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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Jason D. Guinasso, Esq.
Attorney for Committees to Recall Incline Village General Improvement District
Hutchison & Steffen, PLLC
5371 Kietzke Lane
Reno, Nevada 89511
(775) 853-8746
jguinasso@hutchlegal.com

**Re: Appeal of Verification of Signatures for Petition to Recall Sara Schmitz
Appeal of Verification of Signatures for Petition to Recall Matthew Dent**

Earlier this year, the Committees to Recall Incline Village General Improvement District (“IVGID”) Trustees Sara Schmitz and Matthew Dent filed a recall petition to the Washoe County Registrar. On October 24, 2023, the Nevada Secretary of State notified the Committees that both Petitions failed to gather the requisite signatures. The Washoe County Registrar rejected 458 signatures for Matthew Dent and 522 Signatures for Sara Schmitz, for a total of 980 signatures. After review of the evidence, the Committees have significant concerns with the signature verification process of Washoe County and request the Nevada Secretary of State to order Washoe County to investigate the signature investigation process and reverify the signatures.

Today the Committees to Recall the IVGID Trustees filed an Appeal with the Nevada Secretary of State requesting for the Secretary of State to order the Washoe County Registrar to investigate the signature verification process and reverify petition signatures due to inconsistencies in the signature verification process. Such inconsistencies have caused harm to the constitutional right of the People to recall public officials. Relief for these requests will preserve the People’s right to constitutional recall.

In its appeal, the Committees to Recall Incline Village General Improvement District stated,

The right to Recall Public Officials is guaranteed to Nevada residents by Article 2, section 9 of the State Constitution. Because the People’s right to recall is impacted by the processes used by the Washoe County Registrar to reject signatures, a review by the Nevada Secretary of State’s Office is necessary to ensure that all laws were complied with in the signature verification process.

Unfortunately, there were inconsistencies found in the signature verification process. The Washoe County Registrar uses various codes to reject signatures, and the Registrar did not publish the methods or criteria it uses to apply the codes. Secondly, the rejection codes were applied

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inconsistently. In some instances, a petitioner was approved for one recall petition but rejected for the second one due to an invalid address, for example.

Lastly, it is unclear whether signatories had a sufficient opportunity to cure their signatures. Based on correspondence from Washoe County, 88 signatures from the Petitioners were rejected due to concerns of improper address. Pursuant to NAC 293.185, the Washoe County Registrar has an affirmative duty to ensure that any signatory with an address discrepancy has an opportunity to cure. It is unclear if Washoe County provided signatories a sufficient opportunity to cure their signatures.

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