

**Resolution Encouraging the Use of Primaries Instead of Caucuses by the Democratic Party
in Local & Statewide Elections**

WHEREAS the Democratic Party is built upon the fundamental principles of inclusion, transparency, openness, and equal access to the ballot for all voters;

WHEREAS the local Democratic Party has, in several jurisdictions across the Commonwealth of Virginia, opted to use a caucus instead of a primary in a local election to determine the Democratic candidate for a general election;

WHEREAS a caucus frequently results in substantially lower turnout among eligible voters;

WHEREAS a caucus disproportionately excludes young people, minorities, working people, party outsiders, and independent voters by imposing stricter limits than a primary as to the time and location in which eligible voters may exercise their franchise;

WHEREAS a caucus impedes efforts to grow the Democratic Party by dissuading certain voters from providing input and participating in the electoral process;

WHEREAS a caucus provides an inherent and undemocratic electoral advantage to party insiders and does so at the expense of other candidates, including, among others, Young Democrats;

And, WHEREAS in some jurisdictions, filing for a primary represents a financial and/or organizational barrier:

Now therefore be it Resolved, That –

- 1) The Virginia Young Democrats support increased input and participation in the electoral process for everyone, including young people, minorities, working people, party outsiders, and independents;
- 2) The Virginia Young Democrats oppose the use of caucuses instead of primaries by the Democratic Party in local elections because it:
 - A) Disproportionally excludes and discourages participation among young people, minorities, working people, party outsiders, and independent voters;
 - B) Does not grow the Democratic Party;
 - C) Provides an inherent and undemocratic electoral advantage to party insiders and does so at the expense of other candidates, including, among others, Young Democrats;
 - D) Virginia Young Democrats call on the Democratic Party of Virginia to provide financial and other resources in support to committees to encourage the adoption of primaries.

Call to Action:

- 1) The Virginia Young Democrats urge local chapters to encourage the adoption of primaries.
- 2) The Virginia Young Democrats urge local chapters to share this resolution with their local Democratic Party and with their community at large.