

## Making WA Primaries More Democratic

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2 **WHEREAS** Washington State's "Top Two" primary can result in only one party being  
3 represented in the general election;

4 **WHEREAS** the "Top Two" can, and has, resulted in un-democratic outcomes of  
5 minority rule, where a majority of voters for candidates of a particular party can be  
6 disenfranchised if there are too many good candidates;

7 **WHEREAS** a system of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), where voters indicate all  
8 candidates they support in diminishing order, followed by an instant runoff should no  
9 candidate receive a majority of votes, ensures that the victor of an election has positive  
10 support by a majority of voters;

11 **WHEREAS** RCV systems reduce negative campaigning, and mitigates the problem of  
12 splitting a party's vote among several candidates;

13 **WHEREAS** RCV encourages ballot diversity and third-party candidacies by promoting  
14 voters' ability to vote for their first-choice candidate without fear of "throwing away  
15 one's vote,"

16 **WHEREAS** RCV is already implemented successfully in many major cities such as  
17 Berkeley CA, San Francisco CA, Minneapolis MN, St. Paul MN, and Santa Fe NM; and

18 **WHEREAS** there are several different systems of RCV voting;

19 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats urge our  
20 representatives and officials in Olympia to replace the state's "Top Two" primary with  
21 a Ranked Choice Voting system that will guarantee that our elected representatives  
22 have majority support.

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24 Submitted by the 5<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats.

25 The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their June 15,  
26 2018 meeting.

27 The 2018 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 16,  
28 2018.