



HJ0034

LRB102 18029 ECR 24904 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Voting is an American principle and a basic
3 democratic right that should be protected, promoted, and
4 practiced; and

5 WHEREAS, Many people are surprised to learn that while the
6 U.S. Constitution bans the restriction of voting based on
7 race, sex, and age it does not explicitly and affirmatively
8 state that all U.S. citizens have a right to vote; this leaves
9 voting rights vulnerable to the whims of politicians; and

10 WHEREAS, Even as the rising American electorate gains
11 momentum, new regressive laws, rulings, and maneuvers are
12 threatening voting rights without facing the strict scrutiny
13 that would come with an affirmative right to vote in the
14 Constitution; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2000, the Supreme Court ruled in Bush v. Gore
16 that citizens do not have the right to vote for electors for
17 president; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down Section 4
19 of the Voting Rights Act; this striped the Justice Department
20 of the powers it had for five decades to curb racial
21 discrimination in voting; the Election Assistance Commission

1 was left without commissioners for years and frequently faces
2 bills in Congress that would end its existence entirely; and

3 WHEREAS, Voting rights for Americans convicted of felonies
4 who have already completed their sentences vary substantially
5 from state to state; and

6 WHEREAS, Americans living overseas have trouble
7 registering in their home district because their state may not
8 consider them residents anymore; and

9 WHEREAS, Many college students attempting to register at
10 their college precinct have faced voter intimidation or were
11 simply refused the ability to register to vote; and

12 WHEREAS, Many schools skip civics education, which
13 contributes to the decline in voter turnout in local and
14 primary elections; and

15 WHEREAS, Voter identification and registration
16 requirements, as well as the machines that voters use, vary
17 widely between states; the U.S. has a patchwork of
18 inconsistent voting rules run independently by 50 states,
19 3,067 counties, and over 13,000 voting districts, all separate
20 and unequal; and

1 WHEREAS, 49 out of the 50 states have a right to vote
2 amendment in their state constitutions; only Arizona lacks the
3 right to vote; and

4 WHEREAS, At present, Congress can take no action to
5 formally help improve voting standards across the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, A right to vote amendment would empower Congress
7 to enact minimum electoral standards to guarantee a higher
8 degree of legitimacy, inclusivity, and consistency across the
9 country; and

10 WHEREAS, Including an explicit right to vote in the
11 Constitution would guarantee the voting rights of every
12 citizen of voting age, ensure that every vote is counted
13 correctly, and defend against attempts to effectively
14 disenfranchise eligible voters; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
17 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge Congress to adopt an
18 affirmative right to vote amendment to the United States
19 Constitution to ensure the will and voice of the people are
20 protected; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That we condemn voter suppression efforts across

1 states and at the federal level; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 delivered to President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala
4 Harris, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy
5 Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and all members
6 of Congress.