

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON**
WashCoDems 2016-019

Regarding Support for Ballot Measure 99 (Statewide Outdoor School)

WHEREAS Outdoor Schools provide a valuable educational resources for students in all Oregon school districts, but particularly for those in urban schools; and

WHEREAS the Outdoor School Initiative (BM-99) creates a separate fund from Lottery Economic Development Funds to support outdoor school programs statewide; and

WHEREAS Oregon currently has the 4th lowest graduation rate from high school, the third largest class sizes, and one of the shortest school years of all 50 states and Outdoor School experiences have been shown to be a very cost-effective motivating factor for many students; and

WHEREAS Senate Bill 439 was introduced in 2015 at the request of the Outdoor Education Coalition providing for a one time (5th or 6th grades), “6-day, residential, hands-on educational experience, or an equivalent outdoor educational experience that reflects community needs and contexts, featuring field study opportunities”; and

WHEREAS Outdoor Schools provide a unique “hands-on” experience that informs students about the rich and complicated ecological systems of Oregon and the Northwest; and

WHEREAS BM-99 is supported by over 100 organizations including many commercial out doors manufacturers, most state environmental organizations, AFT Oregon, AFSCME, Portland Association of teachers, and Oregon Save Our Schools.

WHEREAS past experience with Outdoor Schools in Oregon has shown them to be popular with both students and teachers, and effective in creating unique learning experiences and life-long lessons regarding the environment:

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

- 1) The Democratic Party of Washington County publicly supports BM-99 regarding Outdoor Schools.
- 2) We ask our legislators and legislative candidates to support BM-99 in the November election.

Draft Submitted: July 2016, Platform & Resolutions Chair; Approved by P&RC for 1st Reading – 7/12/2016

NOTE: The Resolutions will be altered when a Ballot Measured # is assigned.