
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO PARTICIPATE
IN ELECTIONS AND PREVENT THE EROSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC
PROCESS ON WHICH THE REPUBLIC WAS BUILT.

1 WHEREAS, the United States of America was conceived in
2 liberty and established as a government that derived its powers
3 from the consent of the governed; and
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5 WHEREAS, the United States of America was the first modern
6 republic granting its citizens the power of self-determination
7 through democratic elections; and
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9 WHEREAS, throughout its long history, this nation has grown
10 by empowering and expanding fundamental voting rights to all its
11 citizens, regardless of race, gender, or social or economic
12 status; and
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14 WHEREAS, in 1964, seventy-seven percent of Americans had
15 trust in their government and over sixty-four percent of
16 Americans who were eligible to vote, voted in the presidential
17 election to choose government leaders and priorities; and
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19 WHEREAS, in 2019, trust in government has fallen to
20 seventeen percent and just fifty-five percent of Americans voted
21 in the 2016 presidential election; and
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23 WHEREAS, the rapidly increasing influence of money in
24 politics has led to elections frequently being won on the basis
25 of the amount of dollars spent on advertising, rather than the
26 merits of the candidates or issues being debated; and
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28 WHEREAS, the growing pressure of special interests and
29 their lobbying influence at the Congress of the United States of
30 America frequently decides issues against public opinion and the
31 will of the people; and



1 WHEREAS, the increasing prevalence of disinformation
2 campaigns and fake news spread by foreign nations and domestic
3 entities have begun to influence the outcome of democratic
4 elections; and

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6 WHEREAS, efforts to limit the ease and ability of citizens
7 to vote has restricted participation and disenfranchised
8 countless voters in many states; and

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10 WHEREAS, politicians frequently seek to capitalize on the
11 public's growing cynicism, rather than strive to restore faith
12 in government and the rule of law; and

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14 WHEREAS, deepening partisan divide and political
15 polarization increasingly decides issues based on political
16 gain, rather than public interest, which forestalls a productive
17 exchange of ideas within civil society; and

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19 WHEREAS, these growing challenges have threatened and
20 diminished the ability of citizens to participate in the
21 democratic process and meaningfully self-govern, leading to an
22 erosion of democracy; and

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24 WHEREAS, each year, the Economist Intelligence Unit
25 releases a "Democracy Index" which categorizes each county in
26 the world as a "full democracy" in which basic political
27 freedoms and civil liberties are respected; "flawed democracy"
28 in which free and fair elections occur with some issues and
29 there is a respect for basic civil liberties, but there are
30 governance problems and low levels of political participation;
31 "hybrid regimes" which have regular election fraud, issues such
32 as harassment of the media and government corruption, and more
33 pronounced faults than flawed democracies; and "authoritarian
34 regimes" which have no democracy or where the conventional
35 institutions of democracy have no meaningful significance; and

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37 WHEREAS, in 2016, the "Democracy Index" from the Economist
38 Intelligence Unit downgraded the ranking of the United States
39 government from a "full democracy" to a "flawed democracy", in
40 part due to the extremely low levels of popular trust in
41 government, elected representatives, and political parties; and



1 WHEREAS, since the downgrading, the ranking of the United
2 States government as a democracy has continued to drop; and

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4 WHEREAS, the United States of America was recently rated
5 twenty-fifth in the world by the "Democracy Index"; and

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7 WHEREAS, the dangerous disenfranchisement of American
8 citizens and erosion of democracy threatens the very fabric of
9 this nation and the democratic principles on which it was built;
10 now, therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
14 2020, that the people of the United States are urged to
15 participate in elections and prevent erosion of the democratic
16 process; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every citizen is urged to
19 educate themselves on the issues most important to them,
20 register to vote, and participate in the democratic process; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every measure should be taken
23 by the federal government, every state, and most of all by every
24 citizen, to ensure that this nation shall have a new birth of
25 freedom and that government of the people, by the people, and
26 for the people, shall not perish from the earth; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
30 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Speaker
31 of the United States House of Representatives, President Pro
32 Tempore of the United States Senate, Hawaii's congressional
33 delegation, and the Governor of each state of the United States.



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OFFERED BY:



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