

Resolution in Support of the "Judicial Independence Act"

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4 **WHEREAS**, the people of the State of Washington are best served when the decisions of
5 their judiciary are impartial and not subject to influence from the other branches of
6 government or from private or political interests; and
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8 **WHEREAS**, there has been an increasing amount of money spent on judicial campaigns
9 by special interests across the nation that has politicized the courts, distorted justice,
10 and increased the costs of campaigns in some states; and
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12 **WHEREAS**, in 2006 this national trend appeared in Washington as over \$4 million
13 dollars was spent on three Supreme Court Positions including \$2.73 million spent by
14 state and national business groups "independently" of the candidates' campaigns; and
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16 **WHEREAS**, Christine Gregoire, as Washington's Governor, recognizes that the huge
17 amounts of private funds being spent on judicial candidates creates a danger of
18 corruption, increases the perception of corruption, and undermines the public's
19 confidence in their judicial system; and
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21 **WHEREAS**, the 2007 Washington State Budget as proposed by Governor Gregoire
22 contains the "Judicial Independence Act" to allow for public funding for qualified
23 judicial candidates; and
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25 **WHEREAS**, the public funding of judicial campaigns would stop the huge increase in
26 private funds that undermines the impartial administration of justice and restore public
27 confidence in an independent judicial system; and
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29 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Democratic Party
30 (WSDCC) support the "Judicial Independence Act" and urge all legislators to work for
31 its passage.
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35 Submitted by the 23rd Legislative District Democrats and the Kitsap County Democrats
36 to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its January
37 27, 2007 meeting in Olympia. (Date Submitted 1/15/2007)
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39 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee recommended a "PASS" on this resolution at its
40 January 27, 2007 meeting in Olympia.
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42 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its January 27, 2007 meeting in Olympia.