**Resolution in support of a strong $15/hour law in Seattle**

*Sponsored by 36th Member Demian Godon*

**Whereas** the 36th District Democrats’ platform states that “We support a minimum wage at living wage levels.” and

**Whereas** a living wage for even a single adult is estimated to be above $15/hour and

**Whereas** the average cost of a one-bedroom apartment shot up [55%](http://www.rentjungle.com/average-rent-in-seattle-rent-trends/) in the past 4 years within a 10 mile radius of Seattle, a period when inflation – and the state minimum wage, rose just 7.5% and

**Whereas** most job growth is in low wage positions (9 out top 10 fastest growing occupations and 58% of new jobs since the recession) and

**Whereas** women and minorities are disproportionately impacted by the falling value of the minimum wage leading to growing inequality and

**Whereas** the minimum wage would be $22/hour or higher if it had kept pace with worker productivity and

**Whereas** workers in minimum wage jobs are more educated than ever (those with a HS diploma rose from 48 to 79% and those with some college rose from 17 to 46%) and

**Whereas** the latest, most thorough studies have shown the raising the minimum wage has had no significant impact on jobs and

**Whereas** Washington has raised its minimum wage significantly on several occasions (including a jump of 87% from 1988 to 1990 for tipped workers) with no evidence of impact on jobs

**Let it therefore be it resolved** that the 36th District Democrats endorses a strong $15/hour minimum wage that includes a phase-in of no longer than 3 years and no phase-in for large businesses and

**Let it further be resolved** that no tip or benefits credits should be allowed to count towards a $15/hour minimum wage as this would effectively lower earnings, penalizing workers

References:

<http://www.epi.org/publication/wage-workers-older-88-percent-workers-benefit/>

<http://www.eoionline.org/blog/reconciling-anecdote-and-data-in-the-minimum-wage-debate/>

<http://www.eoionline.org/blog/a-pragmatic-approach-to-a-fair-minimum-wage/>

<http://www.epi.org/publication/wage-workers-education-1968/>

<http://slog.thestranger.com/slog/archives/2014/02/24/washington-restaurants-already-weathered-an-85-percent-minimum-wage-hike-and-apparently-survived>

[http://www.15now.org/faq/](http://slog.thestranger.com/slog/archives/2014/02/24/washington-restaurants-already-weathered-an-85-percent-minimum-wage-hike-and-apparently-survived)