

Democratic Party of Wisconsin 2023 Resolutions

Draft for Delegate Consideration, 22 May 2023

This packet contains resolutions submitted to the DPW Platform and Resolutions (DPW P&R) Committee by the Congressional Districts (CDs). In a few cases identical resolutions were combined into a substitute and all involved CDs were given credit. Any other edits made were to conform resolutions to a common format, align them with general party principles without altering overall meaning, and correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors. The committee asks that some resolutions not be adopted, denoted by “Do not adopt”. This means that no action would be taken. “Party Governance” resolutions do not directly affect the Platform but regard the functioning of the DPW. Some of those resolutions are recommended for forwarding to the Administrative Committee for further discussion. This is usually because the committee felt that there was insufficient information about the issue available to the membership to make a recommendation either way, or because the requested action is not possible in the way described. Final recommendations will be made by the P&R committee in the final packet to be distributed no later than 48 hours prior to the Convention. Resolutions are considered active for four years after adoption and the 2023 adopted resolutions will be used to advise the DPW Platform drafts in 2024 and 2026.

Please see the adopted convention rules for a full description of the amendment & consideration process for the resolutions at the 2023 hybrid convention.

Description of title line:

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23 Designates the year. ??? designates the category. ## is the number in sequence.

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RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION, LABOR, AND ECONOMICS

23-ELE-01: REPEAL THE BAN ON PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS (1ST CD, 100 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, Former Governor Scott Walker signed a law banning state government and local municipalities from entering Project Labor Agreements;

WHEREAS, PLAs are a valuable tool for communities to supply local workforces with good opportunities and compensation;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a long history of successful partnerships with labor; and,

WHEREAS, municipalities all around Wisconsin have major upcoming infrastructure plans which will require labor to upgrade roads, sewage utilities, and even build entire new neighborhoods;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, Governor Evers and the State Legislature should repeal the ban on Project Labor Agreements and allow municipalities to ensure better working conditions on upcoming projects.

23-ELE-02: RESOLUTION TO INCREASE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING PER PUPIL (3RD CD, 99 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, a strong public education system is one of the factors that has made Wisconsin a strong state with a highly educated workforce;

WHEREAS, the revenue limits imposed on school districts in 1994 created permanent inequities in the amount of funding available for each school district;

WHEREAS, the current per pupil revenue limit is set at \$10,000; and,

WHEREAS, numerous fixes such as sparsity aid and equalization payment have not eliminated the differences in per pupil student funding;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the minimum per pupil revenue limit should be raised to at least \$11,500 and annually adjusted for inflation thereafter.

23-ELE-03: DISCLOSE AMOUNT OF TAXPAYER’S DOLLARS DIVERTED FROM PUBLIC EDUCATION TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS ON PROPERTY TAX BILL (3RD CD, 87 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, K-12 education is compulsory in Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, mandatory property tax-derived funds for Public Education have been diverted to Participating Private Schools through Wisconsin voucher programs since 1990-91;

WHEREAS, total taxpayer funds diverted to private voucher-accepting schools have already exceeded \$3.9 billion; and,

WHEREAS, taxpayers have a right to know how their taxes are used;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that DPW should demand legislation which would add a single line on property tax bills indicating the amount from the taxpayer's school district that are being diverted to Private Education.

23-ELE-04: SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS (3RD CD, 83 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, thousands of students in Wisconsin qualify for free and reduced meals, and many more face food insecurity but don't qualify;

WHEREAS, the USDA made school meals free during the COVID pandemic via reimbursements to school districts;

WHEREAS, these reimbursements ended on June 30, 2022, when Congress failed to renew the plan;

WHEREAS, students cannot learn on empty stomachs; and,

WHEREAS, students should not be denied food because of their family's inability to pay;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that Wisconsin should adopt universal school meals.

23-ELE-05: THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (7TH CD, 94 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, AI could change the history of mankind and may solve problems like global warming, plastic pollution, and disease prevention;

WHEREAS, AI may also spread disinformation, facilitate surveillance, perpetuate stereotypes, create deadly chemicals and weapons; and,

WHEREAS, there is no comprehensive Federal or State legislation on AI;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the DPW encourages Federal and State legislators to establish commissions to study and make recommendations on the promotion, regulation of, and the profiting from AI; and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, all Federal and State agencies monitor the use of AI in public sectors, private organizations, and industry.

RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING FOREIGN AFFAIRS

RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

23-AGE-01: ELIMINATE ANONYMOUS OBJECTION (2ND CD, 89 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, Wisconsinites want to preserve vast stretches of pristine land and clear waters using the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund to create conservation easements;

WHEREAS, easements create public lands that can be used for recreation by all citizens;

WHEREAS, a single Anonymous Objection from anyone on the Joint Finance Committee can effectively stall the funding for any project; and,

WHEREAS, examples include the Cedar-Gorge Clay Bluffs by Lake Michigan and the Pelican River Forest near Rhinelander;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the DPW endorses Governor Evers proposal to eliminate the practice of Anonymous Objection.

23-AGE-02: ENDORSEMENT FOR THE TERMINATION OF FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES (2ND CD, 97 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, combustion of fossil fuels caused 75% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2019;
WHEREAS, the federal government provides at least \$20 billion per year in subsidies to fossil fuel industries;
WHEREAS, the production of fossil fuels will decline if subsidies are discontinued;
WHEREAS, the elevated concentrations of atmospheric greenhouse gasses are fast becoming a major injustice to current and future generations of people; and,
WHEREAS, fossil fuel companies are blocking climate solutions in both the public and private sectors;
THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the DPW endorses the termination of federal government subsidies for fossil fuel production and distribution.

23-AGE-03: MODERNIZE WISCONSIN LAW RELATING TO RV WASTEWATER (7TH CD, 83 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, Wis. Admin. Code SPS 383.41(2) requires that: "A Private On-site Water Treatment System shall be designed to have sufficient capacity;
WHEREAS, appendix A thereof presently allows that a "campsite" will generate 30 gallons per day of wastewater; and,
WHEREAS, this outdated section is erroneously being used by campground developers even though RV manufacturers agree large RVs, like Park models, generate 100 gpd;
THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the DPW supports updating Appendix A of SPS 383 to agree with Park model RV manufacturers that their RVs generate 100 gallons per day.

23-AGE-04: DISCONTINUE CERTAIN HUNTING WITH DOGS (7TH CD, 69 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, Wisconsin laws license the hunting of bears, coyotes, and wolves with dogs;
WHEREAS, this practice of hunting with dogs too often causes problems with property owners when hunters and their dogs trespass and cause injury to livestock; and,
WHEREAS, this hunting practice also too often results in serious injury/death to the hunting dogs;
THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the DPW supports legislation to eliminate hunting bears, coyotes, and wolves with dogs.

RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING JUSTICE, HUMANS CONCERNS, AND DEMOCRACY

23-JHD-01: ABOLISH LEGAL SLAVERY (1ST CD, 100 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Constitution §2 creates legal slavery "for the punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted";
WHEREAS, this exception also appears in the US Constitution's Thirteenth Amendment;
WHEREAS, the ACLU estimates 800,000 American prisoners are forced to work for wages between 13¢ to 52¢ per hour;
WHEREAS, in November, 2022 Alabama, Oregon, Tennessee, and Vermont voted to abolish slavery in their State Constitutions; and,
WHEREAS, creating any exception to a complete ban on slavery is racist and shameful;
THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the Wisconsin and United States Constitutions should be amended to completely abolish slavery under all circumstances.

23-JHD-02: ALLOW USE OF NATURAL PSYCHEDELIC MEDICINES (1ST CD, 89 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, Psilocybin is decriminalized in Oregon, DC, and cities within California, Massachusetts, and Washington;

WHEREAS, Colorado has legalized dimethyltryptamine, ibogaine, mescaline, psilocybin, and psilocyn for possession and supervised administration;

WHEREAS, these natural medicines are non-addictive and benefit individuals suffering with anxiety and depression; and,

WHEREAS, the FDA has granted psilocybin "breakthrough treatment" status;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the State of Wisconsin should decriminalize possession and use of safe natural psychedelic medicines;

FURTHER RESOLVED, Wisconsin should join Colorado in creating a Natural Medicine Advisory Board to implement a Natural Medicine Access Program.

23-JHD-03: ELIMINATE DRIVING SUSPENSIONS FOR NON-PAYMENT OF FINES AND FEES (1ST CD, 92 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, Wisconsin law currently allows drivers licenses to be suspended due to the non-payment of state or municipal issued fines and fees;

WHEREAS, 15 other States do not suspend drivers licenses due to non-payments;

WHEREAS, driving suspensions force people to choose between scenarios like losing a job, risking further charges and fines, or being arrested;

WHEREAS, law enforcement must often waste valuable time policing poverty; and,

WHEREAS, the criminalization of poverty is wrong;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, DPW urges Wisconsin to stop suspending driving licenses of individuals for non-payment of fines and fees.

23-JHD-04: RESOLUTION ABOUT HEALTH CARE FOR ALL CITIZENS (3RD CD, 100 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, the recent COVID pandemic exposed and exacerbated inequities in health care resulting in disparities in health outcomes and where socially/economically marginalized individuals died at a higher rate than those who are insured; and,

WHEREAS, people from groups that are socially/economically marginalized without insurance have a higher incidence of chronic illnesses, encounter structural barriers in accessing quality health care, and more frequently utilize emergency care;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, Congress and the President of the United States should enact into law the creation of a publicly financed, non-profit, national health insurance program that would fully cover medical care costs for all Americans.

23-JHD-05: RESOLUTION ABOUT EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER ACT (RED FLAG LAW) (3RD CD, 100 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, in Wisconsin 70% of gun deaths are suicides and in most rural counties, the gun suicide rate is 2 times higher than in the most urban counties;

WHEREAS, in 2020, 60 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner;

WHEREAS, a 2022 Marquette Law School poll found that 81% of Wisconsinites support implementing Red Flag laws; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Democrats proposed a Red Flag law during the 2021-22 legislative season (Assembly Bill 638);

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the DPW reaffirms its support for the implementation of an Extreme Risk Protection Order (Red Flag) law modeled after the 2021-22 Assembly Bill 638.

23-JHD-06: REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE (3RD CD, 74 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, gun violence in the United States is a national epidemic;

WHEREAS, Republicans have been relaxing gun carry laws over the objection of law enforcement;

WHEREAS, gun deaths can be reduced with tighter gun laws like other industrialized nations; and,
WHEREAS, interpretation of the 2nd Amendment has been misconstrued by the gun lobby;
THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the DPW support a ban on assault rifles, high-capacity magazines, open carry and that concealed carry require just cause.

23-JHD-07: SUPPORT A NON-PARTISAN REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (3RD AND 7TH CDs, 82 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, 72% of Wisconsin voters agree that the Wisconsin Legislature should create a non-partisan way to redraw legislative and congressional district maps across Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, the partisan legislature creates greater divisiveness and voter disenfranchisement;

WHEREAS, gerrymandered districts discourage competition and means that legislators are not accountable to constituents; and,

WHEREAS, the present maps violate the Wisconsin Constitution requirement to "...be in as compact form as practicable."

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, DPW supports a non-partisan redistricting commission for state legislative and congressional districts in Wisconsin.

23-JHD-08: SUPPORT THE ABORTION RIGHTS PRESERVATION ACT (3RD AND 7TH CDs, 94 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has an 1849 law on the books that bans abortion with no exceptions for rape, incest, or the health of the mother, and this law applies from conception;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade putting the 1849 ban into effect, endangering the health and lives of pregnant persons of Wisconsin; and,

WHEREAS, the 1849 ban will discourage OB-GYN doctors from training or practicing in Wisconsin;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, DPW supports the Abortion Rights Preservation Act previously submitted to Congress; and,
FURTHER RESOLVED, DPW supports codifying Roe v. Wade into Federal law.

23-JHD-09: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE EPIDEMIC OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND PERSONS ("MMIWP") (7TH CD, 96 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, 84% of Indigenous women have experienced violence;

WHEREAS, homicide is the third leading cause of death among Indigenous women between ages 10 & 24 and fifth leading cause between ages 25 & 34;

WHEREAS, the majority of perpetrators of violence against Indigenous women are non-Native;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin is home to 12 First Nations, who have been subjected to genocide, colonization and forced assimilation; and,

WHEREAS, there are unsolved missing persons and homicides in Wisconsin involving Indigenous victims;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the DPW supports efforts of the MMIW Task Force to address the epidemic of MMIWP.

23-JHD-10: CHILD LABOR IN THE FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (8TH CD, 94 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, recent instances of children as young as 13 being illegally employed in slaughterhouses, some of whom suffered disfiguring injuries;

WHEREAS, their employers were sanctioned only with administrative fines with no criminal prosecution of the company or management; and,

WHEREAS, the ultimate corporate beneficiary of the subcontractors' work was not sanctioned in any way;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that DPW calls on Democratic Lawmakers at State and Federal level to propose legislation which requires that companies are prosecuted criminally for the illegal employment of child labor whether directly or through subcontractors, including prosecution of Company Directors.

RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING PARTY GOVERNANCE

23-PG-01: AMEND BYLAWS TO EMPOWER AND ADD ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE CAUCUS STRUCTURE (1ST CD, 100 WORDS); Do NOT ADOPT, FORWARD TO ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER REVIEW

WHEREAS, the DPW bylaws do not create high expectations for caucus activity or fully empower caucus success;

WHEREAS, caucuses should be included in party governance;

WHEREAS, there is not adequate communication between caucuses and the administrative committee;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, Article XII Section 3 of the bylaws should be amended to require more than one Caucus meeting per year;

FURTHER RESOLVED, Article IV Section 5 should be amended to explain how Caucuses engage in the Platform and Resolutions Process;

FINALLY RESOLVED, the Administrative Committee should consider the formation of a Caucus Chairs' Association, and more resources should be given to Caucuses.

23-PG-02: CALLING UPON THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WISCONSIN TO PROVIDE DIRECT FUNDING TO EVERY COLLEGE DEMOCRATS CHAPTER WITHIN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN (3RD CD, 94 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, youth voter turnout in the state of Wisconsin reached record numbers in the 2022 General Election, as well as the 2023 Spring Primary;

WHEREAS, College Democrats chapters have done significant work in building back their organizations this year after the pandemic;

WHEREAS, this has included fundraising, with minimal assistance from DPW; and,

WHEREAS, county Democratic parties and organizations and their members should not have to bear the brunt of supporting their College Democrats organizations;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that DPW should support College Democrats chapters within the State of Wisconsin with direct funding each year.

23-PG-03: FUNDING FOR COUNTY PARTY STAFF (3RD CD, 96 WORDS); Do NOT ADOPT

WHEREAS, County Parties are the local face of the DPW, build trust and lasting relationships with voters and volunteers, are knowledgeable about local issues;

WHEREAS, County Parties operate on shoestring budgets, are staffed by volunteers, often struggle to recruit volunteers; and,

WHEREAS, DPW Field Organizers usually do not live in the areas they serve long term, and therefore struggle to build local knowledge and trust the way County Parties can;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the DPW shall develop a pilot project for the purpose of funding the hiring of staff by County Parties and evaluating the efficacy thereof.

23-PG-04: MESSAGING FOR RURAL WISCONSIN (8TH CD, 86 WORDS); Do NOT ADOPT

WHEREAS, rural Wisconsin provides the Democrats with the best opportunity to gain voters;

WHEREAS, Democrats have historically done a great deal to address rural community issues;

WHEREAS, this history has been forgotten and recent generations don't see the Democratic Party as their champion in rural areas."; and,

WHEREAS, Democrats living in rural communities need a voice;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that grassroot rural organizations need to be created and supported by both national and state Democratic parties; and messaging should reflect the differences that occur in these communities.

23-PG-05: WINNING STRATEGIES IN RURAL WISCONSIN (8TH CD, 52 WORDS); ADOPT

WHEREAS, rural counties present unique challenges to organizing capacity and covering far-ranging turf; and,

WHEREAS, rural candidates are disproportionately challenged by being held to urban benchmarks;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that DPW should respond to these conditions by adopting proportional benchmarks to determine financial and other state-level support for campaign activities in rural areas.

23-PG-06: ESTABLISH VICE-CHAIR APPRENTICE OFFICER (8TH CD, 94 WORDS); DO NOT ADOPT, FORWARD TO ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER REVIEW

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW) seeks the perspectives of young voters while involving them in its principles and policies; and,

WHEREAS, counties presently may not have a Vice-Chair Apprentice Officer;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the DPW will encourage its county parties to establish a new officer position, Vice-Chair Apprentice, to be held by a person 16-24 years old, with the same voting rights as other officers; and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, each county party Constitution be considered as amended to include the additional officer until the county parties can hold individual votes to revise their Constitutions.

23-PG-07: ESTABLISH A YOUTH COALITION FUNCTION AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (8TH CD, 81 WORDS); DO NOT ADOPT, FORWARD TO ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER REVIEW

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW) seeks the perspective of young voters while involving them in its principles and policies;

WHEREAS, the DPW does not have a Youth Coalition and Outreach function; and,

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the DPW will establish a Youth Coalition and Outreach function;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the DPW will now establish a scholarship fund to aid the youth leader in seeking any college degree, a state certification of 100 hours or more, or a union or trade apprenticeship.

23-PG-08: DPW BYLAWS UPDATES (8TH CD, 89 WORDS); DO NOT ADOPT, FORWARD TO ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER REVIEW, THERE IS A PROCESS FOR BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

WHEREAS, the DPW Bylaws have the following in Article II, Section 9 which has long been outdated and not used for 35 plus years, "The state administrative committee shall be empowered to set fund-raising quotas for the various local units. It shall also make decisions regarding the state/county division of funds raised";

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that this is brought before the DPW Administrative Committee for a vote to delete Section 9 from the DPW Bylaws. Completion will then be reported back at the 2023 4th quarter DPW Administrative Committee meeting.

23-PG-09: DEMOCRATIC COUNTY PARTY CONSTITUTIONS (8TH CD, 94 WORDS); DO NOT ADOPT, FORWARD TO ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER REVIEW

WHEREAS, many county parties are working with outdated constitutions, some going as far back as 1966;

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the DPW Administrative Committee vote to have the DPW Chair appoint a dedicated staff member to work closely with the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to have county parties review for possible updates to their constitutions. The Constitution & Bylaws Committee will then report quarterly to the DPW Administration Committee as to the progress being made beginning at the 4th quarter meeting of 2023. Updated constitutions will then be kept on file at the DPW offices.