

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND****2013 Legislative Session**Resolution No. CR-142-2013Proposed by Council Member OlsonIntroduced by Council Members Olson, Franklin, Lehman, Harrison, Patterson, Davis

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction November 19, 2013**RESOLUTION**

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Voting Rights

3 For the purpose of supporting an affirmative right to vote; restoring Section 4 of the Voting  
 4 Rights Act of 1965; supporting the full representation and voting rights of District of Columbia  
 5 residents in the House of Representatives and in the United States Senate; improving election  
 6 practices; increasing voter participation; and generally relating to voting.

7 WHEREAS, voter turnout in Prince George's County was 68.19% of registered voters in  
 8 the 2012 Presidential Election and 47.57% of registered voters in the 2010 Gubernatorial  
 9 Election; and

10 WHEREAS, in the United States, less than 60% of eligible voters participated in the 2012  
 11 Presidential Election; and

12 WHEREAS, of the 119 nations that elect their public officials using democratic elections,  
 13 the United States is one of only 11 nations that does not have the right to vote in its Constitution;  
 14 and

15 WHEREAS, the 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the U.S. Constitution provide that the  
 16 right to vote shall not be denied or abridged based on race, sex, and age respectively, and the 24<sup>th</sup>  
 17 Amendment prohibits poll taxes. However, these amendments do not guarantee Americans an  
 18 explicit right to vote.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's  
 20 County, Maryland, that the Council calls on Congress to propose an amendment to the U.S.  
 21 Constitution that would grant an individual right to vote to every American citizen of voting age;  
 22 and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that the County Council calls on Congress to restore  
2 Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by creating a new coverage formula to determine  
3 which states and local jurisdictions should have voting changes reviewed for potential  
4 discriminatory impact; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council calls on Congress to give residents  
6 of Washington, D.C. full representation and voting rights in the House of Representatives and in  
7 the United States Senate; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council supports Maryland's recent  
9 expansion of early voting and the adoption of same-day voter registration.

Adopted this 19th day of November, 2013.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Andrea C. Harrison  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Redis C. Floyd  
Clerk of the Council