

# RESOLUTIONS which were passed at the Saint Paul City DFL Party Convention, and therefore comprise the **Platform** of the St. Paul DFL

The following resolutions were considered by the April 9, 2011, St. Paul DFL convention and achieved an approval rating of 60% or greater of the votes cast:

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## Background:

The platform of the Democratic Farmer Labor (DFL) Party of Minnesota is the statement of values and principles that bind members of the Party together in citizen action for a more just democratic society. The platform of the City of Saint Paul DFL places the platform of the National Democratic Party and the Minnesota State DFL Party in a local context. The planks of the City DFL Party Platform are individual resolutions that emerged by democratic vote at the city caucuses or by petition from the floor of the City Convention, and have been subsequently approved by a vote of 60% or more of the ballots cast by delegates to that Convention. Candidates for public office—who call themselves Democrats and who seek the endorsement of the DFL Party in St Paul—will be asked to support the actions called for in this platform.

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# ***THE PLATFORM***

***“Be it resolved, that the Saint Paul DFL will...”***

<b>➤ AGRICULTURE</b>
Encourage the City of St. Paul to support urban agriculture
Call upon the City Council to review statute regulating bee-keeping in the city to encourage the growth of hives within the city.
Call upon the City of St. Paul to create and empower an Urban Agriculture task force, overseen by and funded through neighborhood community councils with support from the City. This Task Force would: 1) survey all available vacant land with the goal of turning it into appropriately-scaled, intensive urban farming, 2) conduct classes and seminars in sustainable food production and recruit farmers to farm vacant publicly held lands and/or train property owners themselves to farm cooperatively, 3) oversee the development of local farmers markets to sell produce, eggs, honey, and other small scale farm products, and 4) be empowered to work with administrators and regulators at every level of government to streamline any and all related permitting, licensing or inspections processes, in order to maximize every potential means of local food production, sales.
<b>➤ CIVIL, HUMAN AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS</b>
Support laws that allow everyone of legal age to be able to marry if they so choose.
Support the right of all persons to marry, regardless of sexual orientation.
Affirm its support for funding for mental health programs in our city and state - to protect the health, safety, and productivity of people living with mental illness. Be it further resolved that Saint Paul DFLers will employ their leverage at every level to accomplish this.
<b>➤ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE</b>
Demand that the City of St. Paul hold landlords accountable for their neglect of vacant commercial and retail space and, if necessary, buy out these properties or find new responsible investors to purchase and remodel them or tear them down to create more affordable housing.
Push the City of St. Paul to commit itself to deployment of Fiber Optic Cable communication to every premises within the City.
Encourage the City of St. Paul to support and promote open space in Frog Town.
Call upon the City Council to expedite the clean-up of the fields outside of Oxford Community Center/Jimmy Lee Recreation Center so teams in our community can safely resume their baseball/football/soccer seasons on a home field.

# THE RESOLUTIONS

“Be it resolved, that the Saint Paul DFL will...”

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## ➤ EDUCATION AND SCHOOL BOARD

Notify the St. Paul School District enter onto the main district calendar the scheduled dates and times of the precinct caucus nights prior to the beginning of school, so that schools know not to schedule events on those nights.

Emphasize the importance of and support (at all levels--city, county and state) Early Childhood Education, by pressing for full funding for Pre-K programming and quality childcare.

Urge the School District to convert one high school building in the district into a vocational-technical school, so that students not interested in focusing on college preparatory classes can be preparing themselves for employment in areas requiring specialized technical skills.

## ➤ GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Urge our local DFL state representatives to actively police the 2011 re-districting by the Republican-controlled Minnesota House and Senate.

Recognize that as corporations are not people and should not have the rights of citizens, and that law encouraging profit as the prime focus of a corporation has been abused; therefore, call for the adoption of policy that would allow for the review and/or revocation of corporate charters and laws supporting profit.

## ➤ LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Call upon the City of St. Paul to seek and retain higher paying manufacturing jobs, and further resolve to urge the City to direct, when feasible, the planning commission to set aside property for manufacturers.

Support workers' rights to form, join, and be allowed to be represented by a union, and further resolve to insist that unions be allowed to participate in the collective bargaining process.

## ➤ NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Call upon the City of St. Paul to create an independent citizens' panel empowered to develop a strategic plan for a low-energy municipality. This plan would focus on positive, grass-roots solutions to the problems of steadily rising fuel costs and steadily declining personal income - solutions implemented co-operatively at the neighborhood level with locally available resources. Be it further resolved that this plan should rely most heavily on conservation measures and on human talents and skills and other local energy sources, which are fully sustainable and which do not further degrade our natural, residential, or working environments.

Call upon the City of St. Paul to launch a program to incentivize passive solar retrofitting of all existing residential and business structures in the city, to displace wherever possible our dependence on natural gas and fuel oil. Be it further resolved that liberal variances to building and/or zoning codes be allowed and encouraged in order to support the greatest number of innovative, low-cost ways to capture the sun's rays to warm our structures, heat our water, and grow our food.

Recommend to the city of St. Paul that the portion of its waste stream currently sent either to garbage incinerators or to landfills be reduced by at least 5% a year through waste reduction, reuse, recycling and organic digesting/composting.

## ➤ PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

Demand that the City of St. Paul proactively assess and ensure that both private and commercial sidewalks are cleared of snow to allow for safe pedestrian passage- especially on vacant properties - whether or not complaints have been registered.

## ➤ TRANSPORTATION

Call for the retention of the express bus route (94BCD) from downtown to downtown: that the inception of light rail should not cause express bus service to be curtailed, since light rail will leave more frequently but take twice as long; and further, encourage the City of St. Paul to advocate at the state and regional level for continuing the current level of service on this route.

Request of the appropriate government agencies that each station on the Central Corridor line have a neighborhood circulator bus with a schedule coordinated with arrival/departure times of light rail trains.

