

## **PROTECTING DEMOCRACY**

**WHEREAS**, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters has long stood for equality, inclusion, and the dignity of all working people and their ability to fully participate in the democratic process; and

**WHEREAS**, there is an organized attack on the democratic process at all levels of government that has intensified since the 2020 election; and

**WHEREAS**, these attacks, reminiscent of the Jim Crow era, take the form of closing/limiting the number of polling stations, limiting/eliminating the use of drop boxes and mail-in ballots, restrictions on the freedom to vote by limiting early voting, shortening poll hours, removing voters from voter rolls, and outlawing providing water to citizens waiting in line to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to attacks on voting, lawmakers are attempting to make it more difficult to protest by elevating previously minor penalties to felony-level crimes for loosely defined offenses, expanding legal protection to individuals who attack protestors and decriminalizing vehicular homicide; and

**WHEREAS**, there is also a sustained attack on the ballot initiative process by making it more difficult to exercise the ability to challenge lawmakers through citizen-initiated ballot measures by making the initiative process increasingly complicated, expensive, and burdensome; and

**WHEREAS**, these attacks are an affront to all working people designed to make it more difficult for workers to challenge the status quo and the powerful and wealthy few.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** at this 30<sup>th</sup> International Convention, that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters supports a vibrant and healthy democracy and supports the full freedom to vote, freedom to peacefully and safely assemble and protest, and the freedom to participate in direct democracy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that International Brotherhood of Teamsters will oppose and mobilize against anti-democratic efforts in partnership with allied labor and community organizations; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and its affiliates will continue to lobby, work in coalitions and identify supportive politicians to stop all efforts to implement laws attacking democracy.