

1 WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

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3
4 2007 Platform – Adopted July 10, 2007

5 Preamble

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7 We, the members of the Washington State Federation of Democratic Women, hold certain principles
8 as core values and accept our responsibility to uphold them in our communities, our public offices, our
9 homes, and all other realms of our lives. We believe that nonviolence and

10 *The Precautionary Principle*ⁱ should be essential organizing principles of all civilized societies, and we
11 support the implementation of this concept in all social structures, including government, education, and
12 research institutions. To exemplify and guide our decisions and actions we hereby set forth in this 2007
13 Platform our beliefs and positions regarding these areas of concern:

14 Civil and Human Rights, Education, Environment, Government, Government and Corporate Power,
15 Health, Labor, and Washington State Democratic Party Structure and Process.

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17 I. CIVIL and HUMAN RIGHTS

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19 We believe in and support *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*ⁱⁱ and emphasize that these rights
20 apply fully to women and children. Further, we accept the responsibility of protecting these human and
21 civil rights.

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23 We support:

- 24 • individual rights of privacy and repeal of those sections of the USA PATRIOT Actⁱⁱⁱ that limit
25 civil liberties and human rights or contravene international treaties, the Federal Intelligence
26 Surveillance Act (FISA) of 1978, and constitutional limitations on executive power.
- 27 • affirmative action.
- 28 • access for all persons to health care, housing, childcare, public education, and job training to
29 achieve independence.
- 30 • community-based, citizen review boards with extensive authority to address allegations of racial
31 and other profiling.
- 32 • legal recognition of the range of genders occurring in the human species.
- 33 • the right of all peoples to self-determination and freedom from intimidation by U. S. Military
34 Forces anywhere in the world.
- 35 • along with all other citizens of the United States, the commitment of the *Washington State*
36 *Federation of Democratic Women*, to freedom and justice and believe that in order to achieve
37 freedom, everyone must be treated without discrimination.
- 38 • the ratification of the *Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women*^{iv}
39 (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly and ratified by 180 of the
40 191 member states of the U. N.
- 41 • the right and ability of all persons to be able to report crimes or seek services without retaliation.
- 42 • the right of all men and women of legal age, without any limitation due to race, nationality,
43 sexual orientation, or religion, have the right to marry and establish a family and to enjoy these
44 equal rights as to marriage, during marriage, and at its dissolution, including those within the U.
45 S. Military.
- 46 • the right of all persons to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of themselves
47 and their families.
- 48 • the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic
49 holidays with pay.
- 50 • the classification of rape as a violent crime in all settings (including the U. S. Military Services),
51 with rape designated as a “hate crime” or as a “war crime,” depending upon the circumstances.
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53 **We oppose** discrimination in employment (including military), salary, housing, public accommodations,
54 and education -- or in cases of disability.
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56 **We urge** an active leadership role for the government and people of the United States of America in the
57 prevention and cessation of genocide anywhere in the world, but particularly in Darfur, Sudan, Rwanda,
58 Uganda, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
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60 **II. EDUCATION**

61 **We support:**

- 62 • the passage of school levies with a simple majority rather than the 60% super majority.
- 63 • increased salaries for public school and higher education employees
- 64 • parity of salary and benefits for less than full-time workers.
- 65 • the full funding of public education, early childhood through grade 16, and/or vocational
66 training.
- 67 • the full funding of Operation Headstart and funding for any school district to implement
68 Headstart.
- 69 • the repeal of the “No Child Left Behind” act because it is unfunded and is detrimental to local
70 educational programs.
- 71 • the Student Privacy Protection Act of 2005.
- 72 • having all secondary schools inform all students of their right to sign an “opt-out” form
73 requiring that their names and personal information be withheld from military recruiters.
- 74 • reasonable teacher-student ratios which will provide an optimal learning experience for
75 students.
- 76 • strict anti-bullying policies that include education and participatory programs and activities
77 designed to prevent and discourage bullying in schools.
- 78 • the application of human rights at all levels of public education.
- 79 • the funding of programs for historically underserved populations seeking education or job
80 training, such as second language learners, homeless people, and ethnic minorities.
- 81 • the inclusion of age-appropriate, science-based sex education curriculum in the elementary
82 grades.
- 83 • including in the secondary level curriculum education about gangs
- 84 • a continuing examination of the impacts of the WASL (Washington Assessment of Student
85 Learning)
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87

88 **We strongly oppose**

- 89 • the privatization of the Washington State system of public education.
- 90 • the childcare funding restriction placed on “Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
91 (TANF) recipients who choose to attend higher education institutions in lieu or of beyond
92 certification programs.
93

94 **III. ENVIRONMENT**

95 **We support:**

- 96 • environmental sustainability (and awareness of the resources and fragility of the physical
97 environment and the effects on it of human activity and decisions) as a critical
98 consideration in all economic, societal, and governmental policy research and
99 development.
- 100 • laws and regulations to ensure clean air and water, uncontaminated food, and a healthy,
101 natural environment for all, everywhere.
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- fiduciary accountability for corporations that contaminate or otherwise cause detriment to the soil, water, and air.
- repayments to people overcharged as a result of Vice-President Cheney’s agreement/s with the energy companies.
- continued funding of EPA air monitors at increased levels.
- continued, adequate funding and oversight of the Hanford Cleanup efforts.
- development and implementation of effective and efficient mass transit systems that meet the clean air standards and significantly increase transit ridership by offering safe, fast, clean, frequent, and easily accessed public transit.
- licensing and development of renewable technologies and energy plants (such as solar, wind and biodiesel) to increase affordable Pacific Northwest electricity and encourage conservation of energy resources.
- the rights of environmental groups and individual citizens to require an enforceable administrative process for listing rare plants and animals as endangered or threatened.
- the protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas exploration and development.
- the protection of the Washington and Oregon coastline from drilling.
- a moratorium on the construction of any logging roads on public lands and state and national forests.
- the Clinton Administration standards and the Clean Water Act to ensure clean drinking water, including the protection of our watersheds.
- the U.S. Government’s participation in international talks on global warming and support ratification of the Kyoto Treaty at local, state, regional, and federal levels.
- the complete and honest labeling of all foods, food additives, and medications, including country of origin.
- sustainable local agriculture (*i.e.*, small family farms) to maintain local jobs and a decentralized control of the food supply. We oppose “dead-end” seeds and the patenting of food and seed stocks.
- the maintenance of healthy, sustainable wild fish stocks rather than commercial fish farming which increases pollution, puts the health of wild fish at risk and causes health risks to humans.
- the maintenance, preservation, and completion of our high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes within and between our cities and the management of those lanes for carpools, vanpools, and buses to meet or exceed the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) standard of 45 miles per hour 90% of the time.
- the protection of our forests and parks.
- building codes designed to promote and encourage “green” building for residential, governmental, and commercial buildings.
- adequate and appropriate treatment of wastewater and stormwater run-off to ensure and improve clean water quality.
- requirements that vehicle manufacturers increase the diversity, efficiency, and safety of vehicles, as well as accuracy in reporting to the public.

We oppose the privatization of water as a violation of human rights and our commitment to protecting and preserving “the commons.”

IV. GOVERNMENT

We are in a Constitutional crisis. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are being undermined.

- 153 • The *USA PATRIOT Acts*, *The Military Commissions Act* (passed in November 2006), *The John*
154 *Warner Military Reauthorization Act*, *Presidential Directives #51 and #20* (signed on May 9,
155 2007) are egregious violations of the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth amendments to the U.
156 S. Constitution.
- 157 • Governmental “faith-based” initiatives and the injection of religious observances into the secular
158 realm are violating the First Amendment principle of the separation of church and state.
- 159 • International trade agreements are violating the Ninth and Tenth amendments which are the
160 foundation of our Federalist system.

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162 The Supreme Court is being unduly influenced by

- 163 • the executive branch and
- 164 • violations of the U. S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights with respect to the separation of
165 powers.

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167 The primary function of government is to support the wellbeing of people.

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169 **We support:**

- 170 • the full restoration of the right of habeas corpus for all persons under the jurisdiction of the
171 United States Government.
- 172 • access to safe, legal abortion as a universal, protected, fundamental part of reproductive rights.
- 173 • the right of a woman to determine the number, timing, and spacing of her pregnancies.
- 174 • diplomacy as the paramount force and power of international relations.
- 175 • exposing and reversing the legal fiction known as the “personhood” of corporations.
- 176 • respecting the treaty rights and sovereign status of First Nations.
- 177 • full funding of essential resources and services.
- 178 • the development of strong communities recognizing the interdependence of all people.
- 179 • ensuring the preservation of our democracy by providing clear, open, and accurate partisan
180 election processes as stated in the 2004 Supreme Court ruling requiring political party
181 designations.
- 182 • the Constitutional independence of the judiciary which is currently being compromised.
- 183 • protecting FCC policies that forbid media monopoly and ensure public ownership and access to
184 guarantee wide points of view on important issues.
- 185 • reform of international trade agreements and institutions to conform with the Constitution of the
186 United States.
- 187 • economic development strategies that focus on investing in small, local businesses rather than on
188 luring businesses from elsewhere.
- 189 • public campaign financing at all levels of government.
- 190 • the right and responsibility of the U. S. Congress to impeach, based upon requirements stated in
191 *The Constitution of the United States of America*.
- 192 • voting by paper ballots.

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195 **We oppose:**

- 196 • the principles and agenda of the Project for the New American Century.^{vi}
- 197 • all signing statements, executive orders, and directives that undermine the Constitution of the
198 United States of America.
- 199 • the policies of pre-emptive strikes and wars of aggression.
- 200 • the erosion of a progressive system of taxation.
- 201 • the erosion of public control over services that directly affect our health and well-being.
- 202 • unfunded mandates, cost shifts to local budgets, and tax shifts to local governments.

- 203 • blatant exploitation of Washington’s citizens by the egregious practices of credit card companies
204 and predatory lending practices.
- 205 • any action of self-appointed vigilantes such as the Minutemen project.
- 206 • the funding of judicial campaigns by political action committees.
- 207 • pharmacists’ refusal to fill any legal prescriptions.
- 208 • the imprisonment and/or detention of children solely because they themselves are undocumented
209 or are children of undocumented parents.

211 V. GOVERNMENT AND CORPORATE POWER:

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213 The “commons”^{vii} includes the vast realms of nature and society that we inherit together and must pass
214 on, undiminished, to future generations. The “commons” is protected in “The Universal Declaration of
215 the Rights of Man” and must not be privatized.

216 We believe that:

- 217 • giant corporations govern the United States of America and the earth, violating the fundamental
218 democratic principle of the “consent of the governed.”
- 219 • democracy can contest corporate domination.
- 220 • democracy must make people’s humanity and constitutional rights a reality.
- 221 • we can challenge illegitimate corporate authority.
- 222 • corporations are not persons, but are *legal fictions*.^{viii}
- 223 • corporate subsidies that consume taxpayer dollars and that undermine fair competition should be
224 eliminated.

225 We support:

- 226 • the revocation and/or reform of corporate charters that violate our laws.
- 227 • reforms related to corporate charters to reflect greater representation of workers and shareholders,
228 requirements for truth-telling, requirements for public service, and respect for human and
229 environmental rights, with enforcement so that corporations failing to honor their charters will
230 have them cancelled.
- 231 • a government that places the needs of the people of the United States of America above those of
232 corporations.
- 233 • the protection of “the commons” so that future generations will be able to thrive.
- 234 • transparency in corporate accounting.
- 235 • tax credits and investment support for small business.
- 236 • the invigoration of oversight and revocation powers of the states with regard to corporations no
237 longer serving the public interest.

238 We oppose:

- 239 • the preferential treatment that corporations have over individual and collective rights in the U. S.
240 Judicial System.
- 241 • undue influence by corporations over the government of the United States of America.
- 242 • tax cuts for the wealthiest 1% of Americans.
- 243 • preferential taxation for corporations that “off-shore” their corporate headquarters and offices.
- 244 • the privatization of any part of our election process, including all of the equipment or machinery
245 used in casting or counting ballots, the maintenance and programming of that equipment, the
246 proprietary ownership of the computer programs, and any other privatized services pertaining to
247 the process of voting.

248 VI. HEALTH.

254 **We believe** that all governmental decisions should be based upon the “precautionary principle.”
255 (See endnote #1.) First, “Do No Harm.”

256
257 **We support:**

- 258 • a single-payer healthcare system that provides universal healthcare for all medically necessary
259 care, without regard to previous illness or pre-existing conditions; requires medical insurance
260 companies to provide coverage; and requires employers to partner financially at a reasonable
261 level.
- 262 • preventive healthcare, not healthcare controlled by drug and insurance companies.
- 263 • as part of preventive health care, the removal of potent, bio-accumulative toxins (PBTS) such as
264 mercury, arsenic, lead and PBDES from the human body and the environment.
- 265 • the removal of the registered pesticide thimerosal (containing 48% mercury) from all vaccines.
- 266 • both nationally and internationally, a woman’s freedom of choice for reproductive rights,
267 including those women serving in the Armed Forces.
- 268 • publicly funded research that supports women’s health and is free of racial discrimination.
- 269 • full funding of prescription medications for Medicare recipients.
- 270 • stem cell research for medical treatments that reverse, prevent, or cure illnesses or heal injuries.
- 271 • consumers’ right to choose alternative or complementary medicine (based upon “best available
272 science) and to have insurance companies provide coverage for these services.
- 273 • the requirement that dentists and doctors provide medically accurate information to patients.
- 274 • parity for mental health care.
- 275 • full funding of veterans’ medical care for physical and mental health.

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277 **We oppose**

- 278 • the privatization of the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
- 279 • the Codex Alimentarius^{ix}

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282 **VII. LABOR**

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284 **We support:**

- 285 • the right of all workers to join together and organize without interference to secure better wages
286 and working conditions.
- 287 • a living wage and cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) throughout the United States and its
288 territories.
- 289 • full funding for enforcement of employment standards, child labor laws, and work safety
290 regulations, including the regulations to protect and compensate workers for ergonomic injuries.
- 291 • using Washington workers, products, goods and services for functions occurring within the state
292 and country rather than outsourcing to other countries or non-governmental entities.
- 293 • fair trade, not free trade, and abolishing the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)
294 because when jobs are exported then workers and the environment are exploited.
- 295 • workers’ rights to unemployment insurance when locked out by employers.
- 296 • adequate, equitable representation of workers on corporate boards of directors.
- 297 • restrictions on corporate takeovers and mergers when workers are dismissed without just cause or
298 compensation.
- 299 • protection of the U.S. Social Security System and pension plans.
- 300 • state and federal prevailing wage laws for all government contracts.
- 301 • assistance for the working poor through access to affordable healthcare, housing, child care
302 facilities “24/7” and job training/apprentice programs.
- 303 • reform of the WTO in order to protect and extend American labor, environmental standards and
304 civil rights to international trading partners.

- the right to collective bargaining without retaliation of the AFSFME/DOD/National Security Personnel System and all other federal government employees.

We oppose:

- the use of temporary workers during strikes and, further, we oppose the permanent replacement of striking workers.
- any executive order designed to break up or interfere with labor unions.

VIII. WASHINGTON STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY STRUCTURE AND PROCESS

We support:

- representation on the Executive Committee of the WSDCC (Washington State Democratic Central Committee) that must follow the same principles as those in the Charter and Bylaws of the WSDCC, requiring equal representation of men and women at all levels of the organization.
- substitutes with written proxies as the proper means for all members of the WSDCC Executive Committee to fulfill their obligations to represent their constituents in the event that they are unable to attend a meeting.
- a requirement that the WSDCC Executive Committee recognize and follow rules of procedure (e.g., the “Call to Meeting”) that are generally recognized as essential to both the proper functioning of the Executive Committee and to a practice of being open and inviting to all Democrats.
- the proper determination and reporting of legitimate votes cast officially by delegates (i.e., a visual showing of each person’s vote – “Yea or Nay” – by credential).
- the intentional inclusion of the “grassroots” of the Democratic Party, accomplished by providing information related to the functioning of the party and by inviting their ideas and “feedback.”

We oppose:

- an organizational structure that discourages, prohibits, or limits the participation of members of the Washington State Democratic Party, as long as members respect the rules and procedures established in the Platform and Bylaws of the WSDCC.
- the substitution of coordinated campaign staff for members of credentials committees or any other committee of elected delegates or for floor privileges.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ The Precautionary Principle -- "When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken, even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof. The process of applying the precautionary principle must be open, informed, and democratic and must include potentially affected parties. It must also involve an examination of the full range of alternatives, including no action." - **Wingspread Statement** on the Precautionary Principle, Jan. 1998. The precautionary principle, virtually unknown here six years ago, is now a U.S. phenomenon. In December 2001 the *The New York Times Magazine* listed the principle as one of the most influential ideas of the year, describing the intellectual, ethical, and policy framework SEHN had developed around the principle. In June 2003, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco became the first government body in the United States to make the precautionary principle the basis for all its environmental policy.

ⁱⁱ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

ⁱⁱⁱ The USA PATRIOT Acts

^{iv} The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

^v “Dead-end” Seeds -- sterile seeds derived through an interplay among three transplanted genes, one of which produces a toxin that kills seeds in their final stages of development. Critics however refer to it as “terminator technology” because of the technique’s ability to neutralize a plant’s germinating capacity—a characteristic introduced for purely commercial reasons.

^{vi} "The Project for a New American Century" is a political agenda dedicated to establishing an American empire controlled by American corporate, political, economic, and military forces throughout the world. This includes military action to secure control of non-renewable energy resources wherever located; trade agreements that undermine our Federal and state regulations regarding work conditions, health care, and environmental protection; control of our political processes to favor the Project to the detriment of American citizens..

^{vii} “the commons” – those features of the earth and its atmosphere that are held in common by the inhabitants of the earth: air, water, the airwaves, and similar forms of existence.

^{viii} “legal Fictions” -- concepts that are created only under the law; legal fictions are artificial entities. Corporate personhood is a legal fiction that was born into jurisprudence in 1886 when the U. S. Supreme Court dubiously declared corporations to be persons under the Fourteenth Amendment, a Civil Rights amendment designed to safeguard newly emancipated Blacks from unfair treatment by the government. In *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad*, the head note declared corporations to be persons, yet the text of the opinion contains no analysis discussing the legitimacy of this ruling. In subsequent cases (in which the Court has expanded the number of amendments under which corporations can be protected) the only analysis of the merits of “corporate personhood” has been in the dissenting opinions. The Supreme Court has extended corporate personhood to give corporations rights under the First, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments. For further information, please see these websites: <www.POCLAD.org> and <www.SoundDemocracy.org> and <www.wilpf.org>.

^{ix} Codex Alimentarius -- The Codex Alimentarius contains general standards covering matters such as food labeling, food hygiene, food additives and pesticide residues, and procedures for assessing the safety of foods derived from modern biotechnology. It also contains guidelines for the management of official (i.e., governmental) import and export inspection and certification systems for foods. The Guidelines have attracted concern from both consumers and industry due to the potential for restrictions on vitamins and minerals as nutritional supplements. The health freedom movement has pointed to greater concerns related to restrictions on dietary supplement ingredients in Europe via the European Union's Food Supplements Directive (which utilizes approved lists of ingredients and ingredient forms) and potentially restrictive dosage limits to be based on a Codex model via the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) Nutrient Risk Assessment Project.