**Promote Our Vote: Draft Right to Vote Resolution for Organizations**

WHEREAS, the United States is one of the 11 nations that does not have the right to vote in its constitution out of the 119 nations that elect their public officials using democratic elections; and

WHEREAS, the 15th, 19th, and 26th Amendments in the U.S. Constitution prohibit discrimination in voting on the basis of race, sex, and age respectively, and the 24th Amendment prohibits poll taxes, these amendments do not guarantee Americans an affirmative right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the fact that Americans often face unnecessary obstacles to voting, including restrictions on when, where, and how to vote, contributes to the low U.S. turnout rates, in which the United States ranks in the bottom 20% of nations in turnout in presidential elections, and even lower in congressional, state and local elections; and

WHEREAS, expanding opportunities at local agencies for voter education and non-partisan voter registration beyond the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) would promote more engaged citizens and increase civic participation; and

WHEREAS local governments like ours have the power to enact laws and procedures for local elections that ensure they meet and ideally surpass federal and state election standards; and choice and hold representatives accountable, that proposes changes to uphold voting rights, that encourages increased voter participation through partnerships with private organizations, and that promotes greater awareness of our political process through civic education; and

WHEREAS organizations like ours may pledge their support to organizing the community for purposes deemed beneficial to the development of the community and to the advancement of the rights of our voters; and

WHEREAS local governments have a long history of being true laboratories of democracy in this nation, establishing new laws involving voting, representation, and governance that influence state and national practices; and

WHEREAS, an individual right to vote is a fundamental American right, and fundamental rights should be guaranteed to all Americans in the U.S. Constitution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the [organization] of [name of jurisdiction], assembled this [\_\_\_] day of [month, year] do hereby affirm that the right to vote is a fundamental right to be cherished, protected, and exercised; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we actively encourage voter education and voter registration by government entities and residents of our community, and support the establishment of a voter registration drive in conjunction with nonpartisan efforts such as National Voter Registration Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we, in order to correct misinformation and encourage voter turnout on Election Day, will communicate to all voters through means of mail, television, radio advertisements, and/or any other effective means of communicating the following information: general information about voting on Election Day, the format of the ballot, and any new state and federal laws involving voting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we will support programs with an Internet, hotline capacity, or both, that will provide information about the mechanics of voting and respond to any problems at the polls, both in national elections and local elections;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we will make efforts to recruit and provide poll workers and effective training of election officials and poll workers by way of our organization’s network to uphold the individual right to vote; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we will seek out fellow endorsing organizations who support the goals agreed to here in this resolution in order to expand our organizational capacity, increasing supporter membership and spurring a diverse nationwide movement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we pledge to support in any way the establishment of a task force or standing ‘Right to Vote’ committee to review all local laws and practices that may affect the right to vote and that may affect the power of voters to elect candidates of choice and hold representative accountable, that proposes changes to uphold voting rights, that encourages increased voter participation, that promotes greater awareness of our political process through civic education and high school programs on voter registration; and that evaluates the impact rules and activity after each election; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we do hereby call on our Members of Congress to support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would grant an individual right to vote to every American citizen of voting age; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we call on Congress and our state government to take action to uphold voting rights, including ensuring that our nation has a modern voter registration system that meets the basic goal of complete and accurate voting rights, that citizens of the District of Columbia have congressional voting rights, that all jurisdictions have an option to purchase publicly owned or non-profit managed voting equipment and that all voters can be confident that their local jurisdiction meets certain minimum performance standards involving election administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we call on all elected officials to stand with voters by supporting actions to increase voter turnout and voter education, oppose tactics to game elections through manipulation of voting rights and election laws, and evaluate proposed electoral reforms based on whether they promote participation and a level political playing field rather than their impact on incumbent elected officials or political parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution are provided to the governor, our state legislative representatives, U.S. Speaker of the House, U.S. Senate Majority Leader, this state’s congressional delegation, and the U.S. President.