

Election Integrity

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3 **WHEREAS** free and fair elections in which every vote is counted according to the
4 voter's intent are a vital component of representative democracy;

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6 **WHEREAS** performance auditing of records and complex equipment is standard
7 practice for both business and research enterprises, but not for elections departments;

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9 **WHEREAS** there is currently no national standard for mandatory auditing of vote
10 tabulation equipment;

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12 **WHEREAS** private ownership of voter registration data and election results is
13 inconsistent with representative democracy;

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15 **WHEREAS** Washington's 2004 gubernatorial votes were not recounted in Snohomish
16 County because the data was proprietary (and there was no independent voter-
17 verifiable record of ballots cast), even though there were many documented complaints
18 from voters who had attempted to vote for Gregoire but had their votes switched to
19 Rossi;

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21 **WHEREAS** complaints about machine malfunctions tabulated in 2004 showed that 98%
22 were complaints about attempting to vote for Kerry and having the vote switched to
23 Bush; and

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25 **WHEREAS** Minnesota, in 2006, successfully implemented a mandatory auditing system
26 for its optically scanned paper ballots;

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28 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the use of proprietary software be eliminated and
29 replaced by open-source software developed and owned by a public entity;

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31 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a mandatory system similar to that
32 currently in use by Minnesota for auditing optical scanning machines by random hand
33 counts be required nationally;

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35 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that direct electronic recording of votes be
36 banned nationally and that paper ballots be the legal ballots of record; and

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38 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that current systems for duplication of
39 paper ballots in the event of rejection by centralized optical scanning machines be
40 retained, rather than be replaced by electronic images which, when altered, eliminate
41 the original data; and

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43 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Washington State Democratic Party
44 distribute copies of this resolution to all Democratic members of the Washington State

45 Congressional Delegation, Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire, Washington
46 State Secretary of State Sam Reed and all members of the Democratic Caucuses in the
47 Washington State Legislature.
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50 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
51 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/21/2008)

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53 Submitted by the 46th District Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
54 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/1/2008)

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56 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED
57 A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

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59 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
60 2008 meeting in Spokane.