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Title of Resolution: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE INTEGRITY OF ARIZONA BALLOT PROCESSING SYSTEMS

Resolution Submitted by:

Caucus/Council: Election Integrity Committee (individual members listed below)

These individuals:

Xanthe Bullard

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Reason for Resolution: Arizona is still facing the threat of Election deniers, voter suppression and intimidation issues. These issues could have a significant impact on turnout and results of the 2024 elections, and it is important to let all democrats know that we trust the processes in place in order to bolster voter confidence.

Proposed Resolution

Whereas the Arizona Democratic Party is committed to registering voters and motivating them to vote. It is important that Arizona citizens have confidence in the integrity of the management of elections in order to be so motivated.

Whereas election deniers persist in creating voter suppression by claims that elections have been stolen, that computer tabulation of ballots is not to be trusted, and that some election officials knowingly mismanage the system. Many election officials and workers have been threatened and vilified to the point that it becomes increasingly difficult to attract and retain qualified staff.

Whereas Arizona Election Law provides numerous safeguards to ensure that ballots are processed and tabulated accurately. Tabulation devices are certified at the federal and state levels to ensure accuracy of results and staff managing those devices are highly trained and certified to use those systems. They are further motivated to conduct the systems honestly and fairly by the prospect of felony convictions for fraudulent systems operations. Checks and balances are in place with rigid examinations of the tabulation devices before each state and federal election, through Logic and Accuracy Tests conducted by the Arizona Secretary of State and, in some counties, also by local party participants.

Whereas after every state and federal election, political parties have the statutory opportunity to conduct a regulated hand count of a prescribed percentage of the ballots, with a record of nearly perfect agreement on the numbers reached by the tabulators and the hand counters, with minor differences in initial counts mostly found attributable to human error. No official recounts conducted under Arizona statute have resulted in significant differences between the official results and the recounted results.

Whereas the Maricopa County hand count of the 2020 election conducted by the Cyber Ninjas (The "Fraudit") revealed many problems with hand counts, especially since it was conducted without safeguards to ensure accuracy. The experience also demonstrated that hand counting is time consuming and inefficient, leading to charges of "stolen elections" long after Election Day. In 2023 a bill calling for citizen hand counts was passed along party lines, with no Democratic votes, and was vetoed by Governor Hobbs.

Therefore, The Arizona Democratic Party affirmatively supports the integrity of Arizona's ballot tabulation systems combined with regulated sample hand counts and opposes either substituting hand counts for computer tabulation, or supplementing the current process with additional hand counting of paper ballots.