



Republican National Lawyers Association

P.O. Box 18965 • Washington, D.C. 20036 • Phone: (202) 802-0437 • <http://www.rnla.org>

For Immediate Release
November 2, 2020

Contact: Michael Thielen
(202) 802-0437

RNLA Statement on Open, Fair, and Honest Elections

Washington, D.C. — The Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA) believes that elections should be open, fair, and honest, particularly amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- “Open” means 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. Election officials and lawyers of one party should not hold election processes hostage, nor should lawyers try to change, with last-minute litigation, clearly written rules and procedures enacted to ensure that only legitimate votes are cast and counted. The RNLA strongly opposes any efforts to intimidate election officials, voters, or poll watchers. ***No voter should feel intimidated or pressured at the polls to vote for a particular candidate, party, or cause.***
- “Fair” means 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, 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, the RNLA has worked with Democrats and welcomes the opportunity to work with them again.
- “Honest” means free from fraud. Often, fraud is very narrowly defined as impersonation voting at the polls, but fraud includes many other efforts to cast or count 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 undermines and dilutes 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>.

###