

Resolution Supporting a Legislative Requirement that Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates Disclose Eight Years of Tax Returns in Order to Appear on Washington’s Primary Election Ballot

WHEREAS a democratic norm has been established in that Presidential candidates of all major parties have, for over forty years, following the failure of President Richard Nixon to fully comply with the tax code, made public disclosure of their tax returns; and

WHEREAS tax returns, as pointed out by former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, “provide the public with its sole confirmation of the veracity of a candidate's representations regarding charities, priorities, wealth, tax conformance, and conflicts of interest,” and may reveal “inappropriate associations with foreign entities, criminal organizations, or other unsavory groups”; and

WHEREAS President Donald J. Trump, both while a candidate and continuing to this day, has not made public disclosure of his tax returns despite having vowed at least annually, from 2011-2017, to do so; and

WHEREAS we have a longstanding and revered tradition of supporting democratic norms and promoting greater transparency in government; and

WHEREAS Washington state Senator Patty Kuderer (48th Legislative District) and Representative Derek Stanford (1st Legislative District) are introducing in 2019, in the State Senate and House, respectively, legislation to establish a procedural requirement that any and all presidential and vice-presidential candidates, regardless of party, disclose their most recent eight years of tax returns in order to appear on a primary election ballot in the State of Washington;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the First District Democratic Organization enthusiastically supports legislation that would establish a procedural requirement that any and all presidential and vice-presidential candidates, regardless of party, disclose their most recent eight years of tax returns in order to appear on a primary election ballot in the State of Washington; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our own state legislators, and the Governor so that they may understand our firm belief that requiring presidential candidate tax-return disclosure is an essential democratic norm that must be restored for the benefit all voters, regardless of party affiliation, in all future primary elections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our own state legislators be queried, as to what action they have taken and intend to take in response to this Resolution; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the WA State Democratic Party for their consideration at their next State Committee Meeting.

Proposed by Carl Larson, carl.larson@presidentialtransparency.org
PCO, Mountlake Terrace 15, 1st Legislative District 12/30/2018

Recommend DO PASS by the 1st LD Issues Committee 1/3/19