

## **A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN PARTY CONDEMNING RANKED-CHOICE VOTING**

**WHEREAS**, the use of ranked-choice voting has led to the discarding of ballots when no candidate secures more than 50 percent of the vote in the initial tabulation, resulting in the dismissal of voters' preferences, and

**WHEREAS**, this practice of discarding ballots is not an incidental flaw but an inherent feature of the ranked-choice voting system, where single-choice voters face disenfranchisement when their selected candidate is no longer in contention, and

**WHEREAS**, in Maine's 2018 Second Congressional District election, more than 8,000 ballots were thrown in the trash. Bruce Poliquin (R) received 46.33 percent of the vote ahead of Jared Golden's (D) 45.58 percent. But since Poliquin didn't receive 50 percent, there was a second round of tabulation. The secretary of state threw out more than 8,000 ballots and Golden was declared the winner—but with only 49.2 percent of the total ballots cast., and

**WHEREAS**, a similar situation occurred In Alaska's 2022 congressional special election, Republican candidates received 60 percent of the vote in the first round, but the Democrat won. Nearly 15,000 were trashed, and the Democrat won by a little more than 5,000 votes, and

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of ranked-choice voting has resulted in delayed election results due to multiple rounds of counting and significant errors, as witnessed in New York's primary election, causing unnecessary uncertainty and eroding public trust in the electoral process, and

**WHEREAS**, the forced ranking of all candidates on the ballot, as opposed to a straightforward vote for a single preferred candidate, imposes a confusing and burdensome requirement on voters, compelling them to support candidates with whom they may fundamentally disagree, thereby undermining the principle of genuine choice in a democratic election,

**WHEREAS**, Florida, Tennessee, South Dakota, Idaho, and Montana have already passed legislation banning ranked-choice voting;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the South Carolina Republican Party on behalf of its members, adamantly condemns the use of ranked-choice voting in public elections and calls upon elected officials and legislators to reject this system by passing legislation that bans ranked-choice voting in South Carolina.