

1 **Resolution Urging the Adoption of Automatic Voter**
2 **Registration in Washington State**

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4 **WHEREAS** a viable democracy requires the participation of the highest possible
5 number of eligible voters;

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7 **WHEREAS** the current method of voter registration puts the burden on the individual
8 to seek out and find the proper avenue by which to indicate his/her willingness to
9 participate in the democratic process, something that may impede full participation in
10 our democratic institutions;

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12 **WHEREAS** the state of Washington, as part of its Department of Licensing, already has
13 age-related data on most individuals residing in the state of Washington;

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15 **WHEREAS** Washington (along with 38 other states) already has enacted and
16 implemented legislation linking driver's licenses and registration for another purpose:
17 registration for the draft with the Selective Service; and

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19 **WHEREAS** States such as Oregon, California, Vermont, and West Virginia already have
20 proven that automatic voter registration works;

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22 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
23 Committee urges our legislators to support legislation that would automatically register
24 people to vote who

- 25 1. Are not on the voter rolls but already have or apply for an enhanced driver's
26 license, enhanced state ID, or commercial driver's licenses
27 2. Receive social services that verify citizenship
28 3. Get health insurance through the state health exchange;

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30 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the measure be retroactive so that
31 unregistered voters who already have the specialized driver licenses or benefits would
32 have their information sent to the Secretary of State's Office, which would notify them
33 that they can opt out (if the potential voter doesn't respond, they will be automatically
34 registered within 60 days.)

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37 Submitted by the 1st LD Democrats. (Date Submitted 9/1/2016)

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39 The Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and included it in the "DO PASS"
40 slate at its September 17, 2016 meeting.

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42 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution as amended at its September 17, 2016 meeting in
43 Yakima.