

2007-06-01

Adopted
12 Jun 2007

Sonoma County Democratic Party

111 Sebastopol Road
Santa Rosa, California 95407
707-575-3029

<http://www.sonomademocrats.org>



SONOMA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PREPAID POSTAGE ON ABSENTEE BALLOTS

WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States, Amendment XXIV, Section 1, States, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax;"

WHEREAS and the Congress of the United States sets United States Postal Service rates, thereby taxing citizens for the use of these services; and in the November 2006 general election, in several jurisdictions, the weight of absentee vote-by-mail ballots exceeded one ounce, and the USPS returned many ballots to voters due to insufficient postage stamps being affixed to envelopes; thus, in effect, citizens were denied the right to vote by reason of failure to pay a tax; and noting that many citizens who vote via absentee ballot are disabled and have no other reasonable accommodations for exercising the right to vote; and

WHEREAS absentee vote-by-mail ballots reduce the expense to county registrars of voters of conducting elections by reducing the need for polling stations, and as a matter of equity such savings should be passed on to absentee voters; however, in contrast, absentee voters are treated as a unique class that in effect is required to pay for the privilege of voting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee calls upon the California Legislature and Congress to provide funds to the counties' registrars to pre-pay the postage on all absentee ballots in all future elections,; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee distribute copies of this resolution to the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters, to the state legislators and members of Congress representing Sonoma County, to Senators Feinstein and Boxer, to such media outlets as the Public Relations Committee may deem appropriate; and to Democratic clubs in Sonoma County, to all other California county Democratic central committees, and to the California Democratic Party for consideration and support.

Drafted by Thomas Gangale
Chair, Issues and Legislation Committee, Sonoma County Democratic Party

Suggested by Brenda Peyton in a "Perspective" on KQED-FM.

Common Sense, Common Good, Common Destiny