

Resolution Opposing the North Carolina Democratic Party Bid to Hold the First Presidential Primary in 2028

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party (NCDP) has proposed a bid for North Carolina to hold the first presidential primary in the nation in February 2028, citing potential economic benefits, national attention, and the possibility of increased investment and recovery assistance following recent hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, while increased national attention and economic activity are laudable goals, the primary responsibility of the Democratic Party is to **expand voter participation and protect the right to vote**, not to pursue strategies that may unintentionally limit access to the ballot; and

WHEREAS, February weather in North Carolina—particularly in Western North Carolina and rural mountain counties—is historically unpredictable and frequently severe, including snow, ice, freezing rain, and prolonged road closures; and

WHEREAS, according to National Weather Service data, Western North Carolina routinely experiences winter storms between January and February that result in hazardous travel conditions, school and government closures, power outages, and impassable roads—conditions that disproportionately affect rural and mountainous communities; and

WHEREAS, during the most recent winter season, many communities in Western North Carolina experienced extreme weather events that prevented residents from safely leaving their homes for extended periods of time, in some cases for a week or more; and

WHEREAS, in many rural mountain areas, roads remain narrow, winding, steep, and in some cases limited to a single usable lane—conditions that become especially dangerous during snow or freezing rain and pose significant risks to voters, poll workers, and election officials alike; and

WHEREAS, requiring voters—particularly seniors, people with disabilities, low-income residents, and those without reliable transportation—to travel curving mountain roads during winter weather creates a **foreseeable and preventable barrier to participation**; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party must not adopt policies that risk suppressing turnout or effectively disenfranchising voters, especially in rural and historically underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, Democratic candidates already face structural disadvantages in rural and heavily gerrymandered districts, and further compressing the election calendar by moving the primary earlier would accelerate candidate filing deadlines and campaign timelines; and

WHEREAS, earlier filing and campaign requirements would place additional strain on grassroots organizing efforts and make it even more difficult to recruit and support quality Democratic candidates in rural and red-leaning areas—precisely where long-term party building is most needed; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Democrats are already engaged in ongoing fights against partisan gerrymandering and voter suppression, and must be especially vigilant not to advance internal decisions that could mirror or exacerbate those same harms;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this body formally opposes the North Carolina Democratic Party’s bid to hold the first presidential primary in the nation in February 2028; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this opposition is grounded not in opposition to economic development or disaster recovery, but in a firm commitment to voter access, election safety, and equitable participation across all regions of the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of North Carolina should prioritize election dates and structures that maximize turnout, protect rural and mountain voters, and avoid foreseeable weather-related barriers to participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any future consideration of changes to the primary calendar must include meaningful input from rural counties, Western North Carolina communities, and local party organizations most directly affected by weather, geography, and infrastructure constraints; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to the leadership of the North Carolina Democratic Party, the State Executive Committee, and relevant party committees for consideration.

“We don’t win by being flashy. We win by making it easier—not harder—for people to vote. North Carolina Democrats should never be the party that trades access for attention.”

Passed by Morganton 10 Precinct

Date: 19 Feb 2026

Precinct Chair Signature: Anne Fischer