

R051-0708

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ALL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

20 **WHEREAS:** In 1961, Congress passed the 23rd Amendment to the Constitution,
30 giving the District of Columbia the right to choose electors for the
40 purpose of electing the President and Vice President.

50 **WHEREAS:** Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana
60 Islands and American Samoa are the only United States Territories
70 with fixed populations that cannot officially vote for President and
80 Vice President; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** All United States Territories vote in primaries or caucuses and send
100 delegates to national nominating conventions for the purpose of
110 choosing the Democratic and Republican Presidential and Vice-
120 Presidential nominees; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** The residents of Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the
130 Northern Mariana Islands are citizens of the United States; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** The residents of American Samoa are currently non-citizen
150 residents of the United States, the only such territory with
160 that designation; and,

170 **WHEREAS:** The right to select the leader of their country is unfortunately not
180 given to the residents of these areas, only because of the place of
190 their residence.

200 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The Maryland Student Legislature urges
210 Congress to call a Constitutional Convention for proposing an
220 amendment to the Constitution of the United States granting the
230 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the
240 Northern Mariana Islands, the Territory of Guam, and the United
250 States Virgin Islands the right to select electors for President and
260 Vice President.

270 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The Maryland Student Legislature urges the
280 Maryland General Assembly to also ask Congress to call a
290 Constitutional Convention for the purpose listed above.

300 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The Maryland Student Legislature urges
310 Congress to grant citizenship to the residents of American Samoa
320 for the purpose of inclusion in the proposed amendment.

330 **MANDATES:** Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives

340 Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader of the House of Representatives
350 John Boehner, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
360 Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the United States Senate
370 Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the United States Senate
380 Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates
390 Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, President of the Maryland Senate
400 Edward J. Kasemeyer, Majority Leader of the Maryland Senate
410 David R. Brinkley, Minority Leader of the Maryland Senate
420 Kumar P. Barve, Majority Leader of the Maryland House of
430 Delegates
440 Anthony J. O'Donnell, Minority Leader of the Maryland House
450 of Delegates

SPONSOR:

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