

1 **Calling For Reinstatement of**
2 **Sections 4 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965**
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4 **WHEREAS** the U.S. Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder*, June 2013, destroyed
5 the heart of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by overturning Sections 4 and 5, and enabling
6 states and local governments to change their electoral laws without advance notification
7 of the U.S. Department of Justice;
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9 **WHEREAS** the Supreme Court ruling freed Arizona and eight other states and many
10 counties and municipalities to adopt policies and practices which have had an inimical
11 effect on the rights of eligible voters to exercise the franchise;
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13 **WHEREAS** one outrageous result has been the purge of 126,000 Democratic voters from
14 rolls in Kings County, New York, a jurisdiction which had been required to get federal
15 approval prior to changing its voting changes, due to a history of voting discrimination;
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17 **WHEREAS** another outrageous result was the Maricopa County, Arizona reduction of
18 polling places from 200 locations in the recent past to 60 this year, mainly in mostly-
19 Hispanic neighborhoods, resulting in voters having to wait in lines up to five (5) hours;
20 and
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22 **WHEREAS** the Voting Rights Act prevented these and other acts of malfeasance for
23 every presidential election for 50 years;
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25 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Convention
26 calls on Congress to reintroduce Sections 4 and 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and
27 make every effort to enact those sections into law and to restore protection for all voters
28 throughout the nation.
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30 Submitted by the Pierce County Convention.
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33 The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their June 17,
34 2016 meeting.
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36 The 2016 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 18,
37 2016.
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