

# WORKSHEET – 2010 Whatcom County Democratic Party Platform

<b>2008 Platform – Foreign Policy</b>	<b>Foreign Policy VALUES</b>	<b>2010 Foreign Policy</b>
<p>We believe that the United States must be strong and sure in its own defense while being equitable and just in resolving conflicts among and between other peoples and nations of the world. We assert that diplomacy, dialogue and non-violent means of resolving conflict are most in keeping with the goals and principles of our nation and must therefore be the first resort of our government.</p> <p>We assert that our principles, aspirations and interests are best advanced by making the rights, liberties and wellbeing of the peoples of all nations, ethnicities and groups our principal concern. In pursuit of those aims we assert that fair trade consistent with sound policies for protecting our world’s environment and the rights and welfare of workers, whether American or foreign, should be our nation’s policy in trade.</p> <p>We Call For:</p> <p><b>War Policy, Military, and Weapons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call on all governments to end production, stockpiling, testing and use of nuclear weapons;</li> <li>• Elimination of excessive spending from the military budget;</li> <li>• Elimination of the use of outside contractors for support services;</li> <li>• End to the use of private mercenary forces to supplement our armed forces;</li> <li>• Federal policy opposing the death and injury to civilians in Israel and Gaza and working with both sides to seek peaceful resolution of this conflict;</li> <li>• Prioritize dialogue and diplomacy over sanctions or military action;</li> <li>• Reject the policies of “first strike” and “preemptive war”;</li> <li>• Robust support for the men and women serving in our military for their sacrifice and to commit to a fully-funded Veterans Administration, expanded coverage to all veterans—not just low income veterans, state-of-the-art medical care for returning wounded veterans, expanded psychological support for transitioning veterans and post-traumatic-stress disorders, and sufferers of acute brain trauma.</li> <li>• Speedy but responsible end to our occupation of Iraq, including permanent bases, but not Afghanistan, which is a viable and legitimate NATO effort;</li> <li>• Strengthening international institutions and diplomacy as the surest ways to prevent acts of terrorism and resolve international conflicts;</li> <li>• Terminating the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security formerly known as the U.S. Army School of the Americas;</li> </ul>	<p><b>These should be enduring value statements, which taken together cover the range of issues in this section. State in positive terms.</b></p>	<p><b>2-Year Policy Priorities</b>  <b>From each values statement, think of one short-term goal that is fairly tangible and concrete, with a preference for local needs.</b></p>

