**A Resolution Supporting the Passage of the Washington Voting Rights Act**

Whereas, all voters and communities deserve the opportunity to be represented by candidates

of their choice; and,

Whereas, many communities across the state of Washington have been unable to elect

individuals due to being outnumbered in at-large voting systems; and,

Whereas, people of color have historically faced significant barriers to voting in the United States

and proactive steps continue to be necessary to address underrepresentation in elected bodies

at all levels; and,

Whereas, nearly all local elections in Washington use at-large voting systems and where

polarized voting exists, an at-large system may prevent some voters from a having a meaningful

voice in local elections; and,

Whereas, lawsuits addressing polarized voting have been successful in challenging exclusionary

practices, but are expensive and time consuming; and,

Whereas, local governments have the responsibility to remedy the widespread problem of voter

exclusion in local elections; and,

Whereas, the Washington State Voting Rights Act is modeled after the California Voting Rights

Act, which was successful in improving fairness in elections in localities throughout that state;

and,

Whereas, the Washington State Voting Rights Act provides an opportunity to address the issue of polarized voting in a way that avoids the need for lawsuits, and provides a uniform standard

across the state, while still providing localities with the flexibility to find a solutions that fits their

specific needs.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the 36th District Democrats call upon the State Legislature to

address the problem of voter exclusion by passing the Washington Voting Rights Act.

Be it further resolved, that the 36th District Democrats call upon our legislators to actively

support the Washington Voting Rights Act in the next legislative session and actively work to

ensure its passage.

Be it also resolved, that the membership directs that a copy of this Resolution be provided to each member of our delegation in Olympia in support of passage of the Washington Voting Rights Act, to the Chairs of the other Legislative District Organizations for consideration by their membership, and to the King County Democratic Central Committee and the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for passage of a similar resolution.