

## 2011 WSCFF Convention Resolution

1 SUBJECT: Democracy for Fire/EMS Elections in the State of Washington  
 2 RESOLUTION #: 11-13  
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 5 WHEREAS: Currently, fire departments, fire districts and municipalities run levy and bond  
 6 measures that are not decided by the majority of the voters; rather, a super-  
 7 majority is needed to pass these measures; and  
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9 WHEREAS: Even though a majority of voters may want to preserve the infrastructure of their  
 10 community by funding these emergency service levies or bonds, a minority can  
 11 now derail the desire of the majority--this is an affront to democracy and a  
 12 prejudice against pro-infrastructure, pro-fire, and pro-EMS voters; and  
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14 WHEREAS: Democracy holds that there is wisdom inherent in the decision made by the  
 15 majority; a super-majority undermines this principle by allowing a minority to  
 16 make the collective decision; and  
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18 WHEREAS: In the arena of fire and EMS funding, this lack of wisdom can translate into lost  
 19 lives, lost property, lost property value, mounting insurance premiums and  
 20 population/job flight from areas where emergency service levies and bonds fail;  
 21 and  
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23 WHEREAS: Voters have already recognized the unfairness of a supermajority requirement for  
 24 levies and bonds by recently voting to remove this requirement from all public  
 25 school related bonds and levies; and  
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27 WHEREAS: The WSCFF worked for this issue in 2010-11; now therefore be it  
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29 RESOLVED: That the WSCFF pursue legislation to eliminate the super-majority requirement for  
 30 fire and/or EMS levies, bonds, and fire benefit charges.  
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33 SUBMITTED BY: Legislative

Committee	Action Taken	Recommendation
Legislative		Do Pass
Floor	Adopted	

ASSIGNED DESIGNATION: Legislative Team