

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF LEA  
RESOLUTION NO. 18-SEP-177R**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING OPPOSITION TO STRAIGHT-PARTY VOTING AND ENCOURAGING  
THE LEA COUNTY CLERK NOT TO ALLOW STRAIGHT-PARTY VOTING IN THE 2018 GENERAL  
ELECTION**

**WHEREAS**, on or about August 29, 2018, less than 70 days before the 2018 General Election, the New Mexico Secretary of State has recently declared, without specific or general constitutional or statutory authority, her intent unilaterally to allow straight-party voting on the 2018 General Election ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2001 the New Mexico Legislature, the law making body of the State of New Mexico, did repeal N.M.S.A. 1978 Section 1-9-4, the only statutory authority to allow straight-party voting in New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, in or about 2012 the New Mexico Legislature, the law making body of the State of New Mexico, rejected an effort to reinstate straight-party voting; and

**WHEREAS**, most States, all but nine, have rejected straight-party voting, as straight-party voting has been increasingly recognized as a partisan weapon of the dominant party within a state; and

**WHEREAS**, one State, Texas, of the above nine States has rejected straight-party voting with its law going into effect in 2021, leaving only eight States out of 50 permitting straight-party voting; and

**WHEREAS**, the only argument for straight-party voting is it may save several minutes of a voter in completing the ballot. Straight-party voting does not create additional choices. It, in fact, encourages voters to make decisions without evaluating the merit of each candidate for office.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Lea County that it state its opposition to straight-party voting as there is no constitutional or statutory authority for it and that the New Mexico Secretary of State may not unilaterally reinstate straight-party voting.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission Chair contact the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General asking that it intervene in this matter by clearly declaring that the Secretary of State has no constitutional or statutory authority to reinstate unilaterally straight-party voting.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission Chair make known the Commission's position with the Lea County Clerk and encourage the Lea County Clerk to do all within his power - not to include straight-party voting on the ballots prepared for Lea County for the 2018 General Election.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission Chair provide a statement or affidavit in support of the positions stated by the Petitioners in their Emergency Verified Petition for Writ of Mandamus filed on August 30, 2018, before the New Mexico Supreme Court in *Unite New Mexico et al. versus Maggie Toulouse Oliver, Secretary of the State of New Mexico*.

**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED** on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018, by the Lea County Board of County Commissioners in an open meeting in Lovington, New Mexico.

LEA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Lea County

SEP 04 2018

LCBCC Meeting

Ron R. Black

Ron R. Black, Chair

Voted:  Yes No Abstain

Rebecca Long

Rebecca Long, Vice Chair

Voted:  Yes No Abstain

Dean Jackson

Dean Jackson, Member

Voted:  Yes No Abstain

Jonathan Sena

Jonathan Sena, Member

Voted:  Yes No Abstain

Richard Don Jones

Richard Don Jones, Member

Voted:  Yes No Abstain

ATTEST: Keith Manes  
Lea County Clerk

By: Kelli Williams  
Kelli Williams, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL  
SUFFICIENCY:

John W. Caldwell  
John W. Caldwell, County Attorney

