

## **LEGISLATIVE ITEM #20 A RESOLUTION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS**

**FROM:** Phil Dieke, Clergy Member White Rock UMC, NTC Church and Society Board Chair

Whereas the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church affirms “that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God;” and

Whereas the 2016 Book of Discipline, Paragraph 164.A states, “We hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections... The form and the leaders of all governments should be determined by exercise for the right to vote guaranteed to all adult citizens;” and

Whereas the Book of Resolutions, 3378 calls for a vision of beloved community founded on economic and racial justice. The vision includes among many things, “reinstating and strengthening voting rights protection,” in light of continued systemic racism that threatens to undermine provisions for fair and free elections for all citizens; and

Whereas the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1; and

Whereas the passing and implementation of Senate Bill 1 already has led to numerous instances of voter confusion; claims of disenfranchisement; anxiety on the part of volunteer election workers; and lawsuits.

Therefore, be it resolved that United Methodist Churches in the North Texas Conference will advance the social principles of the United Methodist Church and serve their local communities through Election and Voter Mobilization.

Be it further resolved that our churches will encourage one hundred percent voter participation from eligible voters in their congregations.

Be it further resolved that our churches will ensure every eligible church member has the info and resources they need to vote.

Be it further resolved that our churches will encourage free and fair elections and full civic engagements within our communities.

Be it further resolved that the North Texas Conference Center for Missional Outreach, and specifically the Board of Church and Society, will provide resources to equip and empower local churches for Election and Voter Mobilization.

Be it further resolved that United Methodist churches in the North Texas Conference that document and report their Election and Voter Mobilization projects during the 2022 election cycle will receive official, public recognition from the North Texas Conference Center for Missional Outreach.

RESOURCES