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## Office of the Governor

June 2, 2025

The Honorable Nicole Cannizzaro Majority Leader of the Nevada State Senate 401 South Carson Street Carson City, Nevada 89701

## Re: Senate Bill 102 of the 83rd Legislative Session

Dear Leader Cannizzaro:

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Senate Bill 102 ("SB 102"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to elections; prohibiting a person from, with intent to defraud, knowingly creating, filing or otherwise submitting certain documents relating to elections; prohibiting a person from creating or serving in a false slate of presidential electors or conspiring to create or serve in a false slate of presidential electors; prohibiting the State or a local government from appointing to public office a person convicted of such an offense; prohibiting a person from interfering with the selection of presidential electors; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

While the intent behind SB 102—to protect the integrity of presidential elections—is commendable, the bill raises serious constitutional and policy concerns that cannot be overlooked.

First, SB 102 undermines core due process protections by granting the Secretary of State broad and vaguely defined investigative authority. The bill provides no timelines for investigations and no clear evidentiary standards, yet it authorizes the use of virtually unchecked subpoena and discovery powers. This lack of procedural safeguards creates the risk of politically motivated or selective enforcement, particularly in the highly charged context of presidential elections. Second, SB 102 presents significant First Amendment risks. The language prohibiting the creation of a "false slate of presidential electors" is overly broad and could criminalize legitimate political expression or protest. For example, individuals who sign or circulate a symbolic or contingency slate—with no intent to deceive or submit it as official—could nonetheless face felony charges, prison time, and permanent disenfranchisement from public life. Such a chilling effect on political speech and association runs counter to our constitutional traditions.

Because SB 102 implicates both due process and First Amendment protections, I cannot support it in its current form. Ensuring election integrity must not come at the expense of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

For these reasons, I veto this bill and return it to you without my signature or approval.

Respectfully submitted, JOE LOMBARDO

Governor of Nevada

## Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Stavros Anthony, President of the Senate (without enclosure) The Honorable Steve Yeager, Speaker of the Assembly (without enclosure) The Honorable Francisco Aguilar, Secretary of State (without enclosure) Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure) Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure) Diane Thornton, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Director (without enclosure) Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)