



**FIRST AMENDMENT PETITION FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES**  
**Relating to Violations of the United States Constitution**  
**And Each State Constitution**

**PUBLIC ELECTIONS**

**WE THE FREE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES**, *by and through the unalienable, individual Rights guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution for the United States of America, hereby Petition the Chief Election Official(s) of each State of the Union and the members of each House of the Legislature of each State of the Union, for Redress of our Grievances, to honor their Oaths or Affirmations of office and their constitutional obligations by responding to this Petition, providing a formal acknowledgment of its receipt and demonstrating a good faith effort to comply, no later than (40) forty days reckoning from this Date of Service, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.*

**WHEREAS**, by the terms and conditions of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution for the United States of America, We the People have expressly established a republican form of government, empowering it to act only in certain ways, while purposely and patently restricting and prohibiting it from acting in certain other ways without Amendment, and;

**WHEREAS**, We the People are entitled, by Right, to constitutionally valid elections, including the Right to know, without special expert knowledge or trusting the announcements by officials and/or the media, that our votes are being accurately counted, and;

**WHEREAS**, the current method of counting votes in secret, via electronic voting systems, violates the principles of the public nature of elections and individual Voting Rights that emerge from our State Constitutions and from Article I, Sections 2 and 4, and the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution for the United States of America, and;

**WHEREAS**, each State Constitution and the First and Ninth Amendments of the federal Bill of Rights guarantee to every American the unalienable Right to hold the government accountable to each and every principle, prohibition, restriction and mandate of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution for the United States of America,

**NOW THEREFORE:**

**WE THE PEOPLE** *do hereby seek the following Remedies and Instruct the Chief Election Official(s) of each State of the Union and the members of*

*each House of the Legislature of each State of the Union, to respond to this Petition as follows:*

**For all future primary, special, general and other public elections,** the Chief Election Official(s) and Legislatures of each State shall institute a “Peoples’ Chain of Custody” comprising an uninterrupted continuum of voting procedures that are always observable and readily understood by the general public. Voting shall only be permitted on Election Day for all voters, with the exception of Absentee Voting, which shall be authorized in accordance with State Law and only for those scheduled to be out of State on Election Day.

The procedures for voting to ensure a “Peoples’ Chain of Custody” shall include the following:

- a) Each voter will privately mark their votes on a paper ballot at the precinct-level polling place either by hand or with the assistance of a ballot marking mechanism designed for disabled voters to vote independently and privately as per the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), and;
- b) Each completed paper ballot will be deposited by the voter into a transparent ballot box that has been pre-numbered by the county election authority and kept locked and in clear public view continuously throughout the voting period on Election Day, and;
- c) Each candidate on the ballot will have the Right to have a representative present for an inspection of each container immediately before the voting period begins and to witness and test the locking procedure, and;
- d) From the time the voter deposits the marked ballot into the ballot box to the time the precinct results are publicly announced and posted at the polling place, all paper ballots and the ballot box they are deposited in by the voters will never be out of the view of the public, and;
- e) A rope or other similar physical demarcation will surround each ballot box at a distance of 6 to 10 feet, beyond which any person can stand or sit to quietly observe and record by video, audio or still recording device, the transparent containers and the number of voters, and;
- f) When the voting period ends at each polling place, the ballot box container(s) shall be unlocked and all the ballots shall be removed, counted and evenly distributed among the tables set up in the same room where the ballot box containers have been in continuous public view for the counting of the votes by the pre-designated Counting Teams, and;
- g) Each candidate on the ballot shall have the Right to have a representative present for the inspection of each ballot box immediately after the removal of all the ballots from the ballot box container(s) and shall have the Right to have a representative seated at each table to observe the vote-counting process without disrupting the process, and;
- h) The public shall have the Right to observe and record the vote-counting process at each table at a reasonably close range - 6 to 10 feet - without disrupting the process, and;
- i) Each Counting Team shall be comprised of four persons: a Reader, a Marker and two Observers. The Reader and the Marker shall be trained election workers with no political

affiliation. The two Observers shall be from non-partisan, independent, election integrity and good government type organizations from the local community, and;

j) The Reader and the Marker shall sit opposite each other with one Observer sitting next to the Reader and the other Observer next to the Marker. Only the Reader will handle the ballots during the counting process (unless there is an unclear marking on the ballot) and only the Marker will handle and mark the Tally Sheets. The Reader's Observer shall be able to clearly see the paper ballot that is being read by the Reader in order to verify that the Reader is reading the correct name or measure marked by the voter. The Marker's Observer shall be able to clearly see the Tally Sheet on which the votes are recorded in order to verify that the Marker is marking the correct name or measure read out by the Reader, and;

k) The counting will be temporarily halted if any misread or mismarked vote is witnessed by an Observer or if a voter's intention is unclear on the ballot. The reading or marking correction shall be made or the voter's intention determined (by the physical review of all counting team members) before resuming the counting process, and;

l) If a discrepancy is witnessed and all Counting Team Members do not agree on the resolution, then the written objection of those disagreeing must be noted and included with the ballots, as well as a copy of the objection given to the Election Poll Worker in charge of the polling place, and;

m) After all the ballots have been read and the votes marked on the Tally Sheets, each Counting Team shall add up the votes for each candidate and/or measure and write their totals for each candidate and/or measure on their Team's Tally Sheets. All Counting Team members shall then certify, under penalty of perjury, the vote totals for each candidate and/or measure counted by their team, and;

n) Once each Counting Team is in agreement on the allocation and tallying of the votes handled by the team and the team has certified the totals, the results of their team's count will then be read aloud for public consumption and for the purpose of officially recording and certifying the totals on the Final Results Sheet for the precinct by the Election Worker in charge of the polling place in full public view, and;

o) When all the Counting Teams have read aloud their results and all the totals have been tallied on the Final Results Sheet for the precinct, copies of every Counting Teams' certified totals and the precinct's Final Results Sheet shall be publicly posted at the Polling Place and left accessible and undisturbed - under penalty of law - for the subsequent 24 hours. Any person may record the posted documents for any purpose, including but not limited to, transmitting electronically to any individual, group or website.

**p) The public posting of the precinct's Final Results at each polling place signifies the end of the "Peoples' Chain of Custody"** because it has proven to be impossible to publicly oversee the physical security of the ballots once they are moved from the polling place, hence the importance of an uninterrupted voting process that is publicly observable from start to finish. The transfer of all ballots (used, unused and spoiled) and related election documents from each Polling Place to a secure storage facility shall be determined by each county election authority and handled in a manner that allows - and encourages - public observation from the Polling Place to their final storage location.

q) To enable the public to more easily verify the accuracy of the “official” election results, it is important that the precinct-level Final Results from each polling place are immediately posted in the local newspaper, as well as on the website of the county election authority. **Verification by the People becomes an open and transparent process of simply adding up the results from all the “publicly-observed” precinct-level elections.**

r) Finally, all paper ballots (used, unused and spoiled) and all related election documents from each polling place shall be kept by the county election authority in their secure storage facility for no less than 22 months, in case of any election disputes arising. Following this required storage time, however, the paper ballots may be taken to a paper recycling plant. For all other related election documents, they shall be placed in permanent storage in the archives of the State Library or similar public institution for future use by the interested public or scholars.

**Respectfully submitted this \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012 by:**

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>