Resolution in Support of the "Judicial Independence Act"

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Washington are best served when the decisions of their judiciary are impartial and not subject to influence from the other branches of government or from private or political interests; and

WHEREAS, there has been an increasing amount of money spent on judicial campaigns by special interests across the nation that has politicized the courts, distorted justice, and increased the costs of campaigns in some states; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 this national trend appeared in Washington as over $4 million dollars was spent on three Supreme Court Positions including $2.73 million spent by state and national business groups "independently' of the candidates' campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Christine Gregoire, as Washington's Governor, recognizes that the huge amounts of private funds being spent on judicial candidates creates a danger of corruption, increases the perception of corruption, and undermines the public's confidence in their judicial system; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Washington State Budget as proposed by Governor Gregoire contains the "Judicial Independence Act" to allow for public funding for qualified judicial candidates; and

WHEREAS, the public funding of judicial campaigns would stop the huge increase in private funds that undermines the impartial administration of justice and restore public confidence in an independent judicial system; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Democratic Party (WSDCC) support the "Judicial Independence Act" and urge all legislators to work for its passage.

Submitted by the 23rd Legislative District Democrats and the Kitsap County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its January 27, 2007 meeting in Olympia. (Date Submitted 1/15/2007)

The WSDCC Resolutions Committee recommended a "PASS" on this resolution at its January 27, 2007 meeting in Olympia.

The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its January 27, 2007 meeting in Olympia.