

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 31

Designating the week of September 11 through September 17, 2003, as
“National Civic Participation Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2003

Mr. ROBERTS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating the week of September 11 through September
17, 2003, as “National Civic Participation Week”.

Whereas the United States embarks on this new millennium
as the world’s model of democratic ideals, economic en-
terprise, and technological innovation and discovery;

Whereas our Nation’s preeminence is a tribute to our great
2-century-old experiment in representative government
that nurtures those ideals, fosters economic vitality, and
encourages innovation and discovery;

Whereas representative government is dependent on the exer-
cise of the privileges and responsibilities of its citizens,
and that has been in decline in recent years in both civic
and political participation;

Whereas Alexis de Tocqueville, the 19th century French chronicler of our Nation's political behavior, observed that the people of the United States had successfully resisted democratic apathy and mild despotism by using what he called "schools of freedom"—local institutions and associations where citizens learn to listen and trust each other;

Whereas civic and political participation remains the school in which citizens engage in the free, diverse, and positive political dialogue that guides our Nation toward common interests, consensus, and good governance;

Whereas it is in the public interest for our Nation's leaders to foster civic discourse, education, and participation in Federal, State, and local affairs;

Whereas the advent of revolutionary Internet technology offers new mechanisms for empowering our citizens and fostering greater civic engagement than at any time in our peacetime history; and

Whereas the use of new technologies can bring people together in civic forums, educate citizens on their roles and responsibilities, and promote citizen participation in the political process through volunteerism, voting, and the elevation of voices in public discourse: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL CIVIC PARTICIPA-

5 HON WEEK.

4 The Senate—

4 (2) proclaims National Civic Participation Week
5 as a week of inauguration of programs and activities
6 that will lead to greater participation in elections
7 and the political process; and

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