



RESOLUTIONS PACKAGE

Louisiana Democratic Party

State Central Committee Meeting

8/18/2018

Baton Rouge LA

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE UNANIMOUS VERDICTS IN CRIMINAL CASES

Authored by Michael McHale, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS, the right to trial by jury in criminal cases was recognized as early as the Magna Carta in 1215 and by the end of the 17th century consisted of the following: (1) a group of twelve lay citizens (2) whose unanimous verdict (3) was given exclusive effect;

WHEREAS, the right to trial by jury in criminal cases is a sacred rights of all citizens in our country and is protected by the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution;

WHEREAS, John Adams wrote in 1797 that "it is the unanimity of the jury that preserves the rights of mankind";

WHEREAS, the right to trial by jury in criminal cases in federal court has always required unanimous jury verdicts and in 48 of the 50 states, jury verdicts in criminal cases must be unanimous;

WHEREAS, in Louisiana from 1803 to 1880, unanimous jury verdicts in criminal cases were required by state law and by the Constitutions of 1812, 1845, 1852, 1864 and 1868;

WHEREAS, in the Constitution of 1879, the legislature was authorized to change the unanimous jury verdict rule and subsequently, on April 10, 1880, legislation was signed permitting for the first time in Louisiana history, a non-unanimous criminal jury verdict of nine out of twelve jurors;

WHEREAS, the Constitution of 1898 was the first to codify the non-unanimous jury verdict in criminal trials and it was re-codified in the Constitutions of 1913, 1921 and 1974; WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 17 of the Constitution of 1974, requires a unanimous criminal jury verdict in a capital case and in a case tried before a jury of six persons, in all other felony cases, it only requires that ten out of twelve jurors concur to render a verdict;

WHEREAS, the 1976 ABA Judicial Standards and the 1978 ABA Criminal Justice Standards specifically affirmed that 'tin criminal cases, the verdict of the jury should be unanimous"; WHEREAS, in 2005, the ABA reaffirmed its commitment to unanimous verdicts in criminal trials in the ABA Principles for Juries and Jury Trials and stated in Principle 4.B that 'ta unanimous decision should be required in all criminal cases heard by a jury";

WHEREAS, the pursuit of justice requires that all members of the Louisiana Bar be constantly vigilant in the quest to protect the liberty and rights of all citizens and that for 136 years the people of Louisiana have been denied the full protection of the trial by jury which unanimous criminal jury verdicts provide;

WHEREAS, it seems self-evident that the ends of justice compel us to promote sound public policy, fairness in the criminal justice system and therefore, to seek to restore to the people of Louisiana the right to a unanimous jury verdict in all criminal cases;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Democratic Party endorses the amendment to Article 1, Section 17 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, to require that all juries in criminal cases render a unanimous verdict, and urge all voters to vote for said amendment at the election on November 6, 2018.

LET IT BE Ordered, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to every member of the Louisiana State Legislature.

**HON. KAREN CARTER PETERSON, CHAIRLOUISIANA DEMOCRATIC STATE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

August 18, 2018, at _____ : _____ am / pm.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF KEEPING MIGRANT FAMILIES TOGETHER

Authored by Charles Metcalf Jr., on behalf of the Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS, Democrats believe that migrants seeking asylum at our southern border should be treated with dignity and empathy, in accordance with the welcoming words inscribed on our Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!;

WHEREAS, Democrats do not support the insensitive rhetoric used against those seeking refuge in our wondrous country;

WHEREAS, Democrats do not support the separation of migrant children from their parents at our southern border;

WHEREAS, Democrats do not support the mass incarceration of migrant children in detention centers often lacking the resources to properly care for those same children;

WHEREAS, Democrats do not support the abandonment of due process applicable to migrants by our Constitution;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Democratic Party supports all efforts to keep migrant families together when detained within our country;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Democratic Party call upon Legislature and the governor oppose any involvement or cooperation of our state in the separation and segregated detainment of migrant families in the United States; and

LET IT BE ORDERED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to every member of the Louisiana State Legislature.

**HON. KAREN CARTER PETERSON, CHAIR
LOUISIANA DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

August 18, 2018 at _____ : _____ am / pm.

Resolution Honoring the Life and Service of Former Assessor Kenneth Rene Michael Carter

Authored by Jay Banks, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana Democratic State Central Committee learn of the passing of former Orleans Parish Assessor Kenneth M. Carter; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth M. Carter came from hard-working family in the Calliope Housing Development in Central City of New Orleans to achieve may first in New Orleans politics, business and law; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth M. Carter attended Saint Monica Elementary School and distinguished himself early in life by earning academic scholarships to both Xavier Preparatory High School and Loyola University of New Orleans, graduating from University of New Orleans and Loyola University New Orleans College of Law; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth M. Carter was one of the first five African-American to integrate Loyola University New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth M. Carter, also an attorney, was the first African-American to be elected President of the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association, now the Louisiana Association for Justice; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth M. Carter was elected the first African-American Assessor in the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth M. Carter was known as a brilliant strategist and a staunch advocate for education and believed that it was essential for the future success of our youth; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth M. Carter was instrumental in the lives of many students by opening doors and making it possible for them to attend college and law school; and

WHEREAS, many of the present and past elected officials in the Greater New Orleans area were counseled by him as they embarked upon their political careers; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth M. Carter served as President of the Black Organization for Leadership and Development (“BOLD”) and as a board member and advocate for youth and families in Central City New Orleans, with the Dryades Street YMCA; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth M. Carter was a leader in the historic, national Tobacco Litigation Settlement which successfully reformed the tobacco industry and redefined Multi-District Litigation, which Kenneth regarded as his proudest professional accomplishment due to the number of lives the Tobacco Litigation Settlement saved; and

WHEREAS, Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States of America, has offered condolences saying, “Ken was an incredible man with a deep commitment to improving the lives of those around him, and keeping our Nation moving forward on the path of progress.”; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth M. Carter, leaves behind his bride of fifty-three years, Gwendolyn “GiGi” Carter; three daughters: Tara Carter Hernandez, Louisiana Democratic Party Chair and Democratic National Committee Vice Chair for Civic Engagement and Voter Participation state Senator Karen Carter Peterson, and Eileen Carter; and three grand-children; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Democratic Party on behalf of the Louisiana Democratic Party does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of former Assessor Kenneth M. Carter, does hereby record for posterity his outstanding accomplishments and singular contributes to the citizens of the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that this wonderful gentleman will forever bring to his family, friends, community, state, and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of former Assessor Kenneth M. Carter.

MICHAEL McHALE, 1st VICE CHAIR
LOUISIANA DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

August 18, 2018, at _____ : _____ am / pm.

Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Felicia Schornstein Kahn

Authored by Deborah Langhoff, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS, in 1926 Felicia Schornstein Kahn was born in Uptown New Orleans, where she became a lifelong resident, a wife, a mother of three, and a progressive advocate for civil and women's rights; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from Newcomb College, she cast her first vote for Harry Truman when he won the presidency in 1948, and she attended every Democratic Convention since 1978, save one; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 Kahn received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Louisiana Democratic Party for her leadership in the New Orleans Coalition, the Independent Women's Organization, the National Coalition for Jewish Women, the League of Women Voters, the Democratic State Central Committee; and the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee, where she was an elected member representing Council District B, whose meetings she faithfully attended, including the week before her passing; and

WHEREAS, while not winning a state house seat in 1976, she became a champion for those chosen to carry the mantle of public service, offering support and guidance to an ever-expanding circle of democratic officeholders who appreciated her candid perspectives; and

WHEREAS, her activism began early in life, but age did not diminish her work, and she attended the DNCC in 2016 as the second oldest delegate to select Hillary Clinton the first woman presidential candidate from one of the two major parties, tweeting all the while; and

WHEREAS, upon her death, LDP Chair Karen Carter Peterson reflected, "...Before I was even old enough to vote, I attended political organizing meetings led by Felicia...her example made me long to become an advocate for the causes we shared"; and

WHEREAS, Governor John Bel Edwards wrote, "...We've lost one of the strongest champions for equal rights and equal pay for women...and I will work to ensure that her legacy lives on throughout Louisiana and the nation"; and

WHEREAS, Felicia Kahn, who was barely five feet tall, was described by Congressman Cedric Richmond as "a giant in the City of New Orleans...always in pursuit of upward mobility and wellness for everyone;" and

WHEREAS, Mayors Mitch Landrieu and Latoya Cantrell, countless public officials, and grassroots activists reflected on the loss of her loyal friendship, valued mentorship, and keen observations, with the City Council noting that "she will be deeply missed," and

WHEREAS, across the City and in wide travels with her beloved life partner, the undemonstrative Dick Troy, Felicia saw every human interaction as a thrilling opportunity to build a more inspired voter, using her tenacious ability to influence hearts and minds; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Democratic Party honors Felicia Schornstein Kahn for her contributions to the State of Louisiana and women everywhere and offers its condolences to her family.

HON. KAREN CARTER PETERSON, CHAIR
LOUISIANA DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

August 18, 2018, at _____ : _____ am / pm.