



A Resolution acknowledging the 55th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March and the fight for Voting Rights

Committee: Voter Education

Resolution: VTE-20-01

1. **WHEREAS**, since the founding of America there has been a history of slow but steady
2. progress in granting all Americans the right to vote; and
3. **WHEREAS**, all white men did not receive the right to vote until 1856, after North
4. Carolina removed the requirement of property ownership;
5. **WHEREAS**, the 15th amendment was passed in 1870 stating federal and state
6. governments could not deny the right to vote based on race;
7. **WHEREAS**, the 19TH amendment was passed in 1920 guaranteeing women the right to
8. vote;
9. **WHEREAS**, legal barriers were removed in 1924 by passage of the Indian Citizenship
10. Act and granted Native Americans the right to vote;
11. **WHEREAS** “The Selma to Montgomery march was part of a series of civil rights
12. protests that occurred in 1965 in Alabama, a Southern state with deeply entrenched racist
13. policies. In March of that year, in an effort to register black voters in the South, protesters
14. marching the 54-mile route from Selma to the state capital of Montgomery were
15. confronted with deadly violence from local authorities and white vigilante groups. As the
16. world watched, the protesters—under the protection of federalized National Guard
17. troops—finally achieved their goal, walking around the clock for three days to reach
18. Montgomery, Alabama. The historic march, and Martin Luther King,
19. Jr.’s participation in it, raised awareness of the difficulties faced by black voters, and the
20. need for a national Voting Rights Act.”
21. **WHEREAS**, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was intended to expand the voting rights of
22. African Americans and remove literacy tests, intimidation, taxes, and other
23. discriminatory restrictions used to deny the vote;
24. **WHEREAS**, the 26th amendment was passed in 1971 and granted 18 year-olds the right

25. to vote;

26. **WHEREAS**, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 has been reauthorized, with overwhelming

27. bi-partisan support, in 1970 under President Nixon, in 1975 under President Ford, in

28. 1982 under President Reagan, and in 2006 under President George W. Bush; and

29. **WHEREAS**, promoting broad participation of the American public in elections is good

30. for democracy and will encourage.

31. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Organization of Black

32. Elected Legislative Women recognizes the importance of voting, encourage government

33. officials, at the state and local level, non-profit organizations, the faith community, and

34. other interested parties, to collectively organize an event designed to observe, salute, and

35. commemorate passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

36. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the National Organization of Black Elected

37. Legislative Women recognizes the role that the Crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge

38. played in the passing of the Voting Rights Act.

Reference

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/selma-montgomery-march>

Introduced by The Honorable Laura Hall

Alabama Legislature