

1 **Resolution to support public campaign financing for the**
2 **U.S. Senate and House of Representatives**
3 **Fair Elections Now Act (S 752, HR 1826)**

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5 **WHEREAS**, as the cost of federal campaigns and the political value of a seat in
6 Congress has spiraled upward in recent years, our political system at all levels is
7 increasingly dominated by the influence of large sums from special interests to finance
8 electoral campaigns, whereby

- 9 • large donors have special political access to lawmakers, providing undue
10 influence over federal budgets, earmarks, regulations, lawmaking and public
11 policy in general; and
12 • Main Street concerns of ordinary citizens are too often trumped by the influence
13 and expectations of political favors from large campaign donors and their
14 lobbyists, such that real concerns of Americans on Main Street are often not
15 addressed; and
16 • the high cost of campaigns combined with large sums from private special
17 interests has a corrupting influence on the democratic process, in that large
18 campaign donors in effect choose who can run a competitive campaign, well
19 before any voter deliberation; and
20 • the need to raise huge sums privately for campaigns ("dialing for dollars") is
21 onerous and needlessly time-consuming, and can have a corrupting influence on
22 candidates who have entered public service with good intentions to serve their
23 constituents (rather than big donors) and to spend time with voters on issues,
24 instead of dialing for dollars; and
25 • the electorate is becoming increasingly cynical and resentful over the loss of their
26 voice and power; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, Maine, Arizona, Connecticut and other states have demonstrated that
29 public financing of campaigns (a.k.a. "Clean Elections" or "Voter-Owned Elections")
30 works well, enjoying widespread use by candidates and enthusiastic support of voters;
31 and

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33 **WHEREAS**, campaign finance reform would save taxpayers millions of dollars now
34 wasted when tax, budget, and public policy decisions are skewed toward political
35 favors for large campaign contributors and lobbyists for special interests; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, the **Fair Elections Now Act** as a bi-partisan proposal is now under
38 consideration in the United States Senate (as S-752, by Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Ill, and
39 Arlen Specter, R-Pa) and in the House of Representatives (as HR-1826, by Reps. John
40 Larson, D-Ct, and Walter Jones, Jr., R-NC), offering public campaign financing, similar

41 to Clean Elections programs in Maine and Arizona, for campaigns for the U.S. Senate
42 and House of Representatives;

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44 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats hereby
45 proclaims support for public financing of campaigns for the U.S. Senate and House of
46 Representatives, as reflected in the Fair Elections Now Act; and hereby urges support
47 from all federal legislators from Washington State, and from state and local public
48 officials in conversation with federal lawmakers, to support and enact public campaign
49 financing at the federal level; and

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51 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution be
52 forwarded to all U.S. senators and members of Congress from Washington State; and

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54 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded
55 to Washington Public Campaigns, an organization in Washington State which is
56 organizing support for the Fair Elections Now Act in Congress, and which accepts mail
57 at: P.O. Box 70452, Seattle, WA 98127-0452, and which has a website address for more
58 information: www.washclean.org.

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61 Submitted by the 34th LD Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central
62 Committee for consideration at its April 25, 2009 meeting in Tacoma. (Date Submitted
63 4/15/2009)

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65 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at
66 its April 24, 2009 meeting in Tacoma.

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68 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 25, 2009 meeting in Tacoma.