

Resolution in Support of the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act

Whereas state legislatures have introduced over 360 bills to curb voting rights since the beginning of 2021; Republicans in the Arizona Legislature are responsible for 23 of those bills, including restrictions on early voting and restrictions on local election officials; these bills are based on the lie that voter fraud and irregularities are rampant; on April 13, the Arizona Legislature, on a party-line vote, transmitted to the Secretary of State a resolution in opposition to the For the People Act (S.1);¹ and

Whereas the For the People Act (S.1) would ensure that voting options are equally accessible across all 50 states, put a check on billionaires' ability to buy our elections, and help ensure that voters can elect leaders who are accountable to them; specifically, the For the People Act would require states to use automatic voter registration, expand early voting, and reduce barriers to voting by mail. It would also use small-donor public financing to empower ordinary Americans instead of big donors — at no cost to taxpayers. Additionally, it would put in place much-needed campaign finance reforms, an end to partisan gerrymandering, and overhaul federal ethics rules. Critically, the bill would thwart virtually every voter suppression bill currently pending in the states, would counteract suppressive measures sought by Republicans in the Arizona Legislature; would mitigate the harm of purging voters from the early voting list by requiring that all voters receive absentee ballot applications; it would also prevent the addition of redundant identification numbers on vote-by-mail ballots and set minimum standards for best practices for signature verification; voters would have the ability to cure a missing signature within 10 days of the notice of the missing signature;² and

Whereas the Voting Rights Act enacted in 1965 prohibits racial discrimination in elections, and that landmark law is considered a signature achievement of the civil rights movement; however, the Supreme Court's 2013 ruling in *Shelby v. Holder* significantly weakened the VRA's protections, clearing the path for states to pass a slew of laws that disenfranchise voters and discriminate against voters of color;³ the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act is responsive to what the Supreme Court's *Shelby* decision said needed to be done to justify preclearance for state election laws and practices,⁴

Whereas the 2020 General Election saw a massive increase in voter turnout, including large numbers of people of color and young people whose votes are most likely to be suppressed by new laws coming from Republican legislatures; Democratic control of Congress and the White House, and movements for Democratic victories in state legislative races, rest on continuing the participation of people of color and young people in future elections; and participation by such voters is essential to fulfill the promises inherent in our founding documents of a democracy of, by and for the people.

Whereas passing the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act with an effective date of Labor Day 2021 will allow state and local elections officials to plan for the 2022 Elections, and

Whereas, Senators Sinema and Kelly are among the 48 co-sponsors of the For the People Act which has passed the United States House of Representatives and is now pending in the United States Senate.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arizona Democratic Party supports the passage of the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Arizona Democratic Party urges Senators Sinema and Kelly to do whatever it takes to make the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act into law before Labor Day 2021, whether that involves obtaining Republican votes in favor or reform or elimination of the filibuster as applied to these bills, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Arizona Democratic Party shall cause this resolution to be delivered to Senators Sinema and Kelly with her certification that this resolution is the resolution of the Arizona Democratic Party and the Chair shall issue a press release to national and state media informing the public of this resolution.

¹ <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voting-laws-roundup-march-2021>; <https://legiscan.com/AZ/text/HCR2023/id/2252459>

² <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/arizona-lawmakers-declare-their-opposition-democracy>

³ <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/how-to-restore-and-strengthen-voting-rights-act>

⁴ <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/how-to-restore-and-strengthen-voting-rights-act>

Resolution Submitted by:

County Chairs

Ann Heitland, ADP Senior Vice Chair, Chair of Coconino County Democratic Party, State Committee Member (hereafter “SCM”) on behalf of herself and the Coconino County Democratic County Party

Priscilla Weaver, Chair, Apache County on behalf of the Apache County Democratic Party and herself

Nancy Schriber, Chair, Maricopa County Democratic Party on behalf of the County Party and herself

Mary McCord Robinson, Chair Mohave County Democratic Central Committee on behalf of the County Committee and herself

Missa Foy, Chair Navajo County Democratic Party on behalf of the County Party and herself

Bonnie Heidler, Chair Pima County Democratic Party, on behalf the County Party and herself

Donald Hunt, Sr., Chair Pinal County Democratic Party on behalf the County Party and himself

Francis Glad, Chair Santa Cruz County Democratic Party on behalf of the County Party

andherself

Xanthe Bullard, Chair Yuma County Democratic Party on behalf of the County Party and herself

Additional State Committee Members

Brianna Westbrook, SCM and Educational Chair ADP on behalf of herself and for the Progressive Council of ADP

Shanna S. Leonard, SCM and Vice Chair ADP

Michael Slugocki, SCM and Vice Chair ADP

Steven C. Begay, SCM and 1st Vice Chair Apache County

Katherine D. Arviso, SCM and 2d Vice-President, Apache County Democratic Party

Aubrey Sonderegger, SCM and 1st Vice Chair Coconino County Democratic Party

Allan Gerston, SCM and 2d Vice Chair Coconino Coconino County

Dr. William J. Wade, SCM and Treasurer, Coconino County Democratic Party

Linda Guarino, SCM and Member of Executive Committee Coconino County Democratic Party

Vickey Finger, SCM and Executive Committee Member Coconino County Democratic Party

Louis Proudfoot, SCM (Mohave)

Marilyn Weissman, SCM

(Coconino)Mik Jordahl, SCM

(Coconino)

Avtar Khalsa, SCM (Coconino)

Sallie Kladnik, SCM

(Coconino)Janell Hunt, SCM

(Pinal)

Judith Ann Mathus, SCM

(Coconino)Kyle Nitschke, SCM

(Coconino) Deborah A. Broome,

SCM (Pinal) Judith E. Maeda, SCM

(Coconino) Kerry Nugent, SCM

(Coconino) Millicent Gray, SCM

(Coconino) David Coward, SCM

(Pinal)

John Bohan, SCM (Coconino)

Judith Ann Mathus, SCM (Coconino)

Virginia Dotson, SCM (Navajo County)

Helen Hudgens Ferrell, SCM

(Coconino)Marie Sansone, SCM

(Coconino)

Donna Hanley, SCM (Coconino)

Don Howard, SCM (Coconino) and Legislative Liaison for ADP Rural

CouncilLeslie Schultz, SCM (Coconino)

Danny Baker, SCM (Mohave)

Jon Holland, SCM (Mohave

County)Angela LeFevre, SCM

(Yavapai) Phyllis Schiller, SCM

(Coconino) Charlie Silver, SCM

(Coconino) Jessica Kitterman, SCM

(Coconino)Nancy Branham, SCM

(Coconino)

Diane Nevill, SCM and Chair LD-10 Democrats

Ken Kenegos, SCM, LD 30, Progressive Council

Dr. Frances Julia Riemer, SCM Coconino County

Priya Sundareshan, SCM Pima County

Cecilia Alter, SCM Pima County

Other Democrats

Darrell Boomgaarden, PC (Coconino) on behalf of the Flagstaff Indivisible

AllianceShirley J. Ooley, on behalf of Northern Pinal Democrats

Laura Huenneke, Coconino County Liaison to ADP Election Integrity

Committee Kelsey Blakley, PC (Coconino)

John Propster, PC (Coconino)

Dr. Karyn Riedell, PC (Coconino)

Christa Sadler, PC (Coconino)

Michael Ferrell, Coconino County

Robert Pauls, Coconino County

Stephen Hirst, PC Coconino

County John Neville, PC Coconino

County Samantha Meier, Coconino

County Diana Henry, Coconino

County Janice Carlile, Coconino

County

David Carlile, Coconino County

Elizabeth Porter, Gila County

Hendrik de Heer, Coconino County

Sandra Carrigg, Coconino County

Albert Sandoval, Coconino County

Alexus K. Dudoit, Pima County

William R Laray, Pima County

Robbie Bergman, Coconino County

Ellen R. Ivey, Coconino County

