

Sample Resolution
**Re-Focus Border Patrol Operations to
Interdiction at the Border**

1 **WHEREAS** there has been an expansion of mission, facilities, and personnel of the U.S. Border Patrol under
2 the Department of Homeland Security including plans for increased detention capabilities;

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4 **WHEREAS** this expansion comes at a time of reduced funding for basic government services;

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6 **WHEREAS** the US Border Patrol is placing random checkpoints on highways away from the border and
7 conducting internal patrols within communities;

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9 **WHEREAS** the location of checkpoints, the frequency of stops, and the venues selected for community
10 surveillance raise concerns of racial profiling;

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12 **WHEREAS** ordinary crime control is the responsibility of local law enforcement agencies and Border Patrol
13 intrusion into their jurisdictions interferes with community policing strategies that build long-term
14 relationships of trust and accountability;

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16 **WHEREAS** judicial precedent states that checkpoints must have an actual connection with substantial
17 traffic from a proximate border and are not to be used for ordinary crime control purposes, raising
18 questions about the legality of the current program; and

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20 **WHEREAS** Congressman Norm Dicks and Senator Maria Cantwell have expressed similar concerns in
21 letters to Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security;

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23 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central Committee, call for a
24 suspension of expanded Border Patrol activities away from the border until their utility, legality and
25 constitutionality have been determined by the U.S. Congress and courts;

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27 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that during this suspension we call for an evaluation of the
28 utility of the current expansion of Border Patrol mission, facilities and personnel, and an evaluation of the
29 opportunity costs of this federal expenditure while core government services are being cut for lack of
30 funding;

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32 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call on local law enforcement officers to continue to
33 uphold their sworn oath to protect the constitutional rights and liberties of the members of our
34 communities; and

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36 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central Committee,
37 urge our elected federal officials to pursue a reformed approach to securing our border which focuses on
38 interdiction at the border, preserves constitutional protections and respects local law enforcement.
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41 Submitted by the Jefferson County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for
42 consideration at its April 25, 2009 meeting in Tacoma. (Date Submitted 4/8/2009)