#1: Resolution in Opposition to the Trans Pacific Partnership

WHEREAS passing the TPP would most assuredly increase our balance of trade deficit as past similar agreements have dramatically done; and

WHEREAS passing the TPP would facilitate even more offshoring of high-wage jobs; and

WHEREAS the negotiations on this treaty were dominated by corporate interests and the voices of civil society were pushed aside; and

WHEREAS investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) tribunals pay attention to our legal traditions or Constitutional protections, and their decisions can force Congress to reverse policies enacted in the public interest; and

WHEREAS the ISDS system can be used by private investors to compel governments to compensate them for lost future profits; and

WHEREAS TPP goes well beyond simple trade provisions, establishing a global governance system which puts investor interests above public interests; and

WHEREAS past trade deals similar to the TPP have given investors greater power and influence while offering civil society only lip service in response to legitimate concerns about labor rights, environmental protections, public health, human trafficking, food security, internet freedom, and prudent financial regulation, among other global issues; and

WHEREAS income inequality and climate change are the two defining problems of our time, and the TPP would stand as an obstacle to policies designed to address these global problems; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Party be encouraged to engage with groups that oppose the Trans Pacific Partnership for the purpose of building public opposition to the TPP; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution, upon its adoption, be sent to Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, Representative Derek Kilmer, Representative Suzan DelBene, Representative Rick Larsen, Representative Jim McDermott, Representative Adam Smith, and Representative Danny Heck; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all members of the Washington State Democratic Party be encouraged to contact members of their members of Congress to express strong reservations about the flawed process used to produce the TPP and the negative consequences that would follow if the TPP were to become law.
#2: Resolution to Replace Democratic Precinct Caucuses with a Primary Election

Whereas conducting precinct caucuses is expensive for the local and State Democratic Party, and

Whereas the shortage of volunteers makes it difficult to organize and conduct caucuses, and

Whereas not every precinct has a precinct committee officer or other person familiar with the caucus process, which makes errors more likely to occur, and

Whereas the counting of ballots by elections offices is highly accurate and less subject to human error, and

Whereas the caucus process limits whose voices can be heard as many voters have commitments that prohibit participation but do not meet the guidelines of the Surrogate form, and

Whereas the goal should be to allow as many people as possible to have their voices heard and former State Democratic Chair Dwight Pelz stated on KUOW (31 March 2016) that caucuses disenfranchise about 90% of voters,

Therefore, be it resolved that Democratic Precinct Caucuses should be replaced with a Primary Election.
#3: Resolution in Support of Passing Initiative 732 and Post-Election Follow-up

WHEREAS fossil fuels contribute to approximately 85 percent of carbon dioxide emissions in Washington state, and will continue to impact our economy and our public health; and

WHEREAS the current price of fossil fuels does not adequately incorporate externalities of their consumption, and

WHEREAS carbon emissions remain a contributor to climate change which threatens stability and development at all levels of government, and

WHEREAS forty countries and 20 subnational jurisdictions have already committed to carbon pricing, Washington would lead the United States through enacting the first state level carbon tax, and

WHEREAS companies favor regulations based on transparency and feasibility to ensure a just transition to carbon pricing, which exalts a carbon tax from other carbon pricing mechanism, and

WHEREAS I-732 has been endorsed by the 5th Legislative District Democrats, 26th Legislative District Democrats, 32nd Legislative District Democrats, 40th Legislative District Democrats, 41st Legislative District Democrats, Kitsap County Democrats, Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, Snohomish County Democrats, Whatcom County Democrats, and Young Democrats of Clark County. in its provisions identified as follows:

1. Reduce the state sales tax by one full percentage point.

2. Fund the Working Families Rebate to provide up to $1500 a year for 400,000 low income working households in Washington state.

3. Effectively eliminate the Business and Occupation tax for manufacturers.

4. Institute a carbon tax of $25 per metric ton of carbon dioxide on fossil fuels consumed in the state of Washington.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative District, County and State Democratic Party urge its elected officials to endorse I-732 and to pass endorsement resolutions in their jurisdictions and encourage all voters to vote for I-732,

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 clear demands 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.
WHEREAS infrastructure is a basic need of any organized, modern, civilized, and lasting society, and

WHEREAS adequate roads, bridges, buildings, stadiums, ferries, airports, ports, and similar structure and facilities are funded by taxes raised by the government of all people; and

WHEREAS taxes are best used to pay for infrastructure of benefit to all citizens; and

WHEREAS appropriate levels of taxation benefit all of society by permitting creation of infrastructure; and

WHEREAS infrastructure paid by the people’s taxes is a source of civic pride and it's to be owned and enjoyed by all; and

WHEREAS selling of naming rights to taxpayer funded infrastructure diminishes the civic pride in tax funded infrastructure and removes ownership from the people; and

WHEREAS allowing Corporations to usurp credit for tax funded infrastructure unduly conditions the people to accept corporate rule and subordinates the people to corporate rule; and

WHEREAS Corporations are permitted to operate under rules set by society, and are entirely artificial creatures of statute; and

WHEREAS Corporations have been allowed undue influence of excessive wealth to control our society and public agendas and discourse; and

WHEREAS Corporations have rigged the system to amass excessive wealth by unnecessary and counter-productive tax breaks, and to usurp democracy and popular rule by the excessive influence of massive wealth; and

WHEREAS the purchasing of naming rights to publicly funded infrastructure by corporate entities is a symptom of under-taxing those corporations seeking such rights;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the naming of tax-funded buildings, roads, bridges, and facilities after corporate sponsors be prohibited.
#5: Resolution in Support of Public Electrical Utilities And Their Importance to Resisting Climate Change

WHEREAS climate change remains a critical, urgent, and timely issue in 2016, and

WHEREAS, a significant cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels to produce electricity for our homes, businesses, and industry, and for some of us, our electric vehicles;

WHEREAS, a private corporate utility with overseas owners, Puget Sound Energy, uses coal and other fossil fuels as the source for the majority of its electrical power, and it has this year pressed our State Legislature to set aside public funds to help bail them out for the eventual future cost of reversing their business decision to acquire and operate dirty coal-fired power plants in Colstrip, Montana;

WHEREAS, in contrast, our State for nearly a century has been a leader in the dozens of public not-for-profit electric utilities that serve Washington communities with electrical power that is primarily obtained from renewable energy sources, and

WHEREAS, some Washington communities, including Bainbridge Island, seek as early as November 2016 to ask voters to authorize a local public utility for their local community that would have the right to use renewable energy sources from Bonneville Power Administration to replace existing investor-owned utility and its fossil-fuel sourced power,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative District, County, and State Democratic Party urge its elected officials and voters to endorse the authorization, deployment, and operation of existing and new public utilities that would use or continue to use renewable fuel sources to provide electrical power to our communities in Washington in a way that will resist climate change rather than worsening it.
#6: Resolution in Support of Passing Initiative 735 and Post-Election Follow-up

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 a US constitutional amendment to overturn US Supreme Court decisions that threaten to destroy our democracy, and

WHEREAS the Washington State Democratic Central Committee has endorsed I-735 and its provisions identified as follows:

1. The individual 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 for 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.
#7: Resolution to Remove Cannabis from Schedule 1

WHEREAS the voters and/or legislatures of the States of Alaska Colorado, Oregon and Washington have chosen to remove all criminal penalties for the recreational and medical use of cannabis (marijuana) by their citizens, and

WHEREAS the voters and legislators of twenty-one other States have decriminalized some form of medical marijuana use, and

WHEREAS we now know from one of the participants in its formulation that the so-called War on Drugs was a cynical ploy by political operatives of the Nixon administration to justify increased surveillance of anti-war protesters and civil rights activists and to facilitate wholesale arrests of political opponents, and

WHEREAS for that reason alone cannabis (marijuana) was added to the list of Schedule 1 narcotics in 1970, the criteria for which are:

1) that there be no currently accepted medical use of the drug in the United States,
2) that there be a high potential for abuse, and/or addiction, and
3) that there are no protocols for safe use of the drug under medical supervision, and

WHEREAS cannabis clearly does not meet the criteria of a dangerous drug as required by the Schedule 1 classification of the Controlled Substances Act, and

WHEREAS there are wide discrepancies in the way cannabis is treated in the laws of the various States, and in the sentences handed down to violators of those laws, and

WHEREAS in States where cannabis is legal under Washington State Law, but remains illegal under Federal Law by virtue of it's listing as a Schedule 1 Narcotic, this creates conflicts for legitimate legal businesses and uncertainty for local law enforcement, banking officials and merchants,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic voters of the State of Washington hereby petition the President, the Attorney General of the United States, and the Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration to remove cannabis and its associated products from Schedule 1 and to discontinue any further criminal actions against those involved in the cultivation, processing, retail distribution, and/or medical or recreational use of cannabis.