

WORKSHEET – 2010 Whatcom County Democratic Party Platform

2008 Platform – Government and Election Reform	Government and Election Reform VALUES	2010 Government and Election Reform
<p>The current domestic political climate increasingly requires that our government make a commitment to provide transparent representation, so as to assuage fears of a degeneration of democratic control over its actions. Our government must also recognize its duty to provide services vital to the public without making the availability of those services dependent on the whims of a deregulated market, while simultaneously maintaining a fiscally responsible progressive tax base.</p> <p>We Call For:</p>	<p>These should be enduring value statements, which taken together cover the range of issues in this section. State in positive terms.</p>	<p>2-Year Policy Priorities From each values statement, think of one short-term goal that is fairly tangible and concrete, with a preference for local needs.</p>
<p>VOTING & ELECTIONS SYSTEMS</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Port of Bellingham commissioners from three to five; • Adoption of Instant Runoff Voting for national, state and local elections; 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A voting system that provides a physical paper ballot verifiable by the voter while in the process of voting; • State and federal public financing of political campaigns; • Support for stricter laws for preventing gerrymandering in Congressional redistricting; 		
<p>GOVERNMENT ETHICS</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending the use of political pressure to pervert scientific findings of government agencies, and ending the use of political criteria in the hiring and firing of U.S. Attorneys and other governmental employees. 		
<p>PARTY GOVERNANCE & DECISION-MAKING</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abolition of the non-democratic super-delegate system; • Adoption of State delegate selection process where 50 percent +1 of committed delegates are a result of a state primary, and 49 percent are chosen by caucus polling; 		
<p>TAXATION & GOVERNMENT FINANCE</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive tax structure that includes deductions for student loan interest; • Reducing the national debt • Tax credit for paid childcare; • Tax rate for Corporations comparable to that of individuals; 		<p>Plan to attend the 2010 Democratic Grassroots Strategy Sessions, Saturday, March 6, 10 am – noon. Locations to be announced at whatcomdemocrats.com .</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxing of unearned income at the same rate as earned income; 		<p>Bring this worksheet with your ideas to the Strategy Sessions so you can discuss them with other Democrats.</p> <p>More information at 647-7661.</p>