

## Resolution to Adopt Fair Campaign Finance Reform

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3 **WHEREAS** the U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled in Citizens United vs. the Federal  
4 Election Commission against the free speech interests of individuals in favor of  
5 corporations' rights to give as much money as they want to influence election  
6 campaigns and the decisions and actions of the elected officials that they sponsored;  
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8 **WHEREAS** this decision potentially is disastrous regarding the ability for every U.S.  
9 citizen to have equal access to their elected representative's or elected official's ear and  
10 could result in further erosion of voter trust and confidence, reduced voter turnout and  
11 citizen involvement, increased cynicism and apathy and the total corruption of the  
12 democratic process;  
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14 **WHEREAS** this country is at great risk of being engineered and controlled by  
15 enormously wealthy corporations, which can "buy" the votes of those elected officials  
16 who owe them "favors";  
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18 **WHEREAS** these corporations do not have the same interests as true persons and have  
19 historically shown this by their lack of regard for clean air, clean water, and other  
20 ecologically sustainable practices in their quest to make as large a profit from the  
21 smallest outlay of cash possible;  
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23 **WHEREAS** under our current system our candidates and elected officials are forced to  
24 spend the majority of their time seeking money to run their campaigns at the detriment  
25 of their ability to focus their full attention on the job they were elected to do;  
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27 **WHEREAS** the both the U.S. Senate and U.S House of Representative have crafted a bill  
28 to address this inequity by advocating for public financing of campaigns called The Fair  
29 Elections Now Act ( Senate bill S 752 and the House of Representative bill HR 1825 );  
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31 **WHEREAS** this bill has wide support of citizens in general and also among concerned  
32 Senators and Representatives and advocates for public financing of campaigns for  
33 candidates that meet the required support threshold of number of contributors and  
34 small donations; and  
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36 **WHEREAS** The Fair Elections Now Act (FENA) has multiple co-sponsors, including  
37 Senator Maria Cantwell, Congressmen Jim McDermott and Adam Smith among others;  
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39 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats support the  
40 passage and enactment of The Fair Elections Now Act, and call on the remaining  
41 members of the Washington State Democratic Congressional delegation to become co-  
42 sponsors and work for passage of FENA into law;

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44 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the WA State Democrats call for an  
45 amendment to the Constitution to abolish corporate personhood and return our  
46 democracy, our elections, our communities back to America's human persons, and to  
47 thus reclaim our sovereign right to self-governance;

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49 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the WA State Democrats support  
50 education to increase public awareness of the threats to our democracy posed by  
51 corporate personhood, and encourages lively discussion to build understanding and  
52 consensus to take appropriate community and municipal actions to democratically  
53 respond to these threats; and

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55 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be  
56 transmitted to relevant officials along with a request for response within thirty days,  
57 listing the actions they are willing to take to support this resolution or a list of the  
58 reasons explaining why it cannot be supported.

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61 Submitted by the Pierce County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for  
62 consideration at its June 26 convention in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 4/20/2010)

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64 Recommended Pass with amendments by the Subcommittee on the Corporate Power  
65 and Media Reform, Economic Justice and Development, and Labor. (Date Considered  
66 5/2/2010)

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68 Recommended Pass with amendments by the State Convention Platform Committee.  
69 (Date Considered 6/5/2010)

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71 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 26,  
72 2010 meeting in Vancouver.