

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 24—Senators Wiener, Amodei, Beers, Care, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Hardy, Heck, Horsford, Lee, Mathews, McGinness, Nolan, Raggio, Rhoads, Schneider, Tiffany, Titus, Townsend and Washington

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Parnell, Allen, Anderson, Angle, Arberry Jr., Atkinson, Buckley, Carpenter, Christensen, Claborn, Conklin, Denis, Gansert, Gerhardt, Giunchigliani, Goicoechea, Grady, Hardy, Hettrick, Hogan, Holcomb, Horne, Kirkpatrick, Koivisto, Leslie, Mabey, Manendo, Marvel, McClain, McCleary, Mortenson, Munford, Ocegura, Ohrenschall, Parks, Perkins, Pierce, Seale, Sherer, Sibley, Smith and Weber

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Expressing the support of the Legislature for implementing standards for the social studies curriculum that is offered in Nevada schools, particularly in the area of civics and the skills and values of citizenship.

WHEREAS, In 2003, the Nevada Legislature enacted legislation, Senate Bill No. 309, chapter 387, Statutes of Nevada 2003, at page 2257, which established the Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy within the Office of the Secretary of State and required the preparation of a report for the 73rd Session of the Legislature evaluating efforts currently in progress to implement standards for the social studies curriculum that is being offered in Nevada schools, particularly in the area of civics and the skills and values of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, A report has been filed with the 73rd Session of the Legislature setting forth goals and a work plan for Nevada that would enable school officials to better evaluate the efforts currently in progress to implement standards for the social studies curriculum that is offered in Nevada schools, particularly in the area of civics and the skills and values of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature finds that to ensure the health of American democracy, every student in kindergarten through high school, as well as in postsecondary school, needs to learn and experience the fundamental ideas, principles and values on which this nation was founded and to graduate ready for the responsibilities of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, In the 2004 General Election, the county clerks and registrars of voters in Nevada were confronted with record numbers of voter registrations and a record voter turnout; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of State and the Advisory Committee for Participatory Democracy have achieved great strides in reaching the goals outlined in Senate Bill No. 309 of the 2003 Legislative Session and have established the first Jean Ford Democracy Award; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature urges every school district, with the assistance of the State Board of Education, the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada and any other educational officers involved in reviewing and approving the social studies curriculum used in this State to:

1. Provide all students with a high-quality, engaging and rigorous civic learning experience;
2. Support the civic mission of schools with adequate resources and trained teachers; and
3. Maintain standards for civic learning and the means to assess students and schools in meeting them; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature desires to express its support for the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, a project of the Council for Excellence in Government and the Academy for Educational Development funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which has awarded a \$150,000, 2-year grant to the Nevada coalition to carry out state advocacy and policy activities to implement the recommendations in the report *Civic Mission of Schools*; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislature hereby declares that it is committed to working with the Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy, the Department of Education, the State Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and each local school district, with the advice and assistance of the University and Community College System of Nevada and the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, in supporting the goals and work plan as submitted pursuant to Senate Bill No. 309 of the 2003 Legislative Session; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislature reaffirms its support for the efforts of the Secretary of State and the Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy to reach the goals for voter registration and voter participation set forth in that bill for the 2008 General Election; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy, working with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and representatives of other pertinent education organizations interested in improving civic learning in Nevada, should meet before the start of the 2007 Legislative Session to review the status of the recommendations presented in this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Advisory Committee and Superintendent shall make a full report to the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature on the achievement of the goals set forth in this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislature hereby honors the first two recipients of the Jean Ford Democracy Award, Larry Struve, Outstanding Public Citizen, and Mark Peplowski, Outstanding Educator, for exemplary service in promoting participatory democracy in this State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislature hereby declares April 27, 2005, Democracy Day in the Nevada State Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to Larry Struve, Mark Peplowski, the President of the State Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, the Secretary of State and the Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy.

