

**RESOLUTION URGING AN IMPROVED PROCEDURE FOR CHOOSING  
NOMINEES TO FILL VACANCIES IN CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICES**

WHEREAS the Washington State Constitution, in Article II, Section 15, confers on county councils and commissions a limited appointive power in the filling of vacancies in legislative positions and partisan county elected offices; and

WHEREAS such power is, in most instances, to be exercised by the county council or commission appointing to such office one of three nominees designated by the county central committee of a political party;

WHEREAS county councils' and commissions' exercise of such appointive power in recent years has increasingly produced problems and criticism, undermining public confidence in their county councilmembers and commissioners, and in the persons chosen thereby to fill vacancies in the specified public offices; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding provision in Article VII.D of the Washington State Democratic Party Bylaws that "The [State Central Committee] shall develop rules for the conduct of legislative appointment caucuses," no such rules have yet been promulgated;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we strongly urge the Washington State Democratic Party to develop a set of rules governing the choosing of three nominees for submission to county councils and commissions for the filling of vacancies in legislative positions and partisan county elected offices, such rules to provide in part that the nominees shall consist of:

- (a) the person who received, pursuant to properly promulgated rules, the majority of votes cast for that office by the PCOs of the relevant constituency in caucus assembled, and
- (b) two other persons, in descending order of the number of votes cast for that office, who have been accorded the opportunity to execute a prescribed written statement of support for the person receiving the majority of votes under those rules; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the set of rules attached to this resolution be considered for adoption as the Washington State Democrats' recommended rules for choosing nominees in such situations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Washington State Democratic Party to encourage the adoption of rules in accordance with the above.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_