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## **Resolution in Support of Reasonable Campaign Finance Regulation of State and Local Party Committees**

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Democratic Party believes that Democratic state and local party committees are essential partners to Democratic elected officials and Democratic national party committees;

**WHEREAS**, state and local party committees play a vital role in the American political system and are particularly suited to grassroots political activity in support of the party's political and electoral goals;

**WHEREAS**, regulatory hurdles put in place over the past several years have served to hinder state and local parties from effectively participating in the political process

**WHEREAS**, these hurdles include old and cumbersome rules governing the ability of parties to engage in grassroots political activity, amendments to Federal campaign laws that have federalized most of the parties' electoral activities and recent court decisions that have increased the power of outside organizations to spend unlimited, unregulated and, in many cases, undisclosed funds in connection with state and federal elections;

**WHEREAS**, based upon the complexity of federal law, parties are increasingly subject to a higher level of regulation than other political organizations and are more likely to be audited or fined by the Federal Election Commission for reporting errors as well as the inadvertent use of non-federal funds for activities that have been federalized under recent changes to federal campaign finance law;

**WHEREAS**, these developments have put an inordinate burden on state and local party committees without proper justification and have served to lower the effectiveness of party committees in the political process;

**WHEREAS**, candidates at all levels of office have little incentive to work with parties due to structural barriers to association created by unnecessary and burdensome regulations;

**WHEREAS**, the current campaign finance laws have created serious financial problems for state and local party committees as campaigns and donors seek out organizations that have fewer obstacles to participation in the political process;

**WHEREAS**, the decrease in regulation of outside groups is a primary cause of the current state of extreme politics in America;

**WHEREAS**, state and local party committees play an essential and moderating role in American politics by espousing mainstream political ideas that appeal to a majority of Americans in contrast to single issue organizations that support radical one issue agendas;

**WHEREAS**, unless the law is changed, party committees will eventually become irrelevant and unable to compete with the unlimited availability of resources of outside groups; and

WHEREAS, the Association of State Democratic Chairs (ASDC) has established a Committee on Campaign Finance Reform tasked with making recommendations to enhance the role of party committees in federal and state elections without affecting either contribution limits to parties or creating unlimited expenditures by party committees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Hanover County Democratic Party endorses the recommendations put forth in the ASDC Committee on Campaign Finance Reform report entitled "Legislative Recommendations for Campaign Finance Reform."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alamance Democratic Party Democratic Party, will work with members of Congress, the Washington State Democratic Party, the national party committees, and the Obama administration to amend federal campaign finance laws to ensure the vitality of state and local party committees by lifting some of the unnecessary and burdensome regulations that continue to hinder their development.

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A similar resolution was passed by the Association of State Democratic Chairs at its Nov. 23, 2013 meeting in New Orleans, LA