

DCDP Resolutions---2009

1. School Funding reform.

Whereas, for fifteen years Wisconsin schools faced a budget deficit of 1.7% causing cuts in staff, services, and equipment, and

Whereas school funding is designed to control state property taxes and not to adequately fund schools.

Be it Resolved that DPW supports enacting a school finance system in 2009-2011, based on the actual cost of educating all children in Wisconsin, and state resources sufficient to satisfy state and federal mandates and to prepare children for citizenship, post-secondary education, employment or service to the country, with a tax structure not dependent on the property tax..

94 words

2. Support Senator Feingold's "Improving Student Achievement" Act, and repeal No Child Left Behind.(NCLB)

Whereas 25% of all schools are unable to meet the NCLB'S mandate for "adequate yearly progress", and

whereas the tests mandated by the law do not foster critical thought, but drive teachers to 'teach to the test', taking time from art music and physical education,

Whereas the Student Improvement program focuses on critical thinking and projects that promote successful learning

Be it Resolved that that DPW supports "Improving Student Achievement" and favors repeal of NCLB

74 words

3. Extend Social Security and Medicare Tax to All Earned Income

Whereas there is a consensus that Social Security to provide minimum retirement income, indexed to inflation, and Medicare serve as a "safety net" for the aged, and handicapped,

Whereas any increase in taxation to support continued Social Security benefits be borne proportionately as the same percentage of income for all.

Be Resolved that all earned income be subject to Social Security taxation and Medicare taxation.

73 words

4. Mass Transit

Whereas, individual vehicle use for routine transportation needs increases fossil fuel consumption, increases traffic flow and delays, and contributes to accidents, and
Whereas heavy road use for individual vehicular transportation accelerates road wear and escalates repair costs,;

Whereas development of passenger rail and bus transportation options create good jobs, reduce pressure on highways and improve safety.

Be Resolved the DPW endorses initiatives to increase non-fossil fuel burning passenger rail and bus options within and between cities and in the rural areas in Wisconsin.

83 words

5 Employee Free Choice Act and leveling the playing field.

Whereas, Republican administrations have reduced the capacity of Labor for collective bargaining and

Whereas a decline in worker rights, job security, job safety, and reduced income leading to a declining middle class, increasing income disparity and weakening of our industrial base have adversely affected society and

Whereas collective bargaining does not end the workers right to privacy,

Be it Resolved that we defend the rights of organized labor to collective bargaining for worker rights, job safety and security, income and opportunity to train to be competitive in the job market .as proposed by the Employee Free Choice Act.

98 words

.6. State Supreme Court Justice Selection Reform.

Whereas, state Supreme Court elections attract little attention, and

Whereas, candidates for the court are not well known,

Whereas the situation lends itself to manipulation by special interests and advertising, and

whereas, justices elected under these circumstances lose public trust

Be it resolved the DPW urges lawmakers to reform election procedures to restore their non-partisan nature by Public Financing of election campaigns for Supreme Court Justices.

66 words

7.. Universal, Single-Payer Health Care.

Whereas fifty million Americans are without health insurance and more are underinsured with rapidly rising premiums, and face financial catastrophe with sudden or severe illness,

Whereas the cost of health care is burdened by cost shifting, from the care of the uninsured, administrative overhead, inefficiency and the incentive for profit for shareholders instead of the best care for the patient.

Be Resolved that DPW support universal, affordable, single-payer health care with ready access.

73 words

8. Reform of FCC rules, and use of public airwaves.

Whereas the FCC has deregulated the anti-trust laws protecting news and broadcast media, reducing the public's right to be informed and with a range of opinion, and

Whereas, the right to have a free and open debate, is crucial to a democracy, and

Whereas, financial resources now play a disproportionate role in access to public media.

Be it Resolved that any private or corporate owner may own no more than one newspaper, radio or TV station in any city, and no more than thirty media outlets across the country, to break up the present monopolies.

95 words

9. Addressing non-violent crime

Whereas the USA incarcerates almost 2% of its population, more than any other developed country, and

Whereas a large number of these are non-violent crimes, like possession of small quantities of marihuana, that do not harm the public and

Whereas, finding alternate ways of addressing non-violent crime would both relieve prison overcrowding and possibly educate the convicted to change their offending ways.

Be it Resolved that DPW support reducing the prison population by finding alternate ways to address non-violent crime, including education, treatment and victim compensation.

86 words

10. Legalization, Taxation and Regulation of Marijuana

Whereas present drug laws have failed to limit availability or use of Marijuana and have produced enormous prison populations, a vast underground economy in drug money, and staggering direct and indirect financial and social costs,

Whereas alcohol and tobacco laws demonstrate that effective regulation and taxation is possible and effective;

Therefore be it resolved that use and distribution of marijuana be legalized, taxed, and regulated as alcohol and tobacco are, and that such revenue be used to fund drug education and treatment programs.

83 words.