

RESOLUTION 16 -9

Resolution Supporting I-735 (U.S. Constitutional Amendment to Reverse *Citizens United*)*

WHEREAS the US Supreme Court in its *Citizens United v. FEC* and *Buckley v. Valeo* decisions construed the spending of money by individuals, corporations and special interests in elections as protected free speech under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS previous US Supreme Court decisions have eroded the authority of government to regulate campaign contributions and expenditures; and

WHEREAS the prompt disclosure of all political contributions and expenditures in a manner accessible to voters prior to elections is in the best interest of holding free and fair elections; and

WHEREAS Initiative 735 seeks to make Washington the 17th state calling for the US constitutional amendment to overturn US Supreme Court Decisions that threaten to destroy our democracy, and identified as follows:

Constitutional amendment to overturn US Supreme Court decisions that threaten to destroy our democracy, and identified as follows:

1. The rights listed and acknowledged in the Constitution of the United States are the rights of individual human beings only.
2. The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to be free speech under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.
3. Federal, state and Local governments shall be fully empowered to regulate political contributions and expenditures to ensure that no person or artificial legal entity gains undue influence over government and the political process.
4. All political contributions and expenditures shall be disclosed promptly and in a manner accessible to voters prior to elections.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative District, County and State Democratic Party urge its elected officials to endorse I-735 and to pass endorsement resolutions in their jurisdictions and encourage all voters to vote of I-735; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party at all levels commits to holding Washington State Democratic members of Congress accountable to abide by the wishes of their constituents and to urge Democrats represented by Republican members of Congress to hold their members of Congress accountable following the November 2016 election.

Passed at the Clallam County Democratic Party Convention on 5/1/2016

* I-735 declares that the people of Washington State support amending the Constitution of the United States to eliminate the undue influence of concentrated money and political power on elections and governmental policy. The amendment would overturn decisions by

the Supreme Court of the United States extending constitutional rights to corporations and other artificial legal entities as well as those decisions equating the spending of money with free speech. It also provides for the regulation and disclosure of political contributions and spending.