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Governor Kim Reynolds
Iowa State Capitol
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: Pending Legislation HF 590 & SF 413, relating to the conduct of elections, including absentee ballots and voter list maintenance activities, making penalties applicable, and including effective date and applicability provisions

Dear Governor Reynolds,

We respectfully ask that you veto HF 590/SF 413. If the bill ultimately does become law as currently written, we will pursue action in court to prevent its implementation.

This bill, among other things, adds unjustifiable petitioning hurdles for Libertarian Party candidates that in no way protects our election integrity. The section that adds county requirements to the general election petitioning is against a direct U.S. Supreme Court precedent from 1969, as it creates disproportional representation for specific counties.

This provision in particular is an attempt to fix a problem that does not exist. It is nothing more than political pandering with the end goal of stifling political competition. Your veto would be entirely appropriate and in accordance with your oath



to uphold the U.S. and Iowa Constitutions, and will have the happy effect of avoiding the expense of taxpayer dollars that will be spent fruitlessly defending this provision in court.

You have said that it is "imperative that people feel that there's integrity in the election process and that they feel it's fair and equitable." This bill is not fair. It is not equitable. Like the 2019 legislative bill that unconstitutionally moved up filing deadlines creating an unfair burden for non-political party organizations, this bill shows a coordinated effort to disenfranchise third-party voters. Fair and equitable means more than just fair and equitable to major party voters.

Representative Bobby Kaufmann says this bill is designed to treat Iowa elections like a business. If a business were to use the state to eliminate their competition, people would rightly be outraged.

This unconstitutional bill goes against the democratic process that Iowa has enjoyed for the past 175 years. Your previously-stated commitment to protecting the voting rights of Iowans is admirable. I ask that you go against political pressure and do the moral thing as you did in restoring voting rights for those who served their time and paid for their crimes. I ask that you veto this egregiously unconstitutional bill. The bill was rushed through the legislature sent to your desk without proper debate and discussion, and a veto will return it to the legislature to undertake a more focused and fair piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Joe Bishop-Henchman
Chair, Libertarian National Committee

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Delivered by email to: Nick Davis, nick.davis@governor.iowa.gov