

RESOLUTION FOR UTAH TO RETURN TO AN INDEPENDENTLY ELECTED SECRETARY OF STATE (SOS)

WHEREAS, Dedicated focus on the important matter of secure and accurate public elections (which includes initiatives and referenda) is a worthy endeavor and,

WHEREAS, our URP Platform calls for “consent of the governed” and independently elected officials better represent the direct consent of the governed. Our Platform also demands accountability of officials and direct election of a SOS enhances accountability of that official,

WHEREAS, Confidence in Utah elections is critical to ensure citizens vote and have faith and trust in election outcomes and enjoy a State Executive who maintains neutrality in races. In a memorable example of non-neutrality in 2024 L.G. Deidre Henderson co-chaired the finance committee of GOP AG candidate Derek Brown (1) and,

WHEREAS, the Republican National Committee (RNC) has made election integrity a prime focus in the 2024 elections partly due to problems encountered in the 2020 election cycle and due to GOP voter distrust of election processes (2) and,

WHEREAS, polls show (3) a majority of US voters do not trust that our elections are conducted securely enough to prohibit or satisfactorily punish fraud or cheating in elections. 20% of US voters admit to cheating with mail-in ballots, and 28% say they would cheat for their candidate (4), and,

WHEREAS, the continuing centralization of power under the L.G. office and county clerks (away from voting precincts and municipalities) has hindered election transparency over the years, and

WHEREAS, An independent, private multi-County Utah canvass showed widespread (13% of those responding) problems with excess ballots, improper voting, lost votes and other errors significant enough to change outcomes. 62% of Utah conservatives don't trust election results,

WHEREAS, 47 US States currently employ an independently elected Secretary of State (SOS) to oversee elections, as Utah once did. Further, there is a call from the RNC and UTGOP for more focus on election integrity via the 2024 “Excellence In Voting” resolution 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, and in at least one instance was denied without cause (5). Candidates need the ability to independently trigger **full hand-recounts** even if there is some cost to them, and,

WHEREAS, The Weber County Republican Party expects that Representatives will **represent** the views and desires of the voter majority and not legislate contrary to our desires,

WHEREAS, Voters may trust election results and election officials, as shown in a December 2024 Hinckley Poll (6), this does not mean they prefer the current LG system over a SOS, for elections and so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Weber County and Utah Republican Party calls upon our Legislature to once again adopt our former independently elected and individually

accountable **Secretary of State** (SOS) office to oversee our critical public elections while retaining the LG's office for other duties and,

RESOLVED, The Weber County GOP joins the Utah Republican Party and calls upon our Representatives 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.

FURTHER RESOLVED, We support all measures that will increase election integrity, accountability, focus and neutrality in Utah elections.

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

Sponsor: Bob McEntee, Leg 6 Chair, 801-695-7511. Cosponsors: Blair Brandenburg, Daniel Badal, William Olson, Otto Krauss, Stewart Campbell, David Mallinak.

Passed in Convention, April 12th, 2025.

- (1) <https://kutv.com/news/politics/lt-gov-deidre-henderson-campaign-role-called-inappropriate-by-two-candidates-for-attorney-general>
- (2) <https://www.npr.org/2024/03/15/1238765442/rnc-trump-republicans-whatley-lara-election-integrity-voter-fraud-early-voting>
- (3) https://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/biden_administration/election_integrity_54_say_not_enough_done_to_prevent_cheating
- (4) https://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/partner_surveys/one_in_five_mail_in_voters_admit_they_cheated_in_2020_election
- (5) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4leTBi0HjI>
- (6) <https://www.ksl.com/article/51214123/election-confidence-flip-flop-poll-shows-trust-in-state-election-officials-increase-among-utah-gop>