

Resolution in Opposition to Budget Cuts and in Support of Taxing the Rich

WHEREAS The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has required Governor Inslee to issue a “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order requiring Washingtonians to stay home and avoid non-essential work and travel in order to protect the health of front line workers, our most vulnerable, and our community as a whole;

WHEREAS The virus, and our efforts to combat it, have caused an economy wide slow down resulting in widespread job losses, difficulty paying rent, and small business closures;

WHEREAS Those most affected by the economic slowdown are service workers and others who were already struggling to make ends meet before the arrival of COVID-19;

WHEREAS The Puget Sound is home to multiple large tech companies whose stocks have risen significantly in value since the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order was put in place;

WHEREAS Washington State is home to multiple billionaires who have seen their wealth increase during the period of the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order;

WHEREAS Many well paid white collar workers are able to work from home and have been insulated from the economic impacts of the virus and our response;

WHEREAS Washington State and Seattle have the most regressive tax code in the country, and have historically asked for little from high income workers, big businesses, and billionaires while underfunding basic services;

WHEREAS The economic slowdown has led to lower revenues for city, county, and state governments;

WHEREAS We learned from our response to the Great Recession that budget cuts and austerity in a time of economic crisis lead to a slower recovery and inflict needless pain and suffering on struggling populations and the economy as a whole;

WHEREAS Republicans, and some Democrats, have already begun misguidedly calling for budget cuts at the state and local levels in response to the crisis;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 46th Legislative District Democrats call on our representatives at all levels of government to oppose budget cuts in response to the crisis;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 46th Legislative District Democrats call on our representatives at all levels of government to raise the revenue needed to meet our budget shortfall through progressive taxes including but not limited to, an income tax, a capital gains tax, a wealth tax, a higher estate tax, and taxes on large businesses;

Proposed addition: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that race, social justice, and economic equity be at the forefront of the fiscal decisions made in a potential special session and all future budget discussions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be publicized and sent to each elected representative with jurisdiction over the 46th Legislative District;