

Resolution Guidelines for Precinct Conventions

I. PURPOSES OF RESOLUTIONS

- A. Party Platform
Resolutions submitted at precinct conventions can eventually become planks of the party platform as they progress through the various convention levels.
- B. Informational, Persuasive, and Collaborative
 1. Resolutions, when presented and written well, can inform and persuade others to support issues which, previously, they had not considered or had opposed.
 2. Even when others are not persuaded to vote for a resolution, a well-written resolution can lay the foundations for future persuasion.
 3. Resolutions can stimulate collaboration when they include sound analysis and are presented in a context which helps different groups recognize common problems and goals.

II. COMPONENTS

See the attached example.

- A. Subject
Give a succinct, but descriptive title to the resolution. Don't say "Resolution on..."
- B. Preamble
Give the reasons for the resolutions. Begin each reason with "WHEREAS". Some references allow other initiating phrases, but "WHEREAS" is the most commonly used. Each "WHEREAS" begins a new line. The last "WHEREAS" clause is concluded with the phrase "therefore be it".
- C. Resolving Clause(s)
State the action or policy needed in response to the reasons listed in the preamble. Begin these statements with "RESOLVED, That". If more than one action or policy is needed, end all but the last with ", and" rather than a period, and begin each statement with "RESOLVED, That" on a new line.
- D. Submission Information
When the resolution is adopted by the convention, add (after the final resolving clause) the precinct number, county, name of the precinct chair, and date of adoption.

III. SUGGESTIONS FOR DRAFTING A RESOLUTION

- A. Information and Topics
One good source of information on a wide variety of topics, to use in writing good resolutions, is at <http://kucinich.us/issues>. Select one of the many issues listed. For each issue statement, you should be able to get several supporting reasons why a strong policy or action is needed. It helps to have specific figures in your reasons. Examples, "xx% of Americans have no health insurance now," "xx% of the Pentagon budget is for weapon systems which have never been proven to work," or "only \$xx million was spent on early childhood education last year, while \$xxx million was given in tax breaks for the top 5% of income earners."
- B. Draft in reverse
Draft your resolving clause(s) first and then compile the reasons. As you research the information to support the resolution, you may find you need to refine and/or rephrase the resolving clause(s). The reasons should explain the resolution as well as convey the importance of the issues.
- C. Presentation Order:
Evaluate the order of presentation of each reason that will be included in the preamble.
 1. Present the least controversial and most widely known information first. You want to build support for the resolution as it is read, not alienate potential supporters from the beginning!
 2. Build on the information from one reason to the next.
- D. Review
Have someone, whom you know is knowledgeable about the topic, review the resolution. Encourage that individual to play devil's advocate to help clarify your reasoning and wording.

IV. FORMAT, LENGTH, AND PUNCTUATION

A. General

The preamble and the resolving clause(s) comprise one very long sentence. The format and punctuation shown in the attached example help make that long sentence understandable.

B. Length, margins, font

Keep the resolution as short as possible while still giving the information needed to demonstrate why the action or policy is needed. Resolutions should fit completely on one 8.5 x 11 inch page with 1 inch margins on both sides, top, and bottom, with 12 pt font for all the text of the resolution, blank lines between each Whereas and Resolved clause, and 10 pt font for the approval lines at the bottom. The Title should be larger, preferably 14-16 pt, bold. The recommended font is Times New Roman. If your resolution won't fit on one page with these restrictions, it's best to break it into more than one resolution. The Resolutions Committee may put long resolutions on the bottom of the stack, and possibly never get to your resolution if they run out of time.

V. SUPPORT YOUR RESOLUTION

Ensure that your resolution is presented to everyone and voted on at both your Precinct Convention and Senatorial District (SD) or County Convention. Be willing to speak up for it, if anyone challenges it. Resolutions are the last order of business before adjourning the conventions.

A. At your Precinct Convention

VERY IMPORTANT -- Attend your precinct convention the evening of the primary. Bring 10-20 copies of your resolution. Tell others you want to be a delegate to your SD or Co. Convention. Make sure your resolution is presented, discussed, and voted on before the chairperson adjourns.

B. At your State Senatorial District or County Convention

Tell your SD or Co. chairperson, well in advance of the March 25 convention, that you want to be on the Resolutions Committee. Bring several copies of your resolution with you, in case the ones from the precinct convention were lost (unlikely, but it happens sometimes). Ask the resolutions committee chair to put your resolution near the beginning of the ones to be presented to the convention, to reduce the chances that the convention may adjourn before they hear your resolution.

Guidelines for Resolutions written by Cheryl and Bill Crosier, paa@crosierbiomed.com, rev. Dec. 7, 2005

Dennis Kucinich's energy policy statement at <http://kucinich.us/issues/energy.php>

This was used as a basis for the example resolution on the next page, called "Reform U. S. Energy Policy".

Energy

Thanks to advances in renewables, there are fewer technical obstacles to energy independence for our country. There are many political obstacles -- but the oil, auto and electric utility corporations won't be directing energy policy in a Kucinich White House. I will spur research and investment in "alternative" energy sources -- hydrogen, solar, wind and ocean -- and make them mainstream. Clean energy technologies will produce new jobs. We can easily double our energy from renewable sources by 2010. And we can soon have hybrid and fuel cell cars dominating the market. When I was Mayor of Cleveland, I defended public ownership of utilities; when I'm President, I will expand it.

As a peace advocate, I will launch a major renewables effort because then Middle East oil fields will not loom so large as strategic or military targets. As an environmentalist, my view is always holistic and global: a Kucinich Administration will launch a "Global Green Deal" -- a major initiative to use our country's leadership in sustainable energy production to provide jobs to Americans, to reduce energy use here at home, and to partner with developing nations to provide their people with inexpensive, local renewable energy technologies. As a citizen of Planet Earth, I want this project for the same reason I will sign the Kyoto climate change treaty -- because we need it for our children and our grandchildren.

REFORM U. S. ENERGY POLICY

WHEREAS, The United States continues to be dependent on imports of foreign oil, thereby threatening both our economy and national security; and

WHEREAS, People in the United States use far more oil and gas per capita than any other country in the world; and

WHEREAS, Advances in renewable energy mean there are fewer technical obstacles to energy independence for our country; and

WHEREAS, Clean energy technologies will produce new jobs in this country; and

WHEREAS, We can easily double our energy from renewable sources by 2010; and

WHEREAS, We can soon have hybrid and fuel cell cars dominating the market; and

WHEREAS, We need to save fossil fuels and other natural resources for our children and grandchildren, rather than using them up as fast as possible; and

WHEREAS, Without a substantial decrease in fossil fuel use, global warming will become an even more serious problem; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That U. S. research and investment in hydrogen, solar, wind and ocean energy sources should be significantly increased; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our country's leadership should promote sustainable energy production to provide jobs to Americans, to reduce energy use here at home, and to partner with developing nations to provide their people with inexpensive, local renewable energy technologies.

Submitted to and Adopted by Precinct Number _____, _____ County

Precinct Convention Secretary (signature) _____ on _____ (date)

Submitted to and Adopted by State Senatorial District _____, _____ County

Sen. District/Co. Secretary (signature) _____ on _____ (date)