



OHIO DEMOCRATIC PARTY

RESOLUTION 2015-15 RESOLUTION HONORING LOUIS STOKES FOR LIFETIME OF SERVICE

WHEREAS, Louis Stokes was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1925; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stokes graduated from Central High School in 1943 and joined the Army to serve his country during WWII, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stokes graduated from Western Reserve University, received a law degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 1953, and established himself as an esteemed member of the bar, including arguing the historic *Terry v. Ohio* case before the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stokes served as the first African American Member of Congress from Ohio, serving for 15 terms, from 1969-1998. During his tenure he served as Chair of the House Ethics Committee, was a member of the committee that investigated the Iran-Contra affair, served on the powerful Appropriations Committee and was the first African-American to Chair the Intelligence Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stokes was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and founded the 21st Congressional District Caucus to promote African-American Issues in Congress as well as support minority candidates in NE Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stokes was a gifted leader, a statesman, role model, mentor and advocate for those less fortunate in life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stokes was a strong advocate for many issues, and championed wealth building and economic development, access and delivery of health care, and quality and equal education for all; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stokes was a passionate advocate for Cleveland, Northeast Ohio and the entire Buckeye State, and his advocacy successfully brought critical investments back to the state and many of its most important institutions; now



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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Democratic Party honors and recognizes Mr. Stokes' historic tenure of public service to the people of Cleveland and the State of Ohio; AND

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ohio Democratic Party extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the Stokes family and to all of those whose lives he touched in his 90 years on this earth.

Approved September 12, 2015

David Pepper, Chairman

William P DeMora, Secretary



OHIO DEMOCRATIC PARTY

RESOLUTION 2015-16 RESOLUTION HONORING DENNIS JOHNSON FOR SERVICE TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

WHEREAS, Dennis C. Johnson was born on Christmas Day, 1940 in Lisbon, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was a veteran, having served in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson worked as a supervisor at the GM Plant in Lordstown for twenty-four years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson served as the Chief of Staff for Congressmen Jim Traficant and Charlie Wilson, as well as a superintendent in Columbiana County for ODOT; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was the longest serving Chairman of the Columbiana County Democratic Party, having held the post for twenty-four years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was a tireless advocate for his county, his county party, the Ohio Democratic Party, and the Ohio Democratic officials he served; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson passed away in August of this year after a brief illness, and is survived by his wife Marion, and his children Rob, Casey and Jessica; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Democratic Party extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the family of Denny Johnson and to all of those whose lives he touched in his seventy-four years on this earth.

Approved September 12, 2015

David Pepper, Chairman

William P DeMora, Secretary



OHIO DEMOCRATIC PARTY

RESOLUTION 2015-17 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CHARTER SCHOOL GRADE-FIXING SCANDAL

WHEREAS, Ohio's \$1 billion for-profit charter school system is rife with waste, fraud and abuse, and these failing charter schools routinely leave Ohio kids in educational limbo; and

WHEREAS, David Hansen, a Kasich administration official -- and the husband of his former Chief of Staff and current presidential campaign manager -- stepped down amid allegations he broke state law by throwing out failing grades for online schools from a key charter school evaluation this year; and

WHEREAS, the Kasich administration has released nearly 100,000 pages of documents that show Hansen acted in concert with other staffers and communicated with the charter school sponsors he was supposed to regulate, with the intent of boosting the system he was supposed to oversee; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Department of Education staffers were directed to avoid the creation of public records, demonstrating a disturbing culture of secrecy and disdain for transparency within the Kasich administration; and

WHEREAS, the emails have raised numerous additional questions about the scandal, its origins, and how high in the administration it went, and have revealed clear inconsistencies between statements by the Superintendent of the Department of Education and the Governor and what actually occurred; and

WHEREAS, members of the State School Board who have asked questions have been routinely rebuffed and kept in the dark as they attempt to get to the bottom of this scandal; and

WHEREAS, Democratic legislators have been relentlessly pushing for both answers and reforms, and even some legislators on the other side of the aisle are, finally, beginning to question the many problems in the current charter school system; and



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WHEREAS, members of the State School Board who have appropriately asked questions have been routinely rebuffed and kept in the dark as they attempt to get to the bottom of this scandal; and

WHEREAS, those for-profit companies and individuals who have benefitted most from Ohio's broken charter school system are among the largest donors to the Ohio Republican Party and those elected officials who have routinely failed to provide appropriate oversight, accountability and reform; and

WHEREAS, Auditor Dave Yost refused to conduct an independent investigation of the scandal; and

WHEREAS, only a truly independent investigation, with autonomy and subpoena power, can possibly determine what top-level officials knew and when they knew it; and

WHEREAS, every major editorial board in the state has condemned this scandal and called for an independent investigation; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Democratic Party calls for an independent investigation into the Kasich administration's for-profit charter school data scrubbing scandal, and strongly supports the vigilant efforts of Democratic legislators and state school board members to take the necessary steps to fix this long-broken for-profit charter school system.

Approved September 12, 2015

David Pepper, Chairman

William P. DeMora, Secretary



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RESOLUTION 2015-18 ENDORING ISSUE 1

WHEREAS, for decades, the Ohio Republican Party has saddled the voters of the State of Ohio with extreme partisan gerrymandering of legislative districts; and

WHEREAS, this extreme gerrymandering has deprived the voters of Ohio true choice in all but a few legislative races, has created a legislature that is wholly unrepresentative of the actual voters and citizens of Ohio, has eliminated competition in all but a few races, and has created an intensely partisan and out-of-touch legislative majority, leading to extreme measures such as Senate Bill 5, voter suppression and relentless attacks on women, workers, urban areas, and Ohio public education, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 gerrymander, led by Governor Kasich and Secretary of State Husted, was the worst in the history of Ohio and one of the most extreme in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the voters of Ohio rejected a ballot measure that would have created a citizen panel to oversee the drawing of fair districts; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Democratic legislative leaders negotiated a compromise districting reform plan to change the process of how legislative districts in Ohio will be drawn beginning in the next decade, which now appears on the ballot as State Issue 1; and

WHEREAS, State Issue 1 would expand the Apportionment Board by two seats, and would require bi-partisan approval in the way state legislative districts are drawn, or the districts would need to be redrawn after only four years along with other disincentives; and

WHEREAS, Issue 1 adds more transparency to the process of drawing districts; and

WHEREAS, State Issue 1 opens the door to fairer districts by eliminating the current Constitutional language which requires that the current gerrymandered district map serve as the baseline for the next decade's map; and

WHEREAS, modeling shows that the new criteria will lead to a far greater number of competitive districts across Ohio, and provides Democrats with the ability to win a majority of the legislature if they compete successfully in those competitive districts; and



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WHEREAS, Issue 1 adds measures and controls that allow the Democratic Party and members of the apportionment board who believe in fair districts to curtail future efforts by the Republican Party to continue its decades-long practice of extreme gerrymandering; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act continues to guarantee that there be no diminishment in the number of majority minority seats in the Ohio House or Senate, a core Democratic priority; and

WHEREAS, State Issue 1 was supported by every Democratic member of the General Assembly when it passed in 2014; and

WHEREAS, after an extensive due diligence process, State Issue 1 was supported by an ODP Screening Committee because it will make meaningful improvements in the ability to draw fairer districts while protecting against any attempts by the Republican Party to continue its practice of extreme gerrymandering; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Democratic Party endorses the passage of State Issue 1 in November

Approved September 12, 2015

David Pepper, Chairman

William P. DeMora, Secretary