**DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY**

I am running for re-election as Chair of the 23rd Legislative District. I have served in this position for the last four years. While these years have been more than challenging due to the antics of the current resident of the White House, I am more than grateful for all those in the 23rd who stepped up to do the work of our district.

Thanks to the efforts of Debbie Hollyer and Carollynn Zimmers, we have a very active and hard-working PCO Training and Support Committee. Ginny Bell stepped up to lead and challenge our members with the Call to Action Committee. Marilyn Miller and Susan Collins got our membership records in shape and we now have easy to see credentials (once we get back to in person meetings😊) and online recordkeeping. Doug MacKenzie has kept us all informed for months through social media and emails. And, my steadfast Executive Board of State Committee Members Ginger and Jim Sommerhauser, Treasurer Hallette Salazar, Vice Chair Brian Maule, secretary Erin Phillips, Kathy Canderle, Jesse Cockerham, Chiara D’Angelo, Steve Green and Tarra Simmons supplied thoughtful discussion and guidance. These people have made my job as chair immensely easier and enjoyable.

I would like to continue in my role as chair that now my energies can be focused on the future versus protecting our Constitution and democratic values from the current administration. I want to work with the folks who are focused on the issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. I want our LD membership to reflect the community we live in. I want to develop our “bench” where we have candidates running in local elections such as city councils, school districts and fire districts in addition to partisan positions. Local government needs to be led by people who see the work that needs to be done to make our institutions accountable to the people they serve. I want us to develop our leadership in our LD so that we have folks who are ready to help run the LD by providing mentoring opportunities and other activities that increase our ability to create a welcoming and supportive community.

In short, there is a lot of work to do and I want to be a part of it and make it happen. I would like your vote and I look forward to working with you.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

Val Torrens