

Support Common Sense Gun Safety Laws

1 **WHEREAS** nearly 6,000 people in Washington State have been killed by guns in the past
2 decade and only a small percentage of gun deaths are gang-related; and
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4 **WHEREAS** more people in Washington state were killed by guns than died in traffic accidents
5 in 2009; and
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7 **WHEREAS** more than half of the state's gun deaths are the result of suicide, and when there is
8 a gun in the home, the risk of suicide increases dramatically; and
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10 **WHEREAS** guns are now a leading cause of death for young men aged 15 to 24; and
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12 **WHEREAS** states that have the most reasonable gun laws have far fewer gun deaths than those
13 states that have the least restrictions; and
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15 **WHEREAS** Washington has very weak gun laws that help feed the illegal gun market, allow
16 the sale of guns without background checks and allow the sale of military-style assault
17 weapons, according to the Brady Campaign, which scored Washington only 15 of 100 possible
18 points for gun safety in 2011; and
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20 **WHEREAS** public safety is deteriorating with a dramatic rise in the frequency and severity of
21 mass homicides in public places, for example, schools, churches, theaters, restaurants and
22 shopping malls; and
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24 **WHEREAS** RCW 9.41.290, State Preemption of Firearms Laws, enacted in 1983, is flawed
25 because it does not allow local jurisdictions to make appropriate gun safety regulations that fit
26 their particular urban or rural environment; and
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28 **WHEREAS** cities and counties should be unshackled and allowed to protect their citizens
29 residing within their jurisdictional boundaries by using non-criminal civil administrative
30 measures; now
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32 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central
33 Committee, urge Washington's lawmakers in Olympia to amend RCW 9.41.290 to permit
34 elected city and county governments to regulate semiautomatic firearms within their
35 jurisdictions by civil administrative means; and
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37 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central
38 Committee, urge Washington's U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives in Congress to support
39 common sense regulation of firearms that include universal background checks for all primary
40 and secondary sales or transfers of all firearms, a ban on the manufacture of all semi-automatic
41 rifles and most semiautomatic hand guns, except under public contract to US military forces
42 and duly constituted and authorized law enforcement agencies, and a ban on the manufacture,
43 sale, transfer or possession of cartridge clips of more than ten (10) rounds.
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- 47 Submitted by the Clark County Democratic Women to the Clark County Democratic Central Committee
48 on March 11, 2013.
49 Submitted by the Clark County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central
50 | Committee for consideration at its April 27, 2013 meeting in Chelan. (Date Submitted April 10, 2013)
51 Recommended "pass" by the Resolutions Committee at the April 27, 2013 meeting in Chelan.