

Resolution Adopting 2011 State Legislative Priorities

Whereas the Washington State Democratic Party has adopted a platform of values and goals for public policy; and,

Whereas as an organization we must focus our energy in the short term on those goals that are the most feasible, urgent and of the highest importance, now,

Therefore be it resolved that we urge the Washington State Democratic Central Committee to adopt the following State Legislative Priorities for the 2011 Washington State legislative session:

1. Revenue & Tax Reform

- Balance the budget by raising revenues and implementing savings
- Require that all tax exemptions have a 5-year sunset provision and annual performance reports
- Repeal non-performing corporate tax breaks, in a revenue request to the people, including TransAlta coal mine jobs and big banks' loophole for resale of mortgages

2. Election & Initiative Reform

- Public financing of campaigns for Washington State Supreme Court: optional public financing for campaigns, by referendum to the people
- Support full disclosure of all spending on issue ads and independent electioneering, as well as on campaign spending
- Universal voter registration: opt-out, not opt-in, legislation for motor-voter registration
- Same-day voter registration and voting.
- Initiative reform, including increasing the initiative filing fee to \$100 or more from \$5 to better cover administrative costs; requiring signature-gatherers to be Washington State residents; and creating a citizen's initiative review process like Oregon's

3. Banking, Foreclosure and Predatory Lending Reform

- Require mortgage lenders to use mediation
- Provide automatic judicial oversight for foreclosures
- Establish a public Washington Investment Trust, similar to the Bank of North Dakota, to increase credit for farmers and community development

4. Environment

- Transition to a coal-free future by closing or converting TransAlta coal-fired plant in Centralia
- Protect environmental programs from budget cuts
- Protect water quality by restricting phosphorus amounts in lawn fertilizers

5. Public Safety

- Create statewide safe medicine-return program funded by pharmaceutical manufacturers
- Keep kids safe from toxic chemicals by requiring children's products manufacturers to find and use safer alternatives for harmful chemicals.

6. Criminal Justice

- Abolish 3-strikes law or revise it to eliminate lowest level crimes
- End sentences of life without parole for juveniles
- Legalize, regulate and tax marijuana for adults

7. Housing and Human Services

- Protect poverty programs: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Apple Health for kids, Basic Health, Emergency Food Assistance, Medicaid, mental health, substance abuse treatment, Disability Lifeline, and reproductive care
- Restore Medicaid medication cuts
- Promote State Housing Trust Fund at 50% of previous level of effort (or \$100 million) as a shovel-ready jobs bill
- Pass Fair Tenant Screening Act to regulate screeners and make reports good for 60 days
- Pass Adult Family Home regulatory reform, with fees adequate to cover costs

8. Labor

- Increase capital budget to support public construction projects and to create jobs
- Protect Workers' Compensation: improve L&I regulation & transparency and recapture L&I insurance pool refunds with L&I "retro reform"
- Require prevailing wages to be paid on public/private partnerships and projects involving public money or public land

9. Education

- As an investment in our future, adequately fund education: K-12 and higher education
- Protect early education funding: for low-income preschool, maintain 2009-2011 funding level; for full-day kindergarten, support an addition of 11% of schools per year
- Adopt State Board of Education College and Career Ready Graduation Standards (Core 24--an increase in credit requirements for better preparation for life) for the class of 2017

And Therefore be it finally resolved that the WSDCC should direct its Executive Committee, standing committees, officers, and staff to develop state-wide communications and information networks connecting party activists and local party leaders to support a grassroots lobbying effort on behalf of these legislative priorities, in addition to local priorities.

Submitted for consideration by the WSD at its January 29, 2011, meeting by the King County Democratic Central Committee, upon referral by the 32nd District Democratic Organization.