

Abolish the Death Penalty Throughout the United States

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3 **WHEREAS** there is no evidence that executions deter crime;

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5 **WHEREAS** more than 150 men and women have been released from death row since
6 1978, having been proven to be innocent, and since 2014 it has been proven that at least
7 four men were executed who were innocent;

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9 **WHEREAS** as of Jan 1, 2016, there were 2,943 death row inmates;

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11 **WHEREAS** a report from the General Accounting Office concluded that those who
12 murdered whites are more likely to be sentenced to death than those who murdered
13 blacks;

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15 **WHEREAS** politics and the quality of legal counsel as well as location of the crime are
16 often determining factors in the use of the death penalty;

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18 **WHEREAS** 140 nations worldwide have abandoned the death penalty leaving the
19 United States in the company of Iraq, Iran, North Korea and China as advocates and
20 users of the death penalty;

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22 **WHEREAS** 19 states in the U.S. and the District of Columbia have already abolished the
23 death penalty and 4 have a governor-imposed moratorium on it;

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25 **WHEREAS** a death penalty trial is 20 times more expensive than a trial seeking life
26 without parole; and

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28 **WHEREAS** many people believe the death penalty violates the 8th Amendment to the
29 United States Constitution prohibiting cruel and unusual punishment however it is
30 carried out;

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32 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Convention
33 advocate for the abolishment of the death penalty and for commuting the sentences of
34 people currently on death row throughout the United States and its territories to life in
35 prison without the possibility of parole.
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38 Submitted by the Clark County Democrats.

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40 The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their June 17,
41 2016 meeting.
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43 The 2016 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 18,
44 2016.
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