

1 **Abolishing Death Penalty and**
2 **Commending Governor Inslee for Suspending Use**

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4 **WHEREAS** the Washington Democratic Party Platform states “We call for:
5 Abolition of capital punishment, and substituting life in prison without parole”;

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7 **WHEREAS** DNA testing has provided scientific proof that our legal system convicts
8 and sentences innocent people – and that wrongful convictions are not isolated or rare
9 events;

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11 **WHEREAS** Washington State has experienced four (4) exonerations of citizens
12 sentenced to death based on DNA research and/or case review after final sentencing;

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14 **WHEREAS** the Washington Compensation Law requires repayment to the exonerated
15 persons including annual wages and legal fees;

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17 **WHEREAS** the system required to provide an humane, legal, acceptable execution is
18 very expensive to maintain and expensive per execution;

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20 **WHEREAS** it is logically absurd to teach society to honor life by sentencing murderers
21 to the same act for which they’re punished, that is, taking their life;

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23 **WHEREAS** the nation’s police chiefs rank the death penalty last in their priorities for
24 effective crime reduction;

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26 **WHEREAS** criminologists concur that the death penalty does not effectively reduce the
27 number of murders; and

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29 **WHEREAS** research indicates race, geography, money and other factors continue to
30 make the implementation of the death penalty arbitrary and unfair;

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32 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party,
33 assembled as the 2014 convention, commend Governor Jay Inslee for suspending the
34 use of the death penalty in Washington State;

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36 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Democratic members of the
37 Washington State Legislature be encouraged to support that moratorium and seek a
38 permanent end to the death penalty in Washington State;

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40 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Democratic Congressional
41 representatives and senators be encouraged to support and lead efforts to end use of the
42 death penalty in the United States and its territories; and

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44 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we urge the Washington State
45 Legislature to establish laws requiring all law enforcement agencies in Washington to
46 record and preserve interrogations involving capital cases and to also preserve evidence
47 in capital cases possibly containing DNA samples.
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50 Submitted by the Pierce County Democrats to the 2014 Washington State Democratic
51 Convention. (Date Submitted 4/12/2014)
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53 The Subcommittee on Law and the Justice System amended this resolution at their May
54 18th meeting.
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56 The Subcommittee on Law and the Justice System recommended that this resolution be
57 passed as amended at their May 18th meeting.
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59 The Platform Committee affirmed the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Law
60 and the Justice System at their May 31st meeting.
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62 The 2014 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 21,
63 2014.