

1 Benton-Res-01-15-Close Non-Combat Overseas Bases [carried by count]

2 Resolution: Closing Non-Combat Overseas 1 Military Bases

3

4 Whereas the United States has more than 737 overseas military bases and

5 Whereas the worldwide total of U.S. military personnel in 2005, including those based domestically,

6 was 1,840,062 supported by an additional 473,306 Defense Department civil service employees

7 and 203,328 local hires and

8

9 Whereas its overseas bases, according to the Pentagon, contained 32,327 barracks, hangars,

10 hospitals, and other buildings, which it owns, and 16,527 more that it leased and the size of these

11 holdings was recorded in the inventory as covering 687,347 acres overseas and 29,819,492 acres

12 worldwide, making the Pentagon easily one of the world's largest landlords and

13

14 Whereas the cost of owning and staffing these overseas installations is helping to drive up the

15 deficit of the United States Government and

16

17 Whereas most of America's military personnel could be put to work in the United States to rebuild

18 American infrastructure, shore up our state governments, protect our borders and waterways and

19 provide for the general welfare of the citizens of the United States and

20

21 Whereas the wages paid to those military personnel would cycle back into the American economy

22 instead of foreign economies and

23

24 Whereas personnel so stationed in the United States would have more access to their families and

25 be role models in their communities;

26

27 And whereas World War II officially ended on August 15, 1945 – 65 years ago;

28

29 Therefore be it resolved that the Benton County Democratic Central Committee urges the

30 Washington State Democratic Party to support closure of overseas bases in non-combat countries

31 such as Germany, Japan, Italy, Spain, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, while maintaining access rights

32 through treaties with those countries in case of emergency deployments.

33

34 Be it further resolved that the Washington State Democratic Party urge our elected representatives

35 to support such base closures in order to begin to cut U.S. Government deficits while maintaining

36 troop fitness levels.

37

38 Mimi Latta, State Committeewoman

39 Benton County Democratic Central Committee

1 01 Benton - Res - 01 – 05 Ban on Bullying [did not carry – hand count] [back to Resolution committee]

2 Resolution: Banning All Bullying in All Schools in Washington State

3 Whereas HB 2801 addresses bullying of students in Washington state schools but does not  
4 explicitly address bullying or harassment of adults including teachers, staff and volunteers in schools,  
5

6 Whereas the schools are workplaces and school workers including teachers and administrators  
7 should be protected by anti-harassment laws,  
8

9 Whereas it is recognized that bullying is not just physical intimidation but also can be intimidation  
10 of teachers in terms of salaries, promotions, work assignments, marginalization, etc.,  
11

12 Whereas bullying in any form of any person is inappropriate behavior and would be an undesirable  
13 role model for students in a school,  
14

15 And Whereas bullying and harassment in schools makes for a disruptive and ineffective learning  
16 environment for the students and can drive away good teachers and administrators, and can  
17 eventually result in public safety incidents,  
18

19 Therefore be it resolved that the Democratic Party go on record as supporting educational  
20 institutions where all persons can expect a safe environment, and opposing bullying of students  
21 and adults, and cyber-bullying or harassing.

22  
23 Be it further resolved that all educational institutions adopt a no-tolerance policy with regard to  
24 bullying of students or staff,  
25

26 Be it further resolved that all educational employees be educated in modeling respectful behavior  
27 toward others in the schoolhouse,  
28

29 Be it further resolved that the Office of Professional Practices in the Office of Superintendent of  
30 Public Instruction change the Washington Administrative Code to reflect that adult-on-adult  
31 bullying is an unprofessional practice” subject to a maximum penalty of revocation of teaching  
32 and/or administrative certification to violators,  
33

34 Be it further resolved that teachers be allowed to report such abuse directly to the OSPI Office of  
35 Professional Practices without going through either the school district or ESD superintendent, and  
36

37 Be it further resolved that an anonymous reporting system be set up to allow teachers a safe  
38 means of communicating bullying treatment.

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40 Submitted by Chris Reuther

1 Benton – Res – 01 1 – 14 – Legalizing Marijuana [did not carry – voice vote]

2

3 RESOLUTION ON LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA GROWTH, SALE AND

4 USE

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6 WHEREAS the present condition of criminalization, arrest and incarceration of marijuana

7 farmers, sellers and users has created an unworkable huge prison population in the

8 United States, and

9

10 WHEREAS the U.S. prison population has an extreme imbalance in the percentages of

11 minority race prisoners placed there because of marijuana growth, marketing and use,

12 and

13

14 WHEREAS the young offenders are at great risk of being trained in prison to exit as

15 hardened criminals, and

16

17 WHEREAS illegal growth, sales and use of marijuana is causing civic disturbance in the

18 form of violent crime, and

19

20 WHEREAS there does not appear to be a serious physical harm caused by moderate

21 marijuana smoking, and

22

23 WHEREAS legal sale and use of marijuana could be monitored and taxed as any other

24 product, and

25

26 WHEREAS marijuana appropriately processed is believed to have medical uses,

27

28 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BCDCC encourage the State of Washington to implement  
legislation to

29 decriminalize and legally permit regulated marijuana farming, sales and use, and

30

31 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that BCDCC seek that marijuana be regulated in a manner similar to

32 alcoholic beverages, including a tax on the marijuana product sold similar to the tax on

33 tobacco sales.

34

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36

37 Submitted by Neil Norman to the Benton County Democrats for consideration at the

38 Benton County Democratic Convention to be held April 10, 2010.

39

01 Benton - Res - 01 – 08 – 1 Public Funding of Elections [passed by voice vote]

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3

4 RESOLUTION ON PUBLIC FUNDING OF ELECTIONS

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7 WHEREAS the current funding for legislative candidates' campaigns for Federal and WA  
8 State seats is largely derived from donations by vested interest groups from all sectors  
9 of our society, and

10

11 WHEREAS the required funds to secure an election have reached huge levels making it  
12 impossible for many good candidates to succeed while most seats are in effect bought  
13 by powerful vested interests, and

14

15 WHEREAS the vested interests who have supplied the bulk of election campaign  
16 funding make demands for reciprocity or quid pro quo on elected legislators' time and  
17 voting allegiance, and

18

19 WHEREAS the result is a focus of legislative action in response to the goals of vested  
20 interests that may or may not be aligned with the best interests of the citizens or their  
21 government, and

22

23 WHEREAS substantial time and attention of legislators while in office is taken up with  
24 seeking the huge funds necessary for reelection instead to governance and attending to  
25 the needs of the voting citizens;

26

27 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BCDCC support the principal that Federal and WA State  
elections should be funded with

28 public funds only, and

29

30 THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BCDCC seek that allocation of these public funds be  
31 limited in dollars supplied and time for campaigning, and

32

33 THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BCDCC seek that election authorities of WA State  
34 immediately access the information to be gained from the successful applications of

35 publicly funded State elections in Arizona and Maine, and

36

37 THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BCDCC seek guidelines be established for qualifying  
38 candidates for receipt of public funding for elections in an impartial manner, and

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40 THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the BCDCC seek a system for Public Funding of  
41 Elections effective for Washington State elections be proposed to the State legislature.

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43

44

45 Submitted by Neil Norman to the Benton County Democrats for consideration at the  
46 Benton County Democratic Convention to be held April 10, 2010.