

## **Resolution in Support of Placing the Fair Elections Initiative on the November Ballot**

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Democratic Party (SCCDP) and a number of other allied organizations have endorsed the Fair Elections Initiative (FEI), which would reform San Jose elections by reducing the influence of special interest money in campaigns for Mayor and City Council and by increasing voter participation in mayoral elections.

**WHEREAS**, after the San Jose City Council voted 6-5 against putting the measure on the Ballot, a community coalition turned in over 97,000 signatures to the San Jose Clerk's office petitioning to have the FEI put on the November ballot, but roughly 3,000 signatures were "lost" before they arrived at the Registrar's Office;

**WHEREAS**, after the Registrar of voters initially rejected the measure based on a sampling process that found insufficient signatures to qualify for the ballot, a California Superior Court judge reversed that decision and has now ordered a full recount after finding numerous "egregious" errors in the policies and procedures used by the Registrar of Voters in counting the signatures, which may have resulted in countless signatures being unjustly disqualified;

**WHEREAS**, the loss of the signatures and the egregious counting errors (1) raise serious concerns about the integrity of the initiative process if it can be so easily undermined by such errors, and whether this was a form of voter suppression, which we as a party both locally and nationally have condemned as undemocratic; (2) promises to disenfranchise minority voters; and (3) must be corrected swiftly and decisively, so that it does not become a tool of corruption by unscrupulous interests in the future.

### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT:**

**RESOLVED**, that, the City of San Jose must find the missing 3,000 signatures, which were last in their possession or, failing that, the San Jose City Council must place the FEI on the November 2020 ballot; and

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the SCCDP hereby calls for a full and impartial investigation into this matter, in order to determine precisely how this failure occurred, what reforms must be made in order to ensure that it never happens again, and who should be held accountable.

*Respectfully Submitted by:* Asm. Ash Kalra; Asm. Kansen Chu; Maya Esparza; Jean Cohen; Helen Chapman; Michael Vargas; Judy Pipkin; David Cohen; Tony Alexander; Andres Quintero; Claudia Shope; Omar Torres; Adrienne Grey; Rebeca Armendariz; Emy Thurber

Adopted by the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee on June 4, 2020