

RESOLUTION FOR MODIFYING SENATE FILIBUSTER

WHEREAS, the filibuster is not mentioned in the United States Constitution and was a theoretical option that was not employed until the late 1830's. In 1856, the Senate officially added a rule that allowed for unlimited debate in certain situations; and

WHEREAS, today it is a tactic that is employed frequently by the minority party; some blame it for our modern-day gridlock. To avoid voting on a bill, historically, senators had to take the floor and speak non-stop. Most notably was Senator Strom Thurmond from South Carolina in 1957, who spoke for a record setting 24 hours and 18 minutes to oppose a civil rights voting act; and

WHEREAS, current data indicates 400 voter suppression bills have been introduced in 49 states. Eighteen state legislatures have passed 30 bills; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress, in order to enforce the 15th Amendment, passed the Voting Rights Act in 1965, which was re-adopted and strengthened in 1970, 1975 and 1982 so that voting has become the cornerstone of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Senate's filibuster rule has effectively stalled the passage of the "For the People Act" and the "John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the Palm Beach County Democratic Party stands in support of a modification of the filibuster rule to make an exception to any voting rights legislation so that the Senate can pass any such bill by a simple majority.

Mindy Koch, Legislative Committee Chair; Ellen Baker, Vice Chair; Phil Levitt, Vice Chair; Amelia Rose, Maria Torres-Lopez, Allen Robbins, Charles Bantel, Cameron Stempel, Drew Martin, Ira Raab, Tricia Mischler, Ted Parsons, Joel Schleifer, Ben Cooper