

## **Resolution Regarding the Use of “Dark Money” During Democratic Party Primaries**

Whereas, the use of funds from undisclosed sources, referred to as “dark money,” has been rightfully recognized by Democrats as an anti-democratic tactic harmful to the integrity and transparency of our election process; and

Whereas, the DNC has committed itself in its current platform to “...bring an end to ‘dark money’ by requiring full disclosure of contributors to any group that advocates for or against candidates, and bar 501(c)(4) organizations from spending money on elections,” ([p. 57, “Restoring and Strengthening Our Democracy”](#)); and

Whereas, “dark money” groups have continued to influence campaigns and contest results, including Democratic primaries, especially targeting progressive incumbents and challengers, through the use of these anti-democratic tactics; and

Whereas, these instances continue to be documented and reported upon by the media (<https://theintercept.com/2022/06/08/opportunity-for-all-action-fund-dark-money-democratic-primary/>) as well as by advocacy groups (<https://www.opensecrets.org/news/2022/06/dark-money-group-spends-600000-to-boost-incumbent-democrats-in-three-states/>); and

Whereas, the proliferation of “dark money” creates skepticism about the fairness and representativeness of our electoral process at a time when our democratic process is already under attack from Republicans and far-right conspiracy theorists; and

Whereas, the use of “dark money” in our primaries presents an image of our elections as being “for sale,” thereby discouraging participation from potential candidates; and

Whereas, this same suggestion of unfairness within our primaries discourages participation and engagement from voters in both the short and long term; and

Whereas, funds raised would be better used strengthening our eventual candidates in their contests against Republicans during general elections;

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the DNC ban the use of “dark money” funding during any and all Democratic primary elections;

2. That the DNC establish procedures for the investigation of “dark money” use by candidate committees as well as possible disciplinary action;
3. That the DNC further empower state parties in ensuring the transparency and democratic nature of their respective primary elections.

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