

Making the Democratic Party the Democracy Party Ending Our Chess Game with the Republicans

WHEREAS, democracy is the buttress we hold dearest to keep our nation a “United” States of America, safe and prosperous,

WHEREAS, in these challenging times, it is not enough to react to the efforts of Republicans to disenfranchise the traditional constituencies of our party and Democrats must also pivot to address the political processes that are disenfranchising growing numbers of non-aligned independent voters, whose numbers are surging among younger voters, especially those of color;

WHEREAS, millions of non-aligned Texans who call themselves independents are understandably suspicious of political parties who court them when needed to swing a close election but after the election relegate them to second-class status when election reforms are considered by our legislature,

WHEREAS, Democrats should be courting non-aligned independent voters with a sincere commitment to pro-democracy reforms that would benefit all Texas voters regardless of their party affiliation or lack thereof;

Therefore be it resolved that our Democratic party will refrain from using independent voters as pawns in a game of chess with the Republicans and pledge our support to the following election reforms in the 2021 Texas legislative session:

1. Ballot access reform for third parties and independent candidates (known as the “Texas Voter Choice Act” HB 4439 in the 86th Legislative Session), which would ease ballot access petition requirements to allow fair access for candidates outside the major parties.
2. Ranked Choice (Instant Runoff) Voting, which would eliminate the “spoiler” effect of minor parties and independent candidates in general elections and make primary election runoffs unnecessary while saving millions of public dollars.
3. Maintaining the current ban on one-punch straight-party voting, while dealing with its unintended “voter suppression” consequences by establishing voting by mail.
4. Establishing independent citizen redistricting commissions to end the practice of unconscionable gerrymandering.