

2024 WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY RESOLUTIONS

Passed by the delegates of the 2024 State Convention

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Resolution Supporting our Republic vs. Democracy

WHEREAS a republic and a democracy are two distinct forms of government; and

WHEREAS the United States Constitution, Article IV, Section 4 guarantees to every state "a republican form of government" and we pledge allegiance to our country's flag "and to the Republic for which it stands;" and

WHEREAS John Adams stated "Democracy...while it lasts is more bloody than either aristocracy or monarchy. Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There is never a democracy that did not commit suicide;" and

WHEREAS the Republican Party is the party of limited, Constitutional government, and the Democratic Party promotes progressivism and socialism; and

WHEREAS every time the word "democracy" is used favorably it serves to promote the principles of the Democratic Party, the principles of which we ardently oppose;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Republican Party, in convention assembled, acknowledges that our nation is intended to be a republic, not a democracy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage Republicans to substitute the words "republic" and "republicanism" where previously they have used the word "democracy;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support legislation that preserves the republican nature of our government institutions and oppose legislation which makes our nation more "democratic" in nature, and that, while we favor and encourage liberty in all nations, we oppose all efforts to use American military might to spread "democracy" around the world.

Resolution Specifying Constitutional Authority for Laws

WHEREAS the United States of America was founded on the precepts adopted in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we call on the House of Representatives of the United States of America to pass an Enumerated Powers Act stating that: "Each Act of Congress, bill, and resolution, or conference report thereon or amendment thereto, shall contain a concise explanation of the specific authority in the Constitution of the United States relied upon as the basis for enacting each portion of the measure."

Resolution Supporting a Small Government

WHEREAS government policies, programs, and spending continue to expand beyond the capacity of our nation; and

WHEREAS government should be efficiently run on as few policies and small bureaucracy as is possible; and

WHEREAS our government spends more each year than our incoming budget creating greater deficits each year; and

WHEREAS newly installed taxes have no term life expectancy; and

WHEREAS newly adopted policies have no term life expectancy; and

WHEREAS newly adopted policies and taxes have a prerequisite number of staff members required for implementation with no term requirements; and

WHEREAS newly adopted regulations required implementing the taxes, policies, or programs have no term requirements;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Washington State Republican Party supports a small, efficient government with a required sunset policy review on all taxes, regulations, and policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support a balanced budget for our country.

Resolution Supporting a Requirement for Legislative Ratification of Agency Rules

WHEREAS the United States of America was founded on the precepts that the populace would have control over those who sought elective office by their vote and could indicate their dislike for their action at the ballot box—government by the people, for the people, and with the people; and

WHEREAS the complexity of technical, environmental, and economic issues can at times require the reliance of these elected officers on the advice and investigation by forums of specialized expertise, but which remain outside of the control through the ballot box by the electorate; and

WHEREAS there are several current issues which have negatively impacted state, county, and city entities without their control or oversight by these same elected officers (e.g. gender bathroom rules enforced on schools; public buildings and businesses; the Growth Management Act which limits free use of private land without proper compensation or justification; forest management acts which had severe impacts on large regions of Washington state without adequate cost to payback justification; and numerous other state and federal education, environmental and health mandates);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, as a matter of state and local governing, no policy, rule, or law shall be imposed by non-elected groups or officials which have not had a complete examination and vote of the elected legislators. Until public and local hearings are held to examine all the economic, social, and legal aspects, and elected legislators have voted on them, all these findings and pronouncements shall remain moot and unenforceable.

Resolution Opposing Earmarks

BE IT RESOLVED that legislation submitted to the Senate or the House of Representatives must pertain to only one subject or type of legislation at a time, and that any amendments offered to a Senate or House bill must pertain only to the subject matter presented. Congress shall no longer engage in the practice of earmarking funds.

Resolution Supporting the Restoration of Confidence in Our Elections

WHEREAS Washington state elections are replete with serious and numerous issues causing lack of confidence in voter data and the entire election process, including concerns for the legitimacy of voter registrations and the veracity of election results; and

WHEREAS Washington State elections lack sufficient transparency, accountability and auditability of voter data and election results;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that to restore confidence and integrity in our local and state elections, the Washington State Republican Party advocates the following policies:

- Same-day in-person voting at precinct level with photo ID (with valid excepted absenteeism or incapacity) by U.S. citizens only, utilizing paper ballots to be hand-counted, and results to be determined within a reasonable time;
- Requiring proof of citizenship or tribal heritage in order to register to vote;
- Requiring voters provide proof of residency via a Washington state-issued ID, a utility bill, property tax bill, or rental agreement in their name;
- Where a voter has more than one residence, the voter's precinct of record shall be the address used by the voter in the voter's most recent federal tax return;
- Banning 'automatic' voter registration, same-day voter registration, and self-printing of ballots;
- Requiring voters seeking to update their signature to present valid ID;
- Eliminating the category of "Inactive" voters;
- Requiring county auditors to verify addresses of voters who have failed to vote in the prior four years;
- Banning ranked-choice voting;
- Eliminating the ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center) system from state voter management;
- Eliminating digital ballot scanning and machine tabulation;
- Allowing reasonable public access to all election data and information—at no charge—to include signature verification, vote tallies, reconciliation of blank ballots, cast ballot images, wi-fi and data traffic logs, and election system software and firmware; and
- Calling on the Secretary of State for an immediate and independent arms-length, one-off audit of all thirty-nine counties' election system software and firmware to examine and verify their security and integrity.

Resolution Supporting Law and Order

WHEREAS the Republican Party holds as one of its basic principles that law and order are necessary in a civil society, and without consequences, criminal behavior will escalate; and

WHEREAS Washington state has been experiencing record high murder rates; and

WHEREAS Washington is number two in the nation for car theft; and

WHEREAS Washington has one of the highest retail theft rates in the nation; and

WHEREAS drug overdoses have increased dramatically in our state, including overdose deaths of children; and

WHEREAS our state has a record low number of law enforcement officers per capita and Democrat policies have tied the hands of what few police officers we have left; and

WHEREAS policies enacted by Democrats over the past five years has allowed many crimes to go largely unpunished, letting criminals out of prison early and giving them more rights and privileges than their victims receive;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Republican Party stands firmly on the principles of law and order; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support our law enforcement officers and believe they should be given the tools they need to restore law and order to our streets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we believe that consequences for all crime should be strongly enforced, with consequences coming quickly and including restitution to the victims; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support allowing counties and cities to retain 0.1% of the state sales tax for attracting and retaining law enforcement officers and other criminal justice purposes.

Resolution Supporting Israel

WHEREAS Israel is an indispensable, non-NATO ally and Major Strategic Partner of the United States: and

WHEREAS the right to protect and defend one's borders and people is a fundamental right of any nation; and

WHEREAS the recent and past actions of terrorist groups such as Hamas and nations such as Iran are barbaric and violate international laws;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Republican Party stands with Israel and supports her right to defend her country and her people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we condemn the barbaric actions of the enemies of Israel in their recent attacks on Israel and civilians, and call for them to immediately cease their hostilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon Washington state law enforcement to remain vigilant in protecting Israeli Americans, Jews, and all supporters of Israel from acts of crime and violent jihad, in our neighborhoods, streets, public squares, and college campuses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we recognize that the leftist ideology of "decolonization" is a thin pretext for genocide against Americans, Israelis, other Western allies, and call upon all university systems in Washington state to immediately eliminate extremist and racist "anti-colonial" courses, course content, and programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support and commend the Republican National Committee statement (10/7/23) and the House of Representatives (HR 771) in support of Israel and their condemnation of Hamas, other terrorist groups, and Iran; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage pray for peace in Israel, unity in the United States in full support of Israel, the safe return of the hostages extending our deepest sympathies to the families of the injured or killed, and wisdom for Israel as they work to defend their people, land, and sovereignty to rebuild what has been destroyed.

Resolution Supporting Legal Immigration and Secure Borders

WHEREAS a “sanctuary state” is defined as a jurisdiction that limits cooperation with federal immigration authorities, limits or fails to provide information about immigration status, and limits the length of immigration detainers, thereby failing to uphold the laws of the State of Washington and the law of the United States; and

WHEREAS Washington state residents believe in and are committed to securing the border, enforcing immigration laws to protect the population, and upholding the laws of the State of Washington and the principles of the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS current residents have expressed concern over the illegal transportation of immigrants into Washington state which may compromise the safety, health, well-being, and resources of Washington state residents; and

WHEREAS Washington state elected officials have sworn an oath to protect the residents of Washington state from events that compromise their safety, health, well-being, and depletion of resources, and to follow the laws of the State of Washington and the laws of the United States;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Republican Party calls upon the President and Congress of the United States to take immediate action to secure the border and enforce current immigration laws, to protect the safety, health, well-being, and resources of its citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington State Republican Party recognizes the importance of legal immigration and urges individuals to apply for residency through legal means, respecting the laws and processes already in place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington State Republican Party calls for the repeal of any law or Executive Order operable in Washington State styling the state as a so-called “sanctuary state” and calls on all elected officials in Washington State to protect its residents by following the relevant laws and enforcement processes already in place.

Resolution Opposing Forced Unionization of Private Businesses, Government Entities, and Independent Contractors as a Condition of Employment

WHEREAS several states, including Washington State, have or have attempted to unionize personal care attendants or workers in small independent childcare businesses that care for clients receiving government subsidies, and union dues are automatically deducted from those subsidies resulting in decreased funds for poor, sick, and disabled children and adults;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we oppose the forced unionization of any individuals or businesses, including those whose clients receive government subsidies, and oppose the forced deduction of union dues or fair share fees from those subsidies.

Resolution Supporting K-12 Education Savings Accounts

WHEREAS the Constitution of the State of Washington Articles 1 and 2 ensure and are established to protect individual rights; and

WHEREAS RCW28A.200, 28A.150.010 and RCW 28A.195.010 are all permitted forms of education; and

WHEREAS diversity references our Fourteenth Amendment jurisprudence and states that the U.S. Supreme Court “has found diversity in education to be a compelling government interest” (*Hofstra Law Review (Volume 44 1271) i.d. (citing Grutter v. Bollinger, 539 U.S. 306, 327-28 (2003))*); and

WHEREAS Eric Thesaurus Educational Environment defines in their scope note, “*Conditions, forces or factors within our exogenous to an educational setting capable of influencing the setting or those within it*”; and

WHEREAS the current financial environment provides only for public schools to the exclusion of other lawful forms of education which are not provided for in state law therefore not including the lawful right of students to receive the same financial allotment in all aspects to attend the schools of their choice;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that K-12 students be allotted an education savings account (ESA) in the amount of that which is currently allocated for per capita public school account (RCW 28A.320.330) and rules adopted for applications to be processed in a timely manner by a parent or guardian and submitted to the school district in which the student resides in application form for schools with age-appropriate trade and apprenticeship programs for interested students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal and state funding for public schools K-12 to the exclusion of all other legal entities is unconstitutional at both state and federal levels.

Resolution Opposing Gun Free School Zones

WHEREAS the unalienable right to self-defense innately belongs to all people with adults having responsibility to protect children; and

WHEREAS protection of citizens is the first responsibility of all elected representatives including, governors, federal and state legislators, county commissioners, and school directors; and

WHEREAS average police response time to mass shootings on average is considerably longer than the duration of the mass shooting; and

WHEREAS many other states have policies allowing properly trained and qualified teachers and other school district employees to carry concealed firearms on school campuses;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we petition our Washington State Legislators and school boards to eliminate gun free school zones and provide trained K-12 school staff to protect students.

Resolution Supporting the Protection of U.S. Monuments

WHEREAS in the past centuries since the creation of our nation from time to time occasions arise to memorialize events in our history—be they tragic, victorious or glorious—by the then citizenry and culture of the period; and

WHEREAS it must be recalled that in order to comprehend the history of a thing is to unlock the mysteries of its present and more to discover the profundities of its future and thereby properly prepare for it; and

WHEREAS in the past few years an enigmatic manifestation has infected our society which deems it permissible to allow the offended by our memorialization of our past to destroy, change, and remove those landmarks from the public square—this we believe to be a travesty which shall not only be halted but be punitively addressed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we believe legislation should be enacted to make it felonious to malign, deface, desecrate, remove, or tear down a community or government erected monument within the confines of the United States of America and its protectorates thereof.

Resolution Supporting Placing County Owned Timberland Under County Management

WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Natural Resource (DNR) currently manages approximately 3,000,000 acres of timberland; and

WHEREAS, the DNR is legally required to manage these state trust lands to generate income for local taxing districts, like schools, libraries, fire districts and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the DNR has failed to honor its agreement to fully harvest timber over the past ten years, thereby creating an arrearage (shortfall) in the amount of funds which would have been produced in a full timber harvest; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington legislature re-allocated proceeds from county harvested timber to the general fund of the state, to be disbursed to various counties across the state rather than to the county which owns the timberland; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature, in order to disburse timber revenues to a county, requires that a bond be in place whereby county property owners are burdened with funding school construction projects and programs; and

WHEREAS, failing to harvest timber has created an overabundance of fuels resulting in forest fires;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon the Washington State Legislature to allow counties that wish to do so to manage their county-owned timberland directly and disburse the proceeds from the sale of such timber for the benefit of county schools, fire districts, libraries, and other sub-taxing districts without the requirement of passing bonds which burden the property owners of such counties.

Resolution Opposing Wild Olympics

WHEREAS 85% of the counties containing the Olympic Mountains are already set aside as state-controlled Trust Lands or private timber resource lands along with major portions of the 922,650-acre Olympic National Park and 633,677-acre Olympic National Forest; and

WHEREAS owners of private properties that are targeted for conversion to public property face coercive forces designed to compel them to become “willing sellers;” and

WHEREAS working, multi-use timberland produces valuable economic, cultural, and environmental benefits, surpassing those of restricted and neglected parkland and wilderness;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we oppose the Wild Olympics Campaign and the Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers Act covering over 126,000 acres introduced by Democrat Rep. Derek Kilmer and Democrat Sen. Patty Murray, and favor a strict policy of no net loss of working forestland, working resource land, and private property.

Resolution Opposing Water Rules That Prevent Property Owners from Utilizing Their Well Water as Permitted by the Groundwater Permit Exemption

WHEREAS the Washington State Department of Ecology has enacted and continues to enact so-called instream flow rules that restrict property owners' ability to utilize their well water as otherwise permitted by RCW 90.44.050 (Groundwater Permit Exemption); and

WHEREAS these instream flow rules sometimes impose draconian restrictions that significantly adversely affect property values without providing any substantial and measurable benefits;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we support the right of all property owners to freely utilize the water from their private exempt wells up to the limits provided in RCW 90.44.050, oppose the enactment of any further instream flow rules that do not balance human needs with the needs of the environment, and support the amendment of all existing instream flow rules to conform to the above principles.

Resolution Supporting Rescinding Mandates Against Natural Gas

WHEREAS the demand for electricity in the northwest region is projected to rise by about 2.5% annually, and by nearly 25% within the next decade resulting in approximate a 30 percent rate increase for a few years; and

WHEREAS “The average Washington state electricity customer experienced about 8.8 hours of power outages in 2021 more than triple the average from 2013, making it the eighth-worst average among all 50 states;” and

WHEREAS natural gas can be stored and is more reliable than wind or solar power; and

WHEREAS the citizens of Washington state rely heavily upon the availability of natural gas for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we request the Washington State Legislature to rescind all anti-natural gas mandates.

Resolution Opposing the Removal of Hydroelectric Dams

WHEREAS hydroelectric power generated from the Snake River or Columbia dams is the cheapest, most readily available, and renewable of all power sources; and

WHEREAS hydroelectric generation provides the majority of electricity in the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS breaching any dam on the Columbia or Snake Rivers or a tributary (for example the Klamath River) encourages springtime flooding on major rivers, ruining the ecosystem, and risking death to downstream residents, fish, and animals; and

WHEREAS the current dams provide critical water resources for agricultural purposes, and

WHEREAS the scientific research behind dam breaches is extensive and conclusive concerning the devastating downline consequences; and

WHEREAS the destruction of any dam is a complete waste of the capital involved in the original construction and maintenance, along with loss of energy income of such dam.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we request the Washington State Legislature to oppose the breaching or removal of the Snake and Columbia River dams.

Resolution Supporting the Abolishment of the Department of Ecology

WHEREAS the Washington State Department of Ecology has been in existence since 1970 and has an annual budget of over \$2 billion and more than 1,800 employees; and

WHEREAS it has become unresponsive to the people it is supposed to serve, routinely exceeds its statutory authority, issues regulations that infringe on the property rights of the citizens of the State of Washington, and fails to engage in a balancing of the environmental benefits and economic impacts of its regulations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Department of Ecology be abolished; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that its responsibilities—together with the funding necessary to carry them out—be transferred to local governments and charge them with carrying out these responsibilities using common sense; taking into account local circumstances and the needs of local communities; balancing environmental benefits and economic impacts; and utilizing only peer-reviewed scientific studies.

Resolution Supporting the Repeal of the 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

WHEREAS the Founding Fathers came to a great compromise at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and provided for proportional representation of the people in the House of Representatives of the United States and equal representation for each independent state in the Senate of the United States; and

WHEREAS the Founding Fathers determined that equal representation of the states in the Senate of the United States recognized the individual sovereignty of each state; and

WHEREAS James Madison in Federalist Papers, Numbers 37 through 48, concluded that a balance of powers between the branches of government and the levels of government (general, state, and the people) is necessary for stability, and detailed in Federalist Papers, Number 39, that the Senate deriving its power from the states is necessary to maintain the federal nature of the general government; and

WHEREAS the selection of the United States Senators by the state legislatures was the political mechanism against congressional encroachment into the sovereignty of the states; and

WHEREAS a US Senator's general responsibility as intended by the Founders, and discussed by James Madison in Federalist Papers, Number 10, was to represent state legislature as their agent; and

WHEREAS each state was given the right to prescribe its own procedures regarding the selection process for United States Senators, including appointments in the case of deadlock; and

WHEREAS the state legislature has a role in compelling accountability from United States Senators; and

WHEREAS the ratification of the Seventeenth Amendment in 1913 changed the selection of the United States Senators from that of being "chosen" by the state legislatures to that of being "elected by the people" of the states, thereby divesting the states of any direct voice in the federal government; and

WHEREAS the Congress of the United States and the executive branch have, since the ratification of the 17th Amendment, steadily encroached upon the sovereignty of this and the other states united by and under the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS the existing 17th Amendment relationship between the states and the federal government is guaranteed to further transfer power from state governments to the federal government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we declare the 17th Amendment process of electing United States Senators by the popular vote to be defective, that it fails to represent the interests of the individual states, and we implore the Congress to propose an amendment pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States to repeal the 17th Amendment in order to restore the states to their prior status as partners in the political process.

Resolution Supporting the Three Initiatives on the Ballot in November 2024

WHEREAS Let's Go Washington sponsored six initiatives that were made necessary in response to laws passed recently by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS three of these initiatives were not passed by the legislature and will be on the ballot for voters to decide in November 2024; and

WHEREAS I-2117 would prohibit state agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading, including "cap and trade" or "cap and tax" programs, regardless of whether the resulting increased costs are imposed on fuel recipients or fuel suppliers. It would repeal sections of the 2021 Washington Climate Commitment Act as amended, including repealing the creation and modification of a "cap and invest" program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by specific entities; and

WHEREAS I-2124 would amend state law establishing a state long term care insurance program to provide that employees and self-employed people must elect to keep coverage under RCW 50B.04, allow employees to opt-out of coverage under RCW 50B.04 at any time, and repeal a current law governing exemptions for employees who had purchased long term care insurance before November 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS I-2109 would repeal an income tax the legislature labeled as an excise tax imposed on the sale or exchange of certain long-term assets by individuals who have annual capital gains of over \$250,000; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Washington State GOP supports the passage of all three of these initiatives which will be on the ballot in November 2024.

Resolution Calling for the Investigation of Attorney General Bob Ferguson

BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Republican Party calls on the members of the Washington State House of Representatives to conduct a legislative inquiry investigation in accordance with RCW 10.46 and the Washington State Constitution for the purpose of removing Attorney General Bob Ferguson with cause (in accordance with Article 2 Section 30) for bribery and corrupt solicitation.