

1                                   **A Resolution Supporting the Passage of**  
2                                   **the Washington Voting Rights Act**

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4   **WHEREAS** all voters and communities deserve the opportunity to be represented by  
5 candidates of their choice;

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7   **WHEREAS** many communities across the state of Washington have been unable to elect  
8 individuals due to being outnumbered in at-large voting systems;

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10   **WHEREAS** people of color have historically faced significant barriers to voting in the  
11 United States and proactive steps continue to be necessary to address  
12 underrepresentation in elected bodies at all levels;

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14   **WHEREAS** nearly all local elections in Washington use at-large voting systems and  
15 where polarized voting exists, an at-large system may prevent some voters from having  
16 a meaningful voice in local elections;

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18   **WHEREAS** lawsuits addressing polarized voting have been successful in challenging  
19 exclusionary practices, but are expensive and time consuming;

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21   **WHEREAS** local governments have the responsibility to remedy the widespread  
22 problem of voter exclusion in local elections;

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24   **WHEREAS** the Washington State Voting Rights Act is modeled after the California  
25 Voting Rights Act, which was successful in improving fairness in elections in localities  
26 throughout that state; and

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28   **WHEREAS** the Washington State Voting Rights Act provides an opportunity to address  
29 the issue of polarized voting in a way that avoids the need for lawsuits, and provides a  
30 uniform standard across the state, while still providing localities with the flexibility to  
31 find a solutions that fits their specific needs;

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33   **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats call upon the  
34 State Legislature to address the problem of voter exclusion by passing the Washington  
35 Voting Rights Act;

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37   **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats call  
38 upon our legislators to actively support the Washington Voting Rights Act in the next  
39 legislative session and actively work to ensure its passage; and  
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41 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we encourage the Chairs and  
42 Executive Boards of the Legislative Districts and County organizations throughout the  
43 State also pass resolutions in support of the Voting Rights Act and communicate that  
44 support to their representatives in the Legislature.  
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47 Submitted by the 34<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 7/14/2015)  
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49 Submitted by the 43<sup>rd</sup> LD Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 8/25/2015)  
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51 The Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended that it be  
52 "PASSED" at its September 19, 2015 meeting in Wenatchee.  
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54 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its September 19, 2015 meeting in Wenatchee.