

RESOLUTION 18-01

A RESOLUTION ON FUNDRAISING IN REGARD TO THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE (DNC)

WHEREAS the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States was written to represent “We the People” and is an important statement of the principles affirmed in the full text of the Constitution itself, it would seem obvious that “in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility...and secure the blessings of liberty...” every effort should be made by office holders and citizens alike to ensure that undue pressure is not brought to bear on government officials to act against the best interests of the United States and its citizens; and

WHEREAS the Supreme Court in its 5-4 decision in Citizen’s United v. Federal Elections Commission has allowed corporations to indulge in secretive, unaccountable and untraceable monetary and in-kind contributions to influence governmental candidates running for office. And because independent polls consistently show that the overwhelming majority of citizens of the United States strongly oppose the Citizen’s United ruling. As Justice Stevens points out in his dissent; the prevention of corruption or its appearance is more complicated and extensive than the simple elimination of “Quid Pro Quo” financial arrangements. Specifically “... the difference between selling a vote and selling access is a matter of degree not kind.”¹; and

WHEREAS neither “We the People” nor the Constitution of the United States recognizes corporations as “citizens” with any rights either equal or exceeding those of “human” citizens that would allow corporations and organizations to utilize unregulated financial opportunities; and

WHEREAS the Democratic Party has a long history of representing the concerns of all American citizens, no matter a person’s religion, gender, race or economic condition; and because the Democratic Party, in order to be successful in upcoming elections, must continue to do so; and

BE IT RESOLVED that Clallam County Democrats urge the Washington State Democratic Central Committee to ask the Democratic National Committee to provide information and financial assistance to all of its state chapters and members to support a Constitutional Amendment to overturn the decision in Citizens United v

¹ Stevens, Justice John Paul. “Opinion of Stevens, J. Supreme Court of the United States Citizens United, Appellant v. Federal Election Commission,” Legal Information Institute, (accessed December 7, 2017) <http://www.law.cornell.edu>

FEC, making clear that corporations do not possess the inalienable rights of The People of the United States and that all raising and spending of money in an election cannot be considered speech and therefore can be regulated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clallam County Democrats urge the Washington State Democratic Central Committee to ask the Democratic National Committee to emphasize in all upcoming elections, community and grassroots funding and volunteerism over large corporate or PAC fund raising activity. Such emphasis will engage local electorates and lessen the influence of large, single-issue organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clallam County Democrats urge the Washington State Central Committee to ask the Democratic National Committee to support and implement the full disclosure and transparency of all electoral funding sources and spending, including all aspects of electioneering and issue education from mailers and TV to on-line communications; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clallam County Democrats urge the Washington State Democratic Central Committee to ask the Democratic National Committee to support legislation for the full public financing of election campaigns at the local, state and federal level.

Adopted by the Membership of the Clallam County Democrats
February 3, 2018