

By: Johnson

H.C.R. No. 42

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Low voter turnout on election day is a widespread
2 problem across the United States, as Americans attempt to juggle
3 their work and family responsibilities with a visit to their local
4 poll; and

5 WHEREAS, Since 1960, national voter turnout in presidential
6 elections has ranged between 49 and 63 percent of eligible voters,
7 while turnout for midterm elections has not amounted to even half of
8 eligible voters, fluctuating between 33 and 45 percent over the
9 last 30 years; and

10 WHEREAS, Compared with that of other countries, our numbers
11 are abysmally low; turnout is regularly 70 to 75 percent in Canada
12 and is well over 80 percent in established democracies around the
13 globe, from Australia to Belgium; and

14 WHEREAS, The causes for this low turnout are complicated, but
15 in surveys of American adults by the U.S. Census Bureau, family and
16 work obligations are frequently cited as a reason for not voting;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Businesses across the country are responding to this
19 challenge through the "Take Back Tuesday" initiative and are
20 closing on election day; on this issue, private enterprise, the
21 engine of America, is leading by example and government should
22 follow suit; and

23 WHEREAS, Voting is the cornerstone of a democracy, and
24 government must act to ensure that all Americans have the

1 opportunity to accept the responsibilities of citizenship and to
2 actively and regularly participate in the electoral process; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
5 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to
6 designate the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in
7 2014 and each even-numbered year thereafter as a legal public
8 holiday described in 5 U.S.C. Section 6103; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
10 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
11 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
12 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
13 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
14 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
15 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.