



## **Strengthening Our Political Arm to Strengthen Us**

Resolution Number \_\_\_\_\_

### **WHEREAS:**

Corporate CEOs and billionaires such as the Koch Brothers have stacked the deck in their favor and will spend hundreds of millions of dollars more in ongoing and future elections; and

### **WHEREAS:**

Workers must organize into a strong political voice to elect candidates who stand up for working people and will restore balance to an economy that favors the few over the many. AFSCME District Council 36 must stay at the forefront of progressive political activism to strengthen and protect labor in the state of California; and

### **WHEREAS:**

Public employees have the ability to elect their bosses, including Mayors and City Councils, County Supervisors, School Boards, Sanitation District Directors and others, respectively, who have authority over the collective bargaining agreements that affect them; and

### **WHEREAS:**

AFSCME District Council 36, through its political arm, provides the support that our members need to win ballot measures that raise revenues for services and staffing, for pro-labor candidates and incumbents who protect workers and for legislation that strengthens and enhances labor rights across the state; and

### **WHEREAS:**

Article XII, Sec. 9 of the AFSCME District Council 36 Constitution, requires Council 36 – unlike many other AFSCME District Councils -- to pay “to the AFL-CIO on behalf of each local union affiliated and in good standing with Council 36, such amounts as per capita tax as may be required to insure that each local union is fully affiliated, and maintained in good standing, with the appropriate central labor council of the AFL-CIO”; and Council 36 chooses to pay – although not required to by the Constitution – an additional 65 cents per member per month to the PEOPLE political fund in Sacramento; and

### **WHEREAS:**

Our electoral successes, legislative initiatives and overall sphere of political influence have benefitted AFSCME members in every district of District Council 36, most recently among Locals from Los Angeles County, MTA and the Courts, as well as Orange County and the Cities of Commerce, Compton, Cathedral City, Cerritos, Carson, Covina, Lynwood, Los Angeles and San Diego; and

### **WHEREAS:**

The continued success of the Council 36 Political Program and our Political Action Committee depends on an active, participatory union membership and the contributions and resources of our Locals toward meeting our goals. The program provides additional assistance to Locals that wish to create their own political action committees; and

**WHEREAS:**

Council 36 both as an advocate for our members in Sacramento and in the local halls of government, must build sufficient PAC resources to continue to meet the needs of our members and diverse Locals and to safeguard and strengthen worker protections in these perilous political times;

**Therefore, Be It Resolved:**

Council 36 shall derive the means to further enhance the breadth and scope of our political program from Los Angeles to Orange County to San Diego to the Inland Empire and to the state capitol.

Submitted by:

Executive Board, AFSCME District Council 36

<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Committee Assignment	Committee Recommendation	Committee Action