

## Fair Primary Election Resolution

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3 **WHEREAS** the Charter of the Washington State Democratic Party says “that all  
4 power to govern resides with the people”; and

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6 **WHEREAS** the Charter of the Washington State Democratic Party also says we  
7 “pledge to make every effort to encourage maximum participation in the political  
8 process”; and

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10 **WHEREAS** fair and open primary elections to decide which Democratic candidates  
11 will represent the Party in general elections ensures both governance by the people  
12 and opportunity for maximum participation in the process; and

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14 **WHEREAS** the Charter of the Washington State Democratic party says we “pledge  
15 ourselves to promote a truly representative Party open to all who support its  
16 principles”, and a primary election is a unique opportunity for minorities and those  
17 with alternative viewpoints to present their ideas to voters by running a candidate  
18 for office; and

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20 **WHEREAS** a fair and open primary election process must be supported, preserved  
21 and protected by the Washington State Democratic Party and all Democrats in the  
22 state of Washington in order to carry out the pledges of our Charter and to support,  
23 preserve and protect the process of democracy itself;

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25 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party  
26 (WSDCC) and any of its officers or employees will not endorse any Democratic  
27 candidate prior to a decision by the voters in a primary election regarding which  
28 candidate the Party shall support in the general election; and

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30 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the WSDCC shall offer support of  
31 any kind (including funds, speaking engagements, press releases, voter lists, etc.) to  
32 any statewide Democratic primary candidate only if the same support is offered  
33 identically to all other *qualified Democratic candidates* in the same primary race; and

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35 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the criteria for determining  
36 whether a candidate in a statewide election is a *qualified Democratic candidate* for the  
37 office for which they are running shall be receipt by the WSDCC of two signed  
38 statements prior to the official filing deadline for that office:

39 1. A statement signed by at least 200 Democratic Precinct Committee Officers  
40 (PCOs)--duly elected or appointed in Washington State, and including PCOs from  
41 among at least three counties--stating they believe the candidate is a *qualified*  
42 *Democratic candidate* for the office for which the candidate is running; and

43 2. A statement signed by the candidate declaring her or his positions on all planks  
44 of the WSDCC platform;  
45 and  
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47 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the definition of a *qualified*  
48 *Democratic candidate* shall be left up to each PCO to decide individually before  
49 signing the statement for a candidate; and  
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51 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the WSDCC shall make every  
52 effort to inform voters equally and fairly about all *qualified Democratic candidates*  
53 prior to a primary election; and  
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55 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that WSDCC officers shall encourage  
56 County and Legislative District Democratic Central Committees to adopt rules  
57 similar to these; and  
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59 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that these actions will be completed in  
60 time to take effect before the 2008 primary elections.  
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62 Submitted to the WCDCC for first reading at its Oct. 11, 2006 meeting, and  
63 submitted for second reading at its Nov. 8, 2006 meeting. Passed Nov. 8, 2006 by  
64 WCDCC in Bellingham, WA.  
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