

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

7/9/2020 – DPSC Zoom

RESOLUTION 2020-03

Encouraging Joe Biden to Support Ending Cannabis Prohibition

WHEREAS, Joe Biden, the presumptive nominee for the Democratic nomination for president, still opposes cannabis legalization despite its recreational legality in 11 states, and its medical legality in 33 states, and Biden’s opposition is at odds with the California Democratic Party and with the majority of Americans who overwhelmingly support cannabis legalization; and

WHEREAS, Almost all other Democratic presidential candidates supported cannabis legalization because cannabis prohibition is racially enforced, results in students losing college funding, causes low-income people to be evicted from federally subsidized housing, allows criminals instead of legally licensed businesses to control its cultivation and distribution, denying significant tax revenues to state and local governments, and these issues are especially important to young voters whose votes in the November 2020 elections are crucial up and down the ballot and in swing states; and

WHEREAS, Cannabis has a millenia-long record of safe and effective use for medical, social, and spiritual uses, making it one of the most studied plants on Earth with over 20,000 scientific studies pertaining to its active compounds and therapeutic uses for treating pain, cancer, depression, and many other ailments, as well as working as a more effective and safer alternative for the social and celebratory uses of alcohol, which is a considerably more damaging substance that contributes to over 80,000 deaths each year and has an annual economic cost of almost \$250 billion, while research suggests alcohol use could decrease if cannabis is available safely, reliably, locally, and affordably;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party of Sacramento County calls upon Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden to support the removal of cannabis from the Schedule of Controlled Substances, thereby ending federal cannabis prohibition and allowing states to regulate cannabis in the same way they are allowed to regulate alcohol and tobacco.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party of Sacramento County calls upon Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden to additionally support the automatic release of anyone incarcerated for a cannabis offense, dismissal of any pending cannabis charges, and expungement of all criminal cannabis records.

Sponsor: Marcia Blount