

1       **Resolution on Raising the Washington State Minimum Wage**

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3       **WHEREAS** no one who works full time should live in poverty;

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5       **WHEREAS** the national Democratic Party has called for a \$15 an hour minimum wage;

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7       **WHEREAS** the platform of the Washington State Democratic Party calls for an  
8 incremental increase in the state and federal minimum wage, with a living wage as the  
9 goal;

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11       **WHEREAS** according to the Economic Opportunity Institute, the living wage for a  
12 single-parent household, the situation in which 29% of Washington’s children live,  
13 ranges from \$13.23 in Pend Oreille County to \$24.04 in Snohomish County, with over  
14 97% of Washingtonians living in a county where the living wage for such a household is  
15 at least \$15;

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17       **WHEREAS** had the federal minimum wage been adjusted for inflation and gains in  
18 productivity since 1950, it would currently be close to \$22 per hour;

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20       **WHEREAS** there is a widespread belief that raising the minimum wage in a single step  
21 without a phase-in would be detrimental to the economy;

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23       **WHEREAS** despite the lack of evidence for such a belief, its prevalence is likely to make  
24 passage of a minimum wage bill without a phase-in unlikely;

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26       **WHEREAS** the severity of this low-wage problem necessitates that the minimum wage  
27 be raised as quickly as possible; and

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29       **WHEREAS** inflation of just over 1% annually, a conservative estimate, will cause \$15  
30 today to be worth the same as \$15.50 in three years;

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32       **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central  
33 Committee calls for a state law that will raise the minimum wage in Washington with a  
34 phase-in that takes no longer than 30 months from the date on which it is signed into  
35 law to reach \$15.50; and

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37       **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution shall be  
38 transmitted to Governor Jay Inslee, Lieutenant Governor Brad Owens, and all members  
39 of the Democratic caucuses of the Washington State Legislature.

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Submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 11/06/2015)

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44 The Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended that it be  
45 "PASSED" at its January 30, 2016 meeting in Lynnwood.

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47 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its January 30, 2016 meeting in Lynnwood.