

2017 THURSTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC RESOLUTIONS

1. Addressing Systemic and Structural Racism, White Supremacy, and Other Forms of Oppression

(Adopted March 27, 2017)

WHEREAS we believe that systemic and structural racism, white privilege and supremacy, and other forms of oppression were woven historically throughout the political, economic, and cultural fabric of our state and nation;

WHEREAS we believe that these conditions persist in many forms to this day, in spite of the social progress we have made;

WHEREAS these persistent conditions can be seen today in the widespread disparities based on race and class associated with such social indicators as poverty, unemployment, family income and assets, incarceration, education, health, home and business ownership, and life expectancy;

WHEREAS our nation's white majority has for too long remained complacent in the face of overwhelming statistical evidence that our nation's struggle for racial and economic justice has not succeeded;

WHEREAS we can't fix social inequalities when we don't fully understand either their underlying historical roots or the ways they manifest in our society today;

WHEREAS the persistence of these unjust conditions has raised questions in many people's minds as to whether their lives matter as much as other's lives do, thereby giving rise today to new social movements such as Black Lives Matter; and

WHEREAS we believe that we as a society have a responsibility for, and a collective self-interest in, identifying, challenging, and eradicating these unjust conditions and their underlying causes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Thurston County Democrats call for and support committed and authentic efforts at the local, state, and national levels to conduct a comprehensive investigation of, and develop recommendations to address, the continuing manifestations of systemic and structural racism, white privilege and supremacy, and other forms of disproportionality, inequality, and oppression in our state and our local communities and in our nation; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call for and support a community-wide discourse including interactive community forums and other public gatherings for the purpose of engaging in courageous conversations to help us understand and seek to eliminate the conditions that allow such disproportionalities and inequalities to continue to exist in our world, our nation, our state, and our local communities.