

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON
2016-017**

Regarding Re-instatement of the “Fairness Doctrine”

WHEREAS the “Fairness Doctrine” was enacted into law in 1959 and stated “A broadcast licensee shall afford reasonable opportunity for discussion of conflicting views on matters of public importance”; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the doctrine’s constitutionality in the “Red Lion Broadcasting Co. v. FCC (1969)”;¹ and

WHEREAS under President Reagan the Federal Communications Commission voted unanimously in 1986 to repeal the “Fairness Doctrine”;² and

WHEREAS the U.S. has since seen reduced coverage of important issues due to a decrease in public affairs programming; and

WHEREAS there has been an increase in conservative programming without balanced programming with a progressive perspective.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY THAT:

1. We believe Democracy is better served by a balanced media coverage of “conflicting views on matters of public importance;”
2. We urge our Congressional representatives to work toward re-instatement of or updating the “Fairness Doctrine” to ensure more balanced political programming.
3. We will contact our elected Congressional representatives and report back on their responses.

Resolution submitted: Kathy Wnorowski, March 2016; approved by Platform & Resolutions Committee, April 19, 2016.

1. Fair.org: The Fairness Doctrine - January 1, 2005
2. New York Times - August 5, 1987
3. Wikipedia definition: **Broadcasting** is the distribution of audio and/or video content to a dispersed audience via any electronic mass communications medium, but typically one using the electromagnetic spectrum (radio waves), in a one-to-many model.