

Dealing With Civil Liberties, Open Government and Human Rights

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4 **WHEREAS**, the United States Constitution states, “We the People of the United States,
5 in order to forma more perfect Union...” and the Washington State Constitution says,
6 “All political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers
7 from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect and maintain
8 individual rights.” (Article I, Section 1);
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10 **WHEREAS**, the preamble to Washington States Open meeting Act (RCW 42.30)
11 explicitly states, “The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies
12 that serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants
13 the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them
14 to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over
15 the instruments they have created.”;
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17 **WHEREAS**, our State constitution upholds this right;
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19 **WHEREAS**, the State of Washington has a diverse population of racial and ethnic
20 cultures, immigrants, students and young people in general who need the political
21 system to safeguard their rights as defined in our United States Constitution and Bill of
22 Rights;
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24 **WHEREAS**, the protection and preservation of the civil liberties guaranteed under
25 these documents is absolutely necessary to the continuity of our democratic society;
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27 **WHEREAS**, the “separation of powers is the central structure of our democracy with
28 the three branches of government defined under those same constitutions;
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30 **WHEREAS**, there exists the perception of the erosion of this “separation of powers”
31 doctrine due to the increasing secrecy under which the present administration operates
32 and the extension of “executive branch powers” because “we are at war”;
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34 **WHEREAS**, the executive branch appears to justify this secrecy by citing on past
35 practices that were not always to the benefit of American citizens such as the treatment
36 of various segments of our communities;
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38 **WHEREAS**, the stereotyping, hatred and demonizing of individuals and various
39 segments of our communities appears to be growing more rabid as evidenced by some
40 of the rhetoric on the floor of Congress in the debate on the Immigration Bill;
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42 **WHEREAS**, the efforts to criminalize the lives of thousands of people rather than treat
43 them as human beings with “inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of

44 happiness" that is the basic tenet of our democracy; and
45 **WHEREAS**, illegal immigration is a long standing problem that is overdue for an
46 honorable, humane, just, honest, democratic solution;

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48 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Democratic Party stand
49 together, speak out AND WORK to support the following principles:

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- 51 • Demand the concept of "government for the people, by the people and of the
52 people" as embodied in the law of the land and explicitly stated in Washington
53 State's Open Meeting Act as it appears in the first "whereas" of this document
54 and carry it forward to the national government;
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56 • Articulate strongly our fundamental rights as embodied in the United States
57 Constitution at every opportunity and insist that our laws, all our laws, be
58 followed by all our citizens at every level'
 - 59
60 • Support Russ Feingold and other sensibly elected representatives in the United
61 States House and Senate in their efforts to inject effective, sensible, humane and
62 just safeguards to our civil liberties for all peoples while still protecting our
63 freedoms and safety;
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65 • Protect our democratic form of government by insisting on and speaking out on
66 sensible, nonpartisan approaches to legislation that supports the "rule of just,
67 humane laws" in these United States; and
 - 68
69 • Support the efforts of our national legislators and the public in general that insist
70 that President George W. Bush, his executive staff and some GOP elected
71 representatives stop their partisan politics, their efforts to inflict their personal
72 beliefs and religious extremism on the general public, their manipulations to gain
73 partisan power, their damage to our image with our world allies, their less than
74 stellar dealing in our foreign policy decisions and act in an ethical, just, moral
75 manner that supports the democratic principles that form the basis of our
76 democracy.
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79 Submitted by the delegates of the Yakima County Democratic Convention to the
80 Washington State Democratic Party for consideration at its June 3, 2006 convention in
81 Yakima (Date Submitted 4/8/2006)

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83 The Washington State Democratic Party at its State Convention on June 3, 2006 in
84 Yakima referred this resolution to the WSDCC Resolutions Committee for review at its
85 September 9 - 10, 2006 meeting in Ellensburg.

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87 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee recommended a "Pass" on this resolution at its

88 September 10, 2006 meeting in Ellensburg. The resolution will be forwarded to the
89 WSDCC at its next meeting on September 29 - 30, 2006 in Tacoma.
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91 The WSDCC passed this resolution at its September 30, 2006 meeting in Tacoma.