

1 **A Resolution Regarding Building a**
2 **More Inclusive Civic Engagement Process through**
3 **the Addition of Amharic, Somali and Tagalog Languages**
4 **to the List of Available Online Voter Registration Forms**
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6 **WHEREAS** King County is a diverse and dynamic community that has seen much of its
7 growth since 1990 driven by immigrants;
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9 **WHEREAS** immigrants and longtime King County residents speak more than 100
10 different languages, and the 2010 U.S. Census sample found that more than 400,000
11 King County residents – nearly a quarter of the county’s population over the age of 5 –
12 speak a language other than English at home;
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14 **WHEREAS** according to American Community Survey statistics from 2008-2012, King
15 County is home to over 28,000 East African language speaking residents and over
16 26,000 Tagalog speaking residents;
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18 **WHEREAS** Amharic, Somali and Tagalog are among the top six (6) languages spoken
19 in the Seattle Public School System;
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21 **WHEREAS** under the federal Voting Rights Act, an elections department must add a
22 language when 5 percent or more of the voting-age minority population is not
23 proficient in English, or when at least 10,000 people from the voting-age minority
24 population are not English-language proficient;
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26 **WHEREAS** printed, hard copy versions of the voter registration form are available in
27 English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese; and additionally, online printable voter
28 registration forms are currently available in Cambodian, Korean, Laotian and Russian;
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30 **WHEREAS** King County government is dedicated to providing all of its residents fair
31 and equal access to services, opportunities, and protection; inviting and encouraging
32 public engagement; and reflecting consideration for cultural differences;
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34 **WHEREAS** King County government must continue striving to meet the highest ideals
35 for socially just and equitable service delivery and engagement with the public while
36 operating responsibly within budgetary and resource constraints;
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38 **WHEREAS** the Democratic Party prides itself on being an inclusive, big tent
39 organization committed to increasing all residents opportunity to be involved in and
40 participate in the civic engagement process; and
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42 **WHEREAS** the Democratic Party recognizes the value and importance of hearing all
43 voices in our community's civic engagement process, including those new to our
44 community;

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46 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central
47 Committee, call for the addition of the Amharic, Somali and Tagalog languages to the
48 list of online, printable voter registration forms available on the Washington Secretary
49 of State website.

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52 Submitted by the 30th LD Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 5/30/2014)

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54 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 9/5/2014)

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56 Recommended Pass by the Resolutions Committee at their September 13, 2014 Meeting
57 in Ferndale.

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59 Passed by the WSDCC at their September 13, 2014 Meeting in Ferndale.