Joint Request by The Constitution Party of North Carolina and the NC Green Party:

To whom it may concern:

As a result of the 2020 Elections it appears that The Constitution Party of North Carolina and the NC Green Party did not poll 2 percent of the vote for Governor or President. The Constitution Party of NC and The NC Green party are requesting that the State Board of Elections delay the decertification of the Constitution Party of North Carolina and the NC Green Party. We also request that The Board not change the voter affiliation status of those North Carolinians who have registered as voters with the Constitution Party of NC and The NC Green Party to unaffiliated as both Parties will be petitioning as soon as possible to regain ballot access.

The last election the Constitution Party of North Carolina collected 16,000+ signatures in just under 5 months, and The NC Green Party had certified around 12,000 signatures during the 2016 election cycle prior to being certified as a party in 2018. The Constitution Party’s candidate for Governor polled over the petition requirement (0.25 percent of the vote for governor) and The Green Party candidate for President did the same in 2016 as a write in. The Green Party candidate for President this year nearly polled .25 percent. Despite the Governor’s executive orders which made it difficult to campaign, The Constitution Party Candidate for Governor Al Pisano received nearly 21,000 votes and NC Green Party Candidate for President Howie Hawkins received over 12,000 votes. Also, The Constitution Party Candidate for US Senate received nearly 68,000 votes statewide. The Constitution Party also has a sitting County Commissioner.

On March 27th 2020, by Executive Order 121, NC Governor Roy Cooper began the process of shutting down North Carolina in light of the Coronavirus. As a result, fairs, festivals, gun and car shows, parades, mass gatherings, and other means by which candidates normally campaign and raise money were canceled. These events were a major part of normal campaign strategies. This made it nearly impossible for candidates to get their message out without raising large amounts of money. Furthermore, as people lost their jobs due to the Coronavirus, it made it difficult to fundraise. Our candidates were excluded from all debates, almost all polls, and had almost zero media coverage. Without the ability to get on TV and radio or attend normal events, it made it nearly impossible to get our message out to voters. We strongly feel that we have demonstrated enough support in light of the current circumstances.

In years past it has been the policy of the State Board of Elections to delay decertification of the Libertarian Party when they were petitioning to get back on the ballot. The state did not change
Libertarian voters to unaffiliated, but the Libertarian Party could not run candidates for office until they completed the petition drive. This policy saves the state money and resources.

Also, recently in Maryland, the Green Party faced a similar situation and their Board of Elections also delayed decertification and decided not to disturb registered voters in parties who are registered in an unqualified political party.

In addition, the following states allow voters to register into non-ballot-qualified parties; Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, and West Virginia.

It is the request of the Constitution Party of North Carolina and The NC Green Party that the State Board of Elections delay decertification of our political parties and give a reasonable amount of time for us to complete the petition process or gain ballot access through other means.

As we all know 2020 has been a year unlike any other in election history. We feel that due to the unusual circumstances, obstacles, and burdens surrounding this election campaign cycle it is entirely unfair to hold our two parties to the statutorily prescribed standard to maintain ballot access in North Carolina.

If the intent of the State Board of Elections is to decertify the parties and change the voters affiliated with them to unaffiliated status, we request The Board provide us a date that this action will take place. We feel this action will be unjustified as it is the intent of both parties to get back on the ballot prior to the next election.

Sincerely,

AL Pisano, Chairman Constitution Party of North Carolina
Kevin Hayes, Vice Chairman Constitution Party of North Carolina
Mark Crowe, Secretary Constitution Party of North Carolina
Joseph Guriano, Treasurer Constitution Party of North Carolina
Pattie Curran, Member at Large Constitution Party of North Carolina

Tommie James, Co-chair NC Green Party
Tony Ndege, Co-chair NC Green Party
Michael Trudeau, Vice Chair and Secretary NC Green Party
Adrianne Mowry, Assistant Secretary NC Green Party
Wayne Turner, Treasurer NC Green Party
Frederick Clarkson, Assistant Treasurer NC Green Party
Robert Corriher, Membership Chair NC Green Party
Joshua Bradley, Assistant Membership Chair NC Green Party