

Resolution Supporting the Continued Election of PCOs in Washington State

WHEREAS, in his ruling on the Top Two Primary, Judge Coughenour ruled that the conduct of Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) elections under the Top Two ballot law is unconstitutional because it allows any voter, regardless of party affiliation, to vote to elect a party official, and

WHEREAS Judge Coughenour noted that the State could stop requiring PCO elections by the general public, and

WHEREAS county auditors and Secretary of State Sam Reed have indicated interest in having the state legislature eliminate public PCO elections, and

WHEREAS public PCO elections were instituted by the state legislature in 1907 as a progressive, good-government reform to prevent the political corruption accompanying unaccountable party bosses in some other states, and

WHEREAS the State Constitution gives PCOs a critical public function in the filling of legislative vacancies, and

WHEREAS public PCO elections provide an open and transparent way to help ensure that party leadership is accountable to the grassroots through popular support, and

WHEREAS Democrats support modifications in public PCO elections in order to reduce costs for counties while still preserving the public vote, and

WHEREAS the Washington State Democratic Central Committee voted at its September, 2011 meeting to affirm its support for public PCO elections;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the King County Democrats call on their legislative representatives and all Democrats in the state legislature to preserve the public election of PCOs.

Adopted November 22, 2011 by King County Democratic Central Committee

Submitted by James Apa, 36th LD; jpapawa@comcast.net
Passed by the 36th District Democrats, October 12th, 2011