

By: Reynolds

H.C.R. No. 5

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The 2020 election took place amidst the
2 unprecedented challenges of a global pandemic, but local and state
3 administrators rose to the occasion, embracing measures that
4 allowed a record number of Americans to make their voices heard in a
5 safe, secure, and professional process; and

6 WHEREAS, The For the People Act currently under consideration
7 in the United States Congress reflects lessons learned across the
8 country during recent election cycles, embracing measures to
9 improve the safety and security of our voting processes and to
10 strengthen our democracy by engaging more citizens; recognizing the
11 exigencies of modern life in a 24/7 economy, the legislation
12 includes many elements to make voting simpler and more convenient,
13 among them at least two weeks of early in-person voting, online and
14 same-day voter registration, and automatic voter registration at
15 motor vehicle departments and other specified government agencies;
16 it expands and standardizes voting by mail, provides funding for
17 mail-in ballot tracking, and offers standards for ballot drop
18 boxes; setting such national policies will ensure that every
19 eligible voter has equal access to the ballot box, no matter where
20 they reside; and

21 WHEREAS, Described by the League of Women Voters as "the most
22 expansive democracy reform legislation we have seen since the
23 Voting Rights Act," the For the People Act also bolsters election
24 security, ensuring that elections are decided by American voters

1 without interference from foreign adversaries; it creates a
2 national strategy to protect our democratic institutions,
3 increases oversight of election vendors, and improves federal
4 support for state voting system security upgrades, including paper
5 ballot voting systems; by requiring states to adopt independent
6 redistricting commissions, it ensures that voters choose their
7 representatives, not the other way around; moreover, it addresses
8 the dominance of big money and special interests in politics by
9 increasing transparency, bolstering oversight by the Federal
10 Election Commission, and fortifying ethics laws and enforcement for
11 violations; and

12 WHEREAS, The provisions in the For the People Act enjoy
13 overwhelming public support; a recent Global Strategy Group/ALG
14 Research survey of likely general election voters in a dozen states
15 found 83 percent agreement for the bill, with provisions to reduce
16 the influence of money in politics receiving nearly universal
17 support; and

18 WHEREAS, Americans can take great pride in the resiliency of
19 our electoral system and the determination of the voting public
20 even in the face of historic upheaval, and by passing this
21 legislation, Congress can provide an even sturdier foundation for
22 government of the people, by the people, and for the people; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas,
25 2nd Called Session, hereby respectfully urge the United States
26 Congress to pass the For the People Act; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official

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1 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
2 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
3 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
4 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
5 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
6 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.