

In Support of Hand-Marked Paper Ballots for Elections

WHEREAS, during the early voting period for the now-postponed March 24, 2020 presidential preference primary, the Athens-Clarke Board of Elections under Jesse Evans' leadership voted 3-2 to replace the new voting machines distributed to Athens-Clarke by the State Elections Board in favor of hand-marked paper ballots due to valid concerns over the privacy and security of the new voting machines;

WHEREAS the Georgia GOP and the State Elections Board, including Democratic Party appointee David Worley, retaliated against the Athens-Clarke Board by dragging the Athens-Clarke Board to a hearing, humiliating the Athens-Clarke Board for disagreeing with the State Elections Board's decisions, and voting unanimously to force the Athens-Clarke Board to switch back to the suspect voting machines and to pay a fine for defying their unjust mandate;

WHEREAS the Platform of the Young Democrats of Georgia calls for a "reliable, voter verifiable paper trail in all elections", and our members have called for the institution of hand-marked paper ballots for elections in Georgia;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of Georgia call for the resignation and replacement of David Worley from the Georgia State Elections Board for so shamefully supporting an unjust law and unfairly punishing the Athens-Clarke Board of Elections, as well as for the Democratic Party of Georgia to replace Worley with an appointee who supports hand-marked paper ballots, and rejects the bulky, proprietary voting machines which were purchased by the Georgia Secretary of State for an exorbitant amount of money from public coffers from a for-profit dealer;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of Georgia commend Jesse Evans, newly elected Chairman of the Athens-Clarke County Board of Elections, for his commendable, unfairly-negated work in restoring paper ballots to elections in Athens-Clarke County, as well as those who voted for the replacement of the machines with hand-marked paper-ballots;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Young Democrats demand the restoration of hand-marked paper ballots to all state-managed elections and primaries throughout Georgia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution of opposition be transmitted to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, the State Elections Board, Democratic Party of Georgia Chair Sen. Nikema Williams, the DPG Executive, and the Athens-Clarke County Board of Elections.

Submitted by Harry Underwood, Muscogee County Young Democrats, 04/05/2020

A Resolution on COVID-19 and the Republican Party's treatment of this outbreak

WHEREAS, at the time of this resolution's writing, the COVID-19 outbreak has devastated hundreds of thousands of lives through infection and critical injury, has devastated the lives of millions more people whose friends and family members are infected, and has impacted the lives of billions who either live in fear of infection or must self-isolate themselves to flatten the curve of new infections until a vaccine is found and distributed globally;

WHEREAS, the Republican Party's elected officials have largely demonstrated a hostility or nonchalance to any proactive measures to combat the virus until it is too late;

WHEREAS, Gov. Brian Kemp's stay-at-home order not only exempts religious edifices from closure, but also nonsensically forces Georgia's beaches back open on pain of fines or imprisonment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we condemn the handling of the COVID-19 outbreak nationwide and internationally by Gov. Brian Kemp here in Georgia, other governors and legislatures of similar mind in other states, President Donald Trump and his inept, corrupt administration, and the inept, corrupt U.S. Senate under Mitch McConnell, all of whom sat on their hands, hoped for an economic rebound rather than proactively address the crisis, and refused under partisan pretenses to extend the voting franchise to those isolated by the virus and its impact on our elections and primaries this year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we demand the closure of all beaches, tourist sites, religious edifices and public venues in Georgia and throughout the United States in order to contain the virus and flatten the curve of new cases until it is contained or until a vaccine can be fully tested and distributed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commend Dr. Anthony Fauci for his stewardship over the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, as well as his calm, factual guidance to the nation in spite of being publicly undercut by Trump;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commend those governors, especially those Democratic governors, who have gone above and beyond in flattening the curve, especially those who have reduced their prison and jail populations in order to reduce the potential for infection in such conditions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we are greatly saddened by and memorialize the lives, livelihoods and futures destroyed by this outbreak in Georgia and around the world, especially in Metro Atlanta and the Albany metropolitan area, in hopes that we, the people of these United States and around the world, shall rise from this disaster at the earliest chance and change our governments through the democratic process to ensure the economic, social and health justice we seek, both now and in the aftermath.

Submitted by Harry Underwood, Muscogee County Young Democrats, 04/05/2020

Honoring the Life of Sen. Leroy Johnson

WHEREAS Leroy Johnson, upon his 1962 election to the Georgia State Senate, became the first African-American state legislator in Georgia since William Rogers in 1907, and the first to be elected to the Senate since 1874;

WHEREAS Leroy Johnson previously served as a civil rights attorney and criminal investigator for the Fulton County Solicitor-General from 1957 to 1962, becoming the Solicitor-General's first Black employee, and used his skill to advise Julian Bond and other student leaders of the student mass sit-ins at Rich's Department Store lunch counters in 1960;

WHEREAS Johnson, after breaking the color bar in the legislature, fought to defend his colleague Julian Bond from being expelled from the General Assembly, and was vindicated by the U.S. Supreme Court who ruled in Bond's favor;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of Georgia celebrate the life of Sen. Leroy Johnson for his bravery, dedication to the cause of freedom and justice for African-Americans in the state of Georgia, breaking of the color bar in the Georgia General Assembly, and fundamentally changing the definition of what it meant to be a Georgia Democrat.

Submitted by Harry Underwood, Muscogee County Young Democrats, 04/05/2020

Supporting the Dual Enrollment Program and Opposing Cuts to Dual Enrollment

WHEREAS Georgia's Dual Enrollment program (formerly known as Move On When Ready) allows high school students throughout the state of Georgia to enroll in college courses throughout the University System of Georgia, at no cost to the student, during their time in high school;

WHEREAS Dual Enrollment benefits in particular rural Georgia high school students, lower-income high school students, and students at high schools without Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses, by allowing them to take advanced classes and earn college credit during their time in high school when in many cases they would be unable to do so otherwise;

WHEREAS Republican state representative Bert Reeves, of the 34th district, sponsored HB 444, which would restrict high school students to only 30 credit-hours of Dual Enrollment, with any further courses being charged from the students' pockets, and would prevent 9th and 10th grade students from participating in Dual Enrollment, and this bill has passed both houses of the Georgia legislature;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of Georgia hereby oppose HB 444 (the "Dual Enrollment Act") and call for Governor Brian Kemp to veto this legislation which, under the guise of cutting costs, represents a blow to rural and lower-income high school school students hoping to attain higher education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of Georgia support the preservation and expansion of the Dual Enrollment program so as to support all Georgia high school students, especially those unable to enroll in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses, towards attaining an affordable college education during their time in high school;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be transmitted to Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, the Democratic Party floor leaders of the Georgia General Assembly, the members of the Georgia House of Representatives Education Committee and the Georgia Senate Higher Education Committee, and Democratic Party of Georgia Chair Nikema Williams.

Submitted by Julian Daniel, Decatur Area High School Democrats, 04/05/2020