

Resolutions
2023 Annual Kick-off Meeting
Precinct 503, Forsyth

Affirming that Forsyth County Democratic Party (FCDP) stands in solidarity with all workers in Forsyth County

Precinct 503, Will Eley - **PASSED on 20230309**

Whereas, 2022 saw U.S. public approval for labor unions at its highest point since 1965, at 71% (“Annual Work and Education Survey,” *Gallup*, 2022); and

Whereas, North Carolina ranks 49th amongst all U.S. states for union membership, a mere 2.8% of North Carolina workers (Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 19th, 2023); and

Whereas, President Joe Biden declared in his State of the Union address on February 7th, 2023: “...I’m so sick and tired of companies breaking the law by preventing workers from organizing... And let’s guarantee all workers a living wage...”; and

Whereas, this coming June 17th, 2023 marks the 80th anniversary of the Black women led work stoppage at the former RJ Reynolds Plant 64 here in Winston-Salem, a courageous, collective act that resulted in the creation and recognition of one of the first racially-integrated union locals in the United States (Local 22 of the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers of America-CIO) ; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the FCDP will henceforth stand in solidarity with any and all unions and/or unionization movements across Forsyth County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that expressions of such support shall include, but not be limited to, the following actions: county party leaders and willing county party members issuing public statements in support of workers during contract negotiations and/or campaigns for union recognition; use of FCDP lists and social media channels to both disseminate supportive positions and/or raise money for the purposes of mutual aid and/or strike fund assistance; and afford organizing workers meeting space at the FCDP headquarters, if need be.

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Declaring FCDP support of sustainability and environmental justice for The City of Winston-Salem, especially now as the city will soon hire a new city manager

Precinct 503, Will Eley - PASSED on 20230309

Whereas, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act have made available hundreds of billions of dollars to individuals, private businesses, non-profits, and local governments to support a variety of sustainability, green economy workforce training, clean energy adoption, home weatherization, climate resiliency, and environmental justice related projects over the next decade; and

Whereas, dozens of neighborhoods in our wider community have long suffered under poverty, limited job and transportation access, legacy redlining, and, consequently, detrimental air quality—with several majority-BIPOC and low-income census tracts in Winston-Salem being in the 90th+ percentile nationally for ozone, diesel particulate, and PM 2.5 pollution, according to the Environmental Protection Agency’s Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool; and

Whereas, various climate models confidently suggest that Forsyth County residents will experience no fewer than 47 days per year with temperatures above 94°F by 2080, compared to only 7 such days per year experienced by inhabitants of this region in the pre-industrial 18th century; and

Whereas the City of Winston-Salem is right now in the process of hiring a new city manager; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forsyth Democratic Party respectfully calls on Mayor Allen Joines and all other Democrats on the Winston-Salem City Council to make certain that the next city manager of The City of Winston-Salem has extensive experience prioritizing and equitably implementing sustainability and environmental justice programs, policies, and infrastructure projects, to include, but not limited to, a history of successfully pursuing state, federal, and foundation-based grants to support such efforts.

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Declaring that the North Carolina Democratic Party, to include its county, city, affinity-based coalition groups, and all endorsed incumbents and candidates, will cease usage of the terms ‘natural gas’ and ‘bridge fuel’

Precinct 503, Will Eley - PASSED on 20230309

Whereas, President Biden and Governor Cooper have both outlined plans for net-zero emission economies by 2050; and

Whereas, the term ‘natural gas’ is a term created by the fossil-fuel industry to normalize, naturalize, and/or obscure the harm done to communities at the sites of extraction, transportation, processing, and combustion of said gas; and

Whereas, the term ‘bridge fuel,’ in reference to ‘natural gas,’ is widely considered a fossil fuel industry created term meant to delay and confuse plans towards a rapid, just transition to a clean energy economy; and

Whereas, methane—the primary by-product of ‘natural gas’ extraction and combustion—is 87 times more potent a greenhouse gas compared to carbon dioxide over the course of a 200-year period; and

Whereas, methane emissions reached an all-time high in 2022 in the United States; and

Whereas, various climate models confidently suggest that North Carolina residents can expect to experience an average of 47 days per year with temperatures above 94°F by the end of this century—compared to only 7 such days per year experienced in the pre-industrial era—if emissions reduction goals outlined by President Biden and Governor Cooper are not met, and

Whereas, solar energy is now widely regarded as the cheapest means to creating electricity ever; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party, to include its county, city, affinity-based coalition groups, and all endorsed incumbents and endorsed candidates, will cease using the terms ‘natural gas’ and ‘bridge fuel’ in all public statements and campaign materials, spoken or written; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in lieu of ‘natural gas’ and ‘bridge fuel,’ descriptors such as ‘fossil gas,’ ‘fracked gas,’ or ‘gas’ will be used.