

1 **Public Campaign Financing Resolution**
2 **to Seattle City Council and King County Council**
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4 **WHEREAS**, successful public financing of political campaigns existed in both Seattle
5 and King County prior to the passage of Initiative 134 in 1992; and
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7 **WHEREAS**, these programs are still on the books; and
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9 **WHEREAS**, there is a strong grassroots movement and substantial support within the
10 Washington State Legislature to renew authorization for such a local option; and
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12 **WHEREAS**, even unopposed candidates spend substantial amounts of time raising
13 money, often from special interests; and
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15 **WHEREAS**, competition in fundraising has recently raised the cost of running for local
16 public office to unforeseen and unconscionable levels; and
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18 **WHEREAS**, the time spent raising money from large donors could be better spent
19 communicating with voters and responding to their needs; and
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21 **WHEREAS**, public campaign financing is optional and tends to level the playing field,
22 favoring neither incumbents nor challengers; and
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24 **WHEREAS**, we believe that public campaign financing is entirely in the public interest
25 and an appropriate use of public funds;
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27 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Washington State Democrats hereby
28 appeal to the Seattle and King County Councils to enact legislation providing as
29 follows:
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- 31 1. Directing Council staff to conduct a study in preparation for the re-
32 implementation of public financing of campaigns, specifically including:
33 A. Review of the existing applicable local law,
34 B. Review of the cost of recent campaigns for all elective local offices,
35 C. Recommendations for updating the existing local law,
36 D. Estimating the cost of implementation and oversight,
37 E. Recommendations for funding public campaign financing as updated, and
38 F. A report back to the Council by November 15, 2007.
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40 2. Directing the Seattle and King County lobbyists to provide support for local
41 option public campaign financing legislation by the Washington State
42 Legislature.
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46 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central
47 Committee for consideration at its June 30, 2007 meeting in the Tri-Cities. (Date
48 Submitted 6/27/2007)

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50 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at
51 its June 30, 2007 meeting in the Tri-Cities.

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53 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its June 30, 2007 meeting in the Tri-Cities.