



Franklin County Democratic Central Committee

PO Box 4883, Pasco, Washington 99301

Resolutions

5 **Agriculture and Environment**

Resolution 26: Use of Energy from Non-carbon based Renewable Sources

10 WHEREAS in 2006 the voters of Washington State approved Initiative 937 requiring that 15% of electric energy purchased by utilities serving more than 25,000 customers be obtained from so-called new renewable resources by the year 2020.

WHEREAS the data from the Energy Information Administration shows national average supply in 2005 is already 15% from renewable sources and our economy is being driven by energy and our ecology is being driven toward global warming by the energy we use.

15 WHEREAS in 2007 Washington State produced about nearly 75% of its electric energy from zero-carbon emission sources, including renewable hydro-electric power.

WHEREAS carbon emissions are the single most significant contributor to global climate change and therefore the most significant threat to Washington's environment.

20 WHEREAS the current formulation of Initiative 937 does not maximize Washington State's potential to reduce carbon emissions from electricity generation.

WHEREAS Initiative 937 defines renewable such that it omits the most important zero-carbon sources of energy.

25 WHEREAS Initiative 937 distorts electric energy markets and significantly increases electric energy prices in Washington State in a manner that is economically harmful to residents and businesses, and diverts investment from electric resources that most effectively reduce carbon emissions today.

WHEREAS it is likely that Initiative 937 will be found to violate Interstate Commerce regulations by limiting consumer choice.

30 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Franklin County Democrats call upon the Washington State Legislature to enhance the impact of Initiative 937 to achieve real reductions in the Washington State's carbon emissions by defining all zero-carbon

emissions sources of electricity as renewable resources and requiring that at least 85% of electricity production in Washington State be from zero-carbon emission sources by the year 2020.

5 *Submitted by David Chassin, Franklin County Chairman, Pct 17; Dan Bauermeister, Pct 86; Andrew Webster, Pct 2; Carol Coker, Pct 45. Adopted at the Franklin County Convention April 12, 2008.*

Energy, Commerce and Labor

10 **Resolution 12: In Support of National Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

WHEREAS, the Republican national legislators, Senate and House members, opposed the Senate's proposal on comprehensive immigration reform in 1997,

15 WHEREAS, it does not reward the work of undocumented workers who are free of felonies and pay taxes and would like to have an opportunity to have steps to become citizens of the United States, and;

20 WHEREAS, it is unclear what legal protection would be extended to undocumented workers, and

WHEREAS, our Democratic National Delegation, our Senators and Congressmen and women work to have National Comprehensive Immigration Reform to secure citizenship
25 for undocumented workers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that both the House and Senate at the State and National level take up language of this resolution.

30 *Submitted by: Rosalio Armijo, Pct 7. Adopted at the Franklin County Convention April 12, 2008.*

Resolution 16: In Support of Mainstream Dams

WHEREAS, The mainstream dams are critical to the economy of Washington State;

35 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Franklin County Democrats oppose removal of any of the mainstream dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers.

Submitted by: Dan Bauermeister, Pct 86. Adopted at the Franklin County Convention April 12, 2008.

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Resolution 22: In Support of Passenger Rail Service in Eastern Washington State

WHEREAS, western Washington has frequent and successful Amtrak passenger rail service along the Cascade Corridor (primarily between Seattle and Portland, but also along the entire route from Vancouver, British Columbia to Eugene, Oregon);

- 5 WHEREAS, eastern Washington has only a single train per day (actually mostly at night) between Spokane and Seattle via Ephrata and Wenatchee and between Spokane and Portland via Pasco;

- 10 WHEREAS, even alternate regional bus and air service in eastern Washington is increasing difficult to find (Walla Walla, for example, is no longer connected to the Greyhound national network and most Horizon Air flights only go to Seattle);

WHEREAS, passenger rail is the most fuel efficient form of transportation;

- 15 WHEREAS, increased intra-state rail service will provide a convenient alternate for reducing automobile usage, the least energy efficient method of transportation;

- 20 WHEREAS, additional rail service will increase tourism within eastern Washington by providing additional transportation options in an era of steadily increasing fuel costs;

WHEREAS, Amtrak service in the Cascade Corridor, is primarily supported by state funding;

- 25 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Franklin County Democrats support reinstating passenger rail service between Spokane and Seattle via Pasco, Yakima, Ellensburg, Wenatchee and other South Central and North Central communities.

Submitted by Robert Vance, Precinct No. 27. Adopted at the Franklin County Convention April 12, 2008.

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Education

Resolution 02: Public Schools Class Size

- 35 WHEREAS, public schools are our State's top priority and

WHEREAS, education is "The Great Equalizer" in our society as for competing for jobs and improving socio-economic status and

- 40 WHEREAS, teachers are often too burdened to meet every child's needs fairly and

WHEREAS, we are living in a time with countless family issues that seem to get greater and greater as the years go by and

- 45 WHEREAS, the public schools in the State of Washington rank 46th in the United States in class size when we boast "what a great system we have" now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State of Washington fund class sizes in public schools to a maximum of 20 to 1 student-teacher ratio, **not** counting music, P.E., Specialists, administrators, and librarians.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Franklin County Democrats encourage legislation to provide funding sources to generate additional revenue for expanded facilities for local school district needs for these smaller classes to improve learning environments.

10 *Submitted by: John J. Patrick, Pct 46. Adopted at the Franklin County Convention April 12, 2008.*

Resolution 18: Loans for Education of Teachers

15 WHEREAS, our nation faces a crisis in upcoming years attracting and retaining new recruits to teach in public schools;

20 BE IT RESOLVED, the Franklin County Democrats support a plank in the platform, pledging support for candidates for a BA or MA in Education, or any other professional degrees that are appropriate, for student loans and a plank in the platform forgiving those loans for teachers who work in low-income or high-risk school districts for a specified number of years.

Submitted by: Kathleen Barton, Pct 49. Adopted at the Franklin County Convention April 12, 2008.

25 **Government and Law**

Resolution 03: In Support of Public Financing of Political Campaigns (entitled “Clean Elections Act” in some states)

30 WHEREAS, our political system at all levels is increasingly dominated by the influence of large sums of private money to finance electoral campaigns, whereby

- Large special interest donors have undue political access to lawmakers and influence over public policy; and
- 35 • The current system of privately-financed campaigns actually selects for candidates who are proficient at raising money – regardless of their commitment or ability to represent voters in their district; and
- Main Street desires of ordinary citizens are too-often trumped by Wall Street influence, the demands and quid-pro-quos of large campaign donors; and

40 WHEREAS, until campaign financing is reformed so that voters and issues matter more than money, there is unlikely to be significant progress on issues that concern many Americans, such as affordable health care for all, full funding for education, living wages, safety on the job, sustainable energy policies, respect for small business and family farms, protection of habitat and our ecosystem, and an environment we can proudly leave to our

45 children; and

5 WHEREAS, several states such as Arizona and Maine have pioneered “Clean Elections” programs (public financing of campaigns), whereby more diverse, qualified citizens can afford to run for office – and win – without personal wealth, and whereby elected lawmakers are less beholden to wealthy special interests and their lobbyists, spend less time “dialing for dollars” for election campaigns; and

10 WHEREAS, public financing of election campaigns would save taxpayers millions of wasted dollars due to biased public policy decisions, earmarking of tax dollars and corporate giveaways due in large part to the influence and quid-pro-quo demands of large campaign contributors; and

15 WHEREAS, in Washington State, support for public campaign funding is being organized by Washington Public Campaigns, a non-partisan nonprofit organization, through a public awareness campaign, grassroots organizing and lobbying of state legislators, and planning for a ballot initiative in the future, if needed; and

20 WHEREAS, the Washington Legislature is considering proposals to allow cities and local jurisdictions to provide public financing for campaigns for local office; and for the state to provide public financing for statewide and legislative campaigns similar to programs enacted in Arizona and Maine; and

25 WHEREAS, a comprehensive system of public financing of campaigns at all levels within the state to level the financial playing field for candidates who wish to represent the people’s interests;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we hereby call on public officials and lawmakers at local, state and national levels, to enact public financing of political campaigns;

30 BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy be sent to Washington Public Campaigns, the statewide organization working for public financing of political campaigns at all levels which accepts mail at P.O. Box 45088, Seattle, WA 98145-0088 and which can be contacted at: www.washclean.org, 206-784-2522 to show support from the Franklin County Democrats.

35 *Submitted by: John J. Patrick, Pct 46 and Leona Hassing, Pct. 8. Adopted previously at the Franklin County Central Committee meeting in 2007.*

Resolution 21: Promote Laws Banning Illegal Electronic Searches

40 WHEREAS it is now the policy of the United States government to perform electronic eavesdropping and collect electronic information from corporate databases and domestic telecommunications traffic such as internet browsing and electronic mail, targeting residents and businesses in Washington State without their knowledge and without a warrant, and that such actions constitute an illegal search and seizure, and provide means for the United States
45 government to infringe upon the free speech of citizens.

WHEREAS it is the policy of the United States government to subpoena the private records of individuals and corporations without a warrant and that victims of this policy are being persecuted for seeking legal assistance in defending themselves against such illegal searches and seizures.

- 5 WHEREAS it is the policy of the United States government to perform criminal acts of physical and mental abuse against persons in violation of state, federal, and international law, such acts having been performed on citizens of this and other countries,

- 10 WHEREAS having suspended the right to a writ of Habeas Corpus it is now the policy of the United States government to detain indefinitely citizens of this and other countries without a warrant or due process of law.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Franklin County Democrats call upon the Washington State Legislature to enact all such laws and statutes as are necessary to protect the residents and businesses of Washington State from all unlawful searches, seizures and invasions of privacy by agents of any government, foreign or domestic.

- 15 *Submitted by David Chassin, Franklin County Chairman, Pct 17. Adopted at the Franklin County Convention April 12, 2008.*

Human and Health Services

20 **Resolution 25: In Support of Family Planning Funding**

WHEREAS, Family planning helps improve the health and well being of women, men and children, and

- 25 WHEREAS, citizens of the State of Washington are suffering because of a family planning funding crisis, and;

- 30 WHEREAS, recent federal policy changes to Washington's Medicaid family planning waiver program, Take Charge, have restricted access to services causing a 30% drop in statewide enrollment, and;

- 35 WHEREAS, the family planning services that many Franklin County residents no longer qualify for include: pregnancy testing, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, birth control, annual exams for women and cancer screening, and;

- WHEREAS, Franklin County has the third highest teenage pregnancy rate in Washington State, and;

- 40 WHEREAS, Franklin County has the second highest Chlamydia rate in Washington State, and;

WHEREAS, Family planning is cost-effective, and every public dollar spent on family planning services saves \$3.80 in Medicaid costs for pregnancy-related health care and for medical care of newborns;

5 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that

- Family planning is basic health care for men and women,
- Family planning funding is essential to create healthy communities in Franklin County and statewide.

10 THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Franklin County Democrats will forward this resolution to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee and ask for their support by contacting members in the legislature to let them know that Family Planning is basic health care and a crucial part of the health care safety net, and urge them to support and fund family planning services as a priority in Washington State.

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Submitted by: Brian Griffith, Pct 43; Leona Hassing, Pct 8. Adopted at the Franklin County Convention April 12, 2008.

Resolution 27- To Support an Improved Budget Reform Process for Veteran Affairs

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WHEREAS, military veterans are the true and honored patriots of the freedoms that all American enjoy and deserving of the very best medical and other benefits available for themselves, their families and survivors,

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WHEREAS, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is a Presidential Cabinet appointee without the budget development authority as other members of the President's Cabinet and thus unable to advocate for budgetary consideration in a comparative fashion,

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WHEREAS, the estimated budget shortfall for Veterans in 2009 is 3 billion dollars – a difference between what the President has recommended for the VA and what is actually needed,

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WHEREAS the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan increase the demand for mental health care, rehabilitation and nursing home care for veterans,

WHEREAS, it is reported that there are currently 870,000 veterans are awaiting decisions from the VA, a process that may take many months or even years

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WHEREAS, the President's budget ranks the VA facilities most in need of construction funds within his budget – including projects in Seattle, Walla Walla. However, he fails to fund either thus limiting quality services to veterans in the rural areas of southeastern Washington including Franklin County,

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Franklin County Democrats support Budget Reform that would assure that the Office of Veterans Affairs receive advance and adequate

appropriations, approved one year in advance, and thereby guaranteeing adequate funding for benefits and programs that is timely and predictable.

Submitted by Dallas Barnes Pct. 11. Adopted at the Franklin County Convention April 12, 2008.

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International Affairs

Resolution 04: For Ending the War

10 WHEREAS, the United States' involvement in the war in Iraq has been a disaster for this country, Iraq and our reputation in the world,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Democrats support an end to the war in Iraq, with a reasonable timetable for withdrawal.

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Submitted by: Carol Coker, Pct 45. Adopted at the Franklin County Convention April 12, 2008.

Non-procedural Motion Form

All non-procedural motions must be submitted in legible writing and include at least five (5) delegates signatures to come before the Convention. All such motions must be seconded from the floor.

We, the undersigned, move _____

Submitted by (5 signatures required)

1. _____

Delegate name	Signature	Delegate no.
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2. _____

Delegate name	Signature	Delegate no.
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3. _____

Delegate name	Signature	Delegate no.
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4. _____

Delegate name	Signature	Delegate no.
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5. _____

Delegate name	Signature	Delegate no.
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