86R3242 KSM-D

By:  E. Johnson of Dallas H.C.R. No. 12

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, Since 1960, national voter turnout in presidential elections has ranged between 51 and 63 percent of eligible voters; turnout for midterm elections, while up in 2018, has typically not amounted to even half of eligible voters, averaging around 40 percent between 1974 and 2014; and

WHEREAS, Compared with that of other countries, our numbers are abysmally low, as turnout is well over 80 percent in established democracies around the globe, from Australia to Belgium; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Voting is the cornerstone of a democracy, and government must act to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to accept the responsibilities of citizenship and to actively and regularly participate in the electoral process; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to designate the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in 2020 and each even-numbered year thereafter as a legal public holiday described in 5 U.S.C. Section 6103; and, be it further

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