

PARTISAN POLITICS AND REDISTRICTING

- Whereas, One of the purposes of Utah PTA is to advocate for adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth, including voting rights of all adults in Utah. Utah PTA also encourages positive involvement in the political process by parents and families;<sup>1,2</sup> and
- Whereas, Amendments 15, 19 and 26 of the constitution of the United States of America define the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude or sex or age over 18;<sup>3,4</sup> and
- Whereas, The absence of a federal provision conferring the fundamental right to vote has left Americans at the mercy of state constitutions, state legislatures, state political parties, local bureaucrats, and the judiciary system. The states determine who is qualified to vote and establish the rules and conditions for holding elections and redistricting;<sup>5,6</sup> and
- Whereas, One of the most critical ways that individuals can influence governmental decision-making is through voting;<sup>7,8</sup> and
- Whereas, Voting is a foundation and sign of strong communities. It takes an active and engaged public to ensure broad representation and public officials responsive to community concerns;<sup>9,10</sup> and
- Whereas, The bond between government and citizens, is first developed through voting. The bond will grow when both sides feel mutual respect through legislation that protects basic rights as described in the constitution;<sup>11,12</sup> now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations urge the Utah Legislature to bring the government closer to all Utahns by supporting legislation that protects each voter's right to be heard in an election without partisan politics controlling the election process, and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations urge the Utah Legislature to bring the government closer to all Utahns by supporting legislation that redistricts legislative boundaries that fairly represent the people within the boundaries instead of the political parties, and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations urge the Utah Legislature to bring the government closer to all Utahns by supporting legislation that protects the

public's right to collect signatures in the election/voting process when they feel they have not been heard, and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associates encourage parents to be actively involved in the election process, recognizing this to be in the best interest of children.

Documentation:

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.utahpta.org/purposes>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.utahpta.org/mission-statement>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/citc/museum/voting/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.advancementproject.org/campaigns/Protect-Your-Vote>

<sup>5</sup> [http://b.3cdn.net/advancement/ae94ee5ad8686f5760\\_27m6vr0j7.pdf](http://b.3cdn.net/advancement/ae94ee5ad8686f5760_27m6vr0j7.pdf), pg 3.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.usa.gov/voting-laws>

<sup>7</sup> STUDY GUIDE: The Right to Vote, [University of Minnesota Human Rights Center](http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/edumat/studyguides/votingrights.html).  
<http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/edumat/studyguides/votingrights.html>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.people-press.org/2015/11/23/8-perceptions-of-the-publics-voice-in-government-and-politics/>

<sup>9</sup> National PTA Nonprofits, Voting and Elections Guide pg 4. <http://s3.amazonaws.com/rdcms-pta/files/production/public/Advocacy/Final%20NonProfitVoteGuide.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civic\\_engagement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civic_engagement)

<sup>11</sup> National PTA Nonprofits, Voting and Elections Guide pg 4 <http://s3.amazonaws.com/rdcms-pta/files/production/public/Advocacy/Final%20NonProfitVoteGuide.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> [http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/30145/publications-english/USA\\_Elections\\_InBrief.pdf](http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/30145/publications-english/USA_Elections_InBrief.pdf)