

## **SB 656 Veto Override Talking Points**

- North Carolina election laws have long imposed excessive and unreasonable requirements on new political parties and unaffiliated candidates far and above the standard in most states. It's time for North Carolina to reduce these burdens.
- SB 656 will allow new parties to attain ballot access by collecting signatures from registered voters equal in number to 0.25% of the total number of voters who voted in the most recent general election for governor. This aligns our state election laws with the majority of states.
- When a state can arbitrarily exclude candidates from the ballot, as it does now, the whole voting process is undermined. A viable and vibrant democratic process requires that ballot access laws encourage and promote – not limit – the individual's right to self-government by securing their right to free choice at the ballot box.
- Both Democrats and Republicans voted for the original version of this bill, which was supported by the Libertarian, Green and Constitution Parties, as well as groups from across the political spectrum. These included Democracy NC and the John Locke Foundation.
- Political parties, public policy groups and individuals with such divergent views uniting in such a common cause clearly attest to the fact that ballot access reform is not a partisan or special-interest group issue, but a question of fundamental freedom that transcends political differences.

### For Democrats

- The Democratic Party historically has championed voting rights, and SB 656 is essentially a voting rights bill.
- The judicial primary provision is only a minor part of the bill. And it only affects one election in one year. The most significant and far-reaching impact of SB 656 will be to give all North Carolina voters more choices in more elections.