WORKSHEET – 2010 Whatcom County Democratic Party Platform

2008 Platform – Healthcare	Healthcare VALUES **These should be enduring value statements, which taken together cover the range of issues in this section. State in positive terms.**	2010 Healthcare 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.**
We believe the right to quality health care is a basic human right. We advocate the establishment of a comprehensive national single-payer health care system in which health care would be publicly financed and privately delivered. We Call For: • A national single-payer health care plan with privately-delivered services that cover all medically-necessary services; • A health care system where decisions are made by health care professionals, patients and their families and that provides patients the freedom to choose their providers; • Opposition to efforts to privatize Medicare; • Congress to establish a drug benefit program directly administered by the Medicare Administration with the authority to negotiate drug prices • Administration with the authority to negotiate drug prices directly with pharmaceutical companies; • Until a national single-payer health care plan is established, full funding and expansion of veterans' health programs, including necessary and appropriate support for their families; • A U.S. Food and Drug Administration that is independent of the pharmaceutical industry; • An effective plan of treatment and education to address this nation's drug, alcohol and tobacco problems; • Effective funding of mental health treatment; • A comprehensive public health plan to educate and protect the public in the event of an epidemic; • A Patients' Bill of Rights that protects the privacy of each patient's medical history; • Restoration of funding and support for medical research, including expanded stem cell and fetal tissue research, based on scientific merit; • Mandatory availability of employer-sponsored healthcare benefits to partners of eligible LGBT employees until such time as we have a single-payer system;		
		Plan to attend the 2010 Democratic Grassroots Strategy Sessions, Saturday, March 6, 10 am – noon. Locations to be announced at whatcomdemocrats.com . **Bring this worksheet with your ideas to the Strategy Sessions so you can discuss them with other Democrats.** **More information at 647-7661.**