



Service Employees	Union Operations
International Union	<i>Resolution 2</i>
Local 503,	2022 Committee Recommendations:
Oregon Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Pass as Amended
Employees Union	<input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Pass

Overcoming the Digital Divide

1 **Subject:** Overcoming the Digital Divide
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3 Micah Rogers, Joy Vegar and Emily Wang
4 **Submitted by:** SEIU Local 503 Board of Directors

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8 **WHEREAS**, technology is a powerful tool to bring members together for meetings, events, and general
9 Union participation at times when meeting in person is impossible due to distance, health concerns,
10 driving ability, and physical ability

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12 **WHEREAS**, our members face barriers to using said technology including internet literacy, access to
13 reliable internet, access to a computer, and/or access to a mobile device

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15 **WHEREAS**, as a Union that strives to be inclusive, we should lift any barriers our members face to access
16 the internet and be internet literate which includes: having the skills needed to live, learn, and work in a
17 society and union where communication and access to information is increasingly through digital
18 technologies like internet platforms, social media, and mobile devices.

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20 **WHEREAS**, we want to provide more opportunities for participation in union meetings, activities, and
21 participation across the state despite limitations due to geography, physical ability, internet literacy,
22 access to reliable internet, etc.

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24 **WHEREAS**, SEIU Local 503 Bylaws state that we should standardize our approach for remote access
25 within the Union in order to increase opportunities for engagement in Union leadership bodies by
26 members who live far from Portland and Salem.

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30 **BE IT RESOLVED by the General Council of SEIU Local 503, OPEU:** SEIU Local 503 shall explore concrete
31 and accessible ways to bridge the digital divide so that all members are able to participate in our Union,
32 including but not limited to exploring ways to:

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34 1. Provide internet literacy education and support to those who have a need for it and in languages
35 spoken by those members;
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37 2. Provide access to internet via a technology room for members within driving distance (and ability) of a
38 SEIU Local 503 office;
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40 3. For SEIU events that are online, connect members with resources needed for reliable internet access
41 at home, which may include providing internet stipends and/or routers, monitors, tablets, and other
42 hardware for members that show financial hardship and are not within driving distance and/or ability
43 from an SEIU Local 503 office;

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45 4. Partner with community organizations and social services agencies who are also working to bridge the
46 digital divide; and

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48 5. Provide hybrid or virtual options as applicable for as many Union events as possible.

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