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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 55
45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001
INTRODUCED BY
Patsy G. Trujillo

A JOINT MEMORIAL
ENCOURAGING STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO PLACE MORE EMPHASIS
ON ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the legislature is a diverse body of lawmakers who come from all cultures to serve as a part-time citizen legislature, and achieve the status of legislator through election by the people; therefore, we in the legislature have a unique perspective and primary interest in improving voting procedures at the federal, state, tribal, county and municipal levels; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico guarantees its citizenry that the principles of "one person, one vote", "every vote is counted" and "each voter shall have equal access to the ballot" are the foundation of a free and democratic government; and

WHEREAS, the November 7, 2000 presidential election was

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1 one of the most unusual and controversial elections in our
2 nation's history, and because of the narrow margin of victory,
3 it received nationwide scrutiny for all of its irregularities;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the secretary of state is New Mexico's chief
6 election officer and is responsible for the constitutional
7 requirement of a "fair and open" administration of the
8 Election Code; and the employees of the office of the
9 secretary of state have worked long hours to improve and
10 ensure integrity in New Mexico's election processes and should
11 be recognized for their service and dedication; and

12 WHEREAS, the state's thirty-three county clerks are
13 delegated the responsibility for elections administration at
14 the county level, and the employees of the county clerks'
15 office have worked long hours to improve and ensure integrity
16 in New Mexico's election processes and should be recognized
17 for their service and dedication; and

18 WHEREAS, the state's one hundred two municipalities have
19 municipal clerks who are delegated the responsibility for
20 elections administration at the municipal level, and the
21 employees of the municipal clerks' office have worked long
22 hours to improve and ensure integrity in New Mexico's election
23 processes and should be recognized for their service and
24 dedication; and

25 WHEREAS, election workers from time to time come across

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1 information about election fraud, computer errors and other
2 election mistakes that need to be brought forward to the
3 citizens of New Mexico. These public employees and their
4 managers must be made aware of how important their watchdog
5 activities are and that statutes exist to protect whistle
6 blowers; and

7 WHEREAS, the legislature intends to adequately fund the
8 office of the secretary of state to provide training, ethics
9 administration, standardization and testing of equipment and
10 procedures for local units of government; and

11 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that county
12 commissioners and elected officials in municipalities must be
13 willing to approve increased funding for improvements to our
14 local election processes, knowing that having a record of fair
15 elections makes New Mexico a more desirable place in which to
16 live;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that state and local governments be
19 encouraged to place more emphasis on elections administration
20 within the great state of New Mexico; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the New Mexico association of counties, the New
23 Mexico municipal league and the national association of
24 secretaries of state.