

Resolutions Adopted by the California Democratic Party Executive Board November 20, 2011

RESOLUTION 11-11.01

The California Democratic Party Stands Behind President Obama

Whereas, President Barack Obama was elected President during one of the most difficult periods in United States history with the collapse of the economy including the housing industry, the stock market and the banking system and when he took office he found the country saddled with the debt that had been piled up by President George W. Bush whose administration had not only wiped out the substantial surplus left by the Clinton Administration but fought two wars off budget without raising the necessary taxes to pay for them, and

Whereas, President Obama took immediate steps, working with a Democratic House and Senate, to save the US financial and banking system from collapse and acted to stimulate the economy with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, increased spending on infrastructure, saved the US auto industry and the millions of jobs associated with that industry, and promoted a number of other policies to save jobs and businesses throughout the country, and passed an historic health care plan that will enable almost all Americans to receive insurance coverage and is holding steadfast to his promise to withdraw all combat troops from Iraq by the end of 2011, and

Whereas, President Obama has over and over again reached out to the Republican Party to partner with them as he sought to promote policies to create jobs, to seek additional revenue to bring down the Federal deficit and to fashion policies that will enable the United States to recover from these historic economic hardships but he found the Republicans in Congress to be obdurate and stubborn in their unwillingness to cooperate on these necessary policies and they even went so far as to threaten the United States with a default on our debts and obligations which led to the lowering of the credit rating of our great nation,

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the California Democratic Party commends the President of the United States, Barack Obama, for his valiant attempts to rescue the United States from these catastrophic economic times and urges him to continue to fight for the principles and policies of the Democratic Party which stand for opportunity, economic justice and fairness for all and to continue not only to reach out to ordinary Americans to explain what we must do to restore prosperity but to hold the Republican Party accountable before the American people for its recalcitrance and unwillingness to invest in the future of America.

Sponsors: Renea Wickman and Darren Parker – amended by Emily Thurber/Resolutions Committee

RESOLUTION 11-11.06B

Support of Occupy / 99% Movement

WHEREAS, the overwhelming influence of corporate interests on public policy and institutions – exacerbated by greed, mismanagement, and corruption – has caused catastrophic levels of income inequality, financial distress, environmental harm, climate crisis denial, and other injustices felt by the overwhelming majority of Americans, the 99%, and

WHEREAS, the wealthiest 1% of Americans, and their corporate interests have acquired a concentration of wealth and power that is unparalleled in the history of our nation, and this concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the few has resulted in tremendous economic and social instability that has most recently manifested in the “Occupy Wall Street” and “Occupy City” protests, and

WHEREAS, the Occupy protestors, particularly those who have advocated their cause using non-violent means, have served to focus attention on the inadequate regulation of the financial industry, the damage inflicted by the absurd and misguided obsession with deficit reduction and the pressing need to reverse three decades of accelerated income inequality, all goals that we fight for in the electoral arena; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party stands with those protestors peacefully exercising their First Amendment rights to advance an agenda that results in adequate regulation of the financial industry and Wall Street speculators, reverses the catastrophic slide of income inequality and halts the implementation of austerity-driven economic policies that negatively impact the 99% and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party supports the protestors’ constitutional rights to free speech and peaceable assembly, and calls on public agencies to protect their rights fully and encourages California Democrats to support local occupy protests throughout the state as well as the movement encouraging individuals to transfer their funds to community banks and local credit unions.

Resolution Committee Substitute - Additional sponsors: State Party Controller Hilary Crosby, San Diego County Party, Jess Durfee, Michael Thaller, Sonoma County Democratic Party, Stephen Gale, Los Angeles County Party, Kess Kessler, Damian Carroll, DPSFV, Dr Michael McQuary

RESOLUTION 11-11.07

IN SUPPORT OF ELIMINATING THE TIME LIMIT FOR RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, while several notable judicial victories protecting women’s rights have been achieved, these victories do not rest upon a constitutional foundation, and therefore remain vulnerable to weakening or repeal; and present day women, of all generations, continue to face gender discrimination in many deep socioeconomic ways; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment, passed by Congress in 1972, would have become the 27th Amendment to the Constitution if 38 states had ratified it by June 30, 1982, at which time 35 states had ratified the ERA, which stated: “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex”; and in its stead, the 27th amendment, concerning Congressional pay raises, went to the states in 1789, but reached the 38 state goal only in 1992, a 203-year ratification period; and

WHEREAS, the 1972 Congressional ERA contained a time limit only in the proposing clause, and not in the text of the amendment itself; and the ERA language ratified by the 35 states did not contain a time limit for ratification;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the California Democratic Party supports federal legislative action to eliminate the time limit for ERA ratification, thereby maintaining the legal viability of the ERA and the existing 35 state ratifications, and that ERA shall be part of the Constitution whenever ratified by three additional states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party will distribute this resolution to all members of the California Democratic delegation in the House and Senate.

Sponsors: David Sonneborn and Chairman John Burton

RESOLUTION 11-11.08

Resolution on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid

Whereas, Social Security is a great pride to America and the Democratic Party and is funded entirely out of the contributions of workers and their employers; and it is a social insurance program protecting against poverty in old age, loss of income due to disability, or the death of a spouse or parent; and

Whereas, Medicare protects seniors from catastrophic health problems which would otherwise bankrupt them and their families, and Medicaid is a nationwide safety net that ensures that people who fall through our complex and inadequate health care system will have health care, and is also the provider of long-term living solutions for many disabled and/or senior Americans, and

Whereas, the problem with our healthcare system is neither Medicare nor Medicaid, but that as a nation, we have not come to terms with our need for a national healthcare system such as a single-payer system, which would cut costs in a far more meaningful fashion, without harming our most vulnerable people, and

Therefore be it resolved, that the California Democratic Party calls on all Democrats to reject any and all attempts to cut Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid, including but not limited to increase in eligibility age, chained-CPI, privatization in any form, or decreases in funding; and

Therefore be it further resolved, that the California Democratic Party has a responsibility to preserve these American treasures which are the right of all citizens of this country, and therefore calls upon our Democratic Party to consider it a duty and privilege to protect and defend the integrity of Social Security against any individual or organization who would seek to diminish its presence in our society.

Sponsored by: Margie Metzler and Karen Bernal.

RESOLUTION 11-11.09
TIMELY FEMA FUNDING

Whereas, natural disasters occur in odd places, such as volcanic eruptions in Washington, earthquakes in Virginia, hurricanes in Vermont, floods in Arizona, and tsunamis in Oregon; and

Whereas, the severity of these occurrences cannot be foreseen; and

Whereas, the victims of tornados, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc. need immediate government assistance and not from funding which comes after extended deficit reduction negotiation,

Therefore be it resolved, that the California Democratic Party supports fully funding FEMA disaster relief and opposes holding up needed federal aid to disaster victims whose needs are immediate and can't wait for pending deficit reduction negotiations, and

Be it further resolved, that the California Democratic Party informs the California Democratic Congressional Delegation of this position.

Author: Craig Athon, 49th AD/LACDP

RESOLUTION 11-11.10**Extend Unemployment Benefits**

Whereas, the United States is continuing to face a crisis with a 9.1% unemployment rate in September 2011, and with the long-term unemployed continuing to seek work, but many reaching the end of their maximum possible 99 weeks of unemployment without being able to find employment; and

Whereas, President Obama has proposed the American Jobs Act, which would get Americans in every corner of the country working again, and put more money back into the pockets of middle-class families and small businesses, but due to Republican opposition, such relief will be delayed for some time; and

Whereas, an extension of unemployment benefits would not only spur economic growth, but would also provide a much-needed life-line while we work to create jobs,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the California Democratic Party supports all efforts to extend unemployment benefits by fourteen weeks for current and long-term jobless workers, especially those who have reached the end of their 99 weeks of unemployment benefits,

And Be It Further Resolved, that the California Democratic Party transmits this support to all members of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation.

Sponsor/Author: Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Chairman John Burton

RESOLUTION 11-11.11

Resolution to support Federal Efforts to Require Internet-only Retailer to Collect Sales Tax

Whereas, In 1992 the Supreme Court ruled that on-line retailers that did not have a physical nexus (presence) in a state were not required to collect sales tax in order to give competitive advantage to this new industry, and

Whereas, On-line retailers like Amazon, the largest on-line retailer in the world, no longer need this competitive advantage and mislead the public who then think they are not responsible for paying this sales tax and deprive California of this needed revenue and put California's brick and mortar and on-line merchants who do collect sales tax at a severe competitive disadvantage resulting in a loss of revenue, employment opportunities and property taxes, and

Whereas, other on-line retailers such as Barnes and Noble, Wal-Mart, Best Buy and Target do collect on-line sales tax , and

Therefore be it resolved, The California Democratic Party supports Federal efforts that will correct this problem by creating a simple nationwide system of state and local sales tax collection evenhandedly applied to all sellers, no matter their business model, location or level of remote sales. and

Therefore be it resolved, The California Democratic Party requests that the Democratic delegation to Congress do everything within its means to will overturn the "physical presence" requirement and support a system that is fair and does not unduly burden small merchants and send this Resolution to our State and Congressional delegations and issue a press release about this action.

Sponsor: Carole Lutness, 38th AD

RESOLUTION 11-11.12**A Wall Street Transactions Tax**

Whereas the economy of California, and the entire nation, was severely damaged in a recession triggered primarily by Wall Street-led investment banks and hedge funds trading in opaque and poorly regulated financial instruments, resulting in a severe contraction of credit and lending, significant loss of revenues to federal, state and local governments, decimation of public and private funds held for pensions and retirement, the loss of millions of jobs, and forcing California and other states into a deepening of annual deficits, devastating austerity measures, layoffs and curtailment of essential services,

Whereas Wall Street investment banks, hedge funds and similar entities across the nation currently pay zero sales tax on a host of highly profitable transactions, while in contrast American families dutifully pay sales tax of up to 10% every time they purchase necessities including school supplies and children's shoes; and a small fee on financial transactions could raise hundreds of billions or trillions of dollars in new revenue that could be spent on job creation and reduction of deficits,

Whereas such a tax, in various forms, on financial transactions has already been strongly supported in in legislation sponsored by prominent Democrats including both Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), by labor organizations, including the AFL-CIO and the California Nurses Association, the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and prominent economists Paul Krugman, Joseph Stiglitz and Dean Baker,

Therefore be it Resolved that the California Democratic Party supports the establishment of a national Wall Street Transactions Tax on securities transactions, including but not limited to speculative trading, high-speed flash trading, and derivatives, and exempting tax-deferred retirement accounts of U.S. citizens, pension plans, and similar payroll savings plans.

Be it Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be transmitted to all members of the California Democratic Congressional delegation for further action.

Sponsors: Pacific Beach Democratic Club, Michael Copass, Ira Robinson, Derek Casady

RESOLUTION 11-11.13

Proper Treatment for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury

WHEREAS, those harmed while on the job, such as Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, are able to receive full care for traumatic brain injuries because they are insured by worker's compensation, which provides the breadth of rehabilitation needed for recovery; and

WHEREAS, more than 360,000 US servicemembers return home from Iraq and Afghanistan with traumatic brain injuries yet are unable to receive the breadth of treatment needed for recovery; and

WHEREAS, 5.3 million people, or 2% of the U.S. population, suffer from the long term effects of traumatic brain injuries, and only a few insurance companies cover the breadth of therapies, including cognitive, occupational, physical, and speech, needed to return our citizens to a productive life;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party supports enhanced benefits, including cognitive, occupational, speech, and physical therapy, of doctor-directed duration and intensity, as recommended by the American Medical Association, for our servicemembers, both in active service and as veterans, and as a minimum standard for all health insurance, as defined by the Affordable Care Act (ACA);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party call on the California Democratic Congressional delegation and Senators Boxer and Feinstein to author legislation to ensure these benefits are available to our veterans and support efforts to ensure the definition of traumatic brain injury be included as an essential health benefit under the ACA Regulations for US citizens and additionally refer to the Democratic National Committee.

Sponsor: Alyson Abramowitz, CDP Disabilities Caucus

RESOLUTION 11-11.14

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION REVIEW OF EXPRESS SCRIPTS/MEDCO PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS MERGER

WHEREAS, the California Democratic Party believes that health care is a human right and not a privilege and as such all Californians should have affordable access to health care, including pharmacy care which is among the most important and most easily accessed services in the health care system, and according to the National Community Pharmacists Association a proposed merger of 2 of the largest pharmacy benefit managers, Express Scripts Inc.(ESI) and Medco, would result in the combined company controlling more than 40% of prescription drug volume and 60% of mail-order prescription volume with the potential to reduce competition from community pharmacies, and that this merger could reduce competition; and

WHEREAS, pharmacy benefit manger companies serve a valuable role in restraining the price of prescription drugs by negotiating discounts with large pharmaceutical manufacturers on behalf of employers, unions, and consumers; and

WHEREAS, many Californians rely on community pharmacies for their medication needs as well as other preventative health services such as screenings and immunizations and community pharmacies provide an important, easily accessible source of care in medically-underserved areas of urban and rural California, and some community pharmacies fear they could be squeezed out by the potential mail-order emphasis of the new combined company, making those patients with limited English proficiency and in need of immediate medication especially vulnerable,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party calls upon the Federal Trade Commission to determine whether the Scripts/Medco merger will have anti-competative effects on the market and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of the resolution be forwarded to Democratic members of the California Congressional Delegation and the Federal Trade Commission.

Sponsor: Sunny Zia, AD 70

RESOLUTION 11-11.17

Commend the End of the War in Iraq

Whereas the United States has been involved in two long-term unsustainable wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, adding over \$1 trillion to our national debt, and

Whereas the Democratic Party recognizes the tremendous human costs borne by our men and women in uniform, their families, and their communities across the nation, and

Whereas President Obama campaigned on a promise to end the Iraq war by 2012 as a Presidential candidate in 2008, and President Obama recently announced that the United States will withdraw all troops from Iraq by the end of 2011,

Therefore be it resolved, the California Democratic Party recognizes, and strongly commends President Obama's promise kept to the nation to end the Iraq War by 2012.

Sponsor: Chairman John Burton

RESOLUTION 11-11.18L

Protect a Strong and Viable US Postal Service

Whereas we need to fight to protect a strong and viable United States Postal Service for the millions of customers in the state of California.

Whereas, we agree that we should protect the jobs of the 108,000 Postal Service employees in the State of California, especially during the deepest recession in over 70 years.

Whereas, six-day mail delivery service is essential to the day to day functioning of thousands of businesses in the state of California.

Therefore be it Resolved that, The California State Democratic Party hereby opposes any move to reduce postal delivery services in rural and urban areas or by reducing the United States Postal Service to 5 days and

Further be it Resolved, that the California State Democratic Party requests the Democratic Members of the California Congressional Delegation take the same position against reducing postal delivery to 5 day a week.

Sponsors: John Beaumont

RESOLUTION 11-11.19L

Honoring Gerald W. McEntee, President, AFSCME International

WHEREAS, in 1981, Gerald W. McEntee was elected International President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and has served in that position for the past thirty years, more than doubling the AFSCME membership to 1.6 million households, leading the fight to assure public workers have a voice on the job, spearheading the successful effort to stop President Bush's plan to privatize Social Security, and advocating for diversity and inclusion within the American labor movement, evidenced by his efforts to win equal pay for women, health care and family leave for all workers, a voice in the workplace for all people, regardless of age, race, color, religion or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, as a Vice President of the AFL-CIO and chair of the Political Education Committee, co-chair of Health Care for America NOW!, and co-founder and chairman of the Economic Policy Institute, Gerald W. McEntee is the preeminent voice for working Americans, the nation's leading advocate for our nation's vital public services, and the labor movement's principal architect in maximizing the political and electoral strength of working families; and

WHEREAS, prior to assuming the presidency of AFSCME, Gerald McEntee began his distinguished career as a labor leader in Pennsylvania in 1958, leading the effort to organize more than 75,000 Pennsylvania public service employees – at the time the largest union mobilization in history, and was subsequently elected Executive Director at the founding convention of AFSCME Council 13 in Pennsylvania, and in 1974 was elected as an International Vice President of AFSCME;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party proudly honors and thanks Gerald W. McEntee for his lifelong dedication to working families throughout the United States, and his tenacious, bold, and visionary leadership of the American labor movement, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Sponsors: Willie Pelote and Chairman John Burton

RESOLUTION 11-11.20L

Resolution Congratulating Ohio Labor Community for Repealing Anti-Collective Bargaining Law

WHEREAS, working families across the U.S. have found themselves under relentless assault by Republican elected officials such as Governor Kasich (R-Ohio), Governor Walker (R-Wisconsin) and their corporate backers, and

WHEREAS, the results of the 2010 national elections were wrongly interpreted by the GOP as a license to roll-back hard fought worker protections throughout the U.S. and resulted in numerous state-specific initiatives designed to punish working families, and

WHEREAS, earlier this month, Ohio voters rejected the centerpiece of Governor Kasich's conservative agenda by repealing a law that restricted the right of public employees to bargain collectively.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party congratulates the men and women of Ohio's labor community and the We Are Ohio coalition for soundly defeating Governor Kasich's anti collective bargaining initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party will commit itself to an absolute defense of working families and their right to participate in and advocate for candidates and political parties of their choosing here in California.

Author: Chairman John Burton

RESOLUTION 11-11.25L

Swift Congressional Action to Support Economic Recovery

WHEREAS The United States is experiencing the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, and with 14 million workers unemployed and many losing their skills and connection to the work force as their unemployment persists, we risk lasting damage to the economy, and

WHEREAS the President has proposed and the Senate has introduced the American Jobs Act, which includes many components that have had traditional bi-partisan support including: rebuilding our aging infrastructure, modernizing our schools, employing teachers and first responders, and extending unemployment insurance benefits, including on-the-job training and entrepreneurship opportunities in unemployment insurance, providing tax benefits to employers adding workers, increasing wages, hiring veterans and hiring long term unemployed workers, and paying for these programs through small tax increases on incomes over a million dollars,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party (CDP) supports the goals of the American Jobs Act, and calls on all Congressmembers to support the American people by passing legislation such as the American Jobs Act.

Sponsor: Marcia Schneider, DPSFV

RESOLUTION 11-11.26L

Corporate Accountability in Elections

WHEREAS, corporations are one of the primary spenders in electoral campaigns, spending ten to twenty times more money on elections than labor, the environmental community and other Democratic constituencies combined, and

WHEREAS, corporate interests are, for the third time in recent memory, attempting to silence the voices of working families once and for all by making it illegal for labor unions to collect dues through payroll deductions.

WHEREAS, payroll deductions are the primary source of funding for labor's electoral advocacy campaigns while corporate funding for electoral activity does not originate from payroll deductions but rather from billions of dollars in corporate profits which would remain at their disposal thereby making this business as usual for corporations but ending labor's ability to support candidates and fight big business at the ballot box.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the California Democratic Party strongly supports the corporate accountability measures that would partially level the playing field by requiring executives to obtain shareholder approval before making any political contributions and by requiring contributions to be listed on corporate websites with failure to do so constituting a misdemeanor offense.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution will be sent to all Democratic statewide elected officials and members of Congress and the State Legislature.

Sponsor: Chairman John Burton

RESOLUTION 11-11.27L

Support Oil Severance Tax to Raise Revenue for General Fund and Higher Education

WHEREAS, despite continued good faith efforts on the part of elected Democratic leaders to work across the aisle to shrink the state's budget deficit, California continues to face a budget shortfall with the possibility of additional service cuts to public safety, as well as the elderly, blind and disabled, on the horizon, and

WHEREAS, California's higher education system, once the gold standard for public universities and colleges, is now straining to maintain academic excellence and commitment to California's students following years of diminishing financial resources resulting in decreased enrollment, increased student fees, fewer classes, and increased faculty layoffs resulting in student protests throughout the state, and

WHEREAS, California is the only oil-producing state in the union that does not levy a tax on the extraction of oil and natural gas; even the state of Texas levies this tax; if levied in California, it would provide over \$1 billion annually,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party believes the state should levy an extraction tax on oil and natural gas and that two-thirds of the revenue raised as a result of the oil severance tax be directed to California's general fund with the remaining one-third directed to funding higher education, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to all Democratic statewide elected officials, members of Congress and of the state legislature.

Author: Chairman John Burton