

Promotion of Fair Representation by Unpledged
Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates (“Superdelegates”)

This Resolution relates to the status and authority of Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates (“Superdelegates”) and is offered for consideration at the Washington State Democratic Central Committee Meeting on September 16th, 2017.

Resolution

This resolution is to help ensure that Democratic Party Rules, both National and State, creating and granting voting powers to certain Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official Delegates (commonly called “superdelegates”) fairly represent the desires of the voters as expressed in votes cast in a presidential primary or caucus.

WHEREAS, a rule “reinterpretation” less than two weeks before the Washington State LD caucuses was passed down to each LD requiring the Caucus Jurisdictional Coordinators to allow alternates to be seated outside their precinct in order “to reduce the likelihood that our final National Delegation will differ significantly - in either direction - from the 73%-27% split that came out of the precinct caucuses. By doing it in this way, we are effectively reinforcing the will of the voters of Washington state.”

WHEREAS, in the 2016 primary, the precinct caucuses delegation went to Senator Bernie Sanders at 73%, but due to the unpledged delegates voting for a different candidate, the end percentage for Senator Bernie Sanders was less than 61%, diminishing the will of the voters of Washington State by over 10%.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that beginning with the 2020 presidential election cycle, the Washington State Democratic Party and National Democratic Party should amend their rules and delegate selection plans to require that superdelegates be bound on a first ballot to cast their votes in the same proportion as the popular vote in their home state primary election or nominating caucus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that beginning with the 2020 presidential election cycle, should the National Democratic Party fail to amend its rules and delegate selection plan to allow states to bind superdelegates on a first ballot then the Washington State Democratic Party shall amend its rules to require superdelegates to declare their presidential candidate preference to the State Party Chair prior to the opening of the state convention. The Chair will take those preferences into account in allocating at-large pledged national convention delegates among presidential candidates so as to assure that the complete state delegation matches the result of the primary election to the greatest degree possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules should require that superdelegates be released from their first ballot obligation if the presidential nomination is already decided, by number of

delegates pledged to a candidate as the result of primary elections and caucuses or by concession of competing candidates, by the time of the national convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Party's representatives to the Democratic National Committee are urged to propose and support changes in the delegate selection process to require that superdelegates in each state vote in the same relative proportion as the popular vote in the presidential primary or caucuses of the state they represent at least on a first ballot at the Democratic National Convention.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 36th District Democrats call for this resolution to be passed by the Washington State Democratic Central Committee and referred to the DNC and Unity Commission for passing nationally.