

2006 Proposed Platform for the 34th District Democrats
King County, Washington
Version 3 – April 15, 2006

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Note:

This is the final draft version for comment by members and PCO's. Make comments to Bill Schrier bill@schrier.org or Ann Martin martinhtam@earthlink.net.

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Preamble and Summary 2006 Platform of the 34th District Democrats

We have a dream, a dream of a society in which each of us is judged by the content of our character, and in which each of us lives in a community that is characterized by opportunity, personal responsibility, compassion, appreciation of diversity, safety and freedom. We work together to make this dream a reality because we believe that we are all responsible for the ethical, economic, and environmental legacy we leave for our children. We believe participating in self-government is our duty as citizens, and that our democratic traditions and institutions are positive forces that promote the common good and protect individual rights. Democrats take pride in the American tradition of self-government, and take responsibility for promoting citizen involvement and government accountability and openness. We believe our democratic traditions and institutions can continue to shape a free and prosperous society, if we act to preserve and, where necessary, reform them. Like President Lincoln, we believe government exists to accomplish for us collectively those things we cannot accomplish individually.

The ten major planks of our platform may be summarized as follows:

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1. Economy and Labor

Democrats believe economic justice for America's working families is the foundation upon which healthy families, healthy communities, and a free and prosperous nation rest.

2. Education and Children

Democrats believe education is the most important function of government.

3. Civil Rights and Criminal Justice

Democrats reaffirm their commitment to civil, equal, and human rights.

4. Health and Human Services

Democrats believe in universal basic health care regardless of age, employment status or prior condition.

5. Energy and Environment

All Americans have a right to clean air and water, uncontaminated food, and a healthy natural environment.

6. Transportation

Affordable, minimally-polluting transportation options are key to the economy and viability of the Puget Sound region.

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7. Privacy and Individual Freedom

Democrats believe citizens, not government, are the proper custodians of our moral and spiritual beliefs and personal choices.

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8. Foreign Policy and Defense

Democrats pursue multilateral foreign policies that genuinely represent the values of the American people.

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9. Tax Policy

Democrats favor a progressive tax system at both state and federal level.

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10. Government and Elections

Democrats work for waste-free, efficient, and responsive government with elections that are inclusive, accessible and open.

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Detail

2006 Platform of the 34th District Democrats

1. Economy and Labor

Democrats believe economic justice for America's working families is the foundation upon which healthy families, healthy communities, and a free and prosperous nation rest. We deplore and will work to reverse the growing gap between rich and poor, and the downward trend in American wages. We recognize financial insecurity tears families apart and that the American dream is in danger when health insurance, home ownership, and even retirement are beyond the means of millions of hard-working Americans. We support economic policies and business practices that promote the creation of family-wage jobs, the rights of employees to organize and to bargain collectively, and the creation of sustainable economic growth that does not damage our environment. Democrats will protect workers from any form of slave labor. Democrats believe that immigrants should be informed of their rights so they can be protected from exploitation.

Economy

Our first economic priority must be to eliminate the deficit and pay down the national debt.

- We support an environmentally sustainable economy. To this end, we propose an end to subsidies for fossil fuel and nuclear power development, a transition to safe renewable sources of energy, an increase in vehicle gas mileage standards, stringent energy codes for construction, and stronger energy efficiency standards for appliances.

Labor

A strong labor force, using the talents and skills of all people, is fundamental to the United States' ability to compete in the world economy. The only way to ensure the long-term success of our nation is to focus on, protect, invest in, and have loyalty to our workforce.

- We believe the sections of the Taft-Hartley Act that permit "right to work" laws and prohibit secondary boycotting should be repealed.
- We support a worker's bill of rights that includes basic rights of association and free speech, due process, disclosure of toxic substances in the workplace, and democracy within unions.
- We support equal pay for equal work, equal pay for work of comparable worth, and affirmative action hiring programs.
- We support flexible work programs that result in employment and benefits extending to more people. Workers should have a right to overtime pay for overtime work and the right to refuse overtime work.
- We support programs putting unemployed or displaced people to work on publicly needed projects such as housing construction, infrastructure repair, and environmental clean-up.
- We support setting the minimum wage at least five percent above the official poverty level and indexing it to inflation. All employers should be required to pay a minimum wage that is a locally indexed living wage, sufficient to purchase the basic needs of life at the local market rate.
- We support adequate, advance notice of plant closures given by employers to employees and the community, severance pay and retraining, employee buy-out negotiations conducted in good faith, and protection of pensions.

- We support cost of living adjustments to pension benefits.

What this means for the 34th Legislative District:

- A healthy economy, both national and local, and an empowered workforce earning wages and benefits which are adequate to support a family, benefits the 34th District as well as the State and the nation.

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Summary of Economy and Labor Resolutions:

7. Corporate Personhood: Calls upon Congress to re-define corporations as “not persons” and therefore not subject to the Bill of Rights or 14th Amendment.

13. Energy – raise CAFÉ standards: supports raising corporate average fuel economy standards (CAFÉ)

14. Energy – Initiative 937: supports Initiative 937 directing electric utilities to obtain 15% of their energy from clean, renewable, resources by 2020.

38. Wages: calls upon the State Legislature to enact a \$7.25 per hour minimum wage and for the Congressional Delegation to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2005.

40. World Trade Organization: (Extra-Sovereign Non-Governmental Agencies Act) - directs the Legislature to withdraw Washington from WTO activities and calls upon the Congressional Delegation to support repeal of WTO treaties and agreements.

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2. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN

Democrats believe education is the most important function of government. Universal access to excellent schools is the surest path to equality, opportunity, prosperity, and the continuing preservation of our democratic heritage. All Americans should have those skills needed to access and evaluate information in order to be an active and responsible participant in the positive growth of the community. We believe all Americans – children, young people, and adults – should have access to high-quality education and job preparation programs; our educational institutions should accommodate all learners; and our schools and student should be held accountable for meeting rigorous academic standards and for abiding by the doctrine of separation of church and state. Programs that affect readiness to learn are critical components to the quality of education. This includes quality of life issues affecting the child’s readiness to learn, especially those programs addressing children’s health and poverty. Government must ensure all persons have equal access to an educational system offering this learning environment.

Education

Quality public education should be available to allow each person to develop to his or her full potential as a contribution member of a democratic society.

- We believe parents/guardians are an essential partner in education and should be encouraged to participate in school activities and decision-making.
- We support full state funding for a comprehensive education program from early childhood

through 12th grade. Funding should ensure the same quality program for poor districts as rich districts.

- We believe the state should provide a well-funded system of quality higher education both for academic and vocational purposes.
- We support adequate funding for the special needs of particular school districts.
- We support literacy programs for all functionally illiterate adults.
- We support teacher salaries commensurate with those of other comparable professionals. Teachers should be well prepared and well paid; the educational environment should be conducive to learning for all students; and quality integrated education should be available to all.
- We support an education system that includes open enrollment at community colleges.
- We specifically support continuation of education in the arts in public schools.

Children

Policies at all levels should place a higher priority on children.

- We support programs to ensure health care, safe and affordable housing, education and a safe environment for all children and young people.
- We support efforts to provide pre-natal, medical care, and nutrition programs to those who need them.
- We support children and family service to prevent family separation and alienation by providing counseling and intervention services that promote family stability and health. Prevention of child, domestic, and sexual abuse should be a high priority.
- We support funding for programs to reduce dropout rates by helping children with learning problems at elementary and middle school levels.
- We support funding of foster care, transitional housing, and other programs to meet the special needs of children. We support programs that address the problems of teenagers who need special help in education, employment, parenting, and treatment for drug and alcohol abuse.
- We support parenting education in school curriculum and for adults.

What this means for the 34th Legislative District:

- Washington State consistently underinvests in both our K-12 and our college and university system, when compared with other states. Enactment of educational improvements as envisioned by this platform is vitally necessary.

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Summary of Education and Children Resolutions

- 5. Children: Support the UN and the Declaration of the Rights of a Child.
- 33. Schools, support of public schools: opposes Initiative 920 and calls for enactment of an estate tax (SB6096) to increase funding for public schools.
- 34. Schools: Support schools and the Individuals with Disabilities (IDEA) act.

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3. CIVIL RIGHTS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Democrats reaffirm their commitment to civil, equal, and human rights. We oppose discrimination of all kinds, and believe those who suffer the burden of discrimination must be afforded the legal means and economic opportunities to overcome such injustices. We support affirmative action and other legal civil rights remedies for those Americans who have suffered discrimination. We oppose laws that discriminate based on race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, physical or mental challenges, marital status, immigration status or political affiliation.

Civil Rights

Federal, state and local governments should enforce laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, gender, religion, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or political ideology in all areas of education, employment, housing, public accommodation, licensing, insurance, immigration and voting.

- We reaffirm support for the Bill of Rights.
- We affirm that food, shelter, medical care, education and jobs are basic human rights.
- We support the Freedom of Information Act.
- We support the right to freedom of association and oppose spying on American citizens to collect information about religious, political or other personal activities.
- We oppose use of AIDS, drug, or polygraph testing as a condition of employment or continued employment.
- We support the separation of church and state. We oppose mandatory prayer in publicly-funded schools. The power of the state should not be used to impose or sanction religious beliefs or practices.
- We reaffirm our support for equal rights. We support legislation to protect the rights of lesbians and gays. We support efforts to extend the rights of marriage to nontraditional, domestic partnerships. We reaffirm support for the Equal Rights Amendment.
- We oppose any attempt to unilaterally abrogate Native American treaty rights.

Criminal Justice

The goals of the criminal justice system should be to protect the public, maintain the civil rights of the accused and convicted, and to provide justice for crime victims.

- We support repeal of the death penalty.
- We support the legal right to plead innocent by reason of insanity.
- We support the right of mentally ill and addicted offenders to receive treatment in an appropriate treatment facility during incarceration.
- We support de-emphasizing criminal prosecution of personal drug use.

What this means for the 34th Legislative District:

- The 2006 Legislative Session passed the landmark Anderson-Murray Equal Rights Act. Tim Eyman and others are attempting to overturn this legislation. Our support is required to defeat such attempts and continue improvements in both civil rights and criminal justice.

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Summary of Civil Rights and Criminal Justice Resolutions

- 8. Death penalty moratorium: calls for State and federal moratorium on executions until processes, procedures and laws can be reviewed and revised.
- 15. Equal Rights: Oppose efforts to repeal the Anderson-Murray act.
- 16. Equal rights, opposing anti-equal rights initiative: opposes this initiative which is sponsored by Tim Eyman for the 2006 general election ballot.
- 17. Equal rights: oppose the initiative and support [washingtonwoulddiscriminate.org](http://www.washingtonwoulddiscriminate.org).
- 19. Felon rights: Supports action in the state legislature to restore the voting rights of felons when release from imprisonment (passed by the 34th District Democrats on February 8, 2006)

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4. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Democrats believe in universal basic health care regardless of age, employment status or prior condition. We support adoption of a comprehensive health care system, including, prenatal care and through the last years of life, disease prevention, mental healthcare, treatment and care for catastrophic illness, long-term care, alternative forms of health care, and reproductive choice. We support a national health care system that provides high quality medical care to all members of our society, emphasizing preventive medicine. We support funding of such a health care system for Washington State citizens until a national and international health care plan is funded.

Health and Human Services

A healthy society is one that meets the basic human needs of individuals. Among those needs are health care, food, shelter, and clothing.

- We support a national health care system that provides quality medical, alternative, and holistic health care services as provided by licensed or certified practitioners to all members of our society. The system should emphasize good nutrition, preventative medicine, environmental safeguards, and mental health care. Until a national health care plan has been funded, we support funding such a health care system for the citizens of this state.
- We believe a high priority should be placed on funding of research into the prevention and cure of AIDS. We support frank and open discussion of AIDS and educational programs encompassing all ages and groups. We believe all levels of government and the private sector should ensure the availability of appropriate medical care and housing for those suffering from the disease.
- We support protection of the right of every person to make decisions about his or her body in any medical procedure. We support adoption of state laws that protect the rights of individuals to reject medical treatment or procedures they believe to be intrusive.
- We affirm a woman's constitutional right to privacy in making reproductive choices. We support state funding for low income women to choose safe, legal, and accessible medical procedures. We oppose the suppression of information about any available medical procedures.
- We support efforts to fund programs for early diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, basic research into the causes and cures of mental illness, and appropriate services for

housing and care of mentally ill persons who are in acute, recovering, or transitional stages of their disease.

- We support properly funded, humane community and institutional services for groups with special needs, including the physically, mentally, and developmentally disabled.
- We believe the government and private sectors should address the needs of homeless individuals, families, and children by funding housing, health care, and opportunities for employment and education.
- We support a welfare system that respects the dignity and provides for the basic needs of the individuals it serves. We support government and private programs that help individuals who require education or retraining to obtain gainful employment and leave welfare rolls.
- We support government and private sector programs providing family leave for any employee, with retention of job rights, and providing child care as an employee benefit.
- We support efforts to institute a needs assessment beginning with establishment of neighborhood service centers.
- We believe investment in early childhood care will reduce life-long costs to our society and support programs to provide quality care for children.
- We support laws outlawing tobacco smoking in public places

What this means for the 34th Legislative District:

- Universally available healthcare is of vital importance to the people of the 34th and to the economic competitiveness of the United States, since U.S. companies must pay health insurance costs, but competitor companies in other countries benefit from national healthcare systems.
- The cost of housing is skyrocketing in Seattle and King County. Affordable housing is important to the people and the economy of the 34th.

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Summary of Health and Human Services Resolutions

- 5. Children: Support the UN and the Declaration of the Rights of a Child.
- 20. Health Care, Fair Share: calls upon the State Legislature to pass legislation requiring large companies (e.g. Wal-Mart) to provide health care insurance for employees.
- 21. Health Care, Universal Public Funding: instructs our Congressional delegation to support bills HR 1200 and HR 676 to enact a universally publicly funded national health care program.
- 22. Housing: calls for Washington State to mobilize its resources to provide affordable housing for all.
- 35. Social Security Wage Cap elimination: supports elimination of the \$90,000 wage cap in order to more fully fund social security
- 36. Veterans: Support veterans benefits and candidates who are veterans.
- 39. White Center Food Bank: supports this food bank and calls for State funding support (passed the Executive Board on March 15, 2006).

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5. ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

All Americans – those alive today and the generations that will follow – have a right to clean air and water, uncontaminated food, and the shared heritage of a healthy natural environment. We believe that all levels of government must act to ensure the preservation of our ecosystems, and that we must not allow personal or corporate gain to take precedence over the importance of the health of the natural legacy that belongs to our descendants. We believe that good citizenship includes making informed, responsible decisions about the resources we consume and the environmental impact of our lifestyles.

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Energy and the Environment

Everyone has a right to a healthful living and working environment. Collectively and as individuals, we have a responsibility to protect the earth and the living things that inhabit it, not only for the long-term benefits of all people, but because we face the destruction of our planet if we do not curtail pollution and the degradation we are now causing.

- We support the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change and the reduction of greenhouse gasses. We call upon the United States Senate and President Bush to ratify and abide by this treaty. We applaud the efforts of Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels to garner support for the Protocol and to modify the practices of government and business in Seattle to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- We support state funding for land use and transportation management at the local level to preserve environmental diversity such as fish and wildlife habitats, wild and scenic areas, wetlands, and natural resource lands for sustainable uses such as forestry and agriculture.
- We oppose attempts to undermine legislation and administrative protection of our environment for whatever reasons, but especially for the short-term financial benefits of individuals, corporations, and governments.
- We support research into development of, and use of, the best available technologies to manage sewage, solid wastes, toxic and hazardous materials and wastes, and other air, water, and land polluting substances.
- We believe industries responsible for creating pollution in the past or now should pay for its clean-up.
- We strongly support the efforts of the state of Washington to force clean up and restoration of the land, facilities, and environment at Hanford by the U. S. Energy Department. We support full disclosure of and reparations for human and environmental degradation caused by past or current practices at the Hanford Reservation.
- We believe energy conservation should be a top priority in all energy planning. We support funding, development, and use of alternative and renewable energy sources. Emphasis on recycling and reuse of materials will reduce demand for energy, resources and landfill space. Government should promote and employ the use of products made of recycled materials.
- We support efforts that will decrease reliance on old-growth timber and increase reliance on recycled wood products.
- We support policies that require products and activities to bear their full environmental costs from manufacturing through disposal.
- We urge U. S. involvement in world environmental efforts, such as those aimed at controlling and correcting global warming and ozone depletion and efforts to control

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population growth.

- We support local, regional, national, and international programs to deal with water quality and quantity issues. Surface and ground waters must be protected; we must plan for conservation and sharing of water supplies.
- We support legislation that requires double hulls on all oil tankers. We support funding and power for the Coast Guard to monitor and respond to oil spills throughout U. S. navigable waters. We support company funding of teams and equipment needed to contain and clean up environmental hazards they have created.
- We support continued programs to control auto emissions and expand these programs statewide. We support state legislation requiring sale/availability of zero emission automobiles. We also support increased funding and expanded governmental efforts to prevent and control air pollution caused by wood burning.
- We support a regional transportation system that provides safe and convenient alternatives to the automobile.
- We support programs that retrain people displaced from their jobs because of the need to protect resources and the environment.

What this means for the 34th Legislative District:

- Global climate change and specifically global warming caused by greenhouse gas emissions directly will affect the 34th because large portions of our district are surround by Puget Sound. As the sea level rises, the health, welfare and economy of our District are directly affected.
- The continued dependence of our economy on fossil fuels siphons both personal income and tax money from the many other programs – noted elsewhere in this platform – which need funding.

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Summary of Energy and the Environment Resolutions

6. Climate Change: calls for the Congressional delegation and State Legislature to support legislation to end fossil fuel subsidies, promote energy conservation and renewable energy sources, including HR 507.

13. Energy – raise CAFÉ standards: supports raising corporate average fuel economy standards (CAFÉ)

14. Energy – Initiative 937: supports Initiative 937 directing electric utilities to obtain 15% of their energy from clean, renewable, resources by 2020.

18. Federal lands: oppose sale of federal lands by BLM and Forest Service.

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6. TRANSPORTATION.

Transportation is vitally necessary for the movement of people, goods and services, and for a healthy economy. Efficient, clean transportation allows workers to get to their places of work, students to get to education, and people to play and enjoy our natural environment.

Transportation enables many of the other planks in this platform, such as economy, labor and education. But transportation must be balanced against a the other concerns expressed here, including energy and the environment.

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Transportation

- We believe in a strong regional public transportation system, and we call upon elected officials to fund and expand public bus service and regional transit options such as light rail.
- We acknowledge the importance of the Washington State Ferry system to the 34th District and Puget Sound economy. We call for improvement of Ferry schedules and improving the availability of passenger-only ferry options.
- We acknowledge the importance of the Alaskan Way Viaduct to the economy of the 34th District, the City of Seattle, the Puget Sound region and the national economy. We know the Viaduct is extremely vulnerable to earthquakes.

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What this means for the 34th Legislative District:

- Both the Washington State Ferry system and the Alaskan Way viaduct directly affect the health and economy of those living in the 34th District. Intelligent solutions to these issues will shape the 34th District for a hundred years to come.

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Summary of Transportation Resolutions

- We call upon elected officials to fully fund replacement of the Alaskan Way seawall and viaduct with a (surface street / above-ground viaduct / tunnel).

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6. Climate Change: calls for the Congressional delegation and State Legislature to support legislation to end fossil fuel subsidies, promote energy conservation and renewable energy sources, including HR 507.

13. Energy – raise CAFÉ standards: supports raising corporate average fuel economy standards (CAFÉ)

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7. PRIVACY AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

Democrats believe citizens – not government – are the proper custodians of our moral and spiritual beliefs and personal choices. Every citizen bears personal responsibility for helping to create strong communities that promote individual responsibility and mutual respect, and teach our children the American traditions of pluralism, civic participation and civility. We recognize America’s democratic tradition rests on respect for regional, cultural and religious diversity. We work to create harmony from diversity rather than to silence any voice. We celebrate loving families in many forms and respect all Americans’ right to privacy in personal matters. All women – not government – have the responsibility and right to sovereignty over their bodies and reproductive lives.

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- We support a woman’s constitutional right to have an abortion as interpreted in the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision and oppose any amendment, statute or method to limit this right.
- We support vigilant and vigorous separation of church and state.
- We support vigorous action to end terrorism against the United States and throughout the world. But this action cannot result in a loss of privacy and individual freedom. We adamantly oppose the federal Patriot Acts and call for their repeal, and we

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adamantly oppose the wiretapping of domestic personal communications without a warrant. We call upon the federal government to end such wiretaps.

What this means for the 34th Legislative District:

- The federal laws and actions on privacy and freedom directly affect everyone living in the 34th District.

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Summary of Privacy and Individual Freedom Resolutions

10. Domestic Surveillance: condemns domestic spying, calls for Congressional support of Senate Resolution 350.

11. Domestic Surveillance, wiretapping: opposes any modifications to current wiretapping laws.

23. Impeachment of President Bush. calls for impeachment based upon his illegal domestic actions (wiretapping, domestic surveillance) and the war in Iraq...

28. Patriot Act: directs the State Legislature to enact measures to combat terrorism without the loss of civil rights, urges the Congressional delegation to work to repeal federal Patriot Act provisions, and directs that no State resources be used for collecting information which violates Constitutional provisions for privacy and civil liberties.

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8. FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE

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Democrats pursue multilateral foreign policies that genuinely represent the values of the American people. Those values include respect for the rights of indigenous peoples, workers, and women, responsible stewardship of natural resources, and expectation of reasonable regulation of trans-national corporations, and a steadfast desire for peace and justice. We support America's paid participation in the United Nations and other organizations that promote international law, human rights, democracy, health and safety, peaceful commerce, cultural understanding, and preservation of our planet's ecosystems. We support universal free public education and family planning efforts that allow all people to make informed choices about family size and global population growth.

Foreign Policy and Defense

United States foreign policy should promote peace by seeking to eliminate nuclear weapons, protecting human rights, and respecting the right of all peoples to choose their own governments free of external interference.

- We support efforts to eliminate nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and to reduce conventional weapons.
- We support international efforts that include the United States assisting countries in Eastern Europe, Central and South America, Africa and elsewhere to promote representative democratic and stable governments responsive to their peoples' needs.
- We support foreign aid commensurate with a nation's protection of human rights.
- We support a comprehensive negotiated settlement to the Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts based on Israel's right to exist within secure and internationally recognized borders and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and a

homeland.

- We support suspension of China’s Most Favored Nation trading status until repression of internal democratic political activity ceases. We support continued pressure to end occupation of Tibet.
- We support a policy of economic sanctions against U. S. trading partners who restrict the development of democratic institutions within their countries.
- We support a policy that would prohibit weapon sales to any country that abuses the human rights of its people and countries that wage wars of aggression or fail to participate in the U. N. Arms Register.

What this means for the 34th Legislative District:

- Washington State is vitally dependent upon fair trade with other nations, and that, in turn, directly affects the jobs and lives of the 34th District.
- The illegal, costly (in both lives and dollars) war in Iraq is a drain upon the nation, the state and the 34th District. It makes us more susceptible to terrorism and attack. Seattle, as a port city, is very susceptible to such terrorist attacks.

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Summary of Foreign Policy and Defense Resolutions

- We adamantly oppose the continued War in Iraq. We believe it is an uncalled-for aggression with consequent significant loss of life both for the United States and Iraq. We believe it is costly and has caused an explosion in the national debt. We believe it actually engenders ill-will throughout the Muslim and Arab worlds, thereby causing an increase in terrorism. We call for withdrawal of all United States troops from Iraq by January 1, 2007.

23. Impeachment of President Bush. calls for impeachment based upon his illegal domestic actions (wiretapping, domestic surveillance) and the war in Iraq..

24. Iraq: Calls for withdrawal of all troops in not less than six months.

29. Peace, Department of: calls upon the Washington State Congressional Delegation to support establishing a federal Cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolence.

40. World Trade Organization: (Extra-Sovereign Non-Governmental Agencies Act) - directs the Legislature to withdraw Washington from WTO activities and calls upon the Congressional Delegation to support repeal of WTO treaties and agreements.

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9. TAX POLICY

Democrats favor a progressive tax system at both state and national level. We are committed to reducing the national debt and the deficit and balancing the federal budget while continuing to provide a strong safety net for those in need, intelligent investment in our country’s future, and services that strengthen our communities and preserve our natural heritage. We favor a progressive tax system at both the state and national level.

The national debt and interest paid on it are draining away federal tax dollars needed for education, health care, social services and infrastructure construction and maintenance.

- We support equitable taxation including a progressive income tax at a level sufficient

- to eliminate the deficit and redirect funds to needed services and programs.
- Off-budget programs should be included in the budget as a line item without endangering national security.
- We support a change in the Federal budget priorities and reforms that reduce waste and promote economic and political democracy. We believe the key to implementing these proposals is a well-informed and politically mobilized people working within a revitalized Democratic Party.
- We support conversion of the United States budget to civilian spending commensurate with reduced need for military expenditures as a result of world peace efforts.
- We support a state tax structure based on the ability to pay. We believe a reformed tax structure should be fair in its distribution of tax responsibility, balanced in its ability to provide revenue for all public needs. We believe the state should adopt a progressive, simple system of corporate and personal income tax, abolish the business and occupation tax, and eliminate sales tax on necessities.
- We support universal first class service provided to every community by the U. S. Postal Service.
- We support removal of income tax on unemployment compensation.
- We believe the legislature must provide a stable and continuing source of revenue to local government to protect and serve its citizens. We support a renewed emphasis and a shift of public money from police and prisons to public education and health.

What this means for the 34th Legislative District:

- Washington State’s regressive tax system, based upon sales, B&O and property tax, places an unfair burden on the low-and-middle income people of the 34th District.

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Summary of Tax Policy Resolutions

- 25. Key Arena, oppose public funding for: opposes the public funding of remodeling Key Arena (passed the Executive Board on February 15, 2006).
- 26. Key Arena, oppose further public funding for: same as measure above, but more detailed in the whereas clauses.
- 35. Social Security Wage Cap elimination: supports elimination of the \$90,000 wage cap in order to more fully fund social security

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10. GOVERNMENT AND ELECTONS

Democrats work for waste-free, efficient, and responsive government. Elections must be inclusive, accessible and open. We support creative efforts to “reinvent” government to reduce red tape, make agencies more flexible and responsive, and save money.

The Democrats of the 34th Legislative District support public meetings of party organizations as well as open legislative committee hearings where all witnesses will be allowed either to speak or submit written testimony if time prevents oral testimony.

- We support simultaneous closure of polling places throughout the U. S. in presidential election years.
- We believe all caucus and polling places must be handicapped accessible.

- We favor recorded votes by the state legislature in committee and the whole body.
- We support limitations on individual and corporate contributions and on candidate spending, and public financing for elections for national office.
- Filing for office as a Democrat shall mean the candidate is in general agreement with the adopted Democratic platform for the jurisdictional level of the office sought.
- We support Democrats who truly serve the public interest, not corporate special interests; immediate and positive action to reveal the full terms and taxpayer costs of the state's deal with Boeing; rollback of unwise and harmful special-interest giveaways; our state constitutional ban against special corporate privileges; and a progressive economic policy for the state of Washington based on putting our workers, families, communities and future FIRST. We oppose unwise and harmful special-interest giveaways.

What this means for the 34th Legislative District:

- Both the 2000 Presidential election and the 2004 Washington State Governor's election highlighted flaws in how our democratic system operates. To insure fair, honest campaigns and elections, reform is required.

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Summary of Government and Elections Resolutions

1. Campaign financing, public funding (Jeff Smith version): calls for public funding of political races.
2. Campaign financing, public funding option: calls for public funding as an option.
3. Campaign financing – Restoring the Public Trust: calls for public funding of Washington State's political races in order to restore public trust.
4. Campaign financing, Washington Public Campaigns: calls for supporting public financing of campaigns and support of that group's efforts.
9. Democrats: Recommends we adopt a 2006 campaign slogan "Return America to the People!"
12. Elections reform: multiple recommendations to reform elections, voting and campaigns.
19. Felon rights, restoration of: supports restoration of felon voting rights when released from imprisonment (passed by the District membership on February 8, 2006).
30. Primary and Instant-Runoff Voting (IRV): suggests eliminating the Washington State primary and replacing it with IRV at the general election
31. Public Broadcasting: Asks Congress to provide adequate funding for the public broadcasting system, and to increase transparency in the operation of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.
32. Redistricting: Requires all Washington state or county districting plan to meet certain mathematical measurements to help guarantee "one person - one vote".
37. Voting Machines, moratorium on use of computerized: calls for a moratorium on use until security issues can be resolved.

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TEXT OF RESOLUTIONS

A summary of all resolutions submitted to support and supplement this platform is below. The full texts of the resolutions are on the 34th District's Website at www.34dems.org/platform_34th-resolutions.htm.

1. Campaign financing, public funding (Jeff Smith version): calls for public funding of political races. ← **Formatted: Bullets and Numbering**
2. Campaign financing, public funding option: calls for public funding as an option. **Formatted: No underline**
3. Campaign financing – Restoring the Public Trust: calls for public funding of Washington State's political races in order to restore public trust. **Formatted: No underline**
4. Campaign financing, Washington Public Campaigns: calls for supporting public financing of campaigns and support of that group's efforts. **Formatted: No underline**
5. Children: Support the UN and the Declaration of the Rights of a Child. **Formatted: No underline**
6. Climate Change: calls for the Congressional delegation and State Legislature to support legislation to end fossil fuel subsidies, promote energy conservation and renewable energy sources, including HR 507. **Formatted: No underline**
7. Corporate Personhood: Calls upon Congress to re-define corporations as "not persons" and therefore not subject to the Bill of Rights or 14th Amendment.
8. Death penalty moratorium: calls for State and federal moratorium on executions until processes, procedures and laws can be reviewed and revised. **Formatted: No underline**
9. Democrats: Recommends we adopt a 2006 campaign slogan "Return America to the People!" **Formatted: No underline**
10. Domestic Surveillance: condemns domestic spying, calls for Congressional support of Senate Resolution 350. **Formatted: No underline**
11. Domestic Surveillance, wiretapping: opposes any modifications to current wiretapping laws. **Formatted: No underline**
12. Elections reform: multiple recommendations to reform elections, voting and campaigns. **Formatted: No underline**
13. Energy – raise CAFE standards: supports raising corporate average fuel economy standards (CAFE) **Formatted: No underline**
14. Energy – Initiative 937: supports Initiative 937 directing electric utilities to obtain 15% of their energy from clean, renewable, resources by 2020. **Formatted: No underline**
15. Equal Rights: Oppose efforts to repeal the Anderson-Murray act.
16. Equal rights, opposing anti-equal rights initiative: opposes this initiative which is sponsored by Tim Eyman for the 2006 general election ballot. **Formatted: Underline**
17. Equal rights: oppose the initiative and support washingtonwoulddiscriminate.org. **Formatted: No underline**
18. Federal lands: oppose sale of federal lands by BLM and Forest Service.
19. Felon rights, restoration of: supports restoration of felon voting rights when released from imprisonment (passed by the District membership on Febuary 8, 2006).
20. Health Care, Fair Share: calls upon the State Legislature to pass legislation requiring large companies (e.g. Wal-Mart) to provide health care insurance for employees. **Formatted: No underline**
21. Health Care, Universal Public Funding: instructs our Congressional delegation to support bills HR 1200 and HR 676 to enact a universally publicly funded national health care program. **Formatted: Underline**
22. Housing: calls for Washington State to mobilize its resources to provide affordable housing for all. **Formatted: No underline**

- 23. Impeachment of President Bush. calls for impeachment based upon his illegal domestic actions (wiretapping, domestic surveillance) and the war in Iraq. Formatted: No underline
- 24. Iraq: Calls for withdrawal of all troops in not less than six months. Formatted: No underline
- 25. Key Arena, oppose public funding for: opposes the public funding of remodeling Key Arena (passed the Executive Board on February 15, 2006). Formatted: No underline
- 26. Key Arena, oppose further public funding for: same as measure above, but more detailed in the whereas clauses. Formatted: No underline
- 27. Key Arena, oppose further public funding for: version from the High Point area caucus. Formatted: No underline
- 28. Patriot Act: directs the State Legislature to enact measures to combat terrorism without the loss of civil rights, urges the Congressional delegation to work to repeal federal Patriot Act provisions, and directs that no State resources be used for collecting information which violates Constitutional provisions for privacy and civil liberties. Formatted: No underline
Formatted: Underline
- 29. Peace, Department of: calls upon the Washington State Congressional Delegation to support establishing a federal Cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolence Formatted: Underline
- 30. Primary and Instant-Runoff Voting (IRV): suggests eliminating the Washington State primary and replacing it with IRV at the general election Formatted: No underline
- 31. Public Broadcasting: Asks Congress to provide adequate funding for the public broadcasting system, and to increase transparency in the operation of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Formatted: Underline
- 32. Redistricting: Requires all Washington state or county districting plan to meet certain mathematical measurements to help guarantee "one person - one vote". Formatted: Underline
- 33. Schools, support of public schools: opposes Initiative 920 and calls for enactment of an estate tax (SB6096) to increase funding for public schools. Formatted: No underline
- 34. Schools: Support schools and the Individuals with Disabilities (IDEA) act. Formatted: No underline
- 35. Social Security Wage Cap elimination: supports elimination of the \$90,000 wage cap in order to more fully fund social security Formatted: No underline
- 36. Veterans: Support veterans benefits and candidates who are veterans. Formatted: No underline
- 37. Voting Machines, moratorium on use of computerized: calls for a moratorium on use until security issues can be resolved. Formatted: No underline
- 38. Wages: calls upon the State Legislature to enact a \$7.25 per hour minimum wage and for the Congressional Delegation to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2005. Formatted: No underline
- 39. White Center Food Bank: supports this food bank and calls for State funding support (passed the Executive Board on March 15, 2006). Formatted: No underline
- 40. World Trade Organization: (Extra-Sovereign Non-Governmental Agencies Act) - directs the Legislature to withdraw Washington from WTO activities and calls upon the Congressional Delegation to support repeal of WTO treaties and agreements. Formatted: No underline
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