

2024 MINNESOTA DFL RESOLUTION FORM

(Submit one resolution per form and one subject per resolution)

The State DFL Ongoing Platform embodies the principles of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. The State DFL Action Agenda is a set of recommended public policy positions which the party supports and will promote during the next two years. This form must be completely filled out for a resolution to be considered.

Congressional District:	Organizing Unit:	Precinct:
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Proposed by: _____
(Name) (City) Contact Phone # / E-mail

This resolution should be considered under the following category: ***[check one]***

- | | |
|---|---|
| Agriculture, Food, & Land Stewardship | Media, Internet, & Information |
| Civil, Human, & Constitutional Rights | National Security & International Policy |
| Community Development & Local Business | Natural Resources & the Environment |
| Consumer Protection | Public Safety & Crime Prevention |
| Corporate & Business Accountability to the Public | Racial, Ethnic, Gender, LGBTQ, & Economic Justice |
| Education | Retirement Security |
| Energy & Climate | Tax & Budget Policy |
| Government Accountability to the Public | Transportation |
| Health & Human Services | Veterans' Affairs |
| ✓ Labor & Employment | Local or Party Issues |

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RESOLUTION TITLE (limited to 5 words): Crack Down on Worker Misclassification

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: *(Please print or attach your resolution here. Be concise and use everyday language.)*

Please see attached page

You may add a brief explanation or your two or three strongest supportive points here.

-Working people have an expectation that state and federal laws designed to protect them will apply no matter where they work. Sadly, far too many employers across industries break the rules to save money by classifying workers as independent contractors while demanding the same expectations as if they were employees.

-Misclassification deprives working people of all of the longstanding labor rights and protections like minimum wage, workers compensation, overtime pay, access to unemployment benefits, the right to collectively bargain, as well as the hard-fought progress we made in 2023 on new paid leave laws and laws strengthening collective bargaining rights. It's time for Minnesota to strengthen and streamline enforcement of our worker misclassification laws to discourage this unfair and illegal practice.

To be filled out at the Precinct Caucus:

This resolution was: Adopted Defeated

SUBJECT: Support of Classifying Workers as Employees

WHEREAS: Only workers who are defined as “employees” are protected by the National Labor Relations Act and enjoy minimum wage; overtime pay; unemployment insurance; workers’ compensation; employer contributions to Social Security and Medicare; family and medical leave; workplace benefits such as paid time off, health insurance, and retirement; most protections against discrimination; and the right to organize and bargain collectively; and

WHEREAS: Since the 1980s, Wall Street’s pursuit of short-term returns in the name of “maximizing shareholder value” has pressured all kinds of businesses to evade their responsibilities as employers, and shift risk to workers; and

WHEREAS: One of the ways corporations have responded to this pressure is to misclassify their workers as independent contractors; and

WHEREAS: State-level studies show that 10 to 30 percent of employers misclassify employees as independent contractors; and

WHEREAS: Misclassification is especially pervasive in the transportation, building services, logistics, home care, and construction industries; and

WHEREAS: Companies can pocket as much as 30 percent of payroll costs when they misclassify workers; and

WHEREAS: Independent contractor abuses strain federal, state, and local budgets; and

WHEREAS: States’ unemployment trust funds and workers’ compensation funds lose tens of millions of dollars annually, per state, due to misclassification; and

WHEREAS: States lose hundreds of millions of dollars in unpaid payroll taxes per year; and

WHEREAS: Misclassification disadvantages responsible businesses that pay their share of payroll taxes and abide by labor standards; and

WHEREAS: A majority of states use the clear and fair ABC test to prevent the misclassification of employees as independent contractors under state unemployment insurance laws, and some use it to prevent misclassification under state minimum wage and overtime laws; and

WHEREAS: Under the ABC test, any worker performing any service shall be considered an employee and not an independent contractor, unless:

The worker is free from control and direction in connection with the performance of the service, both under the contract for the performance of service and in fact;

The service is performed outside the usual course of the business of the employer; and

The worker is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession, or business of the same nature as that involved in the service performed

WHEREAS: The state of California recently codified the ABC test in state statute, and a number of other states are also moving this legislation; and

WHEREAS: The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act (H.R. 2474/S. 1306) would use the ABC test to prevent misclassification under the National Labor Relations Act; and

WHEREAS: Employee status by itself is no guarantee of decent work, but the rights and protections of employee status have long been the foundation on which we strengthen our bargaining power; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the MN DFL supports legislation to that uses the ABC test to ensure working Minnesotans are properly classified and can enjoy all the rights, protections, and benefits they deserve as employees.

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RESOLUTION TITLE (limited to 5 words): Prevent Exploitation on Publicly-Financed Housing

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: *(Please print or attach your resolution here. Be concise and use everyday language.)*

The DFL Party supports critically needed investments in housing infrastructure and ensures that all forms of public financing include high-road labor standards, greater levels of transparency and project owner accountability.

You may add a brief explanation or your two or three strongest supportive points here.

Minnesota faces a critical shortage of affordable housing. State and local governments are stepping up to help finance new projects with grants and tax incentives. Unfortunately, too often we find public money being channeled to irresponsible developers that build new housing projects on the backs of workers. Wage theft and other forms of abuse are endemic in the housing industry. Our leaders have a duty to protect construction workers by requiring developers that receive public funds to hire responsible contractors and to use best practices to prevent tax fraud, wage theft and exploitation.

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RESOLUTION TITLE (limited to 5 words): Unemployment for Striking Workers

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: *(Please print or attach your resolution here. Be concise and use everyday language.)*

WHEREAS: 2023 was known as the "Summer of Strikes," and through August 2023, there were more than 200 strikes, involving 320,000 workers throughout the United States, and

WHEREAS: In August 2023 workers were on strike for more days than any other month in the last two decades, and

WHEREAS: In Minnesota and elsewhere replacement workers have been hired over the years by employers in an attempt to break strikes, and

WHEREAS: Only two states, New York and New Jersey, currently provide unemployment compensation benefits to striking workers, and

WHEREAS: New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy in April 2023 said, "These (UI) benefits are crucial to allow individuals going through this process the support they need to continue to take care of themselves and their families during difficult times."

WHEREAS: According to the National Employment Law Project (NELP), there is "strong evidence that extending unemployment insurance to striking workers would benefit families, communities and the larger economy" now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: The The Minnesota Democratic Farmer Labor Party support extending unemployment insurance benefits to workers on strike and whenever an employer engages a permanent or temporary replacement worker and be it further

RESOLVED: The Minnesota Democratic Farmer Labor Party communicates support of extending benefits for striking workers to Governor Walz, House Speaker Hortman, Senate Majority Leader Dziedzic, and the House and Senate Labor Committee Chairs.

You may add a brief explanation or your two or three strongest supportive points here.

Better balances the scales between workers and management by allowing working Minnesotans to access unemployment insurance while on strike.

Even though unemployment insurance payments don't come anywhere near a livable income, it would allow a worker to put food on the table and meet the bare minimum of family expenses until they return to work.

Our nation's labor laws remain heavily skewed in favor of employers – who can temporarily replace workers, stall negotiations, threats, cut off healthcare.

Collective action – like going on strike or even threatening to go on strike – is still the most effective way for workers to improve their pay and conditions. However, a strike is a tactic of last resort because it often means no pay for workers and families.

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RESOLUTION TITLE (limited to 5 words): Strengthen Broadbandworker Safety

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: *(Please print or attach your resolution here. Be concise and use everyday language.)*

The DFL Party supports raising standards for broadband installation, including requiring use of a skilled, well-trained workforce to ensure worker and public safety, and to protect the integrity of existing public and utility infrastructure.

You may add a brief explanation or your two or three strongest supportive points here.

Hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans still lack reliable high-speed internet services to access healthcare, education, and business opportunities. While Minnesota invests \$1 billion in closing the digital divide, many broadband installers struggle with low wages, meager benefits, inadequate training, and high turnover – conditions that fuel damaging strikes on existing gas, electric, and other utility lines. Our leaders must require broadband companies to use a skilled workforce, hold companies responsible for unsafe practices, and steer public dollars toward contractors that provide family-supporting jobs and high-quality training.

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RESOLUTION TITLE (limited to 5 words): Aging in Place

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: *(Please print or attach your resolution here. Be concise and use everyday language.)*

WHEREAS: According to surveys conducted by the AARP and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 80-90% of seniors in America want to age in place including people who own their homes and live in rental, condominium, and co-op housing; and
WHEREAS: Assistance for aging in place is often provided by families and volunteers; and
WHEREAS: Many community-based nonprofits organizations that aid seniors are located in Minnesota and Whereas these nonprofits understand and focus on the specific needs of seniors in their community by supporting families of seniors and recruiting volunteers to help with a variety of tasks which allow seniors to age in place; and
WHEREAS: Funding sources in the State of Minnesota designed to help seniors age in place are often fragmented, confusing and do not take full advantage of community based nonprofits that are the backbone of support for seniors who want to age in place; now, therefore be it
RESOLVED: The Minnesota DFL supports the following: State programs and funding designed to help seniors age in place should be better organized to provide community based nonprofit senior support organizations the ability to direct state funded services to individual seniors and families based on their individual needs with increased flexible funding to ensure a wider range of services including community building.

You may add a brief explanation or your two or three strongest supportive points here.

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RESOLUTION TITLE (limited to 5 words): Anti-Corporatization of Health Care

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: *(Please print or attach your resolution here. Be concise and use everyday language.)*

WHEREAS, Minnesotans should have access to safe care regardless of race, income, or neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota deserves a healthcare system that puts the health of people and the dignity of workers before the financial interests of hospitals, hospital executives, and healthcare corporations; and

WHEREAS, large hospital systems take over community hospitals, and the bottom-line drives decision making, leaving too many without access; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota continues to see reductions in access to care through the closing of hospitals and units in both rural and urban areas due to lack of profit while overall hospital systems and health insurance companies make record profits; and executives make exorbitant salaries.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the DFL party of Minnesota supports preventing the further corporatization of healthcare through legislation that holds nonprofit healthcare organizations accountable to their mission, their tax-exempt status, and their defined legislative purpose of providing a community benefit to the public; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the DFL party of Minnesota supports and creates a stronger healthcare regulatory system that provides financial and geographic access to quality healthcare services based on community need and not profit.

You may add a brief explanation or your two or three strongest supportive points here.

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RESOLUTION TITLE (limited to 5 words): Safe Staffing for Nurses

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: *(Please print or attach your resolution here. Be concise and use everyday language.)*

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare long-standing issues of inadequate nurse staffing that exist in Minnesota hospitals and health systems due to corporate decisions; and

WHEREAS, in Minnesota, there are no standards for the number of patients a registered nurse can be assigned to care for at one time; and

WHEREAS, dozens of peer reviewed academic studies show that nurse staffing affects patient outcomes; falls, infections, pressure ulcers, and even deaths increase the more patients a nurse is assigned; and

WHEREAS, keeping registered nurses at the bedside is the most reliable and cost-effective way to ensure high-quality care that protects both patients and staff.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the DFL party of Minnesota supports safe staffing legislation that sets a maximum number of patients that a registered nurse can take care of at one time; and provides mental health and professional development resources that will keep Minnesota nurses working at the bedside.

You may add a brief explanation or your two or three strongest supportive points here.

To be filled out at the Precinct Caucus:

This resolution was: Adopted

Defeated

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RESOLUTION TITLE (limited to 5 words): Scam Victims Need Help!

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: *(Please print or attach your resolution here. Be concise and use everyday language.)*

Whereas: A fast-growing fraud industry is stealing billions of dollars from Minnesota consumers every year. The impact is profound, especially on older adults who are at a stage in their lives when they are least able to recover financially.

Whereas: Criminals keep devising new, hard-to-detect ways to steal identities, billions in money and more, seniors and their families need to be empowered to identify and avoid fraud attempts that may cause financial and emotional hardships.

Whereas: new and emerging scams, as well as older tactics still in play, include: online shopping, gift cards, package delivery, Charity, celebrity impostors, check washing, and employment fraud;

Whereas: Nobody is immune to fraud, which is growing more pervasive and sophisticated. Fraud victims deserve the dignity and sympathy we grant people who experience other kinds of crimes;

Now therefore be it resolved: While there are limited options for recovering funds lost to scams, the Minnesota DFL urges Minnesota lawmakers to create a Consumer Fraud Restitution Fund at the state level. This fund will give fraud victims the chance to recover financially by allowing the MN Attorney General to sue fraudsters and direct the penalty money they pay into a restitution fund. This money will be used to pay victims who would otherwise have had no hope of recovering their losses.

You may add a brief explanation or your two or three strongest supportive points here.

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RESOLUTION TITLE (limited to 5 words): Single Payer Healthcare

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: *(Please print or attach your resolution here. Be concise and use everyday language.)*

WHEREAS, while the Affordable Care Act was a first step toward universal, affordable healthcare, it still leaves millions uninsured and millions more underinsured and struggling with medical bills; and
WHEREAS, recent attempts to "Repeal and Replace" the Affordable Care Act would take healthcare coverage away from millions, threaten the vulnerable patients who rely on Medicaid, and eliminate important consumer protections that stopped the most egregious abuses of the insurance industry; and
WHEREAS, total health system costs in the United States will continue to be the highest in the world, and growing; and
WHEREAS, avoidable pain, suffering and financial disaster caused by our healthcare system will continue unless we stop treating health like a commodity and eliminate the profit-motive from our healthcare system.
BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the DFL party supports a universal, single payer healthcare plan that ensures access to affordable, high-quality healthcare for all regardless of age, income, employment, or health status.

You may add a brief explanation or your two or three strongest supportive points here.

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RESOLUTION TITLE (limited to 5 words): Save Medicare from Total Privatization

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: *(Please print or attach your resolution here. Be concise and use everyday language.)*

the MN Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party affirm opposition to Medicare privatization and urge our federal legislators and the Biden Administration to LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD as a first step towards increasing healthcare equity by (1) adding benefits to traditional Medicare now only offered in private Medicare Advantage plans (adding vision, dental and hearing, eliminating the 20% Medicare co-pays and setting an out-of-pocket cap), (2) eliminating the excessive administrative costs and profits in the Medicare Advantage and ACO-REACH programs, and (3) recouping funds for the Medicare Trust Fund from fraud and abuse by Medicare Advantage plans and ACO-REACH contractors, as confirmed by the Department of Health & Human Services or Congressional investigations, in order to use the money thus saved to support a robust Traditional Medicare system that will lower costs and improve benefits, access and equity for all beneficiaries.

You may add a brief explanation or your two or three strongest supportive points here.

1. Traditional Medicare was created in 1965 as a public good to provide a national health care system for seniors and the disabled in the United States and has proven to be efficient and effective with administrative costs accounting for only 2-3% of Medicare spending 2. Recent reports by the HHS Inspector General, academic researchers, and investigative journalists have uncovered wide-ranging fraudulent practices, confirming that upcoding, delaying medically necessary care, and the denial of claims by insurers and other private businesses managing Medicare claims, together account for defrauding Medicare many billions of dollars annually.3. Insurer are fiercely lobbying to gain a larger share of the soon-to-be \$1.6 trillion of annual Medicare spending.

To be filled out at the Precinct Caucus:

This resolution was: Adopted Defeated