

Standing Rules on the Approval of Resolutions

Approved by the Executive Board on Tuesday, 26 April 2005 (Needs to be reapproved?).

Purpose

The purpose of these rules is to define how the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee approves a resolution. These rules do not cover approval of resolutions during precinct caucuses or a county Democratic convention.

Who may propose a resolution

The following may propose a resolution for approval:

- **Member of the Snohomish County Democrats.** Anyone meeting any of the membership types listed in Article I, Section E of the By-Laws of the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee.
- **Legislative District Organization.** Any state legislative district organization that operates under the rules established by the Washington State Democratic Central Committee whose district covers Snohomish County in whole or in part.

What body approves a resolution for the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee

The following may approve a resolution for the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee:

- **The Central Committee.** The Central Committee will be the primary forum for considering and approving resolutions on behalf of the organization. The Central Committee may also revoke the approval of a resolution approved by the Executive Board.
- **The Executive Board.** If urgent, the Executive Board may approve a resolution for the organization. A resolution approved by the Executive Board may also be directed to the Central Committee for ratification.

Part of the resolution voted on and approved

The only parts of the resolution that are voted upon are:

- The name of the resolution.
- What is being resolved (clauses contain the word “resolved”).

Resolutions are intended to address one issue. Any supporting or background information (sometimes given as “whereas” clauses before what is being resolved) are not voted upon or approved. It is encouraged to present any background information separately from the part of the resolution being voted upon to reduce confusion on what is being voted upon.

Wording when approved by the Central Committee

The first or only resolved clause begins with these words:

Be it resolved by the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee

If there is more than one resolved clause, each one after the first begins with these words:

Be it further resolved by the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee

Wording when approved by the Executive Board

The first or only resolved clause begins with these words:

Be it resolved by the Executive Board of the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee

If there is more than one resolved clause, each one after the first begins with these words:

Be it further resolved by the Executive Board of the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee

If the Central Committee is ratifying an action by the Executive Board, the resolved clause begins with these words:

Be it resolved that the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee ratifies the resolution called [insert name] approved by the Executive Board of the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee on [insert date], which said the following: [insert resolution approved by the Executive Board]

Disposition of the resolution

The disposition of the resolution needs to be covered as a separate resolved clause. For example, it should specify to whom the resolution should be sent, such as the Washington State Democratic Central Committee, the media or specific media outlets, members of Congress or other elected officials, etc.

The Approval Process for a Resolution

Resolutions and Platform Committee

A resolution must start with consideration by the Resolutions and Platform Committee. This committee works with the proposing member to perfect the naming and wording of the resolution.

This committee may do the following with a resolution proposed to it:

- Approve the resolution as perfected by the committee for consideration with a recommendation for approval.
- Approve the resolution for consideration, including a resolution perfected by the committee, but making no recommendation.
- Recommend against approval of the resolution.
- Take no action on the resolution.

This committee must receive a resolution one month in advance of a Central Committee meeting. The committee recommends action directly to the Central Committee no later than one week prior to a meeting of the Central Committee. All resolutions and their recommendations will be posted on line at that time.

If time sensitive, the resolution is needed one week in advance of an Executive Board meeting. The committee will determine if an issue is time sensitive and should be considered at the Executive Board.

Central Committee

The Resolutions and Platform Committee determines whether to forward a resolution on to the Central Committee. If the committee recommends approving a resolution, there is no further need of motion and second.

If the committee takes a neutral position (with or without recommendation pro or con), the Central Committee must approve the consideration of a resolution by a simple majority vote. The approval of the motion to consider requires only a simple majority in this case. After the motion to consider passes, the approval of such a resolution follows normal approval procedures.

If the committee recommends against approval of a resolution or has not forwarded a resolution for consideration, the Central Committee may approve consideration by a two-thirds majority vote. If a vote to consider the resolution is approved, the approval of the resolution follows normal procedure.

In certain circumstances the Central Committee can vote on resolutions from the floor. To vote on the approval of a resolution at the same meeting where it is first proposed requires approval of amending the original resolution by the addition of an emergency clause. This emergency clause must pass by a two-thirds majority. The wording of the emergency clause must be substantially like the following:

Be it further resolved that the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee finds that this matter is of an urgent nature, and directs that the resolution be approved at the same meeting where the resolution was first proposed.

Executive Board

The Executive Board may take the following actions on a resolution:

- Approve or reject the resolution, including approve as amended.
- Send the resolution to the Central Committee for action with or without a recommendation.

A resolution sent by the Executive Board to the Central Committee in any manner does not require the approval of a motion to consider by the Central Committee. The action of the Executive Board is considered the motion and second when reporting to the Central Committee.

The Central Committee may consider revoking the approval or rejection of a resolution approved by the Executive Board by a simple majority.