

RESOLUTION FOR UTAH TO RETURN TO AN INDEPENDENTLY ELECTED SECRETARY OF STATE

WHEREAS, Dedicated focus on the important matter of secure and accurate public elections is a worthy endeavor and,

WHEREAS, the Republican National Committee (RNC) has made election integrity a prime focus in the 2024 elections¹ partly due to problems encountered in the 2020 election cycle and due to GOP voter distrust of election integrity and,

WHEREAS, polls show² a majority of US voters do not trust that our elections are conducted securely enough to prohibit or satisfactorily punish fraud or cheating in elections³. 20% of US voters admit to cheating with mail-in ballots.

WHEREAS, Confidence in Utah elections is critical to ensure citizens vote and can have faith and trust in election outcomes and enjoy a State Executive who is appropriately neutral in races and,

WHEREAS, An independent, private multi-County Utah canvass⁴ showed widespread (13% of those responding) problems with excess ballots, improper voting, lost votes and other errors significant enough to change election outcomes, and,

WHEREAS, 47 US States currently employ an independently elected Secretary of State to oversee election matters, as Utah once did. Further, there is a need for increased focus and a call from the RNC and the UTGOP via the 2024 "Excellence In Voting" SCC resolution on election integrity, and,

WHEREAS, Sole reliance on County Clerks or the Lieutenant Governor's (LG's) office to call for full hand recounts when indicated has not enhanced candidate or voter trust in election outcomes.⁵ Candidates need the ability to independently trigger full hand-recounts even if there is some cost to them,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Utah Republican Party calls upon our Legislature to once again adopt our former model of having an independently elected and individually accountable **Secretary of State** to oversee our critical public elections while retaining the LG's office for other duties.

RESOLVED, The Utah Republican Party calls upon our legislature to enable *candidates* to independently require a **full hand recount of ballots** when races are within 5% if that candidate will pay towards said recount the reasonable amount the Legislature shall set except if they win the recount there shall be no cost to them.

¹<https://www.npr.org/2024/03/15/1238765442/rnc-trump-republicans-whatley-lara-election-integrity-voter-fraud-early-voting>

²https://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/biden_administration/election_integrity_54_say_not_enough_done_to_prevent_cheating

³https://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/partner_surveys/one_in_five_mail_in_voters_admit_they_cheated_in_2020_election

⁴ <https://docs.getinvolvedutah.com/v/TVjZ2awZU9azJTq0Kqqv>

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4leTBi0HjI>

Upon passage our Utah Republican Party Chair shall ensure a copy of this resolution is posted on our website for not less than 2 years and emailed to GOP members of the Utah Legislature and elected members of the Executive Branch.

Sponsor: Bob McEntee, MSC01, 801-695-7511. Cosponsors: Chad Saunders, Kriss Martenson, Blair Brandenburg, Blaine Nay, David Mallinak, Maryann Christensen, Alison Matherne, Janice W. Legler, Teena Horlacher, Tenna Hartman, Chase Leavitt, Marci Green Campbell, Whit Cook, Bruce Kupfer, April Pinkston, Connie Peterson, Casey Gale, Shannon McInnes, Tracie Halverson, Kim F. Coleman, Brian Gray, Mary Burkett Goulding, Nate Affleck, Jennifer Garner, Daniel Badal.

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