RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ELECTION REFORM

WHEREAS the 2020 elections demonstrated how important open, secure and honest elections are to our republic; and

WHEREAS Democrats in many states used COVID-19 as an excuse to make last minute changes through unorthodox methods to election laws in the middle of an election cycle; and

WHEREAS the South Carolina Republican Party proved its commitment to defending ballot integrity in South Carolina by going all the way to the US Supreme Court and defeating Democrat lawsuits that sought to use Covid-19 as an excuse to change South Carolina voting laws, helping ensure the most successful election for South Carolina Republicans in over 140 years;

AND WHEREAS the SCGOP's efforts were even lauded by President Trump on multiple occasions;

BUT WHEREAS there is a continual need to evaluate and improve our election process and to boost the confidence that voters have in our electoral system;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Carolina Republican Party calls on the South Carolina General Assembly to pass legislation that will:

1) Require that the State Election Commission conduct an audit of randomly selected precincts within each county after each state-wide primary and general election that matches a hand count of paper ballot receipts against reported machine totals, the results of which should be reported to the General Assembly and made public;

2) Require that all county election commissions should be under the direct authority of the State Election Commission and that all election policies and procedures must be implemented in a uniform manner state-wide, providing consequences to county election officials and county commissions that do not comply;

3) Require more regular and thorough cleaning of voter registration lists, including, but not limited to: cross-referencing against Social Security and DHEC records to identify / remove individuals who are deceased, requiring that all county governments collaborate to account for those moving across county lines; cross-referencing with South Carolina (and other state) DMV

records and the national "change of address" registry in order to identify individuals who have moved to another location;

4) Prohibit the acceptance or the use of any non-governmental, third-party, or private money, grants, or gifts from outside sources to assist in the administration of an election;

5) Reduce the number of excuses to vote via mail-in absentee ballot and create a process of 7 days of "in person absentee" at locations (based on population / distance) in each county that have been announced at least 2 weeks in advance;

6) Provide for increased transparency and in-person monitoring of all polling locations, (both "early in-person" and "Election Day")

7) Extend current photo voter-ID requirements to mail-in absentee ballots, and to the witnessing of mail-in absentee ballots. Such provision should require both the voter and the witness to provide the number from a state-issued photo ID, such as a drivers' license;

8) Limit the number of mail-in absentee ballots that any one individual can witness to not more than ten (10);

9) Ensure that all certified political parties and the General Assembly have legal standing to sue other state officials who make or attempt to make unauthorized changes to state election laws and their application;

10) Limit candidates to appearing on the ballot for a particular office once, not as the nominee of multiple political parties

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such legislation be passed into law prior to the commencement of the 2022 election cycle.