

## **Resolution Recognizing the Month of June 2021 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month**

WHEREAS, Pride Month has been celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the commitment of those who fought for civil rights in the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan, a critical tipping point historically for the LGBTQ+ community in the United States; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ citizens continue to suffer discrimination, hostility, and exclusion at almost every level of society, including in areas of housing, employment, healthcare, family law, immigration, and marriage equality; and

WHEREAS, President Biden issued a proclamation recognizing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer and has taken historic actions to accelerate the march toward full LGBTQ+ equality after four years of relentless attacks on LGBTQ+ rights from the previous administration; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Legislature has formally recognized June as Pride Month for the first time in State history and has thereby acknowledged the ongoing struggles the LGBTQ+ community has faced and recognized the contributions of Michigan's LGBTQ+ residents to the state;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; That the Democratic Party of Kalamazoo County stands committed and united to help break down the walls of fear and prejudice, and will work to build a bridge to understanding and acceptance until gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals are afforded the same rights and responsibilities as all Americans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; That the Democratic Party of Kalamazoo County does hereby call upon residents, employers, and elected officials to publicly support and advocate for the passage of The Equality Act which will provide consistent and explicit anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ people across key areas of life, including employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service.

Respectfully submitted,

Kalamazoo County Democratic Party  
17 June 2021

**Resolution Recognizing the Month of May 2021 as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

WHEREAS May has been designated as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS we the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party stand for inclusivity of all people regardless of their ethnicity; and

WHEREAS we commit to dismantling all forms of systemic racism; and

WHEREAS we agree to equitably support all members of this party regardless of their ethnicity, or gender and

WHEREAS we stand against all forms of violence and discriminatory acts against Asian Pacific Americans and all people and

THEREFORE, we, the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party, condemn hate crimes and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party will actively engage in racial healing and actively speak out against all forms of racial injustice and discriminatory acts. A copy of this resolution will be placed in our permanent records to remind us of our commitment to support diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Respectfully submitted,

Kalamazoo County Democratic Party  
20 May 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Mariah Phelps, KCDP Chair**

**Phone: 269.377.0089**

**Email: [kcdp-chair@kzoodems.com](mailto:kcdp-chair@kzoodems.com)**

**Release date: 03.29.2021**

Kalamazoo County Democratic Party Statement on the Violence Against Women Act

**Kalamazoo, MI**--Kalamazoo Democratic Party Chair, Mariah Phelps, released the following statement on behalf of the KCDP regarding the recent extension of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA):

“We applaud the members of Congress who voted to renew the Violence Against Women Act, which has been supported and renewed continuously through bipartisan Congressional support, until recently. Despite overwhelming bipartisan support previously, 172 House Republicans voted against the act which would improve protections, including for Native American women and survivors from underserved communities, and improve efforts to prevent intimate partner violence.

“As many as 1 in 3 women are subjected to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking at some point in their lives, and the rate is even higher for women of color, Native American women, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. While we have made significant progress, there is still much work to do. Growing evidence shows that COVID-19 has only exacerbated the threat of intimate partner violence, creating a pandemic within a pandemic for countless women at risk for abuse. This is an urgent crisis.

“The fact that anyone would vote against the Violence Against Women Act is evidence of the deep misogyny in our political system, particularly as we close out Women’s History Month and move into Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue. We should all be committed to standing up against the abuse of power and holding accountable those who seek to preserve a system which capitalizes on violence against women.”

For more information visit the KCDP website at <https://kzoodems.com> and the KCDP Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/kzoodems/>

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Mariah Phelps, KCDP Chair**

**Phone: 269.377.0089**

**Email: [kcdp-chair@kzoodems.com](mailto:kcdp-chair@kzoodems.com)**

**Release Date: 03.29.2021**

**Kalamazoo County Democratic Party Endorses May 4th KRESA Millage Renewal**

**Kalamazoo, MI**--In a unanimous vote on March 18th, the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party voted to endorse the KRESA Special Education Millage Renewal.

State and Federal laws require Special Education, but do not provide adequate funding for programming, putting the burden on individual school districts. Kalamazoo Public School Board Member, Megan Maddock reminded the membership that "If the renewal is not passed, funding for Special Education will have to be taken from local school districts' general education funds."

This millage renewal will be critical given the uncertainty with State level funding for education this year. Mariah Phelps, KCDP Chair, praised Party members and their commitment to our children, "Total state funding for school operations is at the same level today as it was in 2007. In a world where our State and Federal governments continue to inadequately fund education resources, I am proud to be part of a community that won't cut corners on our kids."

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the KCDP is encouraging voters to vote from home for the May 4th election. To request your absentee ballot visit [www.Michigan.Gov/VOTE](http://www.Michigan.Gov/VOTE) or call your local clerk's office. All ballots must be received by 8pm on Election Day, so make sure to mail it back by April 20th or drop it off at your local clerk's office. For those who choose not to vote early, polling places will be open on Election Day.

###

## **Declaration of Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

WHEREAS, February is observed as Black History Month to recognize and celebrate the contributions Black Americans have made and continue to make to our nation; and

WHEREAS, the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party bylaws clearly state “the KCDP shall strive to increase participation of traditionally underrepresented citizens; and

WHEREAS, even allies doing constructive racial healing work inherently benefit from a system that is rife with systemic racism

WHEREAS, all members are responsible for making participation in our organization a safe, positive, and productive experience for everyone; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party recognizes and honors the past, present, and future of black voters, candidates, and elected officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party will work to ensure that all of our policies and associated practices are equitable and inclusive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party commits to pursuing racial healing and equity training in 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party declares our accelerated efforts to pursue diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Respectfully submitted,

Kalamazoo County Democratic Party  
18 February 2021