

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR DELEGATE SELECTION BY PRIMARY AS WELL AS CAUCUS

WHEREAS: The Democratic Party has consistently advocated maximum participation in general elections by voters.

WHEREAS: It is inconsistent with that principle for the "big tent party of the people" to rely exclusively on caucuses to select presidential candidates.

WHEREAS: Some states have committed delegates to national party conventions to vote for presidential candidates based on percentage of votes in primary elections for the better part of a century, without injury to the parties.

WHEREAS: There are many historical examples of the caucus process facilitating distortion of party principles by small groups of dedicated extremists to the detriment of the party in the general election.

WHEREAS: The present process is antidemocratic and insensitive to the desires of most of the state's voters.

WHEREAS: The Washington State Republican Party apportions about 51% of delegates to presidential candidates based on the primary election.

WHEREAS: The Republicans have embarrassed our party by claiming Republicans promote participation and we discourage it.

WHEREAS: Conducting a primary election is a significant expense to taxpayers and regarded as wasteful by many because it has no practical effect.

THEREFORE: It is in the best interests of the Washington State Democratic Party to allocate delegates to the national convention based on a proportion of the votes cast in the presidential primary election.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Washington State Democratic Central Committee and the Chairman of the Washington State Democratic Party be required to commit at least 51% of our state's district-selected and at-large delegates to the 2012 Democratic National Convention in proportion to the votes cast in the primary election for each candidate who receives at least 10% of the votes cast, and that those delegates be required to remain committed to that candidate for at least two presidential-convention ballots.

Adopted _____ by _____