



Resolution #22-01-02

SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF ACHIEVING DIGITAL EQUITY WITH MUNICIPAL BROADBAND

WHEREAS, Broadband is essential to modern life and is a public health imperative. Californians need access to and use of broadband to ensure their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has only reinforced our reliance on broadband and the importance of closing the digital divide; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2021, the California State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 156 calling for a California State Broadband Action Plan to develop a “Broadband for All” Action Plan that reflects the state’s belief that broadband is essential to economic and workforce development, public safety, education, and an engaged public; and

WHEREAS, improving broadband access will improve the life of Californians by enabling individuals to work, study, communicate, apply for government services, operate home-based businesses, receive emergency information, and access health care; and

WHEREAS, the California Democratic Party Platform strives to establish publicly owned high-speed Internet infrastructure that would provide open access and free internet to low income communities and social service organizations through cities, counties, and special districts and secure state government support for such projects; and

WHEREAS, the California Democratic Party Platform encourages Democrats to advocate for build-out of high-speed wired and wireless networks to all homes and businesses, especially in underserved and rural areas, to ensure equal access to and ability to upload and download content at high speeds and full participation in e-commerce, education, and digital medicine; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Orange County Democratic Central Committee encourages all municipalities, Democratic elected officials, and city commissioners to adopt municipal broadband, to adopt publicly owned high speed

internet infrastructure, utilizing union labor and adhering to labor laws and standards, and work towards ending the digital divide in order to achieve digital equity, to ensure access to all Orange County residents regardless of ability to pay;

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**Adopted by the Democratic Party of Orange County
Central Committee Meeting at its January 24, 2022**