

1 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A  
2 LOCAL INCOME TAX IN PORT TOWNSEND  
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4 WHEREAS Port Townsend participates in the most regressive state and local tax system in the country, punishing  
5 already poor and middle class Port Townsend residents;  
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7 WHEREAS recent and current Legislatures of the State of Washington have failed to put into law a progressive  
8 income tax;  
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10 WHEREAS this failure has resulted in a stagnation and diminishment of revenue for state and local governments  
11 and public services;  
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13 WHEREAS the City of Port Townsend can pioneer a legal pathway to enable the state of Washington and local  
14 municipalities to put in place progressive and robust tax systems;  
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16 WHEREAS the revenues from such a systemic change in taxation could be dedicated to the provision of public  
17 services, including housing as well as infrastructure;  
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19 WHEREAS similar local taxes based on income are levied by both counties and cities, in 4,983 jurisdictions across  
20 the United States;  
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22 WHEREAS residents in Washington with incomes below \$21,000 pay 16.8% of their income in state and local  
23 taxes, residents with income between \$40,000 and \$65,000 pay 10.1% of their income in state and local taxes, and  
24 residents with income between \$100,000 and \$200,000 pay 6.6% of their income in state and local taxes, while  
25 residents with income between \$200,000 and \$500,000 pay only 4.6% of their income in state and local taxes, and  
26 residents with income in excess of \$500,000 pay only 2.4% of their income in state and local taxes;  
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28 WHEREAS RCW 35A.11.050 provides, in part, that the general grant of municipal power conferred on cities by  
29 Chapter 35A RCW "is intended to confer the greatest power of local self-government consistent with the  
30 Constitution of this state and shall be construed liberally in favor of such cities. Specific mention of a particular  
31 municipal power or authority contained in this title or in the general law shall be construed as in addition and  
32 supplementary to, or explanatory of the powers conferred in general terms by [that] chapter";  
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34 WHEREAS RCW 35A.11.020 provides, in part, that "the legislative body of each code city shall have all powers  
35 possible for a city or town to have under the Constitution of this state, and not specifically denied to code cities by  
36 law", specifically including the rendering of educational services commonly or conveniently rendered by cities; and  
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39 WHEREAS RCW 35A.11.020 also provides that "legislative bodies of code cities shall have within their territorial  
40 limits all powers of taxation for local purposes except those which are expressly preempted by the state as provided  
41 in RCW 66.08.120, 82.36.440, 48.14.020, and 48.14.080"; now, therefore, be it  
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43 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats request that the Port Townsend City  
44 Council immediately consider and pass an ordinance to implement a city income tax on the wealthy, and  
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46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Washington State Democratic Central  
47 Committee (WSDCC) to ask for their support in this effort as well.  
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49 Submitted by the Jefferson County Democrats to the WSDCC for consideration at its meeting scheduled for  
50 September 15-17, 2017  
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52 Submitted to the Jefferson County Democrats on 5-2-2017 by Tobi McEnerney, tobimcenerney@gmail.com  
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55 Signed by Submitter  Date: 5/17/17  
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