

Polk County Democratic Central Committee and Off-Year Caucus

Thursday, March 26, 2015

The Following resolutions were passed during the Polk County Democratic Central Committee:

Resolution 1 of 2

Resolution to establish as the position of the Polk County Democratic Central Committee full support for a constitutional amendment to restore the right to limit spending in our elections, and for state and federal lawmaking to assure transparency such that entities and persons spending significant sums in our elections are known to the public.

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court recognized in *Austin v. Michigan Chamber of Commerce* (1990) the threat to a republican form of government posed by “the corrosive and distorting effects of immense aggregations of wealth that are accumulated with the help of the corporate form and that have little or no correlation to the public’s support for the corporations political ideas”; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission* (2010) reversed the decision in *Austin*, and presents a serious threat to self-government by rolling back legal limits on corporate spending in the electoral process allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions and sway votes; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court held in *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976) that the appearance of corruption justified limits on contributions to candidates, but it wrongly rejected other fundamental interests that the City Council finds compelling such as creating a level playing field and ensuring that all citizens, regardless of wealth, have an opportunity to have their political views heard; and

WHEREAS, money is property, it is not speech; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people of the states of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and the republican form of self-government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the position of the Polk County Democratic Central Committee that corporations do not have the same constitutional rights as natural persons do; and that because money is not speech, limits on political spending will promote the goals of the First Amendment by ensuring that all citizens, regardless of wealth, have an opportunity to have their political views heard.

BE IT RESOLVED that Polk County, IA hereby include in its Federal Legislative Agenda support for efforts to pass an Amendment to the United States Constitution overturning the Supreme Court’s *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* decision related to campaign finance reform and ending the false doctrine of corporate constitutional rights under the First Amendment and, by sending a copy of this resolution to each state and federal legislator representing Polk County, Iowa, respectfully urges Iowa’s Congressional delegation to support and prioritize an amendment to the United States Constitution addressing the threats to representative government identified in this resolution so that the Iowa legislature may ratify it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Polk County Democrats hereby call upon the Iowa State legislature and our representatives in it, to pass a resolution calling for such a constitutional amendment and expressing willingness to ratify the amendment upon passage by Congress.

Passed unanimously

Resolution 2 of 2

Resolution to Urge Congress to Provide the Residents of the District of Columbia with Statehood and Full Democracy

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution that was ratified in 1788, provided the right to vote for representation in Congress to the “People living” in the several states of the United States, and included citizens of the several States as well as those living on the land that would later be designated by the federal government for the nation’s capital as ceded by Maryland and Virginia to become the District of Columbia; however, through the enactment of the “District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801” DC residents were disenfranchised from voting for representative Members of Congress for more than 200 years; and,

WHEREAS, District of Columbia residents pay among the highest per capita federal taxes in the nation and more than 200,000 residents have served in the federal armed services, and yet DC residents have no vote in the United States Congress; and,

WHEREAS, no other nation in the world denies the right of self-government, including participation in its national legislature, to the residents of its capital; and,

WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia lack full democracy, equality, and citizenship enjoyed by the residents of the 50 states; and,

WHEREAS, the citizens of the District of Columbia continue to express their determination to achieve full representation through statehood by electing two United States Senators and a United States Representative; and,

WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia timely passed a balanced budget for each of the last 19 years, the District of Columbia has faced the possibility of being shut-down each year because of Congressional deliberations over the federal budget and the imposition of riders opposed by the District of Columbia; and,

WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia have endorsed Statehood for the District of Columbia, and passed a District-wide referendum on budget autonomy; and,

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama is in support of Statehood for the nation's capital, and has previously spoken in favor of giving the District voting representation in Congress and full control over its budget and laws; and,

WHEREAS, the Democratic National Committee passed multiple resolutions in support of Statehood and political equality for the residents of the District of Columbia, including most recently at the DNC 2014 Winter Meeting.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Polk County Democratic Committee endorse and encourage citizens and their members of Congress to support Statehood and full democracy for the District of Columbia that will guarantee to the residents of the District of Columbia full Congressional voting representation, budget autonomy, and all of the rights that the people of the 50 United States enjoy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that in recognition of the special role Iowa voters play in the American political process that the Committee resolves to ask any Democratic Candidate appearing before it, to articulate their position on this important issue; and to encourage Iowa Democrats to discuss this issue at the 2016 Caucuses.

Passed unanimously

The Following resolutions were passed during the 2015 Off-Year Caucus:

Resolution 1 of 9

Any closing of any state facility will include a reasonable alternative placement for the institution's patients or consumers and insure that some alternative service be available to the community.

Passed unanimously

Resolution 2 of 9

We support Senator Joe Bolckcom's bill, SSB1243, relating to the legislation of medical marijuana.

Passed unanimously

Resolution 3 of 9

WHEREAS, Medical cannabinoid oil is an effective treatment for some maladies;

WHEREAS, Current residents of Iowa should not be forced to move to another state to obtain or transport cannabinoid oil across state lines;

BE IT RESOLVED, Medical cannabinoid oil should be produced and available for purchase within the state of Iowa legally.

Passed unanimously

Resolution 4 of 9

BE IT RESOLVED, The Polk County Democrats are opposed to fast tracking the TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership).

Passed unanimously

Resolution 5 of 9

BE IT RESOLVED, The Polk County Democrats support a minimum of a 4% increase in education funding in the 2015 session.

Passed unanimously

Resolution 6 of 9

BE IT RESOLVED, Health and Human Services will include community-based services allowing individuals to stay and be integrated in their community.

Passed unanimously

Resolution 7 of 9

BE IT RESOLVED, Needed human services will be provided to persons with disabilities and others requiring services.

Passed unanimously

Resolution 8 of 9

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Polk County Sheriff's office submit a request for new radio equipment to the county supervisors' budget and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors approve that request.

Passed unanimously

Resolution 9 of 9

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Polk County Sheriff place the mobile speed cameras in different locations rather than the ones now being used throughout Polk County so as to promote safety and not as a means of revenue, and should be required to post a warning sign.

Passed unanimously