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S.D. SEC. OF STATE

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HAND DELIVERED

August 12, 2015

Hon. Shantel Krebs
Secretary of State
500 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: **Attorney General's Statement—Amendment establishing nonpartisan elections**

Dear Secretary Krebs,

This Office received an initiated constitutional amendment establishing nonpartisan elections. The sponsors are Rick Weiland and Drew Samuelson. Enclosed is a copy of the constitutional amendment, in final form, that was submitted to this Office. In accordance with SDCL 12-13-25.1, I hereby submit the Attorney General's Statement with respect to this amendment.

By copy of this letter, I am providing a copy of the Attorney General's Statement to the sponsor pursuant to SDCL 12-13-25.1.

Very truly yours,

Marty J. Jackley
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MJJ/PA/lde
Enc.

cc w/enc.: Rick Weiland
Drew Samuelson
Jason Hancock, Director of LRC

Filed this 12th day of
August 2015

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S STATEMENT

Title: An initiated amendment to the South Dakota Constitution establishing nonpartisan elections

Explanation:

Currently, most general election candidates for federal, state, and county offices are selected through a partisan primary or at a state party convention. This Constitutional amendment eliminates those methods by establishing a nonpartisan primary to select candidates for all federal, state, and county elected offices. This amendment does not apply to elections for United States President and Vice President.

Under the amendment, candidates are not identified by party affiliation on the primary or general election ballot. All qualified voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote for any candidate of their choice.

The two candidates with the most votes advance to the general election. For certain offices where more than one candidate is elected at the general election, the number of candidates advancing to the general election will be double the number of seats to be filled.

If the amendment is approved, a substantial re-write of state election laws will be necessary.

Filed this 12th day of

August 2015

Shantel Krebs

SECRETARY OF STATE