

Resolution Providing for Election Integrity

WHEREAS free and fair elections in which every vote is counted according to the voter's intent are a vital component of representative democracy; and

WHEREAS performance auditing of records and complex equipment is standard practice for both business and research enterprises, but not for elections departments; and

WHEREAS there is currently no national standard for mandatory auditing of vote tabulation equipment; and

WHEREAS private ownership of voter registration data and election results is inconsistent with representative democracy; and

WHEREAS Washington's 2004 gubernatorial votes were not recounted in Snohomish County because the data was proprietary (and there was no independent voter-verifiable record of ballots cast), even though there were many documented complaints from voters who had attempted to vote for Gregoire but had their votes switched to Rossi; and

WHEREAS complaints about machine malfunctions tabulated in 2004 showed that 98% were complaints about attempting to vote for Kerry and having the vote switched to Bush; and

WHEREAS Minnesota, in 2006, successfully implemented a mandatory auditing system for its optically scanned paper ballots; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the use of proprietary software be eliminated and replaced by open-source software developed by a public consortium; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a mandatory system similar to that currently in use by Minnesota for auditing optical scanning machines by random hand counts be required nationally; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that direct electronic recording of votes be banned nationally and that paper ballots be the legal ballots of record; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that current systems for duplication of paper ballots in the event of rejection by centralized optical scanning machines be retained, rather than be replaced by electronic images which, when altered, eliminate the original data.

Adopted _____ by _____