

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



*Promoting CORE Values: Community, Opportunity, Responsibility, and Empowerment for all people*

### Resolution in Support of Senate Constitutional Amendment 7 (SCA 7)

WHEREAS it is time to add to the basic civil liberties of Californians the right to have governmental processes transparent to public observation and comment; and

WHEREAS it is time for the California Constitution itself to insist that state and local agencies keep official secrecy to a minimum and explain in understandable terms why closed meetings and records are essential to avoid harm to a serious public or private interest—when that is really the case; and

WHEREAS good government deserves and depends on the support of discerning electors, but those electors must be allowed to discover if they are expected to discern; and

WHEREAS in the words of James Madison:

*A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives.*

and

WHEREAS the proposed constitutional amendment embodied in SCA 7 would be neither disruptive nor subversive of settled values, and would not overturn the present balance of policy granting access on the one hand and preserving essential confidences on the other; and

WHEREAS the amendment in SCA 7 would require, as a basic courtesy of democracy, that officials who believe that the public must be denied certain facts or forums, and that the law supports this denial, should explain what otherwise unavoidable harm would result if access were allowed:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego County Democratic Central Committee, expresses its full support for SCA 7.

Date: February 12, 2002.

Bob Jellison,  
Chair, San Diego County Democratic Party.