

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE OUTSOURCING OF CUSTODIAL WORK IN  
THURSTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

1 WHEREAS:

2 The Thurston County Democratic Party Platform supports “the right of everyone to earn a living  
3 wage for a hard day’s work;” and  
4

5 WHEREAS:

6 As Democrats, we believe low-wage jobs exploit workers for the profit of corporations; and  
7

8 WHEREAS:

9 This exploitation drives low wage workers into social services at the expense of middle class tax  
10 payers, and  
11

12 WHEREAS:

13 Some public employers have turned to these exploitative practices using the economic recession  
14 as an excuse to privatize public services; and  
15

16 WHEREAS:

17 Thurston County Commissioners Karen Valenzuela and Cathy Wolfe recently voted to privatize  
18 the County’s entire workforce of Custodians; and  
19

20 WHEREAS:

21 The twelve impacted Custodians have the lowest hourly wage of any employee on the Thurston  
22 County payroll; and  
23

24 WHEREAS:

25 The workers who will replace these longtime County employees will be paid at minimum wage  
26 and receive no health benefits, paid sick leave, or retirement security; and  
27

28 WHEREAS:

29 These Thurston County Commissioners rejected fellow Commissioner Sandra Romero’s motion  
30 to delay this decision and pursue alternative solutions with AFSCME, the union which represents the  
31 Custodians,  
32

33 WHEREAS:

34 The Thurston County Democratic Party has previously endorsed Commissioners Valenzuela and  
35 Wolfe and sees this action as contradictory to our Party’s principles and platform,  
36

37 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

38 **That the Thurston County Democratic Party hereby declares its opposition to the**  
39 **unnecessary outsourcing of public sector jobs, and strongly encourages the Thurston County**  
40 **Commission to engage with the County’s Custodians and their union to find an alternative**  
41 **solution.**  
42  
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