



**WASHTENAW COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF  
Mandated Domestic Violence Training  
for All Professionals Involved in System Response**

*Passed by the WCDP General Membership on April 25, 2022*

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence may consist of physical, mental, verbal, financial, sexual, and/or litigation abuse designed to create a system of power and control over the victim, *and*

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a chronic and worsening public health crisis, harming millions of people every year, and costing billions of dollars in physical and mental health care, property damage, lost wages, incarceration, and court expenses, *and*

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is the leading cause of injury and homicide for women in the United States, and trends suggest that at least 2,300 U.S. women will be murdered by their intimate partners in 2022, *and*

**WHEREAS**, some judges and magistrates allow suspected perpetrators of even severe or chronic abuse to walk free without bond within 48 hours of arrest, exposing victims to greater risk as a result of reporting, *and*

**WHEREAS**, litigation abuse (the filing of frivolous motions regarding divorce and custody, a form of financial abuse and control) is rampant in every family court, *and*

**WHEREAS**, one in three women and one in six men will become *reported* victims of domestic violence, *and*

**WHEREAS**, societal norms that perpetuate victim blaming and shaming strongly influence systemic response, including how courts, law enforcement, health and mental health personnel, neighbors, and victims themselves view victims; how the society treats victims and delivers services and prevention, *and*

**WHEREAS**, the re-traumatizing systemic response that reflects societal norms of victim blaming and shaming also contributes to the pervasive underreporting of domestic abuse, which further harms survivors, especially for those identifying as LGBTQ+ and/or people of color, *and*

**WHEREAS**, the only required training for sworn law enforcement officers/deputies to maintain their law enforcement certification from the state (post academy) is to demonstrate proficiency (i.e., "qualify") with their firearm, *and*

**WHEREAS**, judges and magistrates in courts with jurisdiction in domestic abuse complaints need not have any specialized training in domestic violence, *and*

**WHEREAS**, continued training in the dynamics and realities of domestic violence is critical for all actors in our criminal legal system that respond to domestic violence in order to reduce secondary trauma for those involved in domestic violence, and to promote the safety and wellbeing of all those involved.



**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Washtenaw County Democratic Party calls on state, municipal and county legislators to exercise their powers to the fullest extent allowable by law to pass and fund legislation requiring annual training regarding domestic violence and litigation abuse for all professionals within the legal system, including but not limited to judges, magistrates, probation/parole agents, judicial service officers, mediators, Friend of the Court employees, personal protection order advocates, and guardians ad litem.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Washtenaw County Democratic Party calls on county and municipal leaders to proactively assert that all survivors in our county should be protected and supported, by requiring require culturally sensitive annual law enforcement training in domestic violence warning signs, trauma-informed interviewing, strangulation investigations, and best practices for investigating domestic violence.