

## Voting Rights Resolution

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3 **WHEREAS**, the Help America Vote Act required that accessible voting machines be  
4 made available for voters who are visually impaired or unable to mark a paper ballot in  
5 the 2006 election; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, the Help America Vote Act required that all voters be informed of such  
8 machines and how to use them for the 2006 election for all counties that receive federal  
9 funds to purchase the machines; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, Whitman County received \$440,000 in federal funds to purchase five such  
12 machines and the county auditor did not inform voters of the machines in violation of  
13 the federal law; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, state law RCW 29A.46.260 states that "Each county shall establish and  
16 maintain an advisory committee that includes persons with diverse disabilities and  
17 persons with expertise in providing accommodations for persons with disabilities. The  
18 committee shall assist election officials in developing a plan to identify and implement  
19 changes to improve the accessibility of elections for voters with disabilities" for all  
20 counties that chose to switch to an all vote by mail election; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, Whitman County Commissioners voted to switch to vote by mail at it's  
23 December 2005 meeting and the county auditor made no effort to form such as  
24 committee in violation of the state law; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, voting is a bi-partisan right and that approximately 2,000 voters of all party  
27 affiliations who could have benefited from the use of the voting machines in Whitman  
28 County were denied the benefit of the machines due to the violation of state and federal  
29 law;

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31 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT**, the Washington State Democratic Central  
32 Committee calls for a formal state government investigation of the actions of the  
33 Whitman County Auditor and appropriate legal actions be taken and,

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35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the Secretary of State's office conduct an  
36 investigation of all county auditors to determine if these laws were violated in other  
37 counties throughout the state.

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40 Submitted by the Whitman County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic  
41 Central Committee for consideration at its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham. (Date  
42 Submitted 4/18/2007)

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44 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at  
45 its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham.  
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47 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham.