

**Resolution Submitted to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee
by the
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club**

Restoring the Eligibility Criteria for All Citizens to Run for Sheriff in California

Whereas: County Sheriffs in California are elected officials who exercise extraordinary power, but legislation designed by the California State Sheriff's Association and passed under the Deukmejian Administration in 1987 severely restricted for the first time in California history the pool of candidates eligible to run for County Sheriff to law enforcement officers. Consequently, California sheriffs with rare exceptions are white, straight men with narrow, punitive "law and order" orientations who do not represent the increasingly diverse populations of the communities they serve, nor do they share their values or enjoy their trust. Further, sheriff candidates do not possess the training or qualifications needed to provide rehabilitative treatment and programs that foster genuine public safety, and

Whereas: California sheriffs wield unchecked power subject to almost no oversight by any state or county authority; unlike most California elected officials, sheriffs face no term limits; and due to the restrictive 1987 eligibility criteria, incumbents often run unopposed and frequently handpick their successors from their disproportionately conservative, white, male deputies and associates, and

Whereas: Systemic, institutionalized racism is embedded in US law enforcement, leading to mass incarceration and rampant brutality, particularly against African American and Latinx populations, and California Sheriffs contribute significantly to these injustices via documented racial profiling, militarized policing, cooperation with ICE leading to deportations, abusive jail conditions yielding startling death rates of inmates, sometimes at the hands of deputy sheriffs (for example, the asphyxiation death of Dajuan Armstrong in Santa Rita jail), and extensive violations of state law that impose enormous litigation and settlement costs on severely - strapped county budgets., therefore

Be It Resolved: that the state legislature should repeal the 1987 California Government Code Sec 24004.3 which restricted eligible sheriff candidates to law enforcement, thereby restoring the right of any citizen to run for County Sheriff in their county of residence and enlarging the pool of potential candidates to include a broader spectrum of backgrounds, qualifications and values, and be it further

Resolved: that this resolution shall be distributed to all Democratic Clubs in Alameda County, to all Assembly Members and State Senators representing Alameda County, to all County Democratic Party Central Committees in California and to the California Democratic Party.
submitted by

Pamela Drake,	18 th AD Delegate
Pamela Price,	18 th AD Delegate
Michael Barnett,	15 th AD Delegate
Jack Kurzweil,	Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club