

Dear Chair Creech and Director Knott,

In light of recent discussions regarding endorsements for the upcoming Raleigh City Council as well as other down-ballot elections, we have now found it necessary to contact you. We represent a diverse collective of community members and leaders who understand the urgency and need to endorse in all races up and down the ballot.

Unfortunately, there has been considerable debate about whether the Wake County Democratic Party should refrain from endorsing in races where multiple democrats are running and more specifically in races where a candidate has supported a ceasefire resolution related to the War on Gaza. As community leaders committed to peace and humanitarian principles, we would like to address the concerns raised and offer our perspective on this matter.

In a presidential election year, it's easy for the focus to shift toward the bigger races; however, as we know, it's the local elections that carry the most direct impact on people's everyday lives. From the school board elections and housing policies to public safety and environmental protection, we face a pivotal election year. It's important now more than ever to endorse qualified candidates with records of service up and down the ballot. We cannot afford to cast aside down-ballot races when so many of the decisions made by these officeholders directly affect the livelihoods of people in Wake County. We urge the Wake County Democratic Party to endorse qualified candidates with proven track records to ensure that our communities and values are represented by those who truly understand and prioritize local and global needs.

Regarding the Raleigh ceasefire resolution, the original draft was written in collaboration with members of Raleigh's Jewish *and* Muslim communities. Our support for the ceasefire resolution stemmed from a commitment to universal values of human rights and a desire to see our locally elected officials use their collective voice to advocate for an end to the suffering of all civilians affected by this war. This position is grounded in the recognition that advocating for peace and addressing humanitarian crises that directly touch many Raleigh residents *is* a moral responsibility.

The ceasefire resolution was sponsored by four Council members after each of these members met with residents impacted on both sides of the issues and months of community advocacy at city council. Notably, of the four City Council members who supported the ceasefire resolution, only Mary Black and Christina Jones appear to be the focus of this controversy. This selective targeting raises questions about the fairness and consistency of the 'opposition'.

Supporting an end to ethnic cleansing is a principled position that stems from the highest levels of morality, one that our Raleigh Council members are not alone in. As of Tuesday, August 13, almost 50 North Carolina elected officials across all levels of government [have signed a ceasefire letter](#) co-drafted by Muslim Women For, Jewish Voice for Peace, and Representatives Maria Cervania, Pricey Harrison, and Renee Price. This includes signatures from 15 North Carolina General Assembly Democrats. Moreover, [recent polls have](#) shown that over 80% of Democrats support a ceasefire resolution, and at a rally on Friday, August 9, Vice President and presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris [called for a ceasefire](#).

Smear campaigns that reek of McCarthyism should have no place in the Democratic Party. We believe that the endorsement process should focus on the track record, commitment, and effectiveness of candidates in addressing local issues. Mary Black and Christina Jones have demonstrated exemplary service to their constituents and have consistently worked to address the needs of the community. They have consistently shown the courage to both lead and respond to community members, including those whose families experienced displacement and genocide.

Thank you for considering our perspective. We hope that the Party will continue to foster an inclusive and supportive environment for all Democratic candidates and focus on our shared commitment to advancing the values and needs of our local communities.

Sincerely,

More than 100 local organizers, leaders, and residents

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- Rabbi Noah Rubin-Blose
- Maha Ali RN, BSN
- Alan Smith
- Dana Haddad
- Zainab Baloch, CEO, YAP!
- Steve Bader, Wake County Jewish community member
- Hwa Huang, Co-Chair of NC State University Grad Workers Union, Member of NC Triangle Democratic Socialists of America, Member of Wake County Housing Justice Coalition
- Sherry Kilgus-Kramer, Campaign Manager and Legislative Advocate
- Hala Asfari
- Samira Haddad, Local Community Organizer
- ROSENRIOT, Drag Performer and member of the NC Triangle Democratic Socialists of America
- Yousef Abulhawa, retired
- Scout Sinclair, NC Triangle Democratic Socialists of America
- Hadeel Khrais
- Yasmeen Ortiz
- Amal Ali, Constituent
- Max Parish, Durham County Democratic Party Precinct 19 Vice-Chair
- Rayna Rusenko, MPP, PhD, Jewish community member
- Cheryl Elman, Chatham County Democratic Party, Jewish community member
- Eleanor Hanna
- Nadia Ali, Rebel Left Salon & Parlor LLC
- Maryanne Mustafa
- Mona Amiri
- Robert Gilbert, Wake Democrat since 2002
- Anna Lee Ordoubadi
- Lisa Atwa
- Rania Masri, PhD, Organizer and Educator
- Kia Parrish-Haim, Educator and Community Member
- Christine Ernst, Treasurer, Solidarity with Humanity
- Akiba Goodwin, North Carolina Grassroots
- Andrew Silver, retired Jewish resident of Durham
- Hannah Abdalla, Business Owner
- Rachel Ram
- Rabbi Eli DeWitt
- Muhammad Karimi
- Reem Mohamed, NC Resident for Peace
- Cecilia Roberts, Member, Mothers for Ceasefire
- Qadria Naji, Student at Duke University
- Beth Bruch
- Erika Reif
- Mary Dulberg, Volunteer at CAUSE
- Alexis Kennedy
- Burhan Ghanayem
- Wael Masri, resident in Raleigh, 27615
- Atiya Kamran
- Yahya Abuabed, retired
- Christina Owen, Member, Mothers for Ceasefire
- A. Aly
- Talia Brenner

- Maryam Haque, MD, Member, North Carolina Muslim Grassroots
- Cecelia Bartemes, Member, Historians for a Better Future
- Ruann Elbassyouni, Organizer, North Carolina Muslim Grassroots
- Samantha Heller, Jewish voter and member of NC Triangle DSA
- Nancy Kalow, Jewish community member
- Sara Haddad, Community Organizer
- Lexus Hayes
- Kelly Holsopple
- Lorena Perez, Local Community Organizer
- Wael Arafat
- Hajra Shah
- Mika Murphy, Ecosocialism Chair, NC Triangle Democratic Socialists of America
- Sebastian FG, Organizer, NC Triangle Democratic Socialists of America
- Manzoor Cheema, Organizer, Muslims for Social Justice (North Carolina)
- Abdah Khalifa, Director, Muslim Artists of NC
- Rula Freiji, MD
- Elisa Sevier
- Swarnali Sengupta, PhD
- Reem Subei, Chair, Arab Caucus North Carolina Democratic Party
- Noor Abualhawa, lifelong Raleigh resident and Palestinian
- Hanadee Ali
- Chris Servicky
- Hadia Mubarak, Officer, Arab Caucus of the NC Democratic Party
- Maysa Saoutari, NC resident
- Rashelle Biggar
- Kierson Taylor
- Catherine Junis
- Nicole Bolger
- Iyad Hindi, Arab Caucus, North Carolina Democratic Party
- Victor Urquiza, Organizer, Party for Socialism and Liberation
- Jennifer Glassmire-Policari, Psychologist, Democratic Party Precinct 13-06
- Andrea Shipman, Raleigh resident, empathetic human
- Jeremy Gilchrist
- Leslie Kramer, Organizer, Meredith Students for Justice in Palestine and Triangle Art 4 Aid
- Sarah Cross, resident in Durham NC
- Henry Jarrett
- Sue Woodling
- Sandra Korn, NC Jewish Democrat
- Lauren Khayr, Mothers for Ceasefire
- Amy Sao Joao
- Kee Zamastil
- Keith Amboya
- Kayla White, Raleigh Native and Community Organizer
- Jonese Pipkin, Local Business Owner & Resident
- Rev. J. Mark Davidson, Executive Director, Voices for Justice in Palestine
- Sophia Chimbanda, Community Member
- Abdallh Khadra
- Judith Ferster
- Lauren Frey, Jewish community member
- Hatem Khamis, long time Raleigh Resident
- P. Roger Ehrlich, son of Holocaust survivor
- Erica Boles
- Angie Elhuni, NCDP Arab Caucus
- Benny Koval, Working Class Jewish renter in Raleigh
- Al Zayyad
- Marlie Bryant