

Final Resolutions Committee Report

Los Angeles County Democratic Party

06/11/2019

Phasing Out the Use of MHF in the Refinery Process

WHEREAS two refineries located within ten miles of each other use the deadly chemical Modified Hydrofluoric Acid (MHF) to process high octane gasoline in the densely populated areas (600,000 residents) of Torrance and Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, if accidentally released, MHF in one settler tank could form a ground hugging dense vapor cloud capable of killing in the first eight miles and causing life-threatening bodily injuries up to sixteen miles, and there have been ten documented MHF leaks at these refineries since 2017 plus one nearly punctured MHF tank in 2015 due to a refinery explosion; and

Whereas proven safer alternatives such as sulfuric acid and ionic liquid catalyst are in use at refineries across the nation and at all other California refineries which do not cause a poison cloud that lingers at ground level, and with proper planning no jobs need be lost in executing an alkalization rebuild at refineries where workers are at risk of serious injury or death on a daily basis from MHF;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party finds that the use of MHF puts the communities and workers in and around the Torrance and Wilmington refineries at such grave risk that the Air Quality Management District should adopt a regulation requiring that these refineries upgrade to a safer alternative within four years or less and that all workers be retained and retrained during this phase-out so they have the skills needed to return to work at these refineries upgraded to industry standard or to be employed at any refinery in the state, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party notify this position to the Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Steven Bradford, Assemblymember Mike Gipson, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles City Council, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia and the Long Beach City Council, Gardena City Councilmembers, Carson City Councilmembers, Torrance City Councilmembers, and the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor.

Submitted by: San Pedro Democratic Club

Authored by: Carrie Scoville, President AD 70

OPPOSING AFFILIATION BETWEEN STATE-FUNDED AND RELIGIOUS HOSPITALS

WHEREAS the California Democratic Party platform identifies support for full reproductive health services, including the full range of reproductive services, contraception and abortion, and access to affordable, high quality, culturally sensitive health care services; and

WHEREAS California's Unruh Civil Rights Act promises that all those within the jurisdiction of the state are "free and equal" and "entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever."; and denying transgender people gender-affirming care constitutes sex discrimination in violation of constitutional equal protection, and clear case law demonstrates, under the equal protection and privacy guarantees of the California Constitution, that governmental entities must treat all pregnancy options neutrally; and

WHEREAS both the U.S. and California Constitutions prohibit "sponsorship, financial support, and active involvement of the [state] in religious activity," and Article XVI, Section 5 of the California Constitution provides that no California state entity "shall ever make an appropriation, or pay from any public fund whatever, or grant anything to or in aid of any religious sect, church, creed, or sectarian purpose, or help support or sustain any school, college, university, hospital or other institution controlled by any religious creed, church or sectarian denomination whatever...;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party opposes the proposed affiliation between UC San Francisco, a public university and one of the leading teaching hospitals in America, and Dignity Health, a Catholic hospital chain that openly discriminates against women and LGBTQ patients and requires its doctors to comply with religious directives, as it stands in direct conflict with the Party's platform and ethos; and we urge the University Of California Board Of Regents to adopt regulations that would prohibit any merger of UC hospitals with religious-affiliated hospitals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party will send a copy of this resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, State Attorney General Xavier Becerra, Secretary of State Alex Padilla, Speaker Anthony Rendon, President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins, Democratic members of the California State Assembly and State Senate representing Los Angeles County, and other members of the Board of Regents of the University of California.

Submitted by Richard Mathews, AD45, on behalf of DPSFV

Authored by: Lauren Perotti, AD46 and DPSFV Executive Board, Emily Weisberg, AD43 and DPSFV Executive Board and Lloyd Dent, AD45

SUPPORT INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PROCESS REFORM

WHEREAS the ballot measure was originally enacted to give the average voter in California a way to band together with like-minded citizens and get action on issues that were not being addressed by the Legislature, but now the ballot measure is increasingly being used by large corporations, big money groups and large lobbying interests as a way to circumvent the Legislature and to mislead the voter into passing their agenda; and

WHEREAS the average Californian is now being asked to make judgements and vote on measures that are confusing and complicated, that make it difficult to understand, that do not state who is funding them, and are supported through ads and mailers with false or misleading information, thus making it difficult to make an informed decision on how to vote, resulting in only 9% of Californians being very satisfied with the process and a majority wanting changes to the process; and

WHEREAS Democrats support an open and transparent system of governance giving the voter the means to make informed decisions, and three reforms to the ballot measure process would ensure transparency, properly inform the voter, and make the system accountable by creating a citizens review committee, improving the funding disclosures and developing a system to mitigate problems;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party urges our elected officials to make three reforms to the ballot measure process: 1) create a citizen's review committee (based on the Oregon model) where citizens will hold hearings and write the ballot summaries in plain language, 2) expand the funder disclosures to include top funders on the signature gathering sheets, and on all voting information material (which includes the citizen's oversight board description), and require that top funders must be announced out loud in all radio and television ads, and 3) strengthen our system for hearings to find flaws, potential legal challenges and propose compromise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Gavin Newsom, State Attorney General Xavier Becerra, Secretary of State Alex Padilla, Speaker Anthony Rendon and President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins.

Submitted by Richard Mathews, AD45, on behalf of DPSFV

Authors: Adrienne Burk, Past President, Valley Grassroots for Democracy and Cindy Kalman, President, Valley Grassroots for Democracy

Supporting a Presidential Candidates Debate Focused on the Climate Change Crisis

WHEREAS at least 50 members of the Democratic National Committee, including 16 representing California, have submitted a resolution to the DNC requesting that the DNC focus one of its presidential candidate debates on the climate change crisis and that, if the DNC decides not to sponsor such a debate, candidates shall be free to participate in any and all forums or debates on this subject organized by other groups; and

WHEREAS Climate change is an existential threat impacting every person on our planet, disproportionately impacting vulnerable populations globally, and urgently requiring strong leadership and real solutions; and

WHEREAS Democratic Party candidates for the office of President of the United States have a moral responsibility to demonstrate that they are able to bring the climate change crisis to the attention of the American people and to use science and passion to generate solutions and to motivate the nation to support them;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party supports the position of the DNC members who have recommended that the DNC hold a debate focused on the climate change crisis and that, if the DNC decides not to sponsor such a debate, presidential candidates be free to participate in any and all forums and debates on this subject sponsored by other groups; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be sent to the Chair and Co-Chairs of the Democratic National Committee, members of the California DNC delegation and California's Democratic Party Chair and Co-Chairs.

Submitted by: Cara Robin, AD62; Kelley Willis, AD62; West LA Democratic Club