

Resolution to Establish a Bank of Washington State

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3 **WHEREAS** Washington residents are experiencing serious and depressing economic
4 conditions brought about by reckless financial speculation by Wall Street and
5 exacerbated by shamefully irresponsible lack of enforcement of existing national
6 banking and investment laws and regulations;

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8 **WHEREAS** abandonment of 1930s era federal banking regulations have resulted in the
9 demise of many Washington state banks and of national and regional banks formerly
10 headquartered in Washington state, and the loss of their savings and investments in
11 those banks by Washington residents;

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13 **WHEREAS** the Washington economy and residents would benefit from a State bank
14 similar to the Bank of North Dakota, established in 1919; and

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16 **WHEREAS** a publicly owned Bank of Washington State would act as a central banker
17 and participate in commercial loans, thereby expanding commercial credit in the state;

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19 **WHEREAS** a Bank of Washington State would have the ability to self-fund capital
20 projects, keep money local, and absorb debt capacity, thereby allowing the State to keep
21 more people in their homes and on their farms;

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23 **WHEREAS** once established, the Bank of Washington State will not only foster
24 economic development but it will pay its own operating costs and any profits can be
25 given as dividends to the State;

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27 **WHEREAS** a Bank of Washington State will partner with community banks;
28 participation in secondary markets is a direct boost to community banks that could raise
29 our state's bond rating; and

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31 **WHEREAS** a Bank of Washington State opens up revenue options without taxation;

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33 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Democrats of Washington State endorse HR
34 3162 (creation of a Washington State Bank) and HCR 4224 (constitutional amendment
35 authorizing the creation of a State Bank). The State Bank will be overseen by the State
36 Treasurer who will be allowed to fund the bank with state monies and funds; and will
37 have the same authority to operate as a private bank chartered under Washington state
38 law; and

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40 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be
41 transmitted to relevant officials along with a request for response within thirty days,

42 listing the actions they are willing to take to support this resolution or a list of the
43 reasons explaining why it cannot be supported.

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46 Submitted by the 36th LD Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
47 consideration at its June 26 convention in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 3/15/2010)

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49 Recommended Pass with amendments by the Subcommittee on the Corporate Power
50 and Media Reform, Economic Justice and Development, and Labor. (Date Considered
51 5/2/2010)

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

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56 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 26,
57 2010 meeting in Vancouver.