

# JWV Resolution Guide

## What is a resolution and how to write one.

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### What is a resolution?

A resolution is a formal writing of the policy, legislation, and experiences you debate at Post and Department meetings. Excessive wait times at the VA, mental health treatment, anti-Semitism on college campuses—these sorts of topics are discussed on a local level and then elevated to a national level through the National Resolutions Committee. The final written product is a policy-making proposal that informs JWV membership and others of JWV’s position on an issue or topic.

### How to submit a resolution.

Generally, resolutions are crafted within a Post and submitted at the Department convention. Resolutions passed at the Department level are then forwarded to the National level to be reviewed by the National Resolutions Committee. However, members of At-Large Posts, or members unable to attend Department conventions, can also submit resolutions for national consideration.

The National Resolutions Committee meets annually at the National convention. If a proposed resolution is passed by the Committee, it is brought to the convention floor and voted on by the convention body. That resolution will inform JWV’s Legislative Priorities for the coming year.

All resolution(s) must be submitted to National at least 10 days prior to the convention opening. Any resolutions submitted after this date **WILL NOT** be considered. **The last day a resolution may be submitted to National for consideration at the convention this year is Sunday, July 15, 2018.**

### How to write a resolution:

As you know, any good debate begins with well-informed debaters. You’d expect there to be a fair amount of researching and talking with those experienced in the issue. That is also how you begin a resolution. Gather information and summarize. You need to give a little **background** on the issue, but it must be concise. For example, if you wish to talk about the VA claims process, you might inform us of the typical wait times, how many people are involved, and common types of claims.

Having explained the background, clearly **state the issue**. In the above example, you might say, “The VA claims process is unnecessarily lengthy to the detriment of the veteran’s mental and physical health.”

Finally, **offer solution(s)** to address the issue. For our sample, “The VA must incorporate community partners to expedite the claims process and set the maximum length of processing time at 8 months.”

Each component of the resolution – background, issue statement, and proposed solution – should be clear and to the point. The final touch is to format the writing, so that all statements about the background information and issue begin with the word “WHEREAS” and all solutions begin with “THEREFORE.” Use the 2016 resolution on the next page as a guide.

Note that only one topic or issue is addressed. You might, for instance, have several VA-related issues to address. Each issue requires its own resolution.

In summary, a resolution has three parts:

1. Title/name of the resolution (the issue)
2. Pre-ambulatory clause: Explanation of the issue, including background and an issue statement. Begin the

explanations with WHEREAS. Each “Whereas” statement should only address one fact or supporting argument related to the issue or problem.

3. Operative clause: Proposed solutions to the issue. Begin the solutions with THEREFORE. Each “Therefore” statement should describe a separate action to be taken or proposed solution to resolve the issue or problem.

**Title**                    **PASS THE BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT OF 2016**

**Explain  
the  
issue**

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives has passed a bill requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to grant presumptive benefits to Blue Water Navy sailors that were exposed to herbicides during their service to this Nation; and

WHEREAS, this legislation became necessary as a result of the Department of Veterans Affairs successful law suit denying members of the Blue Water Navy who served off the coast of Vietnam presumptive benefits for illnesses arising out of their exposure to toxic herbicides; and

WHEREAS, the general tenor of opposition to the granting of presumptive benefits to these sailors is the projected cost; and

WHEREAS, proposed legislation is moving forward as an Amendment to the Military Construction and VA Appropriations Act of 2017,

**Proposed  
Solution**

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA thanks the House of Representatives for enacting this measure and calls upon the Senate to concur with the passage of this important piece of legislation.

**Need additional guidance?**

Contact the National Resolutions Committee Chair PNC Michael Berman by emailing Executive Assistant Christy Turner at: [cturner@jwv.org](mailto:cturner@jwv.org).