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# Republican National Lawyers Association

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## **RNLA Statement on Open, Fair and Honest Elections**

Washington, D.C. — The RNLA believes that elections should be open, fair and honest. To be clear, “open, fair and honest” means:

- By “open,” we mean a process in which all sides can have “observers” (commonly referred to as “poll watchers”), and the process is determined by legislatures well in advance. Every state has rules governing the qualification and presence of observers at the polls. States have rules governing the qualification and presence of observers at the polls. Election processes should not be held hostage to election officials of one party, nor should lawyers, with last-minute litigation, try to change clearly written rules and procedures enacted to ensure that only legitimate votes are cast and counted. We strongly oppose any efforts to intimidate election officials, voters or poll watchers. **NO VOTER SHOULD FEEL INTIMIDATED AT THE POLLS TO VOTE FOR A PARTICULAR CANDIDATE, PARTY OR CAUSE.**
- By “fair,” we mean election officials should be from both parties and they should administer the election process in an orderly, unbiased fashion. Too often, well-intentioned election officials work hard but do not understand changes in the law, are poorly trained, and/or are over-worked, resulting in mistakes that may or may not be corrected when the votes are tabulated. A fair process involves all the parties, candidates, officials, etc., working together to ensure all legal votes are counted. In the past, we have worked with Democrats and welcome the opportunity to work with them again.
- By “honest,” we mean free from fraud. Often times, fraud is very narrowly defined as impersonation voting. However, fraud includes many other efforts to cast or have counted an illegal vote or to prevent the casting or counting of legal votes. For example, voting by deceased persons, non-citizens or ineligible felons, voting in one state or precinct while residing in another, and casting an in-person vote in one precinct while submitting an absentee ballot in another all constitute fraud which seeks to undermine and dilute the casting and counting of legitimate votes.

The RNLA seeks to promote open, fair and honest elections at all levels of American society in a non-discriminatory manner and to provide access to the polls to all qualified and eligible voters. It provides election law training from preeminent election law professionals. It responds to requests for assistance from the Republican Party and its candidates by communicating the requests to its members. Through its efforts, the RNLA strives to strengthen the faith and confidence of all citizens of the United States in their government and the electoral process.

The RNLA is the national organization of Republican attorneys. The mission of the RNLA is to advance professionalism; open, fair and honest elections; career opportunity; and Republican ideals. For more information, please visit <http://www.rnla.org>.

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