

A RESOLUTION OF
THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
REGARDING "TOP TWO PRIMARY" PROPOSITION 90

Whereas a Top Two Primary as outlined by Oregon 2014 proposition #90, would basically take away the option for like-minded political party members to democratically select their potential leaders based on how they stand on basic party principles; and

Whereas recent Top Two Primary elections in California (e.g. District #31 in 2012) have documented increased "spoiler" problems, in which the dominant party split votes between candidates, resulting in only two minor party candidates appearing on the General Election ballot; and

Whereas independent voters want to see more substantive choices (independent and third party) in the General Election, while the Top Two Primary proposal has been shown to take away virtually any chance of third party choices appearing on the General Election ballot; and

Whereas recent Top Two Primary elections held in Washington and California have had record low turnouts and have also resulted in declines in the General Election turnout; and

Whereas the current system, though flawed, is well understood by voters the Top Two Primary system, as well as other alternative systems such as "instant runoff voting" and "range voting", deserve a lot more analysis and consideration before rushing to change our fundamental system of democracy out of frustration:

Therefore, the Democratic party of Washington County resolves:

1. To recommend to its members that Oregon proposition 90 be voted down in the coming 2014 election.
2. That more efforts be made in the next couple of years to explore alternate methods for election reform.
3. That participation of voters in crafting such changes through public forums and discussions be required and facilitated so that independent voters and minor parties are not further disadvantaged and that grass roots movements are encouraged.

Resolution submitted: Michael Neff, August 12, 2014

Revised: WashCoDems Platform Committee, August 20, 2014; revised August 25, 2014