

## **Resolution in Support of Signature-Gathering for Initiative 912, Requiring Disclosure of Presidential Candidates' Tax Returns**

WHEREAS a widely accepted democratic norm has been established by custom, practice and public expectation for more than forty years, beginning with President Gerald Ford (following revelations of repeated tax-evasive techniques employed by his predecessor, Richard Nixon), whereby Presidential candidates of all parties have routinely made public disclosure of their federal tax returns; and

WHEREAS disclosure of candidates' tax returns enables voters to assess candidates' experience, business acumen, financial stability, potential conflicts of interest, and – in some cases – honesty and character; and

WHEREAS former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney has acknowledged that disclosure of tax returns “provide[s] the public with its sole confirmation of the veracity of a candidate's representations regarding charities, priorities, wealth, tax conformance, and conflicts of interest,” and could reveal “inappropriate associations with foreign entities, criminal organizations, or other unsavory groups;” and

WHEREAS disclosure of tax returns may provide the only reliable window into a President's compliance or non-compliance with the “emoluments” prohibitions of the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS the current U.S. President, both while a candidate and continuing to this day, and despite having promised on numerous occasions to do so, has failed to disclose his tax returns; and

WHEREAS Initiative 912, concerning Washington state ballot requirements for candidates for U.S. President, is currently in circulation for the purpose of gathering sufficient signatures to qualify it for a public vote; and

WHEREAS enactment of Initiative 912 would require that each potential candidate for U.S. President release to the public all pages of his or her personal and business federal income tax returns for the most recent eight years in order to appear on the ballot, or to be counted as a write-in candidate, in a presidential primary or general election in this state;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we urge our members and supporters to sign an Initiative 912 petition at the earliest opportunity, and to assist in every feasible way the campaign to qualify it for a public vote.

Adopted July 25, 2017, by the King County Democratic Central Committee.

Originated by David Schwartz, LD41, [david.activist@gmail.com](mailto:david.activist@gmail.com)  
Substantially revised by Dean Fournier; LD32, [demdean48@gmail.com](mailto:demdean48@gmail.com)  
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