



# State of Tennessee

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 954

By Representatives Camper, Cooper, Lamar

and

Senators Akbari, Gilmore, Kyle, Robinson, Yarbro

A RESOLUTION to recognize a multi-state commemoration of the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery March.

WHEREAS, since the founding of America, there has been a history of slow but steady progress in granting all Americans the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, all white men did not receive the right to vote until 1856, after North Carolina removed the requirement of property ownership; and

WHEREAS, the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was passed in 1870, stating that federal and state governments could not deny the right to vote based on race; and

WHEREAS, the Nineteenth Amendment was passed in 1920, guaranteeing women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, legal barriers were removed in 1924 by passage of the Indian Citizenship Act that granted Native Americans the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was intended to expand the voting rights of African Americans and remove literacy tests, intimidation, taxes, and other discriminatory restrictions used to deny people the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Twenty-sixth Amendment was passed in 1971, granting eighteen-year-olds the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was reauthorized, with overwhelming bipartisan support, in 1970 under President Richard Nixon, in 1975 under President Gerald Ford, in 1982 under President Ronald Reagan, and in 2006 under President George W. Bush; and

WHEREAS, promoting broad participation of the American public in elections is good for democracy and will encourage good citizenship and that the voice of the people is heard; now, therefore,


BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize the importance of voting and join with Tennessee's government officials at the State and local level, nonprofit organizations, faith communities, and other interested parties as they collectively organize an event to observe, salute, and commemorate passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 on March 1, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. CST, which is the exact time of the commencement of the reenactment of the voting rights advocates crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.

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ADOPTED: March 9, 2020

  
CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
RANDY MCNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020

  
BILL LEE, GOVERNOR