



**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2018-33**

**A Resolution Declaring Opposition to Straight-Party Voting and Encouraging the Roosevelt County Clerk to Not 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 legal 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 Roosevelt County that the board states 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 Roosevelt County Clerk and encourage the Roosevelt County Clerk not to include straight-party voting on the ballots prepared for Roosevelt County for the 2018 General Election.

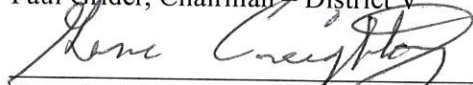
PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 4th day of September, 2018.

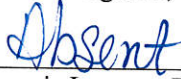
**BODY OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

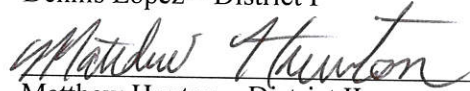
ATTEST:


  
DeAun D. Searl, Roosevelt County Clerk

  
Paul Grider, Chairman – District V

  
Gene Creighton, Vice-Chairman – District IV

  
Dennis Lopez – District I

  
Matthew Hunton – District II

  
Lewis (Shane) Lee – District III

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DeAun D Searl, Roosevelt Co. Clk., Roosevelt, NM

