

PROPOSED

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AMENDMENTS TO S.C.R. 1002

(Reference to Senate engrossed resolution)

1 Strike everything after the resolving clause and insert:

2 "1. Article VII, section 7, Constitution of Arizona, is proposed to
3 be amended as follows if approved by the voters and on proclamation of the
4 Governor:

5 7. Highest number of votes received as determinative of person
6 elected

7 Section 7. In all elections held by the people in this state, the
8 person, or persons, receiving the highest number of legal votes shall be
9 declared elected. EVERY QUALIFIED ELECTOR SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO CAST A
10 VOTE FOR EVERY CONTEST ON THE BALLOT FOR WHICH THE ELECTOR IS QUALIFIED AND
11 THE CANDIDATE FOR WHOM THE ELECTOR VOTED FOR, OR FOR OFFICES IN WHICH MORE
12 THAN ONE PERSON MAY BE DECLARED ELECTED THE CANDIDATES, SHALL RECEIVE THE
13 VOTE IN THE FINAL TALLY OF VOTES. THIS STATE, A CITY, TOWN, COUNTY OR ANY
14 OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THIS STATE MAY NOT USE FOR THE ELECTION OR
15 NOMINATION OF ANY CANDIDATE FOR A CITY, TOWN, COUNTY, STATE OR FEDERAL
16 OFFICE A VOTING METHOD THAT ALLOWS ANY LAWFULLY CAST VOTE FOR A CANDIDATE
17 TO BE REMOVED FROM THE TALLY UNLESS THE ELECTOR'S INTENT IS NOT
18 DETERMINABLE AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW, OR THAT ALLOWS A LAWFULLY CAST VOTE TO
19 BE REALLOCATED TO ANOTHER CANDIDATE ON THE BALLOT.

20 2. Findings and declaration of purpose

21 The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

22 Article VII, section 7, constitution of Arizona, ensures that the
23 candidate or candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be

1 declared the winner which prohibits run off, instant run off, or any other
2 similar method of voting and that this constitutional protection ensures
3 that every voter's vote is counted and that a voter's ballot is not
4 discarded or the voter's vote for the voter's preferred candidate is not
5 reallocated to another candidate.

6 Article VII, section 7, Constitution of Arizona, is a critical
7 protection of the way Arizona, and before it every state in the United
8 States, has determined the candidate elected in an election and intends
9 with this measure to further that existing protection.

10 The legislature finds that voters have a right to vote for the
11 candidate or candidate of their choice and to have their vote properly
12 counted for that candidate or the candidates he or she has chosen.

13 The legislature further finds that any system that disqualifies
14 otherwise qualified candidates on the ballot that received legal votes
15 after the election because the candidate did not receive enough votes in
16 the election and then exhausts a voter's ballot in another round of
17 tabulation with the voters preferred candidate being removed,
18 disenfranchises those voters.

19 The legislature further finds that currently the Arizona Constitution
20 requires "in all elections held by the people in this state, the person, or
21 persons, receiving the highest number of legal votes shall be declared
22 election."

23 The legislature further finds and affirms that the Article VII,
24 section 7, Arizona Constitution, prevents the use of run-off elections,
25 either in the form of a subsequent separate election conducted after the
26 general election, or by any system whereby a voter's vote for their
27 preferred candidate is reallocated to another candidate after disqualifying
28 a candidate on the grounds that the candidate for whom the voter cast their
29 vote did not receive enough votes.

30 The legislature further finds that, since the beginning of the United
31 States, and from the founding of this state, all elections were conducted
32 by the simple and fair method of declaring the person who receives the
33 highest number of votes as the winner.

1 The legislature further affirms that the people of this state
2 generally approve of the system of electing officials in this state, and
3 new systems that fundamentally change the way we, as Arizonans, both cast
4 votes and have them tabulated, is disruptive, will lead to confusion,
5 multi-page long ballots, and the suppression or disenfranchisement of
6 voters.

7 The legislature further finds that, in 1988, the Arizona legislature
8 referred to the people who approved an amendment to the Arizona
9 constitution to allow for a run-off election.

10 The legislature further finds that, in the first election in which a
11 runoff was required, the result was damaging to the public trust in the
12 system and was so opposed by the people of Arizona, that the legislature
13 referred a measure to the voters of Arizona who approved, by even larger
14 margins, an amendment to the constitution removing the authorization for
15 run-off elections and reinstating our longstanding process that ensures the
16 person who receives the highest number of votes is declared elected.

17 The legislature further finds that this measure is intended to
18 strengthen and reaffirm the existing process and system that has been in
19 place from the foundation of this state, protecting against attempts to
20 upend our elections.

21 2. The secretary of state shall submit this proposition to the voters at
22 the next general election as provided by Article XXI, Constitution of Arizona."
23 Amend title to conform

ALEXANDER KOLODIN

SCR1002KOLODIN.docx
03/24/2023
01:29 PM
H: JH/ljs