

RESOLUTION ON THE CURRENT CONFLICT IN GAZA

Whereas, protecting our democracy from the threat of former President Donald Trump's candidacy is essential for our nation, and uniting Democrats is essential to this goal by electing Democrats up and down the ballot in Michigan and nationwide; and

Whereas, we recognize that there are deep differences of opinion among Democrats about U.S. support for Israel in its present military campaign to neutralize the Hamas militant organization in Gaza, whose fighters on October 7, 2023 brutally murdered over 1000 Israelis of all ages near Gaza, abducted over 200 Israeli hostages and ransacked and burned their properties. The Israeli military response has led to the loss of life of many thousands of residents of Gaza and destruction of homes and infrastructure throughout Gaza. A delineation of the painful state of the present conflict and of our common principles and goals may help to heal some of our differences in this election year, and

Whereas, we recognize the desirability for all of the inhabitants of Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank to security, prosperity, and self determination, and that the Hamas organization is a barrier to those goals and must be condemned, and

Whereas, we recognize the ongoing loss of many thousands of lives and the means to support life in the occupied territory of Gaza is a humanitarian crisis, with over half the buildings in Gaza having been damaged or destroyed, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68006607> and

Whereas, Israel acts as the "occupying Power" of Gaza and the West Bank territories which therefore entitles the Palestinian inhabitants of these territories to protections of "protected persons", as defined by the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, as long as they are not active combatants in armed conflict with the occupying power, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-199015/> and

Whereas, Israel is conducting its present military campaign to destroy the Hamas militant organization in violation of articles of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 with respect to the protection of civilians and their means to sustain their lives in times of war, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2024/01/gaza-nothing-short-catastrophe>

Therefore, we urge the Democrats of Muskegon County to contact their federal elected officials to urge respect for international law and support for all efforts of the Biden administration that would lead to

- The immediate release of hostages from Gaza
- The protection of civilians in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank
- Delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to Gaza, and ultimately
- The establishment of a Palestinian state.

Therefore be it resolved that the Muskegon County Democratic Party is unified in its urgent appeal for a lasting humanitarian ceasefire and negotiations to achieve an enduring peace which ensures the full and equal dignity, security and freedom for Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

Adopted unanimously by the Muskegon County Democratic Party on 2/8/2024 with the recommendation that it be forwarded to the State Central Committee of the Michigan Democratic Party and to the Second and Third Congressional District Democratic Party organizations.