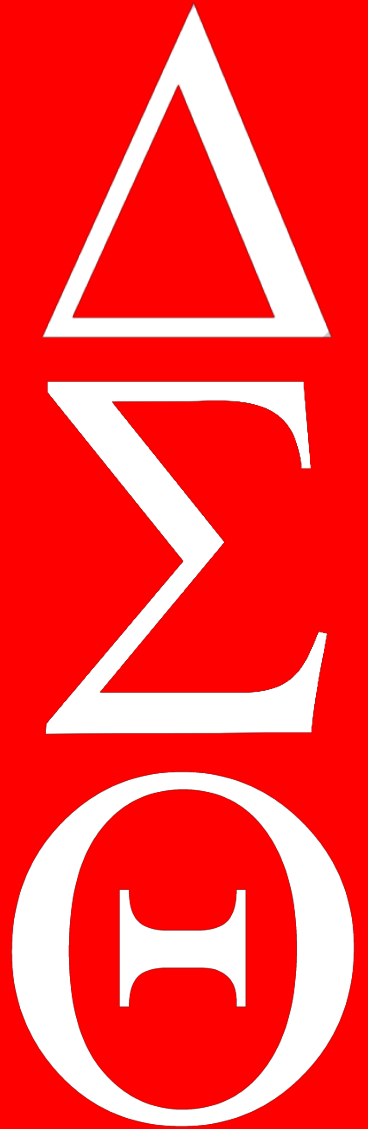




*Proposed
Resolutions*





Proposed Resolutions for the 53rd National Convention (2017)

- I. CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
 - △ Ban the Box for Returning Citizens
 - △ Calling for an End to Unfair Asset Forfeiture Practices
 - △ Freedom and Justice for All
 - △ Missing Children of Color: Elimination of Disparities in Enforcement of the Law
 - △ Protecting the Image and Lives of African American Males
 - △ Recognizing the Positive Impact of Immigrants on America and Supporting Comprehensive Immigration Reform
 - △ Reformation of the Electoral College
 - △ Restoration of Voting Rights Act of 1965 Section 4 (B)
 - △ Sentencing Reform: Eliminating Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System
 - △ Support of Equity and Inclusion for African Americans in the United States
- II. CRIME AND VIOLENCE
 - △ Addressing the Criminalization of Black Women and Girls
 - △ Expansion of Support for Victims of Domestic Violence
 - △ Improving the Prevention and Protection of Students from sexual Assault and Rape on College Campuses
 - △ Lethal Force: Last Resort
 - △ Rape Survivor Family Protection
- III. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - △ Closing the Gender Diversity Gap in American Corporate Leadership
 - △ Gender Pay Equity
- IV. EDUCATION
 - △ Ending "Pushout" Discipline Practices in Elementary Schools
 - △ Preparing Black Males for Educational Success: Reducing the High Rate of School Expulsions and Suspensions of Black Males in Southern States
 - △ Voting Rights Education for High School Students
- V. HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE
 - △ 2020 Census
 - △ A Resolution in Opposition to the Abdominal Shackling of Pregnant Inmates
 - △ Family Leave Policy
 - △ The Fight Against Alzheimer Disease, Especially in Women
 - △ A Resolution to Support State and Local Efforts to Restrict the Sale of Menthol Cigarettes and Other Flavored Tobacco Products
- VI. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
 - △ South Sudan Famine Relief
- VII. MISCELLANEOUS
 - △ Restitution for the Henrietta Lacks Family



A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS TO RESTRICT THE SALE OF MENTHOL CIGARETTES AND OTHER FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, tobacco use claims 45,000 African American lives a year, killing more African Americans than murders, AIDS, illegal drug use, alcohol use, suicides, and car accidents COMBINED;

WHEREAS, predatory marketing of tobacco to the African American Community continues to cause tobacco-related disparities;

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry has a well-documented history of targeting African Americans with “culturally friendly” advertising of menthol cigarettes, perpetuating the tobacco industry’s historic practices of targeting vulnerable populations, which a tobacco industry executive dismissingly described as “the young, the poor, the black and stupid;”

WHEREAS, some 85% of African American smokers 12 years of age and older use menthol cigarettes (as opposed to 29% of white smokers);

WHEREAS, tobacco manufacturers add menthol to cigarettes to mask the harsh taste of tobacco and alleviate the irritating effects of nicotine, making menthol cigarettes particularly attractive to kids;

WHEREAS, the number of menthol cigarette advertisements in a store is proportional to the number of African American students at the nearby school;

WHEREAS, Newport cigarettes, the most aggressively marketed menthol cigarette brand, are significantly less expensive in predominantly black neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, according to the 2012 Surgeon General report on the prevention of tobacco use, adolescent and young adult smokers smoke menthol cigarettes at a higher percentage than any other age group, and menthol cigarettes are especially popular among African American youth who smoke;

WHEREAS, non-mentholated cigarettes have declined in popularity in the U.S., yet menthol cigarette usage has remained constant, with the result that even as per capita cigarette usage has declined by 7% from 1965 to 2009, it has increased by 14% in the African American Community;

WHEREAS, the 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act prohibited candy and fruit-flavored cigarettes because of their power to pull youth into nicotine addiction, yet excluded menthol from the list of banned flavors, despite the threat that menthol cigarettes pose to the African American Community;

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry strategically uses flavored little cigars and cigarillos to replace the banned flavored cigarette market; which are packaged as cheaply as 3 for 99 cents and available in flavors such as bubblegum, cotton candy, grape, vanilla, chocolate, and “chicken and waffles,” with some flavored tobacco products sharing the names, packaging, and logos as popular candy brands like Jolly Rancher, Kool-Aid, and Life Savers;



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WHEREAS, nearly 9 out of 10 cigarette smokers in the U.S. start smoking by age 18, and flavored tobacco products, including little cigars, cigarillos, and electronic smoking devices (which can deliver nicotine in a flavored juice), are a gateway for youth to become regular smokers;

WHEREAS, existing age restrictions, such as the new Tobacco 21 laws in some states, are inadequate protections to keep flavored tobacco products out of the hands of youth, given that nearly two-thirds (63.3%) of 12- to 17-year olds who had smoked in the last month had given money to others to buy cigarettes for them, one-third (30.5%) had purchased cigarettes from a friend, family member or someone at school, and six out of ten (62%) had “bummed” cigarettes from others;

WHEREAS, federal courts have upheld the authority of state and local governments to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes;

WHEREAS, numerous jurisdictions across the U.S. have taken aim at the pernicious influence of flavored tobacco by banning the sale of menthol cigarettes and/or other flavored tobacco products;

WHEREAS, a ban on flavored tobacco products can drastically reduce flavored tobacco sales, and more importantly, reduce the first time use of flavored tobacco among teens by 37%, and a 28% lower chance of teens using any type of tobacco product, even when surrounding jurisdictions do not also ban flavored tobacco;

WHEREAS, 75.8% of African Americans support a ban on menthol cigarettes and 43.8% of African American menthol smokers report they would quit smoking if menthol cigarettes were no longer available; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is committed to the health and wellbeing of the African American Community;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.:

1. urges state and local governments to exercise their authorities to enact ordinances that would restrict the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes;
2. supports community engagement by encouraging community-based organizations to work in partnership to educate community residents about the harms of flavored tobacco products and the need to regulate these products at the state level or within local jurisdictions; and
3. endorses the observance of *NoMenthol Sunday*, which is a faith-based initiative that commemorates “World No Tobacco Day” (held annually on May 31st) in the African American Community.