

Covid Vaccines for the World

Sponsor: Sam Hudis (NY)

WHEREAS the United States is currently among the world leaders in the percentage of the population vaccinated against COVID-19, and is on track to fully vaccinate our population by this summer; and

WHEREAS the United States is rapidly approaching a state of vaccine surplus, in which we have more available doses than are needed to vaccinate our entire population; and

WHEREAS 87% of the world's COVID-19 vaccine supply has gone to higher-income countries, with low-income countries having received just 0.2% of it according to the WHO; and

WHEREAS the entire world is not expected to reach a satisfactory state of vaccination until the end of 2022; and

WHEREAS the ongoing of the COVID-19 pandemic in any part of the world, in addition to being a humanitarian catastrophe in its own right, remains a danger to the entire world due to the potential mutation of new variants which could be vaccine resistant; and

WHEREAS China and Russia have already been forthcoming in expediting the delivery of their vaccines to the developing world, threatening to make COVID-19 vaccine supply into a geopolitical wedge issue against the United States; and

WHEREAS The US government has appropriated \$4 Billion for global vaccine distribution, via both the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and existing prior funds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that YDA calls upon the US government and the Biden administration to expedite American distribution of lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine supply to the rest of the world, and especially to the countries of the Global South, as part of America's commitment to foreign and development aid.

Submitted by:

1. Sam Hudis (NY)
2. Stefanie Wise (OH)
3. Arne Frick-Nelson (WA)
4. Dunixi Guereca (CA)
5. Mohammad Tazbir Alam (NY)
6. Matthew Ruiz (OK)
7. Stephanie Campanha-Wheaton (NY)
8. Seamus Campbell (NY)
9. Hannah Wroblewski (NE)
10. Eddie Aviles (GA)
11. Ruth Baranowski (CO)
12. Chris Clevenger-Morris (OH)
13. Zachery Annis (ME)
14. Jovan Richards (NY)
15. Ben Cohen (NE)

Young Democrats of America Resolution in Opposition to Enbridge Line 3

Sponsors: Quentin Wathum-Ocama (MN), YDA 1st Vice President

Helen Clanaugh (MN), Minnesota Young DFL President

Saché Primeaux-Shaw (OK), Young Democrats of America Native American Caucus Chair

Whereas, the existing Line 3 is an Enbridge pipeline that transports crude oil from Alberta to Superior, Wisconsin spanning northern Minnesota and crossing the Leech Lake and Fond du Lac reservations and the 1855, 1854, and 1842 treaty areas;

Whereas, since Enbridge Line 3's construction in 1961 it has experienced severe corrosion that has led to countless spills and ruptures;

Whereas instead of decommissioning Line 3 and paying for its removal and the rehabilitation of the lands it has despoiled, Enbridge is pushing to expand and replace it (they call it a "replacement" but it is larger, with a higher volume and in a new corridor);

Whereas, at \$7.5 billion, the proposed new Line 3 would be the "largest project in Enbridge's history" and one of the largest crude oil pipelines in the world, carrying up to 915,000 barrels per day of one of the dirtiest fuels on earth, tar sands crude;

Whereas, in approving Line 3, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission failed to adhere to even its modest mandate "to balance the private and public interest," instead of prioritizing the short-term profits of foreign corporations and their phony claims of "good jobs" over the will of Native communities, the overwhelming majority of Minnesotans (hundreds of thousands of whom have spoken out in opposition), and the very future of the planet without which there can be no "public";

Whereas, in issuing a Certificate of Need for Line 3, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission also ignored the findings of the reviewing administrative law judge who said there is no need for a new pipeline on Enbridge's preferred route;

Whereas, Line 3 is poised to be a linchpin in tar-sands infrastructure, committed for decades to advancing a dying industry that is a major source of greenhouse gases, poses a direct threat to the lives and livelihoods of indigenous communities, and creates a perpetual risk to large sources of clean water including Lake Superior (also a large part of Minnesota's tourist economy and a potent symbol to the region's people);

Whereas, Line 3 will endanger the communities along its routes, including many indigenous communities whose tribal sovereignty has been ignored and violated during permitting

processes by agencies subject to regulatory capture by the capitalist interests that promote them;

Whereas, oil pipelines such as the proposed Line 3 “replacement” tend to leak and create unnecessary risks to the surrounding environment, both through methane gas leaks as well as crude oil spills--which in the case of heavy tar sands oil are literally impossible to clean up as the toxic substance sinks deep into the ground and into aquifers that supply millions of people with water;

Whereas, Continued new construction of such pipelines will contribute massively to the acceleration of already dangerous levels of greenhouse gas emissions, which in turn are contributing to already dangerous levels of climate change and could lead to a dead planet with no jobs of any kind;

Whereas, economically, the tar-sands are doomed; and environmentally, they are a disaster;

Whereas, far more jobs currently exist in the growing renewable energy sector than in the declining fossil fuel sector;

Whereas more jobs could instead be created by investing in the infrastructure our communities actually need, such as clean water, affordable and livable housing, and widespread public transportation;

Whereas, Line 3 will provide nowhere near the number of permanent union jobs the project’s promoters promise they will (Enbridge itself estimates the number at around 25; its marketing and lobbying campaigns are designed to obscure this fact) and the Minnesota Department of Commerce has indicated that more local and long term jobs would actually be created by decommissioning the existing pipeline;

Whereas, far more permanent jobs can be created at comparable wages by repairing other aging and far more vital pipeline infrastructure, such as water mains in Flint, Michigan and elsewhere, or repairing leaks in existing oil and gas pipelines which, if unfixed, release harmful amounts of methane--a known greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming at a rate multiples greater than carbon dioxide;

Whereas, Enbridge Line 3 will not deliver the "energy security" or "energy independence" promised by its promoters;

Whereas, the detrimental impact of such pipelines, including the potential for water contamination and the contribution to climate change, will disproportionately impact youth;

Therefore, be it resolved that, the Young Democrats of America opposes the construction of Enbridge's Line 3 and supports a moratorium on any new fossil fuel power generation capacity whose economic life extends beyond 2030, including any new or replacement crude oil pipelines;

Be it Further Resolved that, the Young Democrats of America stands in solidarity with First Nations, union members, environmental activists, and community members who oppose it;

Be it Finally Resolved that, the Young Democrats of America supports a just transition away from fossil-fueled colonial capitalism which countless workers and activists of all stripes have been developing and visioning for decades, and declares its intention to fight for the implementation of a real and transformative Green New Deal.

Resolution in Support of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union

Whereas: The Amazon Warehouse in Bessemer Alabama recently held a vote to Unionize;

Whereas: The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union is filing a legal challenge;

Whereas: The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union is charging Amazon with unfair labor practices;

Whereas: The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union is alleging "the employer created an atmosphere of confusion, coercion and/or fear of reprisals and thus interfered with the employees' freedom of choice";

Whereas: The Young Democrats of America affirmed our support for workers organizing in our 2019-2021 Platform;

Therefore be it resolved: The Young Democrats of America stand in solidarity with the Amazon workers and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union while they are seeking legal relief from the confusion and coercion Amazon used during this organizing drive.

Co-Sponsors:

Rob Sembariski
Christopher Clevenger-Morris
Charles Myers
Quentin Wathum-Ocama
Josh Coleman
Kolby Duhon
Jen House
Ethan Petzold
Jovan Richards
TJ DeLuca
Jonthon Gary
Jenis Walsh
Dunixi Guereca
Scott Urbanowski
Andy Price
Kandice Harris
Arielle Maffei
Thomas Maillard
Sam Bauman
Hannah Wroblewski

Taxation and Spending

Overview

Fiscal policy should aim to efficiently provide an empowering and secure safety net by means of transfer payments such as universal basic income, child support payments, more generous social security pensions, tied education grants to state governments, Tertiary Education and Future Funds for minors, and the issuance of health insurance vouchers within a regulated Bismarck health insurance market. These measures (as opposed to ever more convoluted and paternalistic programs) are rooted in the belief that individuals and parents (rather than the government) know what is best for them and their families.

To minimise the size of the federal public service, the tax code should be simplified and the social safety-net (described above) should be largely non-means-tested. That is, taxes should be fewer in number, broader-based, easier to administer and should raise substantially more revenues. Due to universal and non-means-tested payments, most individuals and households would see only minor (and in most cases positive) changes to their purchasing power.

Specifics

A 35% flat marginal income tax on personal, corporate, and capital gains income and fringe benefits. The taxes would be structured such that they would raise 35% of GDP. [After UBI and other fiscal transfers the effective income tax rate for most people would be significantly less than 35%].

Two sevenths of the revenues raised by this tax would fund a social security scheme for elderly and disabled persons similar the US scheme but far more generous. Seniors over a certain age would receive this pension based on their previous earnings. However, the amount that could be received by seniors annually in social security payments would be capped at 10 times the average GDP per capita (approx. \$650,000 in 2021).

The remaining revenues raised from this tax would be divided equally among the resident citizenry and legal permanent residents. Given the average GDP per capita in the US in 2021 is approximately \$65,000 per annum, the amount allotted to each resident citizen and legal permanent resident would be approximately \$16,250. Resident citizens and permanent residents 18 years and older (including seniors and disabled persons receiving social security) would receive this money in the form of a Universal Basic Income. Resident citizens and legal permanent residents between 0 and 3 years of age would have their allotments given to their legal guardians as child support payments (in lieu of taxpayer funded paid-parental leave

schemes). One third of the money allotted to resident citizens and legal permanent residents aged between 3 and 18 years would be given to their legal guardians as child support payments. The other two thirds of the money allotted to resident citizens and legal permanent residents aged between 3 and 18 years would be given to the governments of the states in which the children reside in the form of tied grants that must be spent on Early Years, Primary and Secondary education. This might be in the form of direct public-school funding or school vouchers (however the states choose to fund their education systems).

[Example a)

A young couple in their 20s have a combined income of \$60,000 per annum. They have three children: a one year old, a five year old and a seven year old. They would pay \$21,000 in income tax. However, they would each receive \$16,250 in UBI, another \$16,250 for their one year old and \$5,416.67 for each of their older children. Therefore, after income tax and benefits the family would have an income of \$98,583.33.

Example b)

A couple in their 30s with no children have a combined income of \$110,000. They would pay \$38,500 in income tax. However, they would each receive \$16,250 in UBI. Therefore, after income tax and benefits they would have an income of \$104,000. That is, they would pay an effective income tax rate of 5.45%

Example c)

A couple in their 40s have a combined income of \$250,000. They have two children: a nine year old and a fifteen year old. They would pay \$87,500 in income tax. However, they would each receive \$16,250 in UBI and \$5,416.67 for each of their children. Therefore, after income tax and benefits they would have an income of \$205,833.33. That is, they would pay an effective income tax rate of 17.67%

Example d)

A widower in his late 30s has an income of \$400,000. He has three children: a five year old, a ten year old and a thirteen year old. He would pay \$140,000 in income tax. He would also

receive \$16,250 in UBI and \$5,416.67 for each of his children. Therefore, after income tax and benefits he would have an income of \$292,500. Thus, he would pay an effective income tax rate of 26.875%.

Example e)

A couple in their late 50s with grown children have a combined income of \$1,500,000. They would pay \$525,000 in income tax and would each receive \$16,250 in UBI. Therefore, after income tax and benefits the couple would have an income of \$1,007,500. Consequently, they would pay an effective income tax rate of 32.83%]

A 25% Goods & Services Tax (aka a Value Added Tax) at least as broad based as the New Zealand GST. Plus, additional Tobacco, Alcohol, Cannabis and Sugar excises.

One sixth of the revenues raised by the GST would remain with the federal government for general federal spending. Another third would be distributed between the states based on their population sizes in untied grants. The other half combined with revenues raised by Tobacco, Alcohol, Cannabis and Sugar excises would fund a Bismarck style healthcare system in which all resident citizens and legal permanent residents would be granted annual healthcare vouchers. The sizes of these vouchers would be based on the age, gender, pre-existing conditions, and medical needs of individuals. These vouchers must be used to buy annual insurance from government recognised non-profit mutual health insurers. That is, there would be a regulated healthcare insurance market. Insurers could not legally deny a person coverage, but they would be allowed significant flexibility in what they chose to cover in their policies as well as some flexibility over co-pays and deductibles.

A Land Value Tax on all privately owned land (both residential and commercial) set at a rate that would raise 3% of GDP

The money raised by this tax would finance individual Tertiary Education and Future Funds for minors. These funds would be managed with low-risk low-return investment portfolios. Persons aged 18 years and older may use their funds to pay for their tertiary education. Upon reaching the age of 30 they can also use whatever is left on housing (deposits/paying down mortgages), charitable donations, and/or as business start-up capital. These options would be highly regulated. If at the time of a person's death they have not used all their TEFF, the money in the fund will be directed toward general federal government spending.

A Super-Wealth Tax

This would be an annual tax paid by both unmarried individuals whose net wealth exceeds 500 times the average GDP per capita (approx. \$32,500,000 in 2021) and married couples whose net wealth exceeds 1000 times the average GDP per capita (approx. \$65,000,000 in 2021). A 5% rate would be applied to wealth that exceeds these tax-free thresholds. For example, if a couple's net worth was \$66,000,000 but the tax-free threshold for married couples was \$65,000,000, the couple would pay 5% on the \$1,000,000 exceeding the threshold. That is, \$50,000. These revenues would be directed towards general federal government spending.

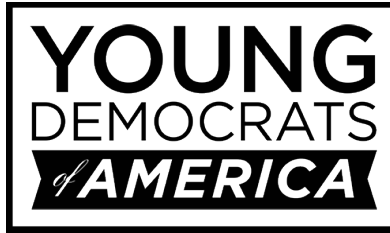
A Carbon Tax

The revenues raised from this tax should be spent on programs aimed at moving the federation away from carbon intensive fossil fuels (preferably toward renewables).

Other Federal Taxes may include: tariffs, customs duties, port/airport taxes & departure taxes

State Taxes may include: Mineral taxes, Motor Vehicle Registration, Motor Vehicle Mileage Charges, Public Transport Charges, Public Utility Bills & Access/Admissions Charges (to museums, art galleries, zoos etc)

Local Govts may charge a Local Amenities Tax



National Committee Standing Committee on Resolutions Minutes

Saturday, April 10, 2020

**Called to Order at 1:05 P.M. (Eastern) Adjourned at 1:50 P.M. (Eastern)
Virtually - By Videoconference**

Chair: Gabriela Medina of Puerto Rico

Vice Chair: Daqavise Winston of Indiana

Secretary: Eric Marquez of California

Called to Order by the Chair.

Chapters in Attendance: Alabama, California, Colorado, District of Colombia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Minimum required for Quorum is 13. 24 are in attendance, a quorum is present.

Motion by Ohio to amend table Taxation and Spending Resolution, whose author is unidentified on the face of the resolution. Seconded by Wisconsin. Passed by unanimous consent.

Motion by Puerto Rico to strike the word “promised” from the Resolution sponsored by Wathum-Ocama. Seconded by Indiana. Passed by unanimous consent.

Motion by Wisconsin to adopt the Resolution sponsored by Wathum-Ocama as amended. Seconded by Ohio. A vote is conducted. Alabama, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin vote yes. Hawaii votes no. The motion carries.

Motion by Wisconsin to adopt the Resolution regarding DC Statehood, whose author is unidentified on the face of the resolution. Seconded by Michigan. A voice vote is conducted, and the motion carries unanimously.

Motion by Ohio to adopt the Resolution sponsored by Meyers, whose author is unidentified on the face of the resolution. Seconded by Michigan. A voice vote is conducted, and the motion carries unanimously.

Motion by Ohio to adopt the Resolution sponsored by Hudis. Seconded by Tennessee. A vote is conducted. Alabama, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Wisconsin vote yes. Hawaii votes no. The motion carries.

Inquiry to by the Chair to the YDA Parliamentarian about the process of amending and approved resolution.

Motion by Ohio to Reconsider the Resolution sponsored by Hudis. Seconded by Tennessee. A vote is conducted. Alabama, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin vote yes. Hawaii votes no. The motion carries.

Motion by Tennessee to add the word “surplus” to the Resolution sponsored by Hudis. Seconded by Ohio. A vote is conducted. Alabama, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin vote yes. Hawaii votes no. The motion carries.

Motion by Virginia to adopt the Resolution sponsored by Hudis as amended. Seconded by Tennessee. Alabama, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin vote yes. Hawaii votes no. The motion carries.

Motion by Ohio to adjourn. Seconded by New Jersey. A voice vote is conducted and the motion carries.

The committee adjourns.

YDA Resolution in Support of DC Statehood

Whereas this Nation was founded on the belief that all people are endowed with certain inalienable rights and that to secure these rights, governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; and

Whereas the rights of the over 700,000 residents of the District of Columbia (D.C.) are abridged when the U.S. Congress imposes its will on local matters and denies DC residents voting representation on federal issues in both houses of the U.S. Congress;

Whereas the people of the D.C. are the only Americans who still bear all of the responsibilities of citizenship, but who do not enjoy all of the rights of citizenship, including authority over state and local matters and representation in both houses of Congress, making D.C., in effect, a colony under Congressional jurisdiction;

Whereas the residents of the D.C. pay more Federal taxes per capita than residents of any State in the country, yet do not have full and equal representation in Congress and self-government;

Whereas there are no constitutional, historical, financial, or economic reasons why the over 700,000 Americans who live in the D.C. should not be granted statehood;

Whereas the D.C. has a larger population than two States, Wyoming and Vermont, and is close to the population of the seven States that have a population of under one million fully represented residents;

Whereas the D.C. government has one of the strongest fiscal positions of any jurisdiction in the United States, with a \$14.6 billion budget for fiscal year 2019 and a \$2.8 billion general fund balance as of September 30, 2018; and

Whereas statehood will ensure that residents of the D.C. enjoy full rights in state and local matters and voting representation in both houses of the U.S. Congress just like every other citizen of the United States of America, and is a matter of simple justice:

Therefore be it resolved, that the Young Democrats of America supports statehood for the people of Washington, D.C. and urges Congress to grant the people of Washington, D.C. the full rights of American citizenship by passing the “Washington, D.C. (Douglass Commonwealth) Admission Act” (H.R. 51/S. 51), which would make the residential and commercial areas of the D.C. the 51st State while preserving a smaller federal district as the nation’s capital. Additionally, the Young Democrats of America supports changing the U.S. Senate filibuster rules to require only 51 votes to consider a statehood legislation, similar to the U.S. Senate’s change to confirm life terms for Supreme Court Justices, in order to expedite the end of the disenfranchisement of Douglass Commonwealth residents.

YDA's Foreign Policy Principles, Beliefs, and Values

Sponsors: Charles Myers (WI), Hannah Wroblewski (NE)

WHEREAS, the Convention of the Young Democrats of America adopted its current platform on July 20, 2019, and

WHEREAS, the International Affairs and National Security section of the platform states that the Young Democrats of America believe that “U.S. foreign policy should promote liberty, democracy, and opportunity throughout the world in a truly collaborative fashion with our allies, shunning unilateralism and living up to our responsibility to the international community”, and

WHEREAS, the International Affairs and National Security section of the platform goes on to affirm that the Young Democrats of America believe in the “right of a sovereign people to national self-determination”, and

WHEREAS, the ultimate parliamentary authority of the Young Democrats of America is the body of our National Convention;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Young Democrats of America recommits to the principles, beliefs, and values as expressed by the International Affairs and National Security section of our platform.

Submitted By

1. Charles Myers (WI)
2. Hannah Wroblewski (NE)
3. Rebecca Pinn (MA)
4. Sam Hudis (NY)
5. Robert Sembarski (MI)
6. Ethan Petzold (MI)
7. Ben Cohen (KS)
8. TJ DeLuca (PA)
9. Jonathan Gary (PA)
10. Arielle Maffei (IL)
11. Chris Clevenger-Morris (OH)
12. Caleb Rohrer (NE)
13. Matthew Kochevar (IN)
14. Dyna Martinez (IN)
15. Arne Frick-Nelson (WA)
16. Jenis Walsh (PA)
17. Sam Hudis (NY)