

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38—COMMITTEE ON  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

MAY 25, 2001

Referred to Committee on Constitutional Amendments

SUMMARY—Endorses support and expansion of programs that motivate students to learn more about democratic system of government. (BDR R-1554)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Endorsing the support and expansion of programs that motivate students to learn more about the democratic system of government and other programs which encourage involvement in the democratic system of government.

- 1 WHEREAS, Section 2 of article 1 of the Constitution of the State of  
2 Nevada provides that “all political power is inherent in the people” and that  
3 “government is instituted for the protection, security and benefit of the  
4 people”; and  
5 WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature acknowledged these provisions in  
6 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 38 of the 68th legislative session in  
7 1995, which encouraged public officers and employees, state agencies,  
8 local governments and the residents of this state to develop new ideas and  
9 programs to increase the participation of the residents of this state in the  
10 development of public policy and to improve the operation of government  
11 at all levels; and  
12 WHEREAS, In 1997, the Nevada Legislature enacted legislation which  
13 authorized the creation of the Advisory Committee on Participatory  
14 Democracy by the Director of the Department of Museums, Library and  
15 Arts and mandated that the Director submit a report to the 71st session of  
16 the Nevada Legislature; and  
17 WHEREAS, The Department of Museums, Library and Arts has filed  
18 with the 71st session of the Nevada Legislature a report entitled  
19 *Participatory Democracy in Nevada*; and  
20 WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature has considered that report and has  
21 determined that the recommendations contained therein deserve broader  
22 recognition and consideration by public officers and agencies, local  
23 governments, organizations and the residents of Nevada; now, therefore, be  
24 it  
25 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE  
26 CONCURRING, That the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau shall:



\* A C R 3 8 \*

1 1. Facilitate the dissemination of a copy of this resolution together  
2 with the report entitled *Participatory Democracy in Nevada* filed with the  
3 71st session of the Nevada Legislature to each elected officer of this state,  
4 each city and county government, the board of trustees of each school  
5 district, the State Board of Education, the Board of Regents of the  
6 University of Nevada, the Nevada Supreme Court, and any other public  
7 officers or employees, organizations, associations and residents of this state  
8 who request a copy.

9 2. Encourage those officers, organizations, associations and other  
10 persons to cooperate in developing new ideas and programs to increase the  
11 quality and extent of participatory democracy in Nevada, including the  
12 enhancement of citizen participation in elections; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Director of the Department of Museums, Library  
14 and Arts is hereby urged to amend the current regulations establishing the  
15 Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy by extending the  
16 existence of the Committee beyond its scheduled expiration on December  
17 31, 2002, and by adding the Secretary of State or his designee as a member  
18 of the committee; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature hereby acknowledges that a  
20 primary focus of all classes in this state which teach civics and skills and  
21 values of citizenship should be the provision of meaningful and relevant  
22 instruction and guidance in developing the intellectual and participatory  
23 skills of students at all grade levels to apply critical reasoning in response  
24 to the challenges of civic life in a constitutional democracy; and be it  
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That the educational officers in Nevada are hereby urged to  
27 assess whether adequate resources are available to support the programs  
28 that are necessary for citizenship development of the children and youth in  
29 Nevada's schools and to make recommendations to the board of trustees of  
30 each school district, the State Board of Education, the Board of Regents of  
31 the University of Nevada, the Governor, the Legislature or the Director of  
32 the Department of Museums, Library and Arts for referral to the repository  
33 created by NRS 378.400 or the Advisory Committee on Participatory  
34 Democracy for ways these resources can be improved and better used; and  
35 be it further

36 RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature strongly endorses continued  
37 support and expansion of existing programs which motivate students to  
38 learn more about our democratic system of government, including  
39 "America's Legislators Back to School Day," sponsored by the National  
40 Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), "We the People . . . Project  
41 Citizen," developed by the Center for Civic Education in collaboration  
42 with the NCSL, "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution,"  
43 administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the United  
44 States Department of Education, "Kids Voting Nevada," currently active in  
45 Clark County, the high school mock trial competitions and other  
46 educational programs relating to the law that are supported by the State Bar  
47 of Nevada and "CIVITAS," an international teacher exchange program  
48 administered by the Center for Civic Education; and be it further



1       RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature urges the Nevada Association  
2 of Counties and the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities to expand  
3 upon their “Award of Excellence in Participatory Democracy” and  
4 innovation in government programs and to work with the Department of  
5 Museums, Library and Arts in using the repository created by NRS  
6 378.400 to maintain a record of all successful programs of local  
7 governments in Nevada which involve citizens in the development of  
8 public policy and the improvement of the operations of government; and be  
9 it further

10       RESOLVED, That the Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy  
11 and the Director of the Department of Museums, Library and Arts, working  
12 in cooperation with the Legislative Counsel Bureau, prepare a report for  
13 consideration by the 72nd session of the Nevada Legislature which  
14 includes an assessment of any progress made to address the concerns noted  
15 in the *Participatory Democracy in Nevada* report to the 71st session of the  
16 Nevada Legislature and identifies specific steps that could be taken to  
17 implement the recommendations therein; and be it further

18       RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit  
19 a copy of this resolution to the Director of the Department of Museums,  
20 Library and Arts, the Secretary of State, the Nevada Association of  
21 Counties, the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities and the Director  
22 of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

