

Clean Elections Resolution

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3 **WHEREAS** we need a "clean elections" system that will help restore faith in our
4 electoral government, and give political voice to many who feel they've never had it;
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7 **WHEREAS**, political campaigns are too expensive and candidates for office must take
8 substantial private contributions from a select community of interests and individuals
9 to keep up with the staggering costs required to compete in an election; and

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11 **WHEREAS** we believe that Washington State has elected many good people to a bad
12 system which pressures elected leaders to grant access to, and provide legislative
13 "protection" for, those who have given large sums of money to their campaign or
14 political party; and

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16 **WHEREAS** "clean elections" laws in Arizona and Maine have been demonstrated to be
17 effective in allowing their elected state officials who choose to "run clean" to better
18 represent the interests of their constituents and to spend more time on their legislative
19 duties and little or no time fundraising; and

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21 **WHEREAS** an Arizona study shows that clean elections greatly expanded the universe
22 of contributors by increasing the number of contributors as well as their geographic,
23 economic and ethnic diversity; and

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25 **WHEREAS** Clean Elections campaign reform would save taxpayers millions of dollars
26 now wasted due to poor public policy decisions and corporate giveaways made, in
27 large part, due to the influence of large campaign contributions.

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29 **WHEREAS** the supporters of the Democratic Party would prefer to spend time on
30 candidates, issues, and getting out the vote; and

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32 **WHEREAS** the general public would benefit from a more level playing field in the
33 development of public policy;

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35 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats urge
36 Washington State legislators and the Governor to support clean elections laws at the
37 state level, for statewide judicial races and for other state offices, and

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39 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Democrats also
40 urge Washington State legislators and the Governor to support a repeal of the ban on
41 local options for local clean elections.
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44 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central
45 Committee for consideration at its January 27, 2007 meeting in Olympia. (Date
46 Submitted 1/25/2007)

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48 Susan C. Sheary, KCDCC Chair

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50 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee recommended a "PASS" on this resolution at its
51 January 27, 2007 meeting in Olympia with minor housekeeping changes.

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53 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution "WITH MINOR HOUSEKEEPING CHANGES"
54 by the WSDCC Resolutions Committee at its January 27, 2007 meeting in Olympia.