

Fix Washington's 3-Strikes Law

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3 **WHEREAS** approximately 73% of the convictions under Washington's 3-Strikes law are
4 for crimes in the mid to low range of Washington's criminal seriousness scale at RCW
5 9.94A.515;

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7 **WHEREAS** Robbery 2, the most common 3-Strikes conviction, and Assault 2, another
8 common 3-Strikes crime, are classified in the *least serious quarter* of criminal offenses at
9 RCW 9.94A.515, carrying standard sentences of 3 months to 7 years;

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11 **WHEREAS** Washington's 3-Strikes population is approximately 40% African American
12 in comparison to a state population that is less than 4% African American;

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14 **WHEREAS** Washington's Sentencing Guidelines Commission recommended in 2001
15 removing Robbery 2 from the 3-Strikes list and examining under what circumstances, if
16 any, should Assault 2 be treated as a strike, as the range of behaviors associated with
17 Robbery 2 and, "probably" some instances of Assault 2 do not rise to the level of most
18 serious offenses and that, specifically, in the case of Robbery 2, these behaviors pose
19 "little risk of physical injury"; and

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21 **WHEREAS** bills responding to the recommendations of the Sentencing Guidelines
22 Commission have been in the state legislature since 2001;

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24 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the WSDCC call for reform or repeal of
25 Washington's 3-Strikes law.
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28 Submitted by the Whatcom County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic
29 Central Committee for consideration at its April 30, 2011 meeting in Wenatchee. (Date
30 Submitted 4/20/2011)

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32 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" at its April 30, 2011
33 meeting in Wenatchee.

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35 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 30, 2011 meeting in Wenatchee.