

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing the guiding principles of elections in Kentucky.

2 WHEREAS, the strength of the American republic begins with fair and secure
3 elections that inspire public confidence; and

4 WHEREAS, the goal of election policy is to deliver a well-run process open to all
5 voters, protected by safeguards that ensure that only lawful ballots are counted, and
6 administered according to the law; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution gives the primary responsibility for
8 regulating elections to the states, a decentralized approach that incentivizes innovation
9 and the development of robust election policies; and

10 WHEREAS, when states adopt laws that strengthen the integrity of elections, the
11 public is more likely to participate, helping to ensure a representative government that is
12 accountable to the citizens;

13 NOW, THEREFORE,

14 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
15 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

16 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives recognize and affirm
17 that:

18 (1) Kentucky's elections should be conducted in such a way that reflects each of
19 the following guiding principles of elections:

20 (a) *SECURITY AND ACCESSIBILITY*: It should be easy for the average citizen to
21 vote, but convenience should never come at the expense of security. States should
22 establish core safeguards that protect election integrity and inspire public confidence and
23 participation in the voting process;

24 (b) *REPRESENTATIVE*: The purpose of election law is to ensure a fair and
25 orderly system that holds government accountable to the citizenry. Election policies
26 should not be established to tilt elections in favor of particular outcomes, and
27 policymakers should ensure that only citizens are able to vote in federal, state, and local

1 elections;

2 (c) *STABILITY AND UNIFORMITY*: Election laws should be applied evenly
3 throughout a state and provide certainty to voters and election officials alike. Changes to
4 voting procedures during an election should be avoided;

5 (d) *RELIABILITY AND ACCURACY*: Election laws should be designed to deliver
6 prompt and accurate results. The ultimate objective of elections is to accurately reflect the
7 votes cast by the voters in an election, and election laws should be constructed and
8 administered in a manner that ensures and confirms accuracy;

9 (e) *TRANSPARENCY*: Election administration should never be hidden from the
10 public. Every stage of the voting process, from registration through tabulation, should be
11 visible to the public;

12 (f) *ACCOUNTABILITY*: Elections should always be administered according to
13 the laws crafted by elected legislators, and those laws should be fully enforced; and

14 (g) *FEDERALISM*: Policymakers should protect America's decentralized election
15 system and the primary role that states play regulating and conducting elections;

16 (2) The adoption of these guiding principles results in many benefits, including
17 higher voter turnout. When citizens see that elections are secure and well-run, they are
18 more likely to vote, which leads to more representative elections at all levels of
19 government and holds government accountable to the citizenry. These key principles also
20 instill greater confidence in our electoral process. The public is more likely to trust an
21 election that is transparent and administered according to the law, particularly when those
22 laws are designed to ensure a fair process rather than influence the eventual results; and

23 (3) Kentucky's election laws should continue to mirror these guiding principles to
24 ensure the highest level of integrity, as effective safeguards and proper enforcement deter
25 bad actors from abusing the voting process, while sending a powerful message to the
26 public that the foundation of republican self-government is secure.

27 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a

- 1 copy of this Resolution to Representative John Hodgson, Secretary of State Michael G.
- 2 Adams, and the Kentucky State Board of Elections.