

Resolution Supporting the Right of the Democratic Party To Select its Presidential Nominee

Whereas the First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees freedom of association and the right of individuals to choose whether to join or leave groups, and the right of a group to take collective action to pursue the interests of its members; and

Whereas the right to select its party nominees is an inherent right of a political party; and

Whereas the State of Washington does not have the power to interfere with the internal affairs of a political party; and

Whereas the State of Washington does not allow for voter registration by party; and

Whereas the Democratic Party believes that only voters who choose to affiliate with the Democratic Party should select its nominees for elective office; and

Whereas the rules of the Democratic National Committee (“DNC”) require state Democratic parties to select their delegates to the national Democratic Party convention by a single method: either the results of (1) a presidential primary, or (2) a presidential caucus; and

Whereas the Washington State Democratic Party has historically used only the precinct caucus method for selecting its delegates to the national Democratic Party convention; and

Whereas the Washington State Democratic Party Central Committee will this year decide whether all its delegates to the national convention will be determined through the results of either (1) a presidential primary or (2) precinct caucuses; and

Whereas DNC Standing Rules preclude the State Democratic Party from choosing to split its delegation between those chosen by primary and those chosen by caucus; and

Whereas Washington State Senate Bill 5978 would require that the State Democratic Party use the results of a presidential primary held on the second Tuesday in March to select a portion of its national convention delegates, in violation of DNC rules, thereby precluding the State Party from using the caucus method to choose any of its delegates;

Therefore, be it resolved that we oppose all efforts by the State of Washington to infringe on the rights of the Democratic Party to select its presidential delegates by the method the Party chooses; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to every member of the Washington State legislature, Governor Jay Inslee, Secretary of State Kim Wyman, Democratic Party Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Washington State Democratic Party Chair Jaxon Ravens, and Washington State Republican Party Chair Susan Hutchison.

Adopted _____ *by* _____