

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TORREY PINES DEMOCRATIC CLUB
SUPPORTING THE ADDITION OF IMPARTIAL CITIZENS' STATEMENTS
ON BALLOT PROPOSITIONS**

WHEREAS in recent decades California voters have been asked to vote upon a growing number of ballot initiatives that are complicated and highly technical; that are accompanied by pro and con partisan statements, and often by expensive advertising campaigns that distort facts, mislead and misinform voters, all of which tend to frustrate and confuse the voters; and

WHEREAS, as a result, voters often make poor choices that make problems worse, not better, leaving voters disillusioned and cynical, as evidenced by a recent poll by the Public Policy Institute of California which found that 90% of California voters believe the initiative process is controlled and/or bought special interests; and

WHEREAS the State of Oregon has enacted the Citizens' Initiative Review (CIR) program in 2011, following a successful trial period in which citizens' initiative review panels composed of randomly selected registered voters to study, analyze, and adopt factually objective, impartial, plain language reports on each proposed ballot measure that are included along with other ballot information given to each voter; and

WHEREAS studies have shown that the CIR panel reports increase voter confidence and understanding of ballot proposals: voters spend more time reading CIR statements than is spent on partisan statements, are better informed and have greater confidence in them, resulting in greater voter confidence and participation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Torrey Pines Democratic Club urges the Legislature of the State of California to study the costs and benefits of enacting a Citizens' Initiative Review procedure similar that enacted in Oregon.

Adopted on this 27th day of May, 2021, by a majority vote of members present.

Attest: _____
Deborah Currier, Secretary