

RESOLUTION NO. 20 of 2023

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE, GOVERNOR, AND SECRETARY OF STATE TO IMPLEMENT HAND-MARKED PAPER BALLOTS, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's voting machines are at the end of their lifespan and must soon be replaced with a new voting system at a cost of about \$100M;

WHEREAS, experts and citizens of both parties across the nation agree that paper ballots are the safest, most efficient, most auditable and least expensive means of holding secure, auditable elections, as required by state law;

WHEREAS, paper ballots can be reliably counted at the precinct level as quickly as electronic ballots and with validated accuracy;

WHEREAS, electronic voting machines involve expensive and complex technological requirements for facilities that have made new early voting sites in Caddo Parish difficult to establish; and

WHEREAS, home rule parishes such as Caddo have demonstrated the ability to hold elections effectively, particularly in the use of paper absentee ballots; and counties in neighboring states are already entrusted with the authority to conduct voting using hand-marked paper ballots.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Legislature, Governor, and Secretary of State to implement a statewide voting system with hand-marked paper ballots.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission that, should the State of Louisiana not adopt such a system of hand-marked paper ballots, that home rule parishes be granted the authority to implement such a system through their respective Clerks of Court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission that implementation of such a system of hand-marked paper ballots is in order to promote voter confidence and participation in the electoral process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and Secretary of State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date