January 25, 2023

Mr. Jaimie Harrison, Chairman Democratic National Committee 430 South Capitol Street SW Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Harrison:

We, the undersigned citizen leaders in the Election Integrity Network ("EIN"), are writing to express our recommendations to the Democratic National Committee on the topic of election integrity in America. We offer the input and suggestions below for two reasons: 1) To maximize our mutual effectiveness in enhancing election integrity throughout the states and nation, and 2) To facilitate nonpartisan citizen-group engagement in the election process as election workers and observers.

EIN is composed of state election integrity coalitions with local election integrity task forces. None of us are writing as partisans. However, state laws require that election workers and often poll challengers and observers be designated, appointed, or authorized by one of the two major political parties. We have reached out to Republican Party officials as well for their assistance in working to improve election integrity.¹ Our work with political parties is required by state law – and our work is not campaign related but is focused on the election systems themselves.

Preventing cheating in our nation's elections is a priority to voters. Rasmussen reports <u>84% of *likely* U.S. voters</u> believe the issue of election integrity to be important, and 61% say it is *very important*. <u>Gallup reports</u>, "a wider partisan divide than Gallup has ever recorded on this question."

EIN has worked with the Republican Party in many states but our efforts to engage with Democratic Party officials have been unsuccessful to date.

Today, grassroots organizations have a higher degree of willingness to work with a political party to become part of the election system. These educated and motivated volunteers stand ready to give of their time, talents, and treasure to the election integrity cause. We are hopeful that as we begin the next election cycle, we can open lines of communication and cooperation with the national, state, and local Democratic party committees to rebuild bipartisan election integrity into America's election systems.

¹ Our suggestions for the Republican Party regarding election integrity are being sent in a separate letter to Republican Party leadership.

Three Recommendations.

Below are three key recommendations for the DNC for continuing to build the allimportant election integrity infrastructure.

1. The Democratic Party should establish a permanent Election Integrity department and program at every level of the party.

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American voters are rightfully concerned about the integrity of America's elections. Chaos in voting systems, failure to verify the identity of every voter who casts a ballot, failure to reconcile the number of votes certified in an election to the number of ballots cast in an election, bloated and incorrect voter rolls are just some of the concerns, and all of these problems are present today in the election process. These issues are cause for concern and alarm among the electorate.

Election Integrity is not a partisan issue. *Every* voter should have the confidence that his/her vote counts, that there are no illegal votes accepted into the system, and that the results of an election can be trusted because the voting processes and systems are fair and honest.

As <u>Rasmussen headlined</u> on Jan. 18, 2023, "Independent Voters Trust GOP More on Ethics." Creating a dedicated election integrity program at the DNC will restore America's trust of the Democratic Party's commitment to the most fundamental and necessary element of our free republic: fair elections.

There are important political as well as substantive reasons for the DNC to establish and build an ongoing Election Integrity infrastructure that focuses on the causes of and solutions to unstable and chaotic elections.

2. The DNC should be engaged with the Election Integrity Network to recruit, train and deploy election workers and observers as part of the election systems.

The laws of almost every state require the political parties to authorize and designate election officials and electoral board positions, election workers, citizen challengers, observers, and other similar roles.

These statutory roles are *not* 'campaign' or 'political' activities. They are fundamental to ensuring honest and fair elections. Filling those statutory roles to ensure parity of the political parties of those designees placed in election system roles as required by law requires gargantuan efforts in state after state.

During the 2022 election cycle, EIN encouraged citizens to sign up to become poll workers and poll watchers, and provided the opportunity to sign up with either the DNC or the RNC. However, it was brought to our attention that for those citizens who signed up to serve as Democratic election workers or observers from our recruitment site, the response from the DNC was a fundraising solicitation and not a recruitment into an election volunteer system.

We urge the DNC to place a priority on recruiting, training, and deploying election workers and observers, and to take seriously those citizen volunteers who express interest in participating in the election system.

3. The DNC should engage with the EIN to formulate and support policies and laws that ensure the integrity of the election process.

It is vital to have parity between the political parties in the staffing and observing of the election process. Fulfilling this legal requirement for citizen checks and balances is but *one* aspect of the subjects needed to fully address the integrity of America's elections: voting systems and technology, cleaning voter rolls, protecting vulnerable voters, enhancing laws to ensure that the integrity of the election is protected, litigation to enforce existing laws and more. The DNC should work with citizens groups across the country – including EIN – to delve into the various components of election integrity and to join our efforts to build a permanent election integrity infrastructure.

It is vital to engage volunteers to work to secure the integrity of our elections. We urge the DNC to encourage citizen participation in the Election Integrity Network with its State Election Integrity Coalitions and the local task forces, with the several National Working Groups on the topics referenced in the EIN's *Citizen's Guide to Building an Election Integrity Infrastructure.*

Committed citizens dedicated to helping ensure that laws are followed and upheld in every state are the cornerstone to restoring trust in our elections.

The Election Integrity Network, built in multiple states over the past two years, can put these individuals to work so they are prepared to reengage as election workers and observers at election time. But much more is necessary to accomplish than simply serving at election time. Failure to do so would be a travesty to the two-party system, to election integrity, and to the fiber of the republic.

In conclusion, we have all learned a great deal since 2021-2022 and our initial round of election integrity work. But let us face facts. We are just getting started. More—much more—is necessary to right the ship of state.

Significant issues exist for the DNC to address, from the need to clean bloated and corrupted voter rolls, to ensuring that election technology is transparent and unbiased.

Changes are needed in state laws.

Litigation should be initiated now to enforce existing laws.

EIN is already engaged in each of these areas. Please join and support our efforts.

All Americans deserve to have legitimate confidence that elections are fair and honest. All groups—voters, candidates, and political parties alike—deserve to know that election outcomes are reliable and true.

Making election integrity a priority of both political parties will help restore the most fundamental and necessary element of our free republic: fair elections.

We urge the DNC to expand its election integrity efforts internally, and to work with the EIN to fully engage an army of volunteers as we build on what we have learned and engage in the full spectrum of what is necessary to reclaim our elections in America.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Clara Belle Wheeler Executive Committee, Virginia Fair Elections

Nancy Smith Executive Committee, Virginia Fair Elections

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Sandy Juno Wisconsin Election Integrity Network Kim Crockett 2022 Republican Candidate for Minnesota Secretary of State Voter rights advocate and Attorney

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