

Please complete the following at the Democratic Precinct Convention on Tues., March 4, 2008:

Adopted / Not Adopted (*circle one*) by PRECINCT _____, SENATE DISTRICT _____

RESOLUTION *for*
Open and Honest Elections and Public Ownership of Elections

WHEREAS the fundamental purpose of the United States is to practice democratic self-government, and to ensure our government loyally serves We the People who created it and nothing else, and to recognize that all legitimate government power comes only from the people via elections; and

WHEREAS the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence declares our unalienable rights, including the right to alter or abolish our government at will; and

WHEREAS this paragraph also declares the reason government is created is to "secure these rights," to We the People, and affirms that rights are ours by birth, proving that our government guarantees us our rights, but doesn't grant us our core rights; and

WHEREAS it is noted that to be a free people requires us to have the ability to change elected representatives at will; and

WHEREAS our government is not based on "trust" or maintaining "public confidence" in elections, it is instead based on checks and balances, oversight and supervision, which are forms of distrust; and

WHEREAS Americans have every reason to believe misconduct will be worse wherever secrecy is present instead of openness because secrecy prevents accountability; and

WHEREAS secret vote counting leaves the people completely insecure in their right to remove incumbents, and leaves election officials completely free to alter elections without detection; and

WHEREAS since the 2000 election, there's been an explosion in secret vote counts via new computerized voting machines and scientific studies have shown that all computerized voting systems, both screen-type and optical scan systems, allow the unprecedented ability of a single person to alter election results.

1. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the **Democratic Party of _____ COUNTY** supports voting systems where every part of the system - early voting, absentee voting, election day voting, and post election day vote counting is observable by the public and creates evidence accessible to and understandable by the public, and recognize this is necessary to preserve unalienable rights of self-government, such as the right to alter the government at will; and

3. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the **Democratic Party of _____ COUNTY** requires all voting systems to be compatible with the rights of self-government, or else they are unacceptable regardless of cost savings or convenience; and

4. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Democratic Party of _____ COUNTY** recognizes the following voting system complies with the principles above:

- (a) Voter-marked (in private booths), precinct-cast and precinct-counted physical ballots, such as paper ballots, and
- (b) completely open, honest, and public vote counts, with immediate access to all information about counts, and
- (c) the use of both partisan and independent counters and observers checking and balancing each other (with public supervision freely allowed), and
- (d) absolutely secure chains of custody from the time ballots are cast through the time for recounts, and
- (e) guarantees of speedy, effective investigations and remedies for any reported irregularities,

5. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED these rights are mandatory and non-negotiable, and that it's the government's primary purpose to guarantee these birthrights, but election secrecy renders government accountability to the people impossible; and

6. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED the **Democratic Party of _____ COUNTY** demands full recognition of all voting rights of all people, and voting systems that reflect the best checks and balances ever developed for elections: fully observable, transparent elections.

Submitted by **Texans for REAL Elections, a coalition of TX organizations for Election Integrity**

From PRECINCT _____

From SENATE DISTRICT _____