Washington County Democratic Party
Declaration of the Platform and Resolutions Committee

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING IN OREGON

Whereas the heart and soul of the Democratic Party is promoting justice, equal opportunity and compassion in pursuit of the common good; and

Whereas it is realistic to expect that legislators will feel pressured to give increased access and preference to the individuals, corporations and organizations that give them the largest contributions; and

Whereas a significant majority of Americans wish to overturn *Citizens United,*[i] the Supreme Court decision allowing large, secret corporate and foreign campaign donations to be a serious threat to our democracy; and

Whereas a significant majority of voters support limiting campaign money;[ii] and

Whereas over four out of five legislative Oregon state candidates who spent the most campaign money have consistently won their elections;[iii] and

Whereas one third of state legislative candidates spend over one fourth of their time raising campaign funds;[iv] and

Whereas states such as Maine, Arizona, North Carolina, Connecticut and others have successfully implemented popular publicly funded elections;[v] and

Whereas Oregon is one of only four states without limits on the size of contributions to candidates:[vi]

THEREFORE, WE, AS WASHINGTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS, DECLARE:

1. We support a system of public financing of state senator and representative and statewide office campaigns that will be designed to:
   - Reduce the influence of big donors
   - Increase the influence of small donors
   - Attract both incumbents and challengers
   - Allow legislators and candidates to reduce time spent fund-raising
   - Enhance the credibility of our elections and government
2. We support amending the Oregon Constitution to allow campaign contribution limits.
3. We request the Democratic Party of Oregon to adopt this resolution as soon as possible.

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[i] Hart Research, "Impressions Of The *Citizens United* Decision And A Proposed Constitutional Amendment To Overturn It," January 2011, http://freespeechforpeople.org/sites/default/files/me10129b_public.pdf.

[ii] The Economist/YouGov Poll, January 2010, http://media.economist.com/images/pdf/Toplines20100127.pdf.

[iii] Janice Thompson, "Money in Oregon Politics: History, Trends, and Reform," Democracy Reform Oregon, April 2009, p. 15.

[iv] Paul Hernson, Ronald Faucheux, "Candidates Devote Substantial Time and Effort to Fundraising," July 7, 2000, http://www.bsos.umd.edu/gvpt/herrnson/reporttime.html .

[v] Common Cause, "Money in Politics," http://www.commoncause.org/site/pp.asp?c=dkLNK1MQIwG&b=4773825.

[vi] National Conference of State Legislatures, "Contribution Limits: An Overview," http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=16594