NEWS RELEASE

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Citizens Defending Freedom Secures Victory for Election Security Measures in Collin County

COLLIN COUNTY, Texas – Citizens Defending Freedom (CDF) in Collin County is proud to announce a significant victory in the pursuit of election integrity. After nearly a year of diligent advocacy, CDF has successfully championed the implementation of pre-printed consecutively numbered ballots for the upcoming November 2024 elections.

Since August 2023, CDF-Collin County has actively engaged with local officials, providing a comprehensive white paper detailing 17 solutions to enhance election security in the county. This persistent effort included numerous appearances at the Commissioners Court and a pivotal meeting with County Judge Chris Hill in January, where key areas for potential implementation were identified.

Despite initial resistance from the election office, which planned to use the existing stock of non-numbered ballots, a turning point was reached last week when the Secretary of State issued an advisory on ballot numbering requirements. The following day, Judge Hill informed CDF-Collin County that Collin County will adopt pre-printed consecutively numbered ballots for the November 2024 elections, acknowledging CDF-Collin's unwavering advocacy in the election arena.

"This achievement is a significant step towards safeguarding the integrity of our elections," said Tara Schulte, Executive Director of Collin County Citizens Defending Freedom. "The introduction of consecutively numbered ballots will enhance transparency and build confidence among the citizens of Collin County in our election process."

The journey to this victory began with CDF-Collin County's determined efforts to bring election integrity to the forefront of the Commissioners Court's agenda. In August 2023, over 40 concerned citizens attended a midday meeting to voice their support for hand-counted paper

ballots, precinct voting and consecutively numbered ballots. Their testimonies underscored the community's deep commitment to election integrity.

CDF-Collin County's collaboration with local experts and continuous dialogue with county officials culminated in presenting a detailed list of election improvements, which played a crucial role in securing this outcome.

Collin County CDF Elections Division Lead Debbie Lindstrom said, "Consecutively numbered balloting is not just a legal requirement but it is crucial for enabling auditing and promoting transparency in our elections. With consecutively numbered ballots, it is significantly easier to detect irregularities, such as duplicate or missing ballot numbers. The ability to quickly identify these issues is crucial for effective auditing and ensuring the integrity of the election process."

Citizens Defending Freedom will continue its efforts to implement additional measures from their proposed solutions, reinforcing its mission to restore trust in elections.

About Citizens Defending Freedom:

Founded in 2021, Citizens Defending Freedom is a non-profit organization that strategically operates in counties across America to help citizens defend their faith and freedom, all while fighting for transparency in local government. Currently, Citizens Defending Freedom is established in Florida, Georgia, Michigan, and Texas, with plans to continue expanding across America. <u>Click here</u> to learn more about Citizens Defending Freedom.