WORKSHEET – 2010 Whatcom County Democratic Party Platform

2008 Platform – Immigration

We affirm that human rights and dignity are not dependent on legal status or citizenship and that all people are entitled to these rights and dignities regardless of country of origin or lack of documentation.

We believe that immigration is not an issue of homeland security but an issue of global displacement and disproportionate distribution of wealth to the global north. We require that the causal relationship between foreign and trade policy and the increase in undocumented immigration be addressed in all immigration legislation without further criminalizing or stigmatizing immigrants.

We Call For:

- Opposition to limits on access to housing, public services, fair working conditions, education, protection from unjust search, seizure or legal persecution, medical care or any other human right based on lack of documentation;
- Opposition to construction of a wall or barrier along any U.S. border;
- Opposition to authorization of state or local police to enforce immigration law or request information on legal status;
- Opposition to armed vigilantism or any violent action toward actual or perceived non-U.S. Citizens;
- Opposition to deportation or detention of any person that is a primary or sole caregiver for a minor child or disabled dependent regardless of citizenship status;
- Opposition to classifying undocumented immigration as a felony;
- Opposition to English as the official language of the United States;
- Opposition to "quotas" for immigration based on national origin, level of education, specific skill or income level;
- Legislation that provides for improved access to citizenship based on educational attainment.
- Streamline and expedit legalization for immigrants fleeing from areas of war, political unrest, genocide or economic and political refugees;
- Path to citizenship for undocumented people already residing within the United States;
- Honor the rights, welfare and healthy environment of all indigenous peoples;

Immigration VALUES

These should be enduring value statements, which taken together cover the range of issues in this section. State in positive terms.

2010 Immigration 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.

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.