

RESOLUTIONS

forwarded to be considered by the April 30, 2005
St. Paul City DFL Party Convention

Background and Instructions:

-- The Resolutions:

The Resolutions Committee received more than 150 individual resolutions forwarded from precincts in all seven St Paul wards. We spent three weeks clarifying, combining and categorizing these. Some were similar enough in intent and wording that we felt justified in combining them and rewording them to include the meanings of the constituent resolutions. Where it seemed that different emphases could not be combined, we included more than one resolution on a particular topic [such as resolutions encouraging and discouraging Casino gambling.]

Other offerings were vaguely or incompletely written and required considerable thought and editing to bring them to a comprehensible form that delegates could vote on. We hope that our rewording preserved the original intent of these offerings. The following 106 resolutions are the result of this process. We have organized them loosely into categories that are similar to those used in the State DFL Platform - and included sub-categories where doing so appeared to be helpful to delegates attempting to comprehend a broader picture of matters to be voted on.

-- Preliminary Balloting:

To the right of each number are two lines - __A. __ R (which stand for "approve" and "rank"). Delegates will be asked to consider all resolutions for both approval and ranking. All seated delegates will receive a hard copy of these resolutions when they register at the convention - as well as an official ballot (with only the numbers of the resolutions next to a set of boxes.) At the appropriate time in the agenda delegates will be instructed to fill out their ballots and deposit them in the ballot boxes provided. This will come after a period of advocacy and after the introduction of resolutions from the floor - both of which could affect voting selections. So we suggest that delegates mark the space next to the numbers on their Resolution Forms on a provisional basis as they have time during the convention - but wait to mark their official ballots until after the advocacy period and presentation of any additional resolutions from the floor.

-- Voting:

-- Approval: Delegates may vote to "Approve" (with a simple check mark in the space marked with an "a.") as many or as few resolutions as they see fit. All those resolutions receiving an approval rating of 60% or more of the ballots cast will be included in the 2005 St Paul City DFL Platform.

-- Ranking: Delegates will also be asked to rank their nine most favored resolutions - using the alphabetic characters "A, B, C... G, H, and I" (with "A, and "B" being the most strongly favored, etc.) Delegates will also be asked to rank their nine least favored resolutions - using the alphabetic characters "R, S, T... X, Y, and Z" (with "Z" and "Y" being the most strongly dis-favored, etc.) Use the space marked with an "r." for both your positive and negative rankings.

The results will be weighted for all ballots - with the earlier letters ("A-I") receiving positive ranking and the later letters ("Z-R") receiving negative designations. All "approved" resolutions will then be given a rank order that will appear in the final document.

[It is thus possible for a delegate to approve a specific measure and still assign it a low ranking based on the overall value they give to that resolution. It is also possible for a delegate to give a low ranking to a measure that they did not approve of - if they feel that that measure may be popular enough to be approved and the delegate wishes to use their influence to keep it from getting a high ranking.]

We have chosen this "two vote" system because we believe it is important for the City DFL Party and its endorsed candidates to know not only which issues are viewed favorably, but which are most important and urgent to be pursued. This process allows us to express in positive ways both our political idealism and our political pragmatism and gives us a much clearer picture of the will of the delegates that has both breadth and depth.

We recognized that asking delegates to rank issues as to which are most important and which are least important requires a good deal of time and effort - much more than the straightforward "Yes/No" required for simple approval. But politics is all about making tough choices among competing demands for limited resources. Holding ourselves more accountable as delegates to a tougher process of choosing Platform issues, gives us greater credibility and resolve to hold our legislators and elected officials accountable to the Party Platform we produce.

-- Resolutions from the Floor:

Delegates who feel that the current list of resolutions misses one or more issues that are of significance to them, may, upon the presentation of a petition signed by 50 or more seated delegates, offer their resolutions at the designated time in the agenda (just prior to the period of advocacy) . This procedure will also be spelled out in the Convention Rules and petition forms for this purpose will be made available at the Resolutions Table. The Resolutions Committee will also provide a location where delegates can read proposed resolutions and sign the appropriate petitions. Petitions which are received by the time of the first Resolutions Committee Report will be considered for voting and will be assigned a number at the end of the list of printed resolutions. Both the printed Resolutions form and the official Ballot will have additional numbers and spaces to allow for a limited number of resolutions from the floor.

-- The Advocacy Period:

There will be a 30 minute Advocacy Period during which time any delegate may line up at the microphone(s) and speak for 30 seconds for or against any resolution. Delegates may speak a second time only if all other delegates have had a chance to speak for a first time. The Advocacy Period is provided in lieu of any open ended debate on the merits of a few specific resolutions.

-- The Results:

The results of the voting for these resolutions will be posted on the St. Paul DFL website and will be available in a limited printed form available to be read and copied at the DFL office.

-Thanks for your patience and support.
Resolutions Committee



"Be it resolved that the St. Paul DFL..."

Business and Community Development:

Affordable Housing:

1. **A** **R** Expects the Mayor of St. Paul, the City Council, and the Department of Planning and Economic Development to make a commitment to build on the progress of Housing 5000, and create a plan to meet the real housing needs of St. Paul residents during the next four years:
 - The new plan shall recognize the new immigrant communities who are sharing homes, and therefore increase the number of multi-bedroom units;
 - The new plan shall address the problem of long-term homelessness through the creation of supportive housing;
 - The new plan shall consider alternatives to the 30% and 50% of regional median income to better meet the needs of the working people of St. Paul based on the median income in our city;
 - The new plan shall recognize that 20% of all new housing as affordable was adopted as the minimum and therefore should be adjusted higher to at least 30% to meet the needs of low to moderate income people;
 - The city of St. Paul shall join forces with other cities, counties, and advocates to oppose cuts to Section 8 and CDBG funding and call on the Minnesota Congressional delegation to take an active role in opposing these cuts in Washington;
 - The city of St. Paul shall join forces with other cities and advocates to oppose cuts to MHFA funds and meet with the Metropolitan Council to secure a stronger commitment from them to require more affordable housing in suburban communities.
2. **A** **R** Supports the use of television, internet, and newspapers to effectively communicate the availability of low interest loan programs to help upgrade the city housing stock and to disseminate the information in various languages in order to serve the diverse population of the city.
3. **A** **R** Supports basing the cities affordable housing standards on the St. Paul median income.
4. **A** **R** Supports increasing the City's level of affordable housing by providing incentives to private groups to create such housing.

Gambling in St. Paul:

5. **A** **R** Supports the prohibition of gambling in the City of St. Paul, should gambling be expanded by the state, beyond Indian Reservations.
6. **A** **R** Opposes any plan for The City of St. Paul to build or operate any casinos within the city limits or on the Mississippi River.
7. **A** **R** Supports a plan to pursue a casino for the city of St. Paul.

Holman Field Airport:

8. **A** **R** Because of environmental, noise and financial concerns, opposes the funding and construction of a perimeter flood control levee around the Holman Field Airport.
9. **A** **R** Requests that the ownership and governance of Holman Field be returned to the citizens of St. Paul.

Stadium Issues:

10. **A** **R** Strongly opposes a stadium in St. Paul without a vote of the citizens of St. Paul.
11. **A** **R** Opposes both the construction of a publicly funded professional sports stadium within the St. Paul city limits and the use of public dollars for site improvement or infrastructure improvements for such a stadium.
12. **A** **R** Believes that no stadium should be built with tax money until neighborhood services have been fully funded.

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Other Issues:

13. A R Supports the passage of an ordinance that addresses the issues of rental application fees and the rejection of rental applications by requiring the following:
 - Before taking a rental application fee, a rental property owner must disclose to the applicant, in writing, the criteria on which the application will be judged;
 - If the applicant was charged an application fee and the rental property owner rejects the applicant, then the owner must, within 14 days of accepting the fee, notify the tenant in writing of the reasons for rejection, including any criteria that the applicant failed to meet, and the name, address, and phone number of any tenant screening agency, or other credit reporting agency used in considering the application;
 - No rental applicant may be charged more than \$25 to apply for a rental unit;
 - If a rental applicant has paid an application fee for an available unit, the rental property owner may not collect another application fee for that unit unless the first applicant has been screened and been rejected for the unit, or the first applicant has been offered the unit and declined to take it.
14. A R Should apply whatever pressure it can to encourage the city of St. Paul to actively and quickly work to bring the zoning for the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) study areas at Snelling and University, and at Lexington and University into conformance with the adopted TOD plans for those areas along University Avenue.
15. A R Opposes the naming of public buildings, parks, and schools, or public streets, roads, or highways in the city of St. Paul after Ronald Reagan.
16. A R Supports a mixed-use development at the southwest corner lot of Lexington Parkway and University Avenue that includes residential units with 50% of those units being affordable (and a requirement that the units remain affordable), commercial units for small businesses, units for non-profit agencies, and open green space. The St. Paul DFL opposes any "big box" development at this site.
17. A R Urges the city office of Planning and Economic Development and its staff to encourage development of small/independent businesses through technical assistance & other economic support so they can locate & thrive in the City of St. Paul, in particular the University Avenue Corridor.
18. A R Shall develop and implement naming standards for all city amenities, such as but not limited to: parks, recreation centers, farmers market and other city owned or leased property.
19. A R Asks the City Council, acting as the HRA, to vote to preserve the historically significant façade of the Public Safety Building for future generations.
20. A R Encourages the city to promote the development of a hotel/motel at Snelling/94 or Lexington/94 and to develop more tourist-friendly accommodations.
21. A R Encourages the City of St. Paul to provide adequate funding to ensure that the city's district councils can effectively encourage responsive governance through the involvement of St. Paul residents in their community affairs.
22. A R Encourages the city to promote local ownership of businesses so as to keep jobs and money in the community.

Consumer Issues:

Broadband Access:

23. A R Supports the immediate research into and pursuit of any and all readily identifiable options to create affordable broadband access for all in the city who desire it.
24. A R Supports the city of St. Paul investigating the possibility and practicality of investing in low-cost, wireless, high-speed, citywide internet access.

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Other Issues:

25. A R Supports the coordinating of garbage collection services under the authority of the City of St. Paul in order to limit trash collection trucks to one day per week; which eliminates wear and tear on streets, to prohibit collection before 7 a.m., and to set fees for collection.
26. A R Supports an increase in locally owned and non-profit community radio stations, cable access television, community and neighborhood newspapers, and other forms of locally-based and community-oriented communication media, to encourage the diversity of voices essential to a well-functioning democracy.

Education:

Funding:

27. A R Requests that the mayor provide police services to the schools on the old 50-50 percent cost sharing basis, and that no city services shall be billed to the school district until all increased tax collections from special city assessments against the school district since Mayor Kelly assumed office are deducted from the billing for the services rendered.
28. A R Support rolling back all education funding cuts and replacing them by increases across the board, including Head Start, preschool, adult education, ELL, and lifelong learning.
29. A R Requests that city officials cooperate to financially support elementary and secondary education to improve services to children and reduce class size.
30. A R Shall select a DFL candidate for mayor who will be a strong advocate for adequate funding for education in our city.
31. A R Supports a minimum 5% increase in Pre-K—12 funding after adjusting for inflation to compensate for under-funding over the past three or more years, which has resulted in increased class size, loss of professional staff, and a lack of curriculum supplies and material.

Other Issues:

32. A R Supports a maximum teacher to student ratio of no more than 1:20 in second to sixth grade and no more than 1:15 in Kindergarten and first grade.
33. A R Supports making some school buildings in St. Paul available for public use during evenings, weekends, etc., to provide opportunities for, but not limited to, recreational use, educational tutoring, and civic pursuits.
34. A R Supports all endeavors to maintain the separation of church and state in public education.
35. A R Opposes the extension of the Federal No Child Left Behind act unless it is properly funded, does not duplicate existing programs, and provides for full staffing of schools deemed poor performers.
36. A R Encourages elected members of the St. Paul Board of Education to henceforth bargain fairly with its support staff employees and recognize that each employee has a right to health care regardless of loft of office or height of salary.

Environment and Natural Resources:

37. A R Expects DFL city officials to continue supporting the extension of tax credits to Minnesotans for energy friendly purchases such as increased home insulation, and solar, geothermal and wind renewable energy products.
38. A R Encourages the City of St. Paul to endorse and to comply with the Kyoto Treaty as an impetus toward clean air for our city.

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Government Accountability:

Software Standards:

39. A R Encourages government to use open, standard, and unencumbered formats for storing and transferring electronic data so that such data will not be rendered inaccessible to the public due to proprietary restrictions or system obsolescence.
40. A R Encourages government to consider the use of Open Source software and systems at least equally to the use of commercial or proprietary software and systems when investing in such systems.

"Taxation" Language:

41. A R Supports an "Honesty in Taxation" policy: i.e., no St. Paul elected office holder will commit to a "no new or raised taxes" policy and then raise revenues by raising or levying fees in lieu of taxes. This resolution neither favors nor opposes new taxes, but demands honesty and transparency in how St. Paul raises revenue.
42. A R All assessments, user fees, special fees, and additional funds that are collected be identified as "taxes".

Other Issues:

43. A R Supports holding the St. Paul City Council meetings and committee meetings in the evenings when there can be more public participation.
44. A R Expects candidates for office in St. Paul to commit to enforcement of all city ordinances, including code violations that affect the quality of life within neighborhoods.
45. A R Charges city officials to pressure state and county government to pass a law that would mandate instant runoff voting in all elections conducted in the state.
46. A R Supports the legal right of property owners to complain against housing inspector abuse.
47. A R Supports legislation requiring repayment of campaign donations, funds, and in-kind donations to the political party from which a candidate or office holder received support, if the candidate changes political parties or is ejected from a political party's membership during elected term of office.

Health and Human Services:

Affordable Health Care:

48. A R Believes that every person in St. Paul shall be guaranteed affordable health care and access to city supported health care clinics.
49. A R Opposes proposals by the governor to reduce availability of health care to the neediest Minnesotans.
50. A R Supports increased funding for mental health treatment and drug treatment within the city.
51. A R Strongly encourages the City of St. Paul to aggressively join efforts with all agencies at all governmental levels to address the medical, social and mental health needs of the growing homeless population with the city.

Other Issues:

52. A R Supports a public policy of preparedness within the health care system of the city for the predicted bird flu pandemic.
53. A R Supports the right of every worker and patron of public space to breathe clean air, through the support of a citywide smoking ban in all public places including bars and restaurants.

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Labor and Employment:

Union Contracts:

- 54. **A** **R** Supports creating more jobs in the city by expanding the favorable bidding process to contractors who employ only City of St. Paul residents for contracts in the City of St. Paul.
- 55. **A** **R** Urges The City of St. Paul to negotiate in good faith with their union workers to provide livable wages, reasonable benefits, and affordable health insurance for the city workers.
- 56. **A** **R** Endorses the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly's list of Labor's Standards for Elected Officials.

Social Security:

- 57. **A** **R** Urges the City of St. Paul and the City Council to advocate against the privatization of Social Security funds.
- 58. **A** **R** Urges the City of St. Paul and the City Council to advocate for the removal of the current Social Security tax cap of \$90,000 in favor of no cap.

Other Issues:

- 59. **A** **R** Supports the "Health Care Disclosure Act" for all "Big Box" employers within the city.

Libraries, Parks, and Recreation:

Funding Issues:

- 60. **A** **R** Supports adequate funding and staffing of all recreation centers in St. Paul, so that they can be open for afternoon, evening, weekend, and other non-school-times.
- 61. **A** **R** Supports Recreational Centers retaining money raised from the rental or use of such facilities in order to better serve their community through longer hours and program operations.
- 62. **A** **R** Supports fully funding libraries, park and recreation centers, and playgrounds and maintaining adequate staffing for these programs.

Other Issues:

- 63. **A** **R** Asks Parks and Recreation to develop more fenced, off-leash dog parks in under served areas of the city.
- 64. **A** **R** Supports walking tours in every neighborhood for historical and tourism reasons.
- 65. **A** **R** Supports expansion of Tourism in St. Paul by publicizing neighborhood cultural events.

Local Issues:

- 66. **A** **R** Supports devoting significant attention to the retail sector to attract a movie theater and other entertainment services that are currently lacking from the city's largest retail complex in the Midway neighborhood.
- 67. **A** **R** Supports the re-use of the Hamm's Brewery Building.
- 68. **A** **R** Supports the creation of Henry Park in the southeast corner of the city, on parcels of undeveloped land overlooking the Mississippi River.

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Public Safety & Nuisance Issues:

St. Paul Police Department:

69. A R Opposes The St. Paul Police Department deployment of "Taser Guns" in the St. Paul Schools until research and investigation of the potential dangers of this weapon are completed.
70. A R Encourages the St. Paul Police Department to establish an available, accessible advising/review board to satisfy complaints from the citizenry.

Justice System Reform:

71. A R Expects candidates for office in St. Paul to promote the reduction of crime within the city by focusing on root causes such as lack of curfew enforcement, gangs, and drug dealings.
72. A R Urges the juvenile justice system to emphasize rehabilitation above incarceration. This should encompass additional formal training, e.g., for prosecuting attorneys, in sociological and psychological issues affecting juveniles currently facing prosecution.
73. A R Encourages all City and County Attorneys to pursue sentences for all convicted criminals that include community service such as collecting litter within the precinct where the crime occurred.

Funding Issues:

74. A R Supports a ½% Public Safety Tax referendum.
75. A R Expects the City of St. Paul to restore funding to provide the full complement of 4 Firefighters per engine as per National Fire Protection Agency Standards, and that the City put Engine 20 and Station 20 back into full service.

City Streets and Boulevards:

76. A R Supports an ordinance requiring all houses and businesses to have street address numbers that are readable from the street.
77. A R Asks the City of St. Paul to clear snow from all sidewalks in city parks.
78. A R Supports enforcing a limit on the number of cars, trailers, or other vehicles that may be parked on public neighborhood streets by one residential home/household.
79. A R Supports the city providing lawn signs for affected boulevards, at residents' request, which serve as a friendly reminder of each dog owner's civic duty to pick up their dogs' poop.

Other Issues:

80. A R Encourages the City and County to re-examine the present security system at City Hall to ensure a safe but also time-efficient model that does not unnecessarily delay individuals needing access to city offices and the courts.
81. A R Supports city police and emergency services remaining independent of Ramsey County.

Tax and Budget:

82. A R Encourages the City to be an advocate for tax credits for reservists.
83. A R Expects all St. Paul elected officials advocate for progressive income taxes rather than regressive property taxes and local fees to pay for necessary local services.
84. A R Opposes the further implementation of regressive fees in lieu of property tax revenues for city projects that have traditionally been funded through the property tax system. Further, such existing fees should be rescinded.
85. A R Supports all state monies being reverted to their original neighborhood development purposes.

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86. A R Supports the return to distribution of "STAR" (Sales Tax Revitalization) Community Funds proportionally to the neighborhoods via the District Planning Councils.

Transportation:

Balanced Funding Issues:

87. A R Supports a more balanced system for planning and funding transportation that will give us more choices in transit, a better environment for walking and bicycling, and reduce our reliance on driving.
88. A R Advocates for the "Transportation Choices 2020 Initiative" at the State Legislature. This initiative seeks a stable funding source of \$360 million annually within the State to assure that the multimodal transit model for the metropolitan area is successfully completed by the year 2020.
89. A R Supports the development and full funding of mass transit throughout the state of Minnesota.
90. A R Opposes the reduction in funding for metro transit that has been proposed by the governor.

Ayd Mill Road Freeway Connection:

91. A R Opposes constructing Ayd Mill Road to freeway standards with a direct connection to I-94 on the north end.
92. A R Supports the long-term plan to convert Ayd Mill Road to a linear park, and in the short-term to build down the road to single lane traffic in each direction. This would honor the choices made by the citizen advisory Ayd Mill Road Task Force after nearly a decade of study and would lead to a more livable St. Paul.
93. A R Supports direct downtown connections between Interstates 35E and 94 where they do not currently exist, and/or improved indirect interstate connections, with prominent signage that directs interstate traffic to the downtown interstate connections and away from neighborhood streets.

Other Specific Connections:

94. A R Urges that the light-rail corridor known as the "Central Corridor" be very carefully designed to consider pedestrian involvement, to maximize safety, convenience, and accessibility to local residents, and to consider future development, housing, business, and transportation.
95. A R Supports keeping the speed limit at 45 miles per hour on I-35E between the Mississippi River and Kellogg in downtown St. Paul.
96. A R Supports the maintenance of the Pascal Street Bridge over I94 along with its designated bicycle connection.
97. A R Proposes that the HOV bypass ramp east of Pascal Street to east-bound I94 be open for use by high occupancy vehicles daily between 6 AM and 9 AM and between 4 PM and 7 PM, with measures as needed for visibility/safety, such as synchronized ramp meter signals or HOV priority signals.

Other Issues:

98. A R Proposes that the City take on the obligation to pave every alley in the City of St. Paul at equitable cost to each household that has access to that alley.
99. A R Supports doubling the number of miles of city streets and roads with designated bicycle lanes within the next 4 years.

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World Affairs:

- 100. A R Encourages all St. Paul elected officials to do everything they can, by speech and by action, to stop the diversion of our tax monies to military and oil corporations, and to protest the endangerment of our brave military men and women in illegal wars and other military actions against other countries and peoples.
- 101. A R Advocates for a city declaration of neutrality in the case of illegal orders by Washington, such as a presidential order to invade Iran.
- 102. A R Advocates for a city declaration of support for the return of all troops from Iraq as soon as possible.
- 103. A R Advocates for the proportionate representation in military service abroad of persons from all socio-economic levels.

Party Issues:

- 104. A R Will hold its ward conventions the same night as caucuses in years with no city council election.
- 105. A R Will hold its City precinct caucuses within the boundaries of each precinct.
- 106. A R Will find ways to increase incentives to serve in public office.

Additional Resolutions:

- 107. A R
- 108. A R
- 109. A R
- 110. A R
- 111. A R
- 112. A R
- 113. A R
- 114. A R
- 115. A R