



*Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee*  
*PO Box 3727*  
*Santa Rosa, CA 95402-3727*  
*(707) 575-3029*

**Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee Resolution  
to Support Systematic Reform of the Democratic Presidential Nomination Process**

**WHEREAS** the “Resolution Establishing a Commission on Presidential Nomination Timing and Scheduling” (CPNTS), passed during the 2004 Democratic National Convention, noted:

- Over the last 2 decades individual states have moved their respective contests earlier and earlier in the calendar year.
- For years, objections have been raised to a calendar that some believe gives a disproportionate influence to a few early states

and in 2004, competitive campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination ended in mid-February, by which time only one-fifth of convention delegates had been chosen, thereby effectively disenfranchising four-fifths of the party rank and file, including California; the California legislature has move the state’s next presidential primary to the first Tuesday in June, 2008, thereby ensuring the continued disenfranchisement of Californians; and the CPNTS plans to issue a report recommending only minimal changes to the 2008 Democratic nomination schedule;

**WHEREAS** only a systematic, nationwide reform can provide a presidential nominating process that is open and fair to all Democratic candidates and voters and that produces the strongest possible nominee; the American Plan, also known as the Graduated Random Plan, is the only presidential nomination reform plan that has been published in a peer-reviewed political science journal and a widely-used textbook on the American political system, and the American Plan is supported by US Representative Lynn Woolsey (D-CA 6th), the Center for Voting and Democracy (FairVote.org), the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley, the California Young Democrats, the California 6th Assembly District Democratic Committee, the Young Democrats of America, and the Los Angeles County Democratic Party;

**WHEREAS** the resolution cited above required that:

... the Commission shall examine all substantive, systematic, and incremental reform proposals... bearing in mind the Party’s commitment to a presidential nominating process that is open and fair to all Democratic candidates and voters and that produces the strongest possible nominee.

yet the CPNTS did not examine the American Plan, which is indisputably a substantive, systematic, reform proposal; and the resolution cited above also required that:

...the Commission shall hold a series of regional hearings/meetings throughout the country.

yet the CPNTS held one meeting in Chicago and all others in Washington; and therefore the CPNTS substantially failed to fulfill the requirements of the resolution which called it into existence;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee strongly encourages presidential primary reform efforts that will:

- Allow a greater number of campaigns to begin at the grassroots level and build momentum;
- Provide a nominating process that remains competitive for a longer period of time in order to give the public a greater opportunity to engage the campaign and become informed about the candidates;
- And create a system that increases the likelihood that Democrats in all states will have an effective voice in the selection of nominees, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee call on the chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) to empanel a new commission, and require it to hold a series of regional hearings/meetings throughout the country and to hear testimony on all substantive, systematic reform proposals, including the American Plan; and that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee distribute copies of this resolution to the California Democratic Party and the DNC for consideration and support.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Raymund Gallian

Issues and Legislation Committee Chair

Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee

October 11, 2005