource policies of the State of South Dakota.



SDDP State Convention 2020

Resolution #4:

Recognize Juneteenth as a State Holiday

Author/Source Name(s): Reynold Nesiba, Sioux Falls; County: Minnehaha

Whereas: On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, TX, and announced that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Although the Emancipation Proclamation was issued 2 1/2 years earlier on January 1, 1863, many slave owners continued to hold their slaves captive regardless, so the day known as "Juneteenth" became a symbolic date representing African American freedom, and:

Whereas: This monumental and seismic event in our nation's history is one recognized and observed as a state holiday by 47 states in the union, with the exception of South Dakota, North Dakota, and Hawaii, and;

Whereas: In South Dakota, where under God the people rule, people have gathered across the state to march for racial justice and voice their support for equal treatment under the law in the aftermath of police brutality against African Americans, particularly the death of George Floyd, therefore;

Be It Resolved: The nineteenth day of June, or "Juneteenth," to be recognized in South Dakota as day to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States, and to celebrate the attainment of liberty and the pursuit of justice for all of her citizens.