

MODEL STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLUTION TO OPEN THE PRIMARIES

RESOLUTION OF THE ___ STATE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE TO MAXIMIZE VOTER PARTICIPATION AND PARTY GROWTH BY CHANGING THE RULE FOR ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE IN THE PARTY PRIMARIES

_____ 2019

WHEREAS, the Unity Reform Commission of the Democratic National Committee (“DNC”), composed of representatives from Chairman Tom Perez and the Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton campaigns, issued its report stating that “it is critical that all eligible persons participate in the electoral process, including the Democratic presidential nominating process”, and that “the party process be improved to ensure maximum participation and Party growth”, and

WHEREAS, the Commission strongly praised the 30 jurisdictions which allow non-aligned voters to participate in Democratic Party primaries, and strongly “favor(ed) same-day and automatic voter registration, which includes same-day party switching”, and

WHEREAS, the Commission recommended that the DNC and the Party at all levels SHALL (emphasis added) use all means, including encouraging states to pursue litigation, legislation and “changing Party rules” to insure that the above goals be achieved, and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party stands for inclusion, participation, diversity and progress, and its electoral selection process should fully reflect those values, and

WHEREAS, there are nearly _____ registered non-aligned voters in ___ (about ___% of the total registered who are not eligible to participate in the Democratic Primary, and the average primary turnout of about ___% is one of the lowest in the country, and whereas demographic studies of this non-aligned group of voters show them to be disproportionately composed of the young, students, people of color, and the newly-registered, and many other state Democratic Parties, including California, have opened up their primaries to non-aligned voters (who nationally now comprise 40+% or a plurality of voters), and

WHEREAS ___% of _____ Democratic Party members polled support open primaries and _____ non-aligned voters were a key determinant in the past three presidential elections, and the Party should be sending a clear message that it values their participation, and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled¹ that political parties have an absolute 1st Amendment right to decide who can and can't participate in their primary election, including non-aligned voters- and that assertion of such right does not require new legislation to be authorized.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT THE STATE COMMITTEE OF THE ___ STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEREBY AGREES TO CHANGE ITS RULES TO ALLOW:

1. ALL NON-ALIGNED VOTERS REGISTERED AS SUCH TO VOTE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES NOW SCHEDULED FOR _____, 2020 AND THE DEMOCRATIC STATE PRIMARY FOR STATEWIDE OFFICES NOW SCHEDULED FOR _____, 2020 AND ALL SUBSEQUENT DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARIES.

¹ Tashjian v. Republican Party, 479 U.S. 208 (1986).