

# **Resolution Supporting Public Campaign Finance**

(For consideration, March 4, 2006)

WHEREAS candidates must spend a significant portion of their time fundraising, which detracts from constituent contact; and

WHEREAS the ability to fundraise is now viewed as one of the most important criteria for potential candidates; and

WHEREAS the influence of big money overwhelms individual voices and has a corrupting effect on our electoral system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 34th District Democrats endorse the efforts of Washington Public Campaigns to establish public campaign financing; and further

BE IT RESOLVED that the 34th District Democrats support the enactment of legislation providing for public financing of campaigns for public office.

# **Resolution Opposing Use of US Military Tribunals**

(For consideration, March 4, 2006)

WHEREAS, the United States has not presently declared war upon any state; and

WHEREAS, war under international law is a state of belligerency that exists between states, not between a state and individuals or a state and a non-governmental organization; and

WHEREAS, Military Order – Detention, Treatment and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in the War Against Terrorism, issued by President George W. Bush on November 13, 2001, professes to be a war order issued by the President in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the military commissions to be established under such Order are not authorized by the Uniform Code of Military Justice or the United States Constitution's judicial article; and

WHEREAS, the Order purports to authorize such commissions to hold trials and impose the death penalty without the full constitutional and statutory protections and rights afforded by the Constitution and the laws of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Order purports to oust the courts of the United States of all jurisdiction over persons so prosecuted, and provides that no appeal shall lie from the decision of the military commission to any constitutional court; and

WHEREAS, the Order may conflict with the rights guaranteed to prisoners of war by the Geneva Convention, and therefore may expose military commission members to being charged as war criminals under international law, as well as inviting states such as Iraq, Libya and Cuba to establish similar tribunals to punish American troops who fall into their hands during any future hostilities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

The November 13, 2001 Military Order is unwarranted, unnecessary, and purports to authorize actions which are contrary to the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and international law and treaties on the sole justification that the President has determined, without consultation with Congress, that such steps are necessary. There is no legal precedent for this Military Order, because the legal decisions invoked as justification arose when the country was involved in declared wars against enemy states. The arrogation of power represented by the Military Order is a unique and dangerous step which potentially jeopardizes the very existence of our constitutional government and the rights secured by it. The Military Order should be immediately rescinded, and any prosecution of terrorists, citizen or non-citizen, should take place only before the constitutional courts of the United States, under the procedures prescribed by the Constitution and laws of the United States.