

# Resolutions for consideration at the DPCA Global Meeting, May 21-22, 2022

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## **Dear DPCA members and other interested Democrats,**

The resolutions included in this report were submitted by DPCA members and consist of the final texts to be considered at the upcoming Global Meeting. This report reflects the order in which the initial texts were received, not the order of consideration for the Global Meeting.

Co-sponsorship of each resolution is available to all members of Democrats Abroad using the online form at the following link: <https://forms.gle/6nW1vz61RmKADVgT7>

The form will close 24 hours before the opening of the Global Meeting and the final list of co-sponsors for each resolution will be available online shortly thereafter.

We thank the DPCA, the International Executive Committee, and the authors and primary sponsors of these resolutions for their cooperation and support throughout the process.

DPCA Resolutions Committee: Will Bakker (chair), Carol Adamson, Farid Ben Amor, Kent Getsinger, Beverle Lax, Susan Vaillant, and Rick Wicks

1 **Resolution directing Democrats Abroad (DA) to Include Veterans and**  
2 **Military Family Members under Representation Goals when Electing**  
3 **Delegates under Future Delegate Selection Plans (DSPs)**

4 *Footnotes are available on the DA Wiki at <https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/l/c/41b0vq5M>*

5 *Primary sponsor: Mike Nitz (DA Southeast Asia)*

6 *Author: Michael Ramos (DA Australia)*

7 **Whereas** DA Global Veterans & Military Families Caucus membership exceeds 1,000,  
8 suggesting that there are thousands more DA members who are veterans or military family  
9 members,<sup>1</sup> and tens if not hundreds of thousands more living abroad who might join and vote if  
10 properly motivated; and

11 **Whereas**, every four years, the fifty-seven (57) “state parties” of the Democratic National  
12 Committee (DNC), including DA, select delegates to choose the Democratic nominee for  
13 President of the United States and conduct other Democratic Party business; and

14 **Whereas** each of the DNC’s state parties must formally approve a Delegate Selection Plan (DSP)  
15 which in turn must be approved by the DNC prior to the Democratic National Convention; and

16 **Whereas** each state party’s DSP requires documented and approved strategies to encourage  
17 members who identify as belonging to historically underrepresented groups of Americans to run  
18 to represent their state party as delegates at the Convention; and

19 **Whereas** DA’s previous DSPs have recognized as historically underrepresented: women;  
20 persons of Native American, Hispanic American, African American, or Asian American/Pacific  
21 Islander ancestry; and those identifying as non-binary, LGBTQI+, having a disability, or Youth  
22 (defined as younger than 36 years old at the time of selection); and

23 **Whereas** the DA DSPs in 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020 did not include representation goals of  
24 including veterans and/or military family members;<sup>2</sup> and

25 **Whereas** the Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina,  
26 Ohio, Oregon, and Pennsylvania 2020 state-party DSPs did include veterans and/or military  
27 family members as part of their representation goals; and

28 **Whereas** veterans and military family members have been historically disadvantaged from  
29 participating in the American political system because of voting barriers both at home and  
30 abroad;<sup>3</sup> and

31 **Whereas** the DA Global Veterans & Military Families Caucus Steering Committee and the DA  
32 France Veterans & Military Families Caucus Steering Committee are strongly in favor of DA  
33 including veterans and military family members as part of its DSP representation goals; and

34 **Whereas** the chair of the DNC Veterans and Military Families Council expressed full support of  
35 proposed representation goals that ensure the inclusion of veterans and military families within  
36 all Democratic state parties’ DSPs;<sup>4</sup>

37

38 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that DA recognizes that veterans and military family members have  
39 been historically disadvantaged and underrepresented in the American political system; and

40 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA shall include veterans and military family members when  
41 establishing numeric representation goals for the election of delegates under future DSPs.

42 **Resolution to Keep the Pershing Hall Collection and the Time Capsule**  
43 **in France as part of its Cultural Patrimony and as a Memorial to**  
44 **American Veterans of World Wars I and II; and that its Oversight be**  
45 **Transferred from the DVA to the ABMC**

46 *An appendix is available on the DA Wiki at <https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/l/c/41b0vq5M>*

47 *Primary sponsor: Joseph Smallhoover (DA France)*

48 *Authors: Anna Marie Mattson (DA France) and Bryan Schell (DA France)*

49 **Whereas** DA has always honored the memory and service of the U.S. military and has vowed  
50 never to forget, no matter which war nor country; and

51 **Whereas** under the trusteeship of the US government, Pershing Hall, located in Paris, France,  
52 was established by the U.S. Congress as a World War I Memorial in 1936 to honor all Americans  
53 who fought in WW1 (see Appendix); and

54 **Whereas** Pershing Hall has traditionally been highly valued by U.S. veterans of all wars but has  
55 been dishonored by U.S. neglect since 1993 when a realtor turned the Memorial into a luxury  
56 hotel and then into luxury office space and a shoe store in 2017;

57 **Whereas** DA values veterans and military family members throughout the world and strives to  
58 ensure they have every opportunity to participate in the American political system by  
59 encouraging voter registration and performing get-out-the-vote activities,

60 **Whereas** taking a stand in support of the memorialization of Pershing Hall and its invaluable  
61 collection of artifacts would allow DA to tangibly show its support by honoring the memory and  
62 service of veterans and military family members worldwide; and

63 **Whereas** the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), administers, operates, and  
64 maintains 26 permanent American military cemeteries and 32 federal memorials, monuments and  
65 markers located in the U.S. and 17 foreign countries, the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern  
66 Mariana Islands, and the British Territory of Gibraltar but Pershing Hall is not under their  
67 jurisdiction but has been under the responsibility of the Department of Veterans Affairs since  
68 1993,

69

70 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that the DPCA instructs the International Chair in conjunction with  
71 the DA Global Veterans and Military Families members to write their Congress members as well  
72 as the House Oversight and Reform Committee, the Senate Homeland Security and Government  
73 Affairs Committee and the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) demanding that in compliance  
74 with earlier U.S. commitments to veterans, oversight of the Pershing Hall Memorial be  
75 transferred from the DVA to ABMC and that the entire Pershing Hall collection, including the  
76 time capsule and its contents, remain in France and be restored as part of the cultural and  
77 historical patrimony of all U.S. veterans and as a pilgrimage site for their descendants.

78 **Resolution in Support of Establishment of Democrats Abroad Global**  
79 **Gender-Based Violence Task Force**

80 *Appendices are available on the DA Wiki at <https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/l/c/41b0vg5M>*

81 *Primary sponsor: Heather Stone (DA Israel)*

82 *Author: Marnie Delaney (DA France)*

83 **Whereas:** There are an estimated 9 million Americans living abroad and approximately 100  
84 million Americans travel abroad each year, and

85 **Whereas:** Gender-based violence (see appendix) impacts millions of individuals across the  
86 globe every year with disproportionate impacts on women of color, people with disabilities,  
87 women and their children, female service members, students, and lgbtq+ individuals, and

88 **Whereas:** Support for U.S. citizens subjected to violence outside the United States - if such  
89 support exists - may not be easily identified or accessed, and

90 **Whereas:** U.S. Government resources available to provide assistance to those subjected to  
91 gender-based violence are limited and typically allocated for domestic programs, and

92 **Whereas:** The only non-profit organization created specifically to provide support to American  
93 victims of violence overseas - Pathways to Safety International (PTSI), which offered an  
94 internationally-accessible 800 number available 24/7/365 backed by trained case managers - lost  
95 government funding in 2019, and

96 **Whereas:** There is insufficient awareness among the public, the administration, and Congress of  
97 the gaps in policy, practices and programs to support the needs of U.S. citizens experiencing  
98 gender-based violence while abroad, and

99 **Whereas:** There is similar lack of awareness among Americans living and traveling abroad, and

100 **Whereas:** The mission of Democrats Abroad includes involvement in issues of importance to  
101 U.S. citizens abroad, including violence against women (see appendices), and

102 **Whereas:** In 2021 DA's Global Women's Caucus - under the direction of the DA ExCom -  
103 established the Women Safe Abroad Project which has already catalogued the experiences and  
104 needs of Americans abroad subject to gender-based violence, and

105

106 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad will establish - under the direction of the DA  
107 ExCom - a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Task Force to advocate for Americans abroad subject  
108 to gender-based violence, and

109 **Be It Further Resolved** that the GBV Task Force will report its activities quarterly to the DA  
110 ExCom.

111 **Resolution in support of Getting Information on Democrats Abroad**  
112 **and the Wealth Tax**

113 *Primary sponsor: Ed Ungar (DA Canada)*

114 **Whereas** a wealth tax could raise trillions of dollars by fairly taxing the ultra-rich and DA would  
115 thus favor it in principle; and

116 **Whereas** President Biden’s proposed budget contains what New Yorker magazine calls “a form  
117 of wealth tax”; and

118 **Whereas** there is overwhelming (about 90% of Democrats) support for a wealth tax (i.e., a tax on  
119 wealth) among Democrats in Congress; and

120 **Whereas** DA has long sought change from Citizenship-Based to Residence-Based Taxation in  
121 order to simplify or eliminate tax-filing and financial-reporting requirements for Americans  
122 abroad; and

123 **Whereas** it’s not clear how such a change would affect imposition of a wealth tax;

124

125 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad will consult administration policy advisors  
126 regarding whether change to Residence-Based Taxation would interfere with the implementation  
127 of a wealth tax, in the process making clear to them the burdens of current tax-filing and  
128 financial-reporting requirements on Americans abroad and their effect on those Americans voting  
129 (or not).

## 130 **Resolution to Catalogue Our “Standing Resolutions”**

131 *A footnote is available on the DA Wiki at <https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/l/c/41b0vq5M>*

132 *Primary sponsor: Ada Shen (DA France)*

133 **Whereas** Resolutions concerning internal governance of the DPCA often have a lasting effect or  
134 relevance to the DPCA beyond any given year or election cycle;

135 **Whereas**, as the organization grows and changes over time, Democrats Abroad (DA) leaders will  
136 increasingly rely upon such vital shared knowledge resources as the DA Wiki, where all  
137 Resolutions history currently resides — but such resources are themselves a product of our  
138 collective volunteer care, attention, and processes;

139 **Whereas** the current Resolutions section of the DA Wiki, while as comprehensive as possible in  
140 its organization of previous Resolutions thanks to the admirable work of the Wiki and  
141 Resolutions teams, requires new leaders to read through all previous Resolutions in order to try to  
142 find Resolutions which might be considered “Standing”, or as having a lasting effect or relevance  
143 currently;

144 **Whereas** concurrent to our monumental organizational growth with many new volunteers who  
145 would benefit from historical documentation and context, creating a problem of greater  
146 dependency on past leaders to remember whether something was passed or not in previous years,  
147 what it said, and/or where to find “that resolution that did that thing we thought it did”;

148 **Whereas** mortality and humility remind us that depending on individuals to remember things  
149 about stuff can also be fallible for us as an institution with the passing of time;

150 **Whereas** Resolutions concerning internal governance of the DPCA often have a lasting effect or  
151 relevance to the DPCA beyond any given year or election cycle;

152

### 153 **Therefore Be It Resolved**

154 Standing Resolutions shall be defined as those resolutions designed or intended to have a lasting  
155 effect on how the DPCA governs itself;

156 Past Standing Resolutions shall be identified by a volunteer Standing Resolutions archive team\*,  
157 reporting to and under the purview of the International Secretary themselves throughout the  
158 course of their work including relaying achievement milestones, to review past resolutions and  
159 separately list those which meet this definition;

160 All Standing Resolutions so listed should then be numbered uniquely and consecutively, with  
161 new Standing Resolutions added accordingly, also uniquely and consecutively, as they are  
162 passed, in a manner consistent with Section 4.8 of the Charter (Responsibilities of the  
163 International Secretary);

164 The Standing Resolutions list shall be maintained in its own section of the DA Wiki (or whatever  
165 knowledge base or platform being used by Democrats Abroad), in such a fashion that future  
166 DPCA leaders and Wiki users can easily find them;

167 As this project is not urgent and 2022 is an election year, the aforementioned should simply be  
168 completed by the next Annual General Meeting, in time to accommodate the 2023 Resolutions  
169 process;

170 This resolution is itself a Standing Resolution and if passed should also be uniquely and  
171 consecutively numbered as such.

172 **Resolution in Support of Statehood for Washington, D.C.**

173 *Footnotes are available on the DA Wiki at <https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/l/c/41b0vq5M>*

174 *Primary sponsor: Adrienne Johnson (DA United Kingdom)*

175 *Authors: Adrienne George (DA Sweden), Alan Cheilek (DA United Kingdom)*

176 **Whereas** – under the District Clause of the Constitution (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17) – the  
177 Residence Act of 1790 approved the establishment of the capital district that became  
178 Washington, D.C.;<sup>1</sup> and

179 **Whereas** inhabitants of that area already had the constitutional right to voting representation in  
180 Congress as part of Maryland or Virginia (out of which the District of Columbia was carved); and

181 **Whereas** the Organic Acts of 1801 and 1871 disenfranchised residents of the District by  
182 eliminating their voting representation in Congress and the Electoral College as well as their  
183 voice in Constitutional amendments and their right to home rule including control over local  
184 courts; and

185 **Whereas** Congress continues to exercise authority over local affairs, reviewing, modifying, or  
186 even overturning the District’s democratically enacted laws and budgets, sometimes imposing  
187 new and unwanted laws;<sup>2</sup> and

188 **Whereas** – with the passage of the 23rd Amendment in 1961 – District residents regained the  
189 right to vote for President and Vice President and to have those votes count in the Electoral  
190 College, followed by the addition of a single non-voting representative in the House of  
191 Representatives in 1971, but they have yet only an unrecognized shadow “representative” in the  
192 Senate;<sup>3</sup> and

193 **Whereas** District residents have defended the United States in every war and share all the  
194 responsibilities of U.S. citizenship including service on federal juries and paying more federal  
195 taxes in total than their counterparts in 22 states;<sup>4</sup> and

196 **Whereas** American democracy systematically overrepresents White voters at the expense of  
197 Black and Brown voters, while the District is historically a majority Black city and Black people  
198 still make up 47% of the population;<sup>5</sup> and

199 **Whereas** the District has over 700,000 residents, comparable to Alaska and North Dakota, more  
200 than Vermont or Wyoming; and

201 **Whereas** the District – while also performing the functions of a city and a county – operates as a  
202 state and is treated as such in more than 500 federal laws;<sup>6</sup> and

203 **Whereas** the District is the only political entity on U.S. soil whose residents have been  
204 continuously denied the right both to self-governance and participation in the national legislature;  
205 and

206 **Whereas** D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and the New Columbia Statehood Commission decided to  
207 pursue statehood through the “Tennessee Plan” – in which the prospective state’s electorate votes  
208 on statehood and ratifies a constitution, without an enabling act from Congress, and then uses this

209 as a basis to petition Congress for admission – a path that has previously been used successfully  
210 by Michigan, Iowa, California, Oregon, Kansas, and Alaska;<sup>7</sup> and

211 **Whereas** District voters established borders including only residential and commercial areas  
212 while excluding a smaller federal district<sup>8</sup> constituting the seat of the U.S. Government,<sup>9</sup>  
213 protecting the status of the federal government – as required by the U.S. Constitution – as  
214 existing outside any state, and countering arguments that the 23<sup>rd</sup> Amendment prohibits the  
215 admission of D.C. as a state;

216 **Whereas** – prior to filing an enabling act with Congress – District voters:<sup>10</sup>

- 217 • Affirmed their desire to become a state when the Washington, D.C. Statehood  
218 Referendum passed with 86% of the vote in 2016;<sup>11</sup> and
- 219 • Ratified a constitution committed to a republican form of government for the “State of  
220 Washington, D.C.” (D.C. meaning Douglass Commonwealth), also approved by the D.C.  
221 Council in 2016;<sup>12</sup> and

222 **Whereas** the House passed H.R. 51, the Washington D.C. Admission Act, in April 2021, and  
223 President Biden has strongly supported the proposal;<sup>13</sup> and

224 **Whereas** the Senate is yet to pass S. 51, the Washington D.C. Admission Act, introduced in  
225 January 2021 by Sen. Thomas R. Carper (D-DE);

226

227 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that DA supports the admission of Washington, Douglass  
228 Commonwealth as the 51<sup>st</sup> state into the United States of America; and

229 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA urges the Senate to pass S. 51, the Washington D.C. Admission  
230 Act, or to enact other federal legislation granting autonomy and statehood to the District of  
231 Columbia; and

232 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA calls on its leaders

- 233 • to educate our members about the District’s lack of democratic representation and local  
234 autonomy;
- 235 • to provide resources enabling them to contact their Senators in support of D.C. statehood;  
236 and
- 237 • to encourage them to activate their U.S. networks to support D.C. statehood; and

238 **Be it Further Resolved** that Democrats Abroad stands in solidarity with our members who  
239 currently vote in the District, that we demonstrate that we are on the right side of justice, aim to  
240 extend voting, and thus human rights to all Americans, and otherwise reduce the number of 2<sup>nd</sup>  
241 class citizens. D.C. statehood transcends the proposed Douglas Commonwealth. The right to full  
242 and equitable voting representation in Congress for the people of the United States is an issue that  
243 can move and inspire DA constituents to action; and

244 **Be It Further Resolved** that the DA International Chair is hereby authorized and directed to  
245 transmit copies of this resolution to the Democratic National Committee and the majority and  
246 minority leaders of the Senate.

247 **Memorial Resolution Honoring Jim Christiansen of DA France**

248 *Primary sponsor: Ada Shen (DA France)*

249 On April 8, 2022, Democrats Abroad France lost our dear friend and longtime local activist Jim  
250 Christiansen.

251 Jim was 69 years of age. He had been diagnosed with colon cancer two years ago, but  
252 nevertheless continued to be very active and engaged in the things that mattered to him.

253 Jim had lived in Paris since 1989, traveling frequently as a management consultant specialized in  
254 innovation and change management. His background and experience made him well-suited to  
255 grasping complex issues quickly while driving towards concrete, pragmatic actions that could  
256 make a difference. Most recently, Jim was working to develop a method for large-scale removal  
257 of methane from the atmosphere — methane being 80 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas  
258 than carbon dioxide.

259 We in Democrats Abroad France were fortunate to have had Jim’s passionate, tireless support in  
260 environmental, energy, and climate-policy issues, as well as in economics, healthcare, and social  
261 justice — in short, the kinds of transformational change synonymous with progressive politics  
262 that many of us fight to make mainstream. He was an early supporter and advocate for the  
263 policies of Senator Bernie Sanders, being active as well with France for Bernie and Our  
264 Revolution France. A warm, kind, and compassionate internationalist, he will be dearly missed.

265 Since 2008, Jim was active in DA France’s environmental policy group — along with Connie  
266 Borde, Diana Powers, Barbara Tucker, Cara Maesano and others — which sought to influence  
267 U.S. political opinion and policy dialogue on climate change mitigation and adaptation, from  
268 France.

269 Jim’s experience helped DA France leaders shape their political response to the 2016 and 2020  
270 elections. He also generously contributed his expertise and energy as part of the 2020 Global  
271 Platform Committee, where Jim served as lead editor of the Environment and Climate Crisis  
272 policy planks.

273 In the last two years, Jim became a DPCA Voting Representative for DA France and also served  
274 on the steering committee for the newly formed DA Global Environment & Climate Crisis  
275 Council, as well as supporting the relaunch of the DA France Environment, Energy, and Climate  
276 policy group. He also helped found DA Paris’ “Walk n Talk” group which continues to meet  
277 regularly to explore on foot the magnificent city he called home.

278 Jim was equally able to deal with the profound, the complex, and the political, while still being  
279 present for the simplest of joys — observing the changing of the seasons, sharing familiar paths  
280 with friends new and old. His passion for progressive change, his wise counsel, and his kindness  
281 and compassion will be missed but not forgotten.

282 He is survived by his daughter Gwen, his son-in-law Kevin, and granddaughter Enora who live in  
283 Toulouse, and his brother Ken and extended family in the USA.

284 Our deepest sympathies go out to his friends and family around the world.

## 285 **Resolution on the Climate Emergency**

286 *Footnotes and the link noted below are available on the DA Wiki at*  
287 <https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/l/c/41b0vq5M>

288 *Primary sponsor: Dana Freling (DA Finland)*

289 *Authors: Inge Kjemtrup (DA United Kingdom), Dash Nesbitt (DA Germany), Angela Fobbs (DA*  
290 *Germany), Bruce Murray (DA Austria)*

291 **Whereas** the issue of the climate crisis affects Americans abroad and everyone on the planet, as  
292 detailed in the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report<sup>1</sup>, which states  
293 that global warming, exceeding 1.5°C above pre- industrial levels by 2025, would cause  
294 unavoidable increases in multiple climate hazards and present manifold and irreversible risks to  
295 ecosystems and humans<sup>2</sup>; and

296 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad mission statement mentions “raising the awareness of issues that  
297 concern Americans abroad” as a way to grow membership<sup>3</sup>; and

298 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad members and potential members live all over the planet and  
299 personally experience all facets of the growing climate crisis; and

300 **Whereas** many young people, in particular, consider climate change the most critical issue facing  
301 the world today; and

302 **Whereas** there has been a call for a national climate emergency in Congress, Climate Emergency  
303 Act (H.R.794) [2/4/2021]; and

304 **Whereas** Senator Cory Booker’s Environmental Justice Act of 2021 (S.2630) [08/05/2021]<sup>4</sup>,  
305 would require agencies to address and mitigate the disproportionate impact of environmental and  
306 human health hazards on communities of color, indigenous communities, and low-income  
307 communities resulting from agencies' programs and policies<sup>5</sup>; and

308 **Whereas** a growing number of Americans understand the urgency of the climate crisis and  
309 support policies that address climate change<sup>6</sup> through mitigation and adaptation by curbing  
310 carbon emissions and contributing financial resources to the developing world to alleviate energy  
311 poverty and adapt to the impacts of climate change, as affirmed in the Paris Climate Accord<sup>7</sup>; and

312 **Whereas** the Democrats Abroad website currently lists as priorities Covid-19, Diversity, Equal  
313 Rights Amendment, Medicare Portability, Reparations, Taxation, Voting; and

314 **Whereas** the issue of the climate crisis was woven into multiple strands of the 2020 DA Platform  
315 but not emphasized in a separate plank<sup>8</sup>; and

316 **Whereas** the creation of the Democrats Abroad Environment and Climate Crisis Council (DA  
317 ECCC) acknowledges the concerns of the leaders and members of Democrats Abroad about this  
318 crucial issue;

319  
320 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that the “Climate Emergency” be added to the Democrats Abroad list  
321 of priorities (both online and in fact)<sup>9</sup>; and

322 **Be It Further Resolved** that the National Climate Emergency Petition [*link available on DA*  
323 *Wiki*] 2022- drafted by Democrats Abroad Environment & Climate Crisis Council- will be  
324 disseminated to DA's membership with results submitted to the Biden-Harris Administration  
325 (offices of the President, Vice President) as well as Congress by June 30th, 2022; and

326 **Be It Further Resolved** that the 2024 Democrats Abroad platform should have an updated and  
327 strengthened climate crisis and environmental justice plank.

## 328 **Resolution to Establish a Standing Voter Protection Committee**

329 *Footnotes are available on the DA Wiki at <https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/l/c/41b0vq5M>*

330 *Primary sponsor: Martha McDevitt-Pugh (DA Netherlands)*

331 *Authors: Adrienne George (DA Sweden), Maya Buchanan (DA United Kingdom)*

### 332 **Introduction**

333 With voter suppression on the rise, the votes of Americans abroad are increasingly at risk. Since  
334 2018, Democrats Abroad has developed voter protection strategies and processes to ensure that  
335 overseas voters are able to access and vote their ballot. A standing Global Voter Protection  
336 Committee would ensure that DA is prepared in each election cycle to protect overseas voters in  
337 the face of egregious efforts to undermine voting, and would forward a robust and inclusive  
338 democracy.

339 A. **Whereas** key indicators show that democracy is in decline around the world, and has  
340 always been under siege and in need of protection<sup>1</sup>;

341 B. **Whereas** Democrats Abroad (DA) fulfills its core mission through providing support to  
342 American citizens living abroad to vote, and is the only global organization with a full  
343 spectrum of support for voters abroad, from ballot request to the counting and curing of  
344 ballots by local election officials;

345 C. **Whereas** the millions of Americans living abroad who can vote can face challenges in  
346 exercising that vote because of the unique aspects of overseas voting, no matter which state  
347 they vote in, including purging of voter rolls<sup>2</sup>, unresponsiveness of local election officials,  
348 difficulty accessing ballots, being given incorrect information, postal issues causing ballots  
349 to be lost, delayed or returned to sender, and geoblocking of voter information and ballot  
350 download websites<sup>3</sup>;

351 D. **Whereas** laws to restrict or suppress voting have flourished since the 2013 Shelby County  
352 v. Holder decision<sup>4</sup>, manifesting as canceling the votes of minority communities who have  
353 been denied the rights of citizenship and existence, as well as the votes of women, poor  
354 people, youth, students, the elderly and the disabled;

355 E. **Whereas** the aim of voter suppression is for a minority of the electorate to prevail by  
356 selectively denying democratic access to the majority, canceling enough votes to win  
357 elections or make them close enough to challenge in court and overturn;

358 F. **Whereas** it is up to the Democratic Party and its voters to safeguard and preserve American  
359 democracy, as President Biden warned in July 2021: “We’re going to face another test in  
360 2022: a new wave of unprecedented voter suppression, and raw and sustained election  
361 subversion. We have to prepare now.”<sup>5</sup>

362 G. **Whereas** the Democratic Party established a Civic Engagement and Voter Protection  
363 department in 2018 to respond to the organized suppression of the right to vote, and in 2021  
364 encouraged all state parties to establish a dedicated Voter Protection function;

- 365 H. **Whereas** In 2018, in response to issues reported by voters following the general election,  
366 Democrats Abroad mobilized its first global Voter Protection team to
- 367 • track voter protection issues impacting voters abroad;
  - 368 • survey the voting experience of Democrats Abroad members in voter suppression states  
369 (GA, FL and AZ);
  - 370 • work with state parties, the DNC, and civil society voting rights groups in the United  
371 States to protect the vote of US citizens abroad.
- 372 I. **Whereas** in 2020, the Democrats Abroad Global Voter Protection team<sup>6</sup>
- 373 • assisted overseas voters who had failed to access their ballots, handling more than 500  
374 cases;
  - 375 • surveyed members and assisted those voters experiencing issues to follow through to  
376 obtain a ballot, rather than give up;
  - 377 • reported on emerging issues and trends impacting those who vote from abroad;
  - 378 • supported DA Voter Assistance and GOTV teams<sup>7</sup>;
  - 379 • engaged DA members to fight voter suppression, demand voting rights and mitigate  
380 voter disempowerment;
  - 381 • implemented an effective escalation process to obtain assistance from state party Voter  
382 Protection teams;
  - 383 • provided testimony that contributed to a 2020 injunction on USPS Postmaster DeJoy<sup>8</sup>;
  - 384 • contributed to Amicus briefs in support of the rights of overseas voters in Pennsylvania  
385 in 2020, leading to upholding additional drop-off sites, lifting of signature-matching  
386 requirement, rescinding of a ban on out-of-county poll workers<sup>9</sup>;
  - 387 • and in 2021, DA testified on overseas voting rights before the New Jersey state  
388 legislature, and advocated in the House and Senate for voting rights for citizens who  
389 have never resided in the USA.
- 390 J. **Whereas** a globally coordinated DA Voter Protection function that works to resolve voter  
391 issues with local election officials and state elections boards, consults with the FVAP and,  
392 where needed, escalates to Democratic State Parties, has enabled DA to be efficient and  
393 play a coordinating role across jurisdictions, thus minimizing the burden on Democratic  
394 State Parties, contributing to strong and effective state party relationships;
- 395 K. **Whereas** a dedicated global Voter Protection function would support State Teams in  
396 resolving cases, identifying and responding to trends, as well as provide Voter Protection  
397 support to voters in states where DA does not have a State Team;
- 398
- 399 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad shall establish a standing Global Voter  
400 Protection Committee with the mission to make all efforts to ensure that overseas Americans  
401 from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and territories are able to exercise their right to vote;

402 **Be It Further Resolved** that the Global Voter Protection Committee shall

403 • support Democrats Abroad State Teams to coordinate and deploy methods to address voter  
404 issues that are beyond the scope of DA's front line voter assistance volunteers;

405 • follow an effective and efficient central process to address issues with LEOs, state election  
406 boards and the FVAP, as well as escalate cases to state party Voter Protection teams when  
407 DA has exhausted its own means to support a voter to obtain and vote their ballot;

408 • survey Americans abroad about their voting experience, collect voter data and analyze and  
409 report on voter protection in accordance with DA data protection best practices and  
410 guidelines;

411 **Be It Further Resolved** that the Democrats Abroad Voter Protection Committee shall be  
412 comprised of

413 • a chair appointed by and reporting to the Democrats Abroad Chair;

414 • a steering committee appointed by the Voter Protection Committee Chair:

415 • volunteers and teams to carry out the activities of the Committee.

416 **Be It Further Resolved** that Democrats Abroad will promote the capabilities of the Voter  
417 Protection Committee among its members and the wider overseas American community to ensure  
418 that voters know where to turn if they experience voting problems which they are unable to  
419 address via standard channels.

420 **Resolution Supporting the Repeal of the Foreign Account Tax**  
421 **Compliance Act (FATCA)**

422 *Footnotes are available on the DA Wiki at <https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/l/c/41b0vq5M>*

423 *Primary sponsor: Nick Lee (DA Netherlands)*

424 *Author: Rebecca Lammers (DA United Kingdom)*

425 **Whereas** the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) was passed in 2010 as part of the  
426 HIRES Act, promised by the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation to raise \$8.7 billion  
427 dollars in revenue by preventing tax evasion through the use of “offshore” accounts

428 **Whereas** the current position of Democrats Abroad (DA), according to the DPCA-approved  
429 2020 Platform, is to support a FATCA same-country exception

430 **Whereas** banks and financial institutions in the countries where an estimated 9 million overseas  
431 Americans reside routinely cite FATCA as justification for policies that categorically limit or  
432 deny services on the basis of U.S. citizenship or tax residency

433 **Whereas** the non-partisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report in 2019<sup>1</sup>  
434 in which it discusses actions needed to Mitigate Burdens on U.S. Persons Abroad in relation to  
435 Foreign Asset Reporting [under FATCA]

436 **Whereas** the non-partisan U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA)  
437 issued an alarming report in April 2022<sup>2</sup> noting that despite \$574 million in taxpayer dollars  
438 spent since 2010 implementing FATCA, FATCA has raised only \$14 million in additional  
439 revenue; a 97.5% loss on investment, and only 0.16% of the lost tax revenue that it was projected  
440 to raise

441 **Whereas** that same government report noted that inaccurate data, a lack of cooperation by  
442 foreign governments and an inability by banks to collect required information have together  
443 resulted in the Internal Revenue Service being unable to validate 45% of the 37.2 million bank  
444 account reports received since FATCA was enacted

445 **Whereas** an over-burdened and underfunded Internal Revenue Service has admitted in written  
446 Congressional testimony<sup>3</sup> that it lacks the ability to review or act on FATCA reports

447 **Whereas** proposals for a domestic bank account reporting regime within the United States were  
448 rightfully excluded in 2021<sup>4</sup> due to concerns about disproportionately high costs, low efficacy  
449 and it violating the right of U.S. citizens to privacy

450 **Whereas** the financial access issues caused by FATCA have correlated with sharp increases in  
451 citizenship renunciations<sup>5</sup>, continued litigation, and condemnation by respected international  
452 bodies such as the European Union Parliament

453 **Whereas** DA formed the FBAR/FATCA Task Force in 2011 following the passage of FATCA to  
454 investigate its impact on Americans Abroad

455 **Whereas** the task force is now known as the Taxation Task Force and is engaged in advocacy  
456 related to the disproportionate penalties associated with the Report of Foreign Bank & Financial  
457 Accounts (FBAR), the unintended problems created by FATCA, and the unintended  
458 consequences of extraterritorial taxation of non-resident citizens

459 **Whereas** despite intense advocacy and targeted reform recommendations for over a decade,  
460 financial access issues have persisted or worsened according to research by both DA and third  
461 parties

462 **Whereas** the Taxation Task Force steering committee supports this resolution

463 **Whereas** the U.S. rejection of the internationally used Common Reporting Standard (CRS), and  
464 the lack of reciprocity on FATCA in conjunction with a lack of beneficial interest transparency,  
465 have positioned the United States as a world leader<sup>6</sup> in offshore banking secrecy (for non-  
466 Americans)

467 **Whereas** this lack of reciprocity has been criticized by governments of notable allies of the  
468 United States, including those of Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands;  
469 additionally by the European Union Commission, the European Council and the European  
470 Parliament

471 **Whereas** the proposal for the Treasury to collect and transmit US bank account information,  
472 though necessary to reduce the USA's role as a tax haven, poses substantial risks to the ability of  
473 Americans abroad to bank with U.S.-based financial institutions on whom they depend for  
474 financial services that may be denied to them in their country of residence

475 **Whereas** government data clearly and repeatedly show that FATCA provides minimal benefit  
476 despite substantial government costs and tangible harm to the estimated 9 million Americans  
477 residing abroad

478 **Whereas** DA expresses support for narrowing the tax gap by fighting tax avoidance, less harmful  
479 alternatives could be appropriately targeted to finding U.S. residents holding offshore accounts  
480 rather than ordinary Americans abroad who are banking locally

481 **Whereas** in DA's latest research of 2019, out of 9,363 responses from Americans abroad, 5,561  
482 respondents (59.4%) stated they supported a repeal of FATCA<sup>7</sup>.

483 **Whereas** DA must continue to show leadership on issues that impact Americans Abroad and  
484 promoting candidates who will deliver results

485

486 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Democratic Party Committee Abroad (DPCA, Democrats  
487 Abroad) supports the repeal of FATCA, the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, in its entirety

488 **Be It Further Resolved** that the DPCA encourages consideration of more proportionate policies  
489 aimed at deterring tax evasion by high-net-worth individuals that do not cause further unintended  
490 harm to everyday Americans living abroad

491 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA reaffirms its support for a FATCA same-country exception or  
492 other financial access protections pending the repeal of FATCA

493 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA reaffirms its strong support for the Commission on Americans  
494 Living Abroad Act, first introduced in the 112th Congress and reintroduced in every Congress  
495 since, due to its requirement for a bipartisan study of how U.S. laws, including FATCA, affect  
496 U.S. citizens residing in foreign countries

497 **Be It Further Resolved** that Democrats Abroad reaffirms that a transition to Residency Based  
498 Taxation is urgently needed and would address the bulk of tax issues faced by Americans abroad  
499 while being, if correctly implemented, resistant to abuse and compatible with progressive tax  
500 policies.

501 **Resolution to Establish a Special Committee on Legal Compliance**  
502 **Strategies**

503 *Primary sponsor: Julia Bryan (DA Czech Republic)*

504 *Authors: Dani Follett (DA France), Wen-Wen Lindroth (DA United Kingdom), Patti Shields (DA*  
505 *Ireland), Joseph Smallhoover (DA France)*

506 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad recognizes that all those who participate in the organization,  
507 whether as leaders, members, or donors, are of one aim in seeking to achieve our mission, while  
508 complying with the legal obligations in all jurisdictions to which we are subject.

509 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad acknowledges that Country Committees and their leaders are  
510 subject to the laws that govern the country in which they and their members are located.

511 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad values and respects the grassroots volunteers who make up the  
512 leadership of each Country Committee, whose time is necessarily limited, and needfully focused  
513 on achieving our mission.

514 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad recognizes that the European Union’s General Data Protection  
515 Regulation (GDPR) and similar rules in many other jurisdictions, are an integral part of the  
516 privacy policies and operations of the DPCA and the several Country Committees, and must be  
517 taken into account when considering the applicable requirements for collecting and reporting the  
518 personal data of donors and handling personal data of our members.

519 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad acknowledges that the status of Country Committees under US  
520 federal campaign finance law and compliance obligations of the DPCA and the Country  
521 Committees under these laws are not simple questions, nor are they answered directly by the  
522 Federal Election Campaign Act, Federal Election Commission regulations, administrative  
523 decisions, or case law.

524 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad recognizes that the legal constraints and operational needs of  
525 Country Committees are significantly different depending on the size of the Country Committee,  
526 the scope of their activities, and the unique social and legal circumstances of their host countries,  
527 and that the creation of a successful legal compliance strategy must be founded on a working  
528 knowledge of these.

529 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad recognizes that the task of fashioning a series of inter-related legal  
530 compliance strategies for a multinational association is an extremely complex and time  
531 consuming task that threatens to distract us from our core mission and can be best addressed  
532 through the mechanism of a committee.

533 **Whereas** understanding the complex operational needs and legal constraints of our incredibly  
534 diverse body of chapters, country committees, and the global organization itself, requires a group  
535 of members with appropriate expertise and hands-on experience in these many different arenas.

536 **Whereas** due to the significant complexity and ambiguity of these various regulations, it is now  
537 recognized that it is incumbent upon the DPCA and the members of its Executive Committee to  
538 work together to develop appropriate and proportionate compliance and implementation  
539 strategies that maintain the health, vitality and legality of Democrats Abroad as an institution and

540 protect its volunteers and leaders, while taking all reasonable efforts to minimize the resulting  
541 time burdens imposed upon the grassroots volunteers who are the backbone, heart, and soul of  
542 the organization.

543

#### 544 **Therefore Be It Resolved**

545 The DPCA now establishes the “Special Committee on Country Committee Legal Compliance  
546 and Implementation Issues” composed of representatives from Country Committee leadership,  
547 global leadership, and subject matter experts to review such issues for Country Committees and  
548 their leadership, to seek and share solutions, and then report on these findings at regular intervals  
549 to the DPCA.

#### 550 **Committee membership**

- 551 1. Every Country Committee may appoint a representative to the committee via their  
552 Country Committee chair. This appointment may be made in whatever manner the  
553 Country Committee Excom chooses to make this selection.
- 554 2. As well, the DPCA Chair and Excom are responsible for appointing:
  - 555 a. an experienced legal practitioner in the field of US campaign finance law;
  - 556 b. an experienced legal practitioner in the field of multinational data protection law;
  - 557 c. an individual with deep familiarity with the technical operation and capability of  
558 the online and data management platforms of Democrats Abroad.
- 559 3. The DPCA Chair is an ex-officio member with full voting power.

#### 560 **Scope of Authority**

- 561 1. The committee is a working group of peers established to carry out the work program  
562 described below.
- 563 2. The committee may at its discretion request information from, and provide information to,  
564 the International Officers, the Country Committees, individual members, and external  
565 experts. Members of Democrats Abroad should use reasonable efforts to assist the  
566 committee in the production of such information.
- 567 3. The committee has no authority to adopt or impose rules upon Democrats Abroad, the  
568 DPCA, or any Country Committee, nor is it empowered to act as an agent of, or to make  
569 any representations on behalf of any of them.

#### 570 **Operating Rules**

- 571 1. First meeting. The first meeting of the committee shall take place no later than 35 days  
572 following the adoption of this Resolution.
- 573 2. Second and Subsequent Meetings. Following the conclusion of the first meeting,  
574 subsequent regular meetings shall be convened as scheduled by the committee.

- 575 3. Quorum for the committee shall be 5, or 20% of all members (whichever is larger).  
576 4. Chair. At the commencement of each meeting the committee shall elect a chair for the  
577 duration of that meeting in accordance with Robert's Rules.

578 **Subject Matter**

579 The committee's work should focus on matters relating to compliance with law and regulation  
580 that could materially limit or affect the manner in which Democrats Abroad is able to operate (the  
581 "Subject Matter") including:

- 582 1. US federal campaign finance law;  
583 2. Host country data protection laws (including without limitation GDPR);  
584 3. Host country laws concerning governance of Country Committee entities (whether or not  
585 recognized as a separate legal person);  
586 4. Host country tax laws applicable to Country Committee activities (including VAT, GST,  
587 and similar taxes);  
588 5. Host country banking rules and practices;  
589 6. CC organizational capacity and needs, and;  
590 7. Informal host country practices that create or ameliorate political or legal risk to Country  
591 Committee leadership or members.

592 **Work Program**

593 The committee should:

- 594 1. Review existing advice received by Democrats Abroad from counsel concerning the  
595 Subject Matter;  
596 2. Survey the Country Committees to obtain information concerning their best  
597 understanding of their own host country Subject Matter laws and regulations;  
598 3. Survey the Country Committees to obtain a better understanding of how host country  
599 Subject Matter laws and regulations limit their freedom of operation;  
600 4. Survey the Country Committees to obtain a better understanding of how US Subject  
601 Matter laws and regulations limit their freedom of operation;  
602 5. Review various strategies for compliance suggested by counsel with respect to the various  
603 Subject Matter laws and regulations;  
604 6. Recommend to the DPCA a blend of compliance strategies with respect to the Subject  
605 Matter;  
606 7. Recommend to the DPCA and to the several Country Committees such changes to the  
607 organization, activities, composition, and Charter of Democrats Abroad as may be  
608 desirable to carry out the recommendations above; and

609 8. Monitor the implementation of the compliance strategies and report to the DPCA with  
610 observations on the impact of these compliance strategies on the operational effectiveness  
611 of Democrats Abroad, along with its recommendations on adjustments that may be  
612 necessary or desirable.

613 **Deliverables**

614 1. First report. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the DPCA  
615 no later than 31 March 2023.

616 2. Second report. The committee shall report its second set of findings and recommendations  
617 to the DPCA no later than 30 November 2023.

618 3. Final report. The committee shall make a final report to the DPCA at the 2024 DPCA  
619 Annual meeting.

620 4. Additional Reports. The committee may make additional reports to the DPCA at its  
621 discretion, before or after the reports described above.

622 5. Minority reports. Members of the committee shall have the right to include written  
623 minority reports within any report submitted by the committee.

624 **Conclusion of Committee**

625 The committee shall cease to exist upon the closing gavel of the 2024 DPCA Annual meeting.

626 **Transnational Committees**

627 The use of the term “Country Committee” in this Resolution shall be interpreted to refer to both  
628 Country Committees and Transnational Committees (as defined in the Democrats Abroad  
629 Charter).