

1 [Urging the California Democratic Party to Expand Eligibility for Non-Citizens to Participate in
2 Assembly District Elections]

3 **Resolution urging the California Democratic Party to amend its Bylaws to allow**
4 **participation in Assembly District Elections by non-citizens who are ineligible to**
5 **register with the California Democratic Party and have expressed an intent to register**
6 **upon becoming eligible to do so.**

7
8 WHEREAS, On March 20, 2019, the California Democratic Party adopted Resolution
9 No. 10248167 (“Resolution to Extend Membership Democratic Party Membership to Non-
10 Citizens”, hereinafter referred to as “the March 2019 Resolution”), sponsored by the San
11 Francisco Latino Democratic Club, and co-sponsored by the Chicano Latino Caucus, the San
12 Francisco Democratic Party, the Rose Pak Democratic Club, California Assemblymembers
13 Chiu (AD-17) and Gonzalez (AD-80), and a number of other individuals and organizations;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The March 2019 Resolution made it the policy of the California Democratic
16 Party to expand eligibility for all Californians to register with the California Democratic Party,
17 regardless of immigration status; and

18 WHEREAS, The California Democratic Party is governed by By-Laws and Rules of the
19 California Democratic Party (the “Bylaws”), which are amended from time to time; and

20 WHEREAS, The governing body of the California Democratic Party is the Democratic
21 State Central Committee, and members may either be appointed pursuant to Article II,
22 Section 3 of the Bylaws, or, in pertinent part, elected by Assembly District Election Meetings
23 pursuant to the rules and procedures set forth in Article VI of the Bylaws; and

24 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1d of the Bylaws allows California residents, including
25 non-citizen residents, to serve on the Democratic State Central Committee if they are

1 ineligible to register as Democrats “but have expressed an intent to register as a member of
2 the California Democratic Party upon becoming eligible to do so;” and

3 WHEREAS, While non-citizens may serve on the Democratic State Central Committee
4 as appointees, they are still ineligible to participate in Assembly District Elections, wherein
5 participation requires formal registration with the California Democratic Party; and

6 WHEREAS, Following the adoption of the March 2019 Resolution, the California
7 Democratic Party had numerous opportunities to amend its Bylaws through the Party’s Rules
8 Committee to expand eligibility for non-citizens to either register with the Party or to expand
9 eligibility for Assembly District Elections to non-citizens who expressed an intent to register as
10 a member of the Party upon becoming eligible to do so; and

11 WHEREAS, In advance of the forthcoming Assembly District Elections, advocates
12 including those who sponsored the March 2019 Resolution have repeatedly requested that
13 the Party Bylaws be amended to allow non-citizens to participate in Assembly District
14 Elections; and

15 WHEREAS, The Party through its Rules Committee has failed to follow through on the
16 commitments set forth in the March 2019 Resolution in a timely manner, thereby disqualifying
17 from participation non-citizens who are ineligible to register with the Democratic Party but who
18 have nevertheless expressed clear intent to register once they are eligible to do so; and

19 WHEREAS, By rendering non-citizens ineligible to participate in Assembly District
20 Elections, the California Democratic Party has sent a harmful message to more than 5 million
21 California residents at a time when their inclusion will only strengthen the California
22 Democratic Party and broaden its base; and

23 WHEREAS, As the United States government has used the politics of fear to silence
24 the voices of immigrants by directly threatening the safety, security, and livelihood of
25 immigrants in California and the United States, there is no more appropriate time to facilitate,

1 encourage and invite participation by non-citizens in critical policy decisions that directly
2 impact them; and

3 WHEREAS, California has made great strides toward integrating its immigrant
4 population in many respects, including by passing laws to authorize health care for all
5 children, professional licenses, driver's licenses, college grants, loans, and in-state tuition for
6 eligible residents, regardless of their immigration status; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, The City and County of San Francisco hereby urges the California
8 Democratic Party, State Democratic Party Chair Rusty Hicks, and Rules Committee Chair
9 Gary Shay to act with urgency to amend the Party's Bylaws to expand eligibility to participate
10 in Assembly District Elections to non-citizen California residents who have expressed an
11 intent to register with the California Democratic Party upon becoming eligible to do so; and, be
12 it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the City and
14 County of San Francisco transmit this Resolution to the California Democratic Party and its
15 aforementioned leadership.

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