

Resolution on Referendum 65

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3 **WHEREAS**, democrats have been steadfast for many years in our support of equal
4 rights for LGBT individuals; and

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6 **WHEREAS**, after nearly 30 years of effort by many organizations and individuals, the
7 Washington State Legislature passed ESHB 2661, updating our state's anti-
8 discrimination law to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in
9 employment, housing, public accommodations, credit, insurance and commercial
10 transactions; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, the underlying law, originally adopted in 1949, already prohibited
13 discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, age, parental status, sex,
14 marital status or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the ink was not yet dry from the Governor's signature before a referendum
17 - Referendum 65 - was filed to repeal the law; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, if those supporting repeal of the law collect 112,440 signatures by June 7,
20 the public will vote in November about whether to retain the law against discrimination
21 or to repeal it; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, the precise language of Referendum 65 will ask whether our state's law that
24 protects people from discrimination based on sexual orientation should be 'approved'
25 or 'rejected'; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, a vote to APPROVE on Referendum 65 is a vote to KEEP our state's anti-
28 discrimination law and to PROTECT our families, friends, neighbors and co-workers
29 from discrimination. Put simply, a vote to APPROVE on Referendum 65 is a vote for
30 FAIRNESS; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, a vote to reject the law means the law will be repealed, and it will become
33 legal again to fire someone or deny them housing simply because they are gay or
34 lesbian; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, Washington Won't Discriminate (WWD) is the name of the statewide
37 campaign working to keep the protections from discrimination by defeating the repeal;
38 and

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40 **WHEREAS**, WWD supporters include individuals, businesses, religious and
41 community-based organizations who have come together to protect the rights of all
42 Washingtonians; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, WWD has already been joined by many allied organizations including the
45 Religious Coalition for Equality, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Jewish
46 Federation, the Washington Association of Churches, the Anti-Defamation League, the
47 National Council of Jewish Women (Seattle), St. Mark's Cathedral, Pride Foundation,
48 Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA), Equal Rights Washington, PFLAG
49 (Olympia), the ACLU, the Women's Funding Alliance and the Northwest Women's
50 Law Center. Additionally, hundreds of Washington citizens – gay and straight, young
51 and old, from business owners and ministers to soccer moms – have gone to the WWD
52 website and signed on to say "No" to discrimination and "Yes" to equality;

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54 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Democratic Party urge
55 members and voters to vote "APPROVE" on Referendum 65 to retain the state's anti-
56 discrimination law and to protect our friends, families, neighbors and co-workers from
57 discrimination; and

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59 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that adoption of this resolution would
60 also allow the Washington Won't Discriminate campaign to list the WSDCC as
61 endorsing their efforts all across the state.

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64 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Party for
65 consideration at its June 3, 2006 convention in Yakima (Date Submitted 04/25/2006)

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67 Referred to the WSDCC with a recommendation of "Pass" by the State Party Platform
68 Committee at its June 2, 2006 meeting in Yakima.

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70 Passed by the Washington State Democratic Party at its State Convention held on June
71 3, 2006 in Yakima.