A logo of a republican committee

Description automatically generated**Resolution on Virginia’s Leadership in Election Integrity**

Whereas election integrity and voter confidence in election results is essential for increased voter registration and participation; and

Whereas some States and the District of Columbia have experienced election integrity issues resulting in concern over the accuracy of election results; and

Whereas 2020 Virginia redistricting effectively undid decades of convoluted line drawing; preserved communities of interest, geographic regions and metropolitan areas as much as possible; created congressional districts and nested Virginia senate districts in the congressional districts and Virginia house district in the Virginia senate districts; split county lines and avoiding “fracking” where a district line crossed a county line more than once (Source: memos to the Virginia Supreme Court from Bernard Grofman and Sean Trende of [December 7, 2021](https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/districting/memorandum_re_va_redistricting_2021.pdf) and [December 27, 2021](https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/districting/2021_virginia_redistricting_memo.pdf); and

Whereas Virginia endeavors to maintain accurate voter lists with both annual (on October 1 deceased persons, 24.2-404.3; on November 30; Va Code 24.2-444, 24.2-410.2), monthly (24.2-408 - deceased. 24.2-409 – felony convictions, 24.2-410 – incapacitated decisions; 24-2-410.1 - citizenship), and regular (24.2-404, other states) voter list updates acquired from vital records lists, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicle records, and data sharing with other States; and

Whereas Virginia along with a number of other States recently withdrew from ERIC in June 2023 to prevent improper sharing of voter information with third parties; and

Whereas Virginia has maintained strict laws for identification of voters both at the polls and in the absentee voting process (24.2-701.1 F) and voter identification is required when voting the first time by mail (24.2-416.1); and

Whereas Virginia law protects the secrecy of individual ballots (24.2-638) during the voting process requiring documentation of anyone assisting a voter during the balloting process (24.2-649); and

Whereas Virginia has instituted strict ballot security requirements (24.2-616 – 621) during elections for both in-person voting and absentee voting; and

Whereas Virginia ballots contain machine security markings to ensure that only official ballots can be read by ballot counting machines as well as the seal of the electoral board (24.2-619); and

Whereas Virginia is instituting use of ballot barcodes which will restrict the use of ballots to a single precinct in an effort to prevent the introduction of unauthorized ballots in an election; and

Whereas Virginia has procedures in place that if voting in a local precinct exceeds the number of registered voters that only the number of ballots matching the number of registered voters will be counted preventing ballot box stuffing (24.2-662, 24.2-664); and

Whereas no ballot counting machines in Virginia are ever connected to the internet before, after, or during an election to prevent tampering (24.2-625.2); and

Whereas Virginia election procedures establish clear chains of custody for voting machines, ballots, and any devices containing voting results (24.2-634) and to be in plain view of officers of election during use (24.2-638); and

Whereas Virginia law provides transparency in the election process with opportunities for political party representatives and the public to observe the testing of voting machines before elections (24.2-633; 24.2-635); and

Whereas Virginia uses paper ballots with digital backup copies of those ballots; and

Whereas Virginia – along with 20 other states according to the National Conference of State Legislatures (July 23, 2023) - prohibits third party organizations from participating with or assisting the Virginia Board of Elections or local Voter Registrars’ Offices in voter education and outreach programs, voter registration programs, or any other expense occurred in the conduct of elections (24.2-124.1) unlike States such as Wisconsin and Michigan; and

Whereas Virginia law prohibits anyone but the voter from carrying or being in possession of an absentee ballot (24.2-707) unlike States such as Georgia which allow many different family members or relatives to assist voters in carrying their ballot; and

Whereas Virginia does not conduct general, special or small elections using ‘vote by mail’; and absentee voters must request absentee ballots and absentee ballot voters and Voter Registrar’s Offices can track returned absentee ballots in the U.S. mail system until they reach the Voter Registrar’s Office; and

Whereas Virginia absentee ballot return ballot envelopes are verified for accurate signatures and voter verification (24.2-709.1), previously with witness signatures and in 2023 by providing voter’s birthdate and last 4 digits of the voter’s social security number; and

Whereas Virginia law requires balanced representation of political parties, where practicable, and among election officers (24.2-115) to ensure confidence and fairness in the election process; and

Whereas Virginia law provides for election observers by political candidates during primary voting and for one election observer by each political party during general elections (24.2-604.4) (Electoral boards are not balanced because of the odd number they have, which is 3. There will be 2 members that represent the political party that cast the highest number of votes for Governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election.); and

Whereas many Virginia jurisdictions use parallel vote tabulation methods for additional security (an election officer from each precinct reports on the number of voters at different periods of the day and end of the day results from the voter machine tapes before the voting equipment, and paper and digital records are transported from the precincts to the Voter Registrar’s Office at the end of the evening; and

Whereas Virginia has implemented Risk-Limiting Audits (RLA) of at least one randomly selected jurisdiction during years in which there is a U.S. House of Representatives election, or general election of members of the Virginia General Assembly, year when no General Election occurs, and for contested race to ensure accurate reading of machines, and for every locality once every five years (24.2-672.1); and

Whereas balloting machines with security measures in place provide an efficient, cost-effective, accurate and timely election result over slow and costly hand-counting methods; and

Whereas every voter can check their voting status and voting record online through the Virginia Department of Elections Citizens’ Portal (vote.elections.virginia.gov) or at the Voter Registrar’s Office after the certification of election results to verify that their ballot was counted; and

Be It Therefore Resolved, by the Rockingham County Republican Committee that it commends the Commonwealth of Virginia, the General Assembly, and the elected leaders of Virginia in their efforts to ensure a secure and fair election process to give confidence to Virginia voters that their ballots with their choices are accurately recorded and counted; and

Be it Further Resolved that as long as transparency, use of paper ballots marked by the voter or vote marking machine, effective ballot security measures, voting machine control, chain of custody of voting results remain in place, along with use of parallel tabulation methods and risk-limiting audits, we have confidence that electronic voting machines provide fast, secure and accurate results; and

Be It Further Resolved that Virginia has shown leadership in election security and integrity for other States to follow to give voters confidence in the election process and that their vote counts.