

## **A Resolution of the Democratic Party of Washington County, Oregon**

### **Resolution # 2017-040**

#### **In Support of Requiring Presidential Candidates to Release Tax Returns**

**WHEREAS** for the past 40 years, Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates have released their tax returns for public scrutiny; and

**WHEREAS** tax returns are an essential source of information on candidates' potential conflicts of interest, revealing potential undue influence that banks, foreign governments and other entities may be able to exert on the candidate; and

**WHEREAS** tax returns can also be used to determine a candidate's honesty regarding his or her business affairs, charities, and charitable contributions; and

**WHEREAS** tax returns can provide insight into the character of a candidate, whether they used loopholes to avoid paying taxes, whether they conducted activities they criticized in others while campaigning, who their business partners are, what sources of outside income they may have, and their overall judgment; and

**WHEREAS** the President of the United States (POTUS) is exempt from conflict-of-interest laws, making it all the more imperative that voters learn of such conflicts prior to the election; and

**WHEREAS** a state law requiring release of a presidential candidate's tax returns prior to the general election would inform not only the voters in that state, but the voters nationwide:

**THEREFORE**, we, the Democratic Party of Washington County (DPWC), Oregon Resolve as Follows:

1. We urge the Oregon State legislature to enact a law with the following provisions:
  - Anyone running for the office of President or Vice-President of the United States must release his or her filed tax returns for the previous five years at least 60 days prior to the general election, even if under IRS audit.
  - A presidential candidate who fails to do so will not appear on the ballot in Oregon, and the state's (currently seven) electors will not be allowed to cast their vote for that candidate.
2. We support Oregon House Bill HB 2909, "Relating to disclosure of tax returns for candidates for federal office," which contains, essentially, the above listed provisions.
3. If HB 2909 is passed, this resolution is to be submitted to the Democratic National Committee and all state Democratic parties.

*Note #1: The DPO SCC passed a similar resolution at their March 28, 2017 Quarterly Meeting.*

*Note #2: A bill with these provisions has been filed in the New York state Senate by New York State Senator Brad Hoylman, titled "Tax Returns Uniformly Made Public," or the T.R.U.M.P Act. If this act, or one with similar provisions, is passed in any state, the entire nation will benefit.*

*Resolution Introduced by Hobbs, 2/7/2017; Passed for 1<sup>st</sup> reading w/ format amendments P&RC 3/7/2017; passed by CC 4/24/2017. Therefore #3 revised to reflect DPO SCC action on March 28 (Note #1).*