

# Voter Confidence Resolution

Adopted by Arcata, CA City Council 7/20/05

Whereas an election is a competition for the privilege of representing the people; and

Whereas each voter is entitled to cast a single ballot to record his or her preferences for representation; and

Whereas the records of individual votes are the basis for counting and potentially re-counting a collective total and declaring a winner; and

Whereas an election's outcome is a matter of public record, based on a finite collection of immutable smaller records; and

Whereas a properly functioning election system should produce unanimous agreement about the results indicated by a fixed set of unchanging records; and

Whereas recent U.S. federal elections have been conducted under conditions that have not produced unanimous agreement about the outcome; and

Whereas future U.S. federal elections cannot possibly produce unanimous agreement as long as any condition permits an inconclusive count or re-count of votes; and

Whereas inconclusive counts and re-counts have occurred during recent U.S. federal elections due in part to electronic voting devices that do not produce a paper record of votes to be re-counted if necessary; and

Whereas inconclusive results have also been caused by election machines losing data, producing negative vote totals, showing more votes than there are registered voters, and persistently and automatically swapping a voter's vote from his or her chosen candidate to an opponent; and

Whereas inconclusive results make it impossible to measure the will of the people in their preferences for representation; and

Whereas the Declaration of Independence refers to the Consent of the Governed as the self-evident truth from which Government derives "just Power";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED because inconclusive results, by definition, mean that the true outcome of an election cannot be known, there is no basis for confidence in the results reported from U.S. federal elections; and

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED the following is a comprehensive election reform platform likely to ensure conclusive election results and create a basis for confidence in U.S. federal elections:

- 1) voting processes owned and operated entirely in the public domain, and
- 2) clean money laws to keep all corporate funds out of campaign financing, and
- 3) a voter verified paper ballot for every vote cast and additional uniform standards determined by a non-partisan nationally recognized commission, and
- 4) declaring election day a national holiday, and
- 5) counting all votes publicly and locally in the presence of citizen witnesses and credentialed members of the media, and
- 6) equal time provisions to be restored by the media along with a measurable increase in local, public control of the airwaves, and
- 7) presidential debates containing a minimum of three candidates, run by a non-partisan commission comprised of representatives of publicly owned media outlets, and
- 8) preferential voting and proportional representation to replace the winner-take-all system for federal elections;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED when elections are conducted under conditions that prevent conclusive outcomes, the Consent of the Governed is not being sought. Absent this self-evident source of legitimacy, such Consent is not to be assumed or taken for granted.

\* \* \*

See the reverse side for the Guide to the Voter Confidence Resolution strategy and talking points

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To endorse the Voter Confidence Resolution or schedule a workshop, contact [blog@guvwurld.org](mailto:blog@guvwurld.org).  
<http://guvwurld.blogspot.com> • <http://www.guvwurld.org>  
<http://www.voterconfidencecommittee.org>

# Guide to the Voter Confidence Resolution

## **Has the Consent of the Governed been withdrawn, YET?**

### Premise:

The Voter Confidence Resolution shows us that the Consent of the Governed, referenced in the Declaration of Independence as a self-evident truth from which Government derives "just Power," is no longer being sought through elections in America. Unverifiable votes, privatized source code, and secret vote counting ensure inconclusive outcomes. Since the results are inherently uncertain, we have no basis for confidence.

### What's Next?:

People in communities around the country are organizing and lobbying their City Councils to adopt the Voter Confidence Resolution. While the resolution is a template that should be customized somewhat in each community, these three frames should remain intact to generate a cumulative impact as more and more resolutions pass.

1. The way it works now we're guaranteed inconclusive outcomes and we'll never have unanimous agreement about election results.
2. The Voter Confidence Resolution contains a comprehensive election reform platform designed to ensure conclusive outcomes and create a new basis for confidence in U.S. federal elections.
3. Since the Consent of the Governed is not being sought, we ask: Has the Consent of the Governed been withdrawn, YET?

The benefit of cumulative impact means it is assumed we will eventually switch the answer to this question from no, to YES, the Consent of the Governed HAS been withdrawn. How many communities must pass this resolution for this point to be made?

### The Big Picture:

By uniting citizens on the community level, bridges are built across partisan divides. This consensus-building process will make it easier for any City Council to feel free to pass the Voter Confidence Resolution as a collective declaration. So begins the shift in the balance of power between We The People and the government gone awry (the very definition of revolution, according to Rebecca Solnit's "Hope In the Dark").

### Summary:

Who: City Councils

What: Pass the Voter Confidence Resolution, ask: Has the Consent of the Governed been withdrawn, YET?

Where: Communities all across America

Why: Election conditions ensure inconclusive outcomes and fail to seek the Consent of the Governed

When: It's already begun; On July 20, 2005 Arcata, CA became the first to adopt the Resolution

### Endorsements:

David Cobb, 2004 Green Party Presidential Candidate

Voter Confidence Committee

Green Party of Humboldt County, CA

Black Box Voting, Inc.

Velvet Revolution

Flip the page to read the Voter Confidence Resolution. Find it online at:  
<http://guvwurld.blogspot.com/2005/04/voter-confidence-resolution.html>

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