**A Resolution supporting signature gathering to place Initiative 122 (Honest Elections Seattle) on the ballot for Seattle voters on November 3, 2015**

Whereas, the influence of money on elections undermines our democracy, and

Whereas, the “revolving door” used by elected officials and other highly placed government employees to obtain lucrative positions lobbying their former colleagues undermines our democracy, and

Whereas, contributions to candidates by people or companies who do business with the City of Seattle creates a conflict of interest with the recipients of such contributions, and

Whereas, contributions to candidates by people or companies who are paid to lobby the City of Seattle creates a conflict of interest with the recipients of such contributions, and

Whereas, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Citizens United* and other decisions has made it vitally important to remove the influence of money on elections at all levels of government, and

Whereas, the State of Washington allows the voters of the City of Seattle to adopt a system of optional public financing of elections, and

Whereas, a coalition of progressive groups and individuals has drafted and filed with the City Clerk Initiative 122 (“Honest Elections Seattle Initiative”) that:

1. **Closes the revolving door** on elected City officials, and the top employee of each department, for three (3) years (no paid lobbying allowed);

2. **Prohibits contributions** to candidates by those who made more than $250,000 from City contracts in the past two (2) years;

3. **Prohibits contributions** to candidates by those who spent more than $5,000 lobbying the City in the past one (1) year;

4. **Requires disclosure** by city initiative signature gatherers that they are paid;

5. **Contribution disclosure requirements** are increased;

6. **Financial statement requirements** for candidates and elected officials are improved, and

7. Creates and funds an innovative **Democracy Voucher Program** to empower all Seattle voters (and other eligible residents) to participate in the funding of elections for City Council, Mayor, and City Attorney.

Whereas, approximately 30,000 signatures are required in the next two months to place Inititiative 122 on the November 3, 2015 general election ballot.

Therefore, be it resolved by the 36th Legislative District Democrats that we go on record in support of the signature gathering effort for the Honest Elections Seattle Initiative (I-122), and the body encourages its members to sign and to obtain the signatures of others.

Honest Elections Seattle site: http://honestelectionsseattle.org