

Resolution in Support of Establishing a Livable Minimum Wage in Seattle

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4 **WHEREAS** some 3.5 million hourly workers in The United States earn the minimum
5 wage;

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7 **WHEREAS** a living wage was first proposed by Pope Leo XIII in 1891 as a way of lifting
8 the working poor out of poverty by allowing a person working 40 hours per week to
9 pay for housing, food, transportation, health care and other basic living costs after taxes
10 and where a worker should not need government aid, such as medical assistance to
11 survive;

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13 **WHEREAS** the federal minimum wage for work performed after July 24, 2009, is \$7.25
14 per hour, or roughly \$1,256.67 per month which is well below the poverty level of
15 \$18,310 annually for a family of three living in the United States'

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17 **WHEREAS**, as a result of the ongoing Great Recession,

- 18 • The real median household income was 8.3% lower in 2012 than it was in 2007,
19 according to U.S. Census Bureau figures.
- 20 • Low-wage jobs accounted for only 21% of recession losses, while 58% of new jobs
21 created between 2010 and 2012 were low-wage, according to the National
22 Employment Law Project.
- 23 • A record 46.5 million people were living in poverty in the U.S. in 2013 according
24 to the Census Bureau.
- 25 • Despite high unemployment and the weakest recovery since World War II, the
26 stock market and corporate profits reached record highs in 2013.
- 27 • According to one study, 95% of the gains of the economic recovery have gone to
28 the richest 1%.
- 29 • If the minimum wage had kept up with productivity gains since 1968, it would
30 be \$21.72; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, according to a recent Gallup poll, over 70 percent of the American public
33 support raising the minimum wage

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35 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Washington State Democratic Central Committee
36 (WSDCC) supports efforts to raise the minimum wage in Seattle to \$15 and thereafter
37 indexed to increases in the consumer price index for urban areas (CPI-U) and
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39 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
40 Central Committee (WSDCC) opposes exceptions to a \$15 minimum wage. These
41 exemptions would include, but not be limited to,

- 42 • Industry sectors where employee receives and retains compensation in the form
43 of gratuities in addition to wages that would be calculated as a “tip credit” or,
44 more accurately a “tip penalty” to lower the base wage below the statutory
45 minimum.
- 46 • Training wage exemptions that would lower compensation below the statutory
47 minimum; and

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49 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
50 Central Committee (WSDCC) forward this resolution to the Washington State Governor
51 and all Washington State legislators.

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54 Submitted by the Labor Caucus to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration
55 at its February 1, 2014 meeting in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 2/1/2014)

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57 This resolution was passed by the WSDCC at its February 1, 2014 29 meeting in Vancouver, WA.