

RESOLUTION 16 -15

Resolution Opposing Superdelegates

WHEREAS, in reaction to the "smoke-filled-room" selection process which characterized the 1968 convention, the McGovern Commission's 1970 report *Mandate for Reform* led to a sweeping revision of party politics which greatly expanded the number of primaries and ensured convention delegates were roughly proportional to primary vote results, drastically reduced the power of party officials to serve as delegates and dictate the choice of nominee, and mandated a greater role for alternative voices within the party – young people, women, minorities;

WHEREAS, in a backlash to the infighting of the 1980 convention party insiders created the Hunt Commission which returned power to elected officials and party regulars in the form of unpledged superdelegates;

WHEREAS, superdelegates include major Democratic elected officials, national and state party leaders and notable party figures like former presidents, to the extent that in 2016 they will make up 16 percent of all delegates and each of their votes has equal weight to delegates awarded through primaries and caucuses;

WHEREAS, superdelegates were created to perpetuate the influence of party officials, who have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo and resisting any change that may threaten that power, regardless of the wishes of the electorate;

WHEREAS, it is possible for a candidate to be chosen by a majority of the primary electorate and to earn the most pledged delegates, yet lose the nomination due to a disproportionate influence of superdelegates;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Clallam County Democrats shall work with regional and state party organizations to promote a reform proposal that eliminates superdelegates by 2020.

Passed at the General Membership Meeting on 5/28/2016