A RESOLUTION concerning Voting Rights

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the Council calls on Congress to propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would grant an individual right to vote to every American citizen of voting age; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council calls on Congress to restore Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by creating a new coverage formula to determine which states and local jurisdictions should have voting changes reviewed for potential discriminatory impact; and

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

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

Adopted this _____ day of __________, 2013.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:

Andrea C. Harrison
Chair

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council

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