



44th Legislative District Democrats
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Resolution Supporting a Full Time Washington State Legislature

WHEREAS, Washington's limited session model compresses the lawmaking process into a short window, even as the state confronts complex challenges that require sustained policy work, public engagement, and rigorous oversight; and

WHEREAS, the short calendar can encourage rushed drafting, late stage vehicle bills, and major amendments offered near deadlines, which can reduce transparency and make it harder to fully evaluate costs, equity impacts, and unintended consequences; and

WHEREAS, the compressed timeline limits meaningful public participation, because constituents, tribal governments, local governments, labor organizations, community organizations, and public interest advocates often do not have enough time to review proposals, prepare testimony, and engage lawmakers before decisions are made; and

WHEREAS, procedural cutoffs in short sessions can prevent important bills from advancing regardless of merit, sideline urgent public needs, and force legislators to prioritize speed over careful deliberation; and

WHEREAS, legislative service increasingly functions as year round work in practice, and creating a full time professional legislature with appropriate compensation, staffing, research support, and constituent service resources would strengthen legislative independence, improve oversight, and broaden who can realistically serve.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Democratic Party supports transitioning Washington to a full time professional legislature and supports the constitutional, statutory, rule, and budget changes needed to modernize session length, interim committee work, public participation, and legislative oversight; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington State Democratic Party calls on Democratic legislators and the Washington State Legislature to develop and advance a clear public proposal for this transition, including fair compensation, adequate staff, research capacity, district office resources, accessibility, transparency, and accountability so year round legislative service is available to working people and those who cannot otherwise afford to serve; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Washington State Democratic Party urges Democratic elected officials, candidates, legislative district and county organizations, caucuses, councils, labor partners, community organizations, and public interest advocates to educate voters and organize support for a more transparent, accessible, representative, and effective Washington State Legislature.

Written by Ethan Martez and submitted by the 44th Legislative District Democrats