

## **Resolution to Reform the Presidential Nomination Process for Washington State Democrats**

**WHEREAS** the Democratic party promotes inclusion, diversity and the full franchise for all citizens; and

**WHEREAS** the current caucus system discourages and suppresses voter participation in the selection of president; and

**WHEREAS**, precinct caucus turnout in 2016 was 15% of the estimated Democrats; and

**WHEREAS** this includes 35,000 Democrats who participated by surrogate affidavits allowed for work, disability, religious or military obligations; and

**WHEREAS** many potential participants who could not attend due other conflicts, including caring for young children or the infirm, or attending college out of state, were not eligible to vote by affidavit; and

**WHEREAS** the time and travel distance required to participate in caucuses is disproportionately difficult for the economically disadvantaged; and

**WHEREAS** the noise and confusion of the caucus process makes it difficult at best for those with certain physical or neurological disabilities, or for whom English is a second language, to participate; and

**WHEREAS** the lack of fully trained volunteers leads to vastly inconsistent application of the rules and system across precinct caucuses; and

**WHEREAS** Party volunteers spend thousands of hours in caucus preparations, and Legislative District and County Party organizations spend thousands or tens of thousands of dollars on caucuses—resources that could be better spent elsewhere; and

**WHEREAS** registration by party has not been possible in Washington State since a Grange initiative was passed in 1922;

**WHEREAS** scores of people attending this year's precinct caucuses submitted resolutions and suggestions about abolishing the precinct caucuses;

**WHEREAS** we value openness and we want to make our party accessible and ensure participation in the candidate selection process;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the King County Democrats request that the Washington State Democratic Party work with the local Party organizations to determine the optimal way to allow the Democrats of Washington State to choose presidential nominees and convention delegates, addressing the above concerns, with particular attention that the system

- Maintains party integrity
- Assures that all those who wish to participate can do so
- Is applied consistently across the state
- Does not drain resources of local party organizations

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we request that the State Party report on their proposed changes by 2018, and have a workable system in place by the 2020 presidential contests.

Submitted by Tara Gallagher, King County Democrats, based on submissions by more than 50 persons at precinct caucuses in King County